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BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

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September 2, 1998

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Special Action Requests S98-07 - S98-12

13

14

Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers
Naknek, Alaska

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17 Members Present:

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19 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chairman

20 H. Robin Samuelsen, Jr., Vice Chairman

21 Alvin Boskofsky, Secretary

22 Andrew Balluta

23 Robert Heyano

24 Timothy Enright

25 Peter M. Abraham

26

27 Helga Eakon, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, I think we can hear each other, the PA system is on. I'd like to call the meeting to order at this time and ask Helga if she'd do a roll call of the committee members.

MS. EAKON: Timothy Enright.

MR. ENRIGHT: Here.

MS. EAKON: Alvin Boskofsky.

MR. BOSKOFISKY: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robert Heyano.

MR. HEYANO: Here.

MS. EAKON: Dan O'Hara.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robin Samuelson.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Here.

MS. EAKON: Peter Abraham.

MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

MS. EAKON: Andrew Balluta.

MR. BALLUTA: Here.

MS. EAKON: All present, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much. We have a full Council meeting, we appreciate you coming today. In the way of introduction this afternoon, we have Helga Eakon, our coordinator with us today. We have the staff -- on the teleconference, Mr. Boyd and staff from Anchorage. We'll have other teleconference people coming on line, Helga?

MS. EAKON: (Nods in the affirmative)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. At this time I think we'd like to maybe just quickly go around the room and

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1 introduce ourselves, starting with our coordinator over here,
2 we'll go around and out in then audience, if you wouldn't mind
3 just telling us your name and maybe who you represent today, if
4 you'd like to.

5
6 MS. EAKON: Helga Eakon, Coordinator of the
7 Bristol Bay Regional Council.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're next, Andy.

10
11 MR. BALLUTA: Andrew Balluta from Lake Iliamna.

12
13 MR. ABRAHAM: Pete Abraham from beautiful
14 Togiak.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin Samuelson, Dillingham,
19 representing BBNA.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're David Haynes?

22
23 MR. HAYNES: David Haynes, Court Reporter.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. He's going to make
26 sure we speak into the microphone today.

27
28 Dan O'Hara, Chair, Naknek.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: Robert Heyano, Dillingham.

31
32 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Alvin Boskofsky, Chignik Lake,
33 Secretary, RAC.

34
35 MR. ENRIGHT: Tim Enright, Ugashik.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, over here at the table.

38
39 MS. WAGNER: Angie Wagner (indiscernible - away
40 from microphone)

41
42 MR. SKONBERG: This is Ray Skonberg at Chignik
43 Bay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hang on one second on the
46 teleconference, we're going to get to you in a minute. Joe, do
47 you want to start there and we'll work around.

48
49 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah, Joe Klutsch, live here in
50 King Salmon, representing myself.

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1 MR. KING: I'm Butch King, I have two lodges on
2 the Central Peninsula, Cinder River and Wildman in the Port
3 Heiden area. I've been there for 27 years, representing
4 myself.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

7
8 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Bristol Bay Native
9 Association.

10
11 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, Anchorage.

13
14 MR. HARTLEY: Van Hartley, air taxi, King
15 Salmon.

16
17 (Rest of the audience away from microphone:
18 Names taken from the sign-in sheets - Eddie Clark, Richard N.
19 Johnson, Terry Christensen, John T. Graham, Olaf Matson, Jim
20 McFarland, Tracy Vrem, Jim King, Pat Shryich, Shirley Kelly,
21 Steve Machida, George Wilson, Daryle Lons, Tom O'Hara, Johnny
22 Lind, Hazel Nelson, Rick Clark, Donald Mike, Shelby Boothe,
23 George Tibbets, Ralph Mancuro)

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And did I miss anyone in the
26 audience, everyone got named? Okay, I want to make sure we
27 introduced you.

28
29 Okay, can we have the people on teleconference, if
30 you'd like to introduce yourself this morning?

31
32 MS. ANDREWS: Elizabeth Andrews, Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game, Juneau.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you. Anyone else
36 on teleconference?

37
38 MR. MATSUNO: Yes, Ray Matsuno with our Ugashik
39 Traditional Village Council.

40
41 MR. SHANIGAN: Jim Shanigan here in Pilot
42 Point.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Jim, Pilot Point.

45
46 MR. OSTERBACK: Dave Osterback with the
47 (indiscernible) Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, David.

50

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1 MR. FALL: Jim Fall with the Subsistence
2 Division, Fish and Game in Anchorage.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Jim.

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Dan, in Anchorage, in addition
7 to Tom Boyd there are Curt Wilson, the BLM Staff Committee
8 representative and Ida Hildebrand, the BIA Staff Committee
9 representative. And additionally, Donna Dewhurst, Biologist
10 with our office and Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator for the
11 Kodiak/Aleutians Region and Rosa Meehan and myself. Thank
12 you,.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you very much. I
15 think.....

16
17 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National Park
18 Service in Anchorage.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me, give us the name
21 again, National Park Service, Anchorage.

22
23 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Clarence. Anyone else
26 on teleconference that needs to be introduced today?

27
28 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, Boris Kosbruk, Perryville.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Boris.

31
32 MS. BRANDAL: Vivian Brandal, Chignik Lagoon.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Vivian.

35
36 (Indiscernible): Sand Point.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nakala (ph) Sand Point.

39
40 MR. THORNDIKE: Mike Thorndike, Chignik Bay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

43
44 MR. KALMAKOFF: Alfred Kalmakoff, Ivanof Bay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anyone else? Okay.
47 We have -- you people on teleconference now we can't see you
48 raising your hand so you're going to have speak up, okay? If
49 you'd like to talk with us -- can you hear okay?

50

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1 (No audible responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, I guess that's a
4 yes. Just by way of introduction and welcome to you today, we
5 appreciate you coming. I think Robin probably summed it up
6 pretty well, we should be out getting a moose instead of having
7 this meeting today. And I'm sure you staff people have plenty
8 to do and guides have plenty of work without coming to a
9 Special Request meeting like we have here, but it becomes
10 necessary to do this.

11

12 I have a good number of cards here, representing those
13 who would like to testify. And I'd like to ask you when you
14 testify today if you would organize your thoughts to give us
15 exactly what you'd like to tell us. We don't want to take
16 (phone noise) we'll take your testimony fine. We'd ask you
17 that you not repeat yourself once you have made your statement,
18 we don't need you to go back and tell us again what you said
19 previously, so keep in mind your testimony, make it very clear
20 and straight ahead to us.

21

22 We'll be very kind to you, this is not a difficult
23 Council to testify before and we're addressing today Special
24 Request items on the request by various communities and
25 organizations, traditional councils for closure of moose and
26 caribou in 9(E). Affects a big cross section of people, and we
27 want you to be very comfortable when you come to testify, but
28 we'd like you to be very direct and to the point so that we can
29 continue on with our business and be finished by afternoon, if
30 possible.

31

32 And if we understand that, your time to testify and
33 deal with this Council will be when you get up here to testify,
34 other than that, we'll have staff reports and the Council will
35 be in doing business. If they should decide to recognize you
36 or call upon you for further information, they'll do so,
37 otherwise your opportunity will be when you fill in a card, if
38 you would like to testify before the Council today.

39

40 We really appreciate you taking time to come here and
41 meet with us. And at this time, we only have the Special
42 Action Requests, so Council members that's all we'll be dealing
43 with today. So we're not going to have an approval of the
44 agenda because that's all we're going to deal with.

45

46 At this time, I'd like to turn it over to Helga to
47 continue on with the business of the day.

48

49 MS. EAKON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I
50 proceed, I think I heard someone coming on line. Did someone

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1 just now come on line?

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other teleconference
4 people just come on line?

5

6 MS. EAKON: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

9

10 MS. EAKON: For the record, this special public
11 meeting of the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional
12 Advisory Council is focused on Special Action Request S98-07
13 through S98-12, request to close Federal public lands in Unit
14 9(E) to hunting of caribou and moose by non-federally qualified
15 users.

16

17 And the procedure that we're going to use today is Tom
18 Boyd, who is the acting Assistant Regional Director for
19 Subsistence in Anchorage will explain the Federal Subsistence
20 Board policy on Special Actions as it relates to the moose
21 request. After which, Dave Fisher, our wildlife biologist,
22 will present the key points of the biological analysis,
23 followed by myself with a summary of written public comments.
24 After which, the floor will be opened to public testimony from
25 people present and on line. After which, any Federal agency
26 who wishes to comment will have an opportunity to do so,
27 followed by comments by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
28 And, finally, we will advance to Regional Council discussion
29 and recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board with their
30 justification.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Council members,
33 any questions or comments on that presentation by Helga? Yeah,
34 Robin.

35

36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
37 those people that are on the teleconference that want to
38 testify, I'm sure this process is pretty strange to them, but
39 maybe we can just start with the northernmost villages and work
40 our way down on public testimony since they're not able to
41 submit a purple card to testify.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Absolutely. And
44 teleconference people and even the audience, if you've got a
45 deadline where you got to get out of here on a flight, it would
46 be nice to have our staff reports, and especially Mr. Fisher,
47 Dave Fisher, he introduced himself earlier. You're going to
48 get a great deal of information from the people on the
49 teleconference and this audience on what we're meeting about
50 today, so Dave will give us a lot of information. It'll help

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1 you in your public testimony, so if you can wait until after
2 his report you'll have a great deal of information. If, for
3 some reason, teleconference, Council members, somebody does
4 have to leave here, we certainly will accommodate them, but
5 we'd like to follow this procedure.

6
7 Helga.

8
9 MS. EAKON: I should say that late yesterday
10 afternoon our office received a fax from Roy Skonberg, Chignik
11 Bay Village Council, and he wanted his fax letter to be a
12 Special Action Request very similar to the six that you're
13 going to deliberate on. It was too late to assign it a number.
14 So, Mr. Skonberg, we're going to consider this a public comment
15 because it wasn't timely received. And here are copies for the
16 Regional Council and here are copies for those present.

17
18 Thank you very much.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Council members,
21 do you have this piece of paper from Mr. Boyd on this Special
22 Action policy clarification on moose, that we'll probably be
23 handling first, Helga?

24
25 MS. EAKON: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll go right to
28 staff then.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, this is Tom Boyd, can you
33 hear me well?

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. One second, Tom, would
36 you, please? We can hear you.

37
38 Robert.

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Just a clarification,
41 Mr. Chairman. In this packet we received in the mail I see
42 that Mitch Demientieff, Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board,
43 indicated that they won't be taking up the Special Action
44 Request of the moose closure; is that something we're going to
45 be discussing and debating or is that a closed issue?

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Helga.

48
49 MS. EAKON: If I may, I should explain that
50 this is -- you had seen this policy at your last meeting, I

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1 don't know if you remember that. This is the very first
2 instance wherein the Office of Subsistence Management has
3 applied this new Special Board policy to an animal species.
4 Maybe if we can have Mr. Boyd present -- make his presentation,
5 and certainly I would encourage questions from you after he's
6 done, kind of keep it open.

7

8 Okay, Mr. Boyd?

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Robert?

11

12 MR. HEYANO: (Nods in the affirmative)

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Mr. Boyd, if you would
15 go ahead and go through this, right to the point and with the
16 information we need, please.

17

18 MR. BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I
19 want to start out by saying -- let me just pause and say if at
20 any time you're not hearing me clearly, I would ask you to
21 break in so that I would communicate clearly to you on this
22 issue.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're doing good.

25

26 MR. BOYD: Okay. Let me just say that when we
27 started the Federal Program in 1990 we put in place some
28 provisions in our regulations that allowed for what we call out
29 of cycle or out of the normal regulatory cycle for actions to
30 be taken as resulting from unforeseen circumstances that -- or
31 new information that might come on the scene or emergency
32 situations. Or if, during the normal regulatory process,
33 errors were made in the normal regulatory process and Board
34 decision-making. (Phone cut out) Federal regulations and
35 essentially they come under the title of Special Action,
36 emergency or temporary closures (phone cut out) consideration.

37

38 (Phone cut out) addressing that fairly broadly
39 initially and then focus on the moose request briefly. I do
40 this primarily to inform the Council of what the current policy
41 is, why it's in place and how it's been applied with regard to
42 the recent requests from the several village and traditional
43 councils in the Unit 9(E) area.

44

45 As the Federal Program has evolved, I think we felt the
46 need to address what constituted a valid or reasonable request
47 for out of cycle actions (phone cut out) Federal Subsistence
48 Board. I've already said by out of cycle I mean actions taken
49 by the Board for decisions on seasons, harvest limits, methods
50 and means (phone cut out) during the annual regulatory process

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1 that culminates with a spring Federal Subsistence Board
2 meeting.

3
4 (Phone cut out) include Requests for Reconsideration,
5 Special Actions to open/close a season or change regulations
6 during the season or emergency openings -- excuse me, emergency
7 closures or temporary closures.

8
9 To meet this need the Board developed a policy. The
10 idea behind the policy is that the Board would only deal with
11 requests under certain circumstances, so as not to create a
12 loophole for requestors to, if you will, circumvent the normal
13 process to get regulatory changes outside the normal regulatory
14 process. A regulatory process provides fairly full, lengthy
15 (phone cut out) process. It takes, as you are well aware, it
16 takes a lot of time to proceed and we do it with careful
17 forethought and deliberation.

18
19 And whenever we conduct out of cycle changes, we
20 necessarily have to short-circuit or truncate this full public
21 involvement. And we do that -- when we do that, we don't want
22 to do it lightly, and we want to ensure that, you know, proper
23 decisions are made. So we put this policy in place that
24 creates, if you will, some strict standards or thresholds for
25 the Board to consider before (phone cut out) or a Request for
26 Reconsideration will be dealt with. And if those particular
27 conditions are satisfied then the Board will take the action up
28 immediately or within (phone cut out) but if they're not
29 satisfied then they will defer the action until the next
30 regulatory cycle.

31
32 (Phone cut out) and read the policy to you so you
33 understand what it says. "Special Actions: The Board will
34 accept a request for a temporary change in season and/or
35 harvest limits only if there are extenuating circumstances
36 necessitating a regulatory change before the next annual
37 Subpart D review process. Extenuating circumstances include
38 unusual and significant changes in resource abundance, unusual
39 conditions affecting harvest opportunities that could not have
40 reasonably anticipated and that potentially could have
41 significant adverse affects on the health of fish and wildlife
42 population or the satisfaction of subsistence opportunity by
43 affected subsistence users. Requests for Special Actions which
44 do not meet these conditions will be deferred to the next
45 annual regulatory proposal cycle."

46
47 For Requests for Reconsideration, which we're not
48 dealing with, I'll just say it's a fairly similar process. It
49 says the Board will accept a Request for Reconsideration, and
50 by that of a previous Board decision, they will reconsider a

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1 previous Board decision, if the request is for reconsideration
2 of a regulatory change considered by the Board within the
3 previous 60 days. So they set a time limit on it.

4
5 Secondly, the Request (phone cut out) previously
6 considered by the Board demonstrates that the existing
7 information is incorrect or demonstrates that the Board's
8 interpretation of information, applicable law or regulation is
9 in error.

10
11 You can see from these policies that the Board wants to
12 be careful when it requests or petitions for regulation changes
13 outside of the regulatory cycles. By necessity this policy
14 implies that a judgment call has to be made by the Board up
15 front when we receive the request. To some extent we have to
16 conduct, at least, a preliminary analysis of the issue (phone
17 cut out) policy, and we clearly have to, you know, ask some
18 hard questions. Are there unusual circumstances? Are there
19 changes in resource abundance, either up or down? (Phone cut
20 out) conditions affecting harvest opportunity?

21
22 And then we apply that and make a judgment call and the
23 Board is the one that has to essentially make this call. We
24 received the request for the caribou closure, there was also a
25 request to close public lands for moose harvest in Unit 9(E) to
26 nonsubsistence uses. These issues were scrutinized and the
27 caribou issue was moved forward for handling as a Special
28 Action. (Phone cut out) Request was deferred to the normal
29 regulatory cycle that's coming up.

30
31 And I'll be brief here. The reasons are spelled out in
32 the letter that we submitted back to the requestors, particular
33 those that requested a closure of the moose harvest by
34 nonsubsistence users. And the reasons are essentially, first
35 of all, the Regional Advisory Council and Board faced similar
36 requests last year. And at its May meeting the Board deferred
37 action on this request, similar to the -- or in concert with
38 the Regional Council recommendation.

39
40 No new information, no new biological information was
41 provided on the status of the moose population. (Phone cut
42 out) there appears to be good opportunity for local residents
43 to harvest moose in Unit 9(E). In particular they have a 10
44 day (phone cut out) they have some sport harvest occurring in
45 this, but I think the subsistence harvest season opens on
46 September 1 and the sport harvest opens later in -- September
47 10th or 11th, I can't remember the exact date.

48
49 Moreover, there is no antler restriction on Federal
50 subsistence users. There is a 50-inch (phone cut out) on sport

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1 users. And thirdly, they were very cognizant that there's a
2 cooperative management planning meeting (phone cut out)
3 planning for both moose and caribou in Unit (phone cut out)
4 during this time.

5
6 So that's the basic rationale for deferring the moose
7 issue. Because we had what appears to be a significant
8 population decline in the caribou issue, we felt that that
9 would trigger the need to move this forward for fuller
10 discussion and deliberation and, hence, calling your meeting as
11 well as scheduling a Board meeting on September 9th to deal
12 with this issue.

13
14 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you, Tom.
17 Any questions by the Council members?

18
19 (No audible responses)

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom, apparently this Special
22 Request is out of cycle for what would normally proceed. It's
23 your opinion, with staff report, that the moose population is
24 healthy on the Peninsula and, therefore, staff does not
25 recommend we deal with this out of cycle? This, I guess, is in
26 layman terms; is that right?

27
28 MR. BOYD: Essentially that's correct, but I'd
29 take a step further in that the Board -- Mitch has signed off -
30 - Mitch Demientieff, the Chair of the Board has signed off on
31 (phone cut out) back to the requestors, essentially stating
32 that it would be deferred to the normal cycle. So the Board,
33 in essence, has made the decision not to take this up at this
34 time.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So as long as our
37 audience and our teleconference people understand that the
38 Federal Board is not going to take any advice from the Council
39 or the general public on this issue and we are not going to
40 deal with the moose issue. However, that doesn't necessarily
41 mean that we will not have debate at this Council on the moose
42 issue, okay?

43
44 MR. BOYD: That's fair, Mr. Chair, I only
45 underscore the conditions in the policy that would trigger the
46 Board from (phone cut out) I would ask you, as you debate it,
47 (phone cut out) need to move this further that you provide the
48 information that might be necessary (phone cut out) Board
49 (phone cut out) feel like this is a Special Action that should
50 be moved forward.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That is fine, but I think,
2 and I only speak for myself, I don't know about the rest of the
3 Council members, but it's one thing for the Federal Board to
4 say that, and I understand the procedure, and it's kind of --
5 we have a lot of laypeople sitting here today that, you know,
6 don't understand a lot of these Federal terms, but when you
7 have as many local people here as you have today and we're
8 dealing with this, I think it would good information to have
9 anything we can on moose.

10
11 MR. BOYD: I agree.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much. Council
14 members, any questions of Mr. Boyd?

15
16 (No audible responses)

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Tom.

19
20 And at this time, Helga, if we're satisfied with that
21 information from Mr. Boyd, we'll go on to staff report, which
22 would be Mr. Dave Fisher.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Before Dave Fisher presents the
25 biological analysis, we're getting interference from a site.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From a what?

28
29 MS. EAKON: We're getting interference from one
30 of the sites, I think there was cross conversation. Also I
31 wanted to ask if Mark Olsen, who is the Chair of
32 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council has come on line yet?

33
34 (No audible response)

35
36 MS. EAKON: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before Dave starts to talk
39 about this, I could -- if have just come in since we started
40 and you would like to testify, you can certainly sign up over
41 here. And we have nine people right now after we have reports
42 and public comment before public testimony begins, so feel free
43 to sign the card, if you haven't.

44
45 Okay, Dave.

46
47 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm Dave
48 Fisher for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm from the
49 Anchorage office. All my analysis and presentation will be on
50 caribou in 9(E). Mr. Boyd covered the moose, however, moose

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1 was included in the staff analysis that was handed out earlier,
2 so that package is in there, but we will concentrate on caribou
3 in 9(E).
4

5 There is a map to my left that shows Region 4 and it's
6 a pretty good map of 9(E), so if any questions come up or we
7 need to refer to that. There's also a map in the State
8 Regulation Book and also the Federal Regulation Book and
9 there's a small map included in the special analysis.
10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mr. Fisher, Dave, you're on
12 Tab IV? Is that your staff biological analysis, is that where
13 you're at today? If we were to follow in our book?
14

15 MR. FISHER: It just says, Staff Analysis
16 Special Action 97 on the top there.
17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 98-12.
19

20 MR. FISHER: Yeah, that's right.
21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it? Okay, everyone
23 have that, Council members? Okay. All right. Thank you.
24

25 MR. FISHER: The issues before us today are
26 expressed by residents of six villages of 9(E) and that moose
27 and caribou populations are below levels to support subsistence
28 and non-subsistence hunting. The residents claim that sport
29 hunter activities have changed the movement patterns of moose
30 and caribou, making it more difficult for subsistence hunters
31 to harvest those critters, so that's our main issue before us
32 today.
33

34 The current Federal subsistence regulations for 9(E),
35 part of that unit is closed to caribou hunting by subsistence
36 users and all the users of those Federal lands. The other part
37 of 9(E) which is what refer to today as the remainder, the
38 caribou season is August 10th through April 30th with a harvest
39 limit of four caribou.
40

41 The current State regulations for 9(E), and I'll
42 briefly go through these, they were recently changed. August
43 10th through April 30th, four bulls, no more than two bulls may
44 be taken August 10th through August 31st. No more than one bull
45 may be taken September 1st through November 30th. And only a
46 hunter who has taken no caribou in the state from July 1st
47 through September 1st, no more than two bulls may be taken
48 April 1st through April 30th.
49

50 In addition to that, the nonresident regulations were

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1 also changed. That's one bull August 10th through September
2 4th or one bull September 21st through the 30th.

3
4 The caribou herd that we're dealing with here is the
5 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd and this herd is ranged from
6 Port Moller to Naknek, north of Naknek up into the Iliamna
7 area. And, as we're all aware, the population of this herd has
8 changed considerably over the years. It numbered in the
9 mid-'80s 17-20,000 and it started a decline around 1992-93.
10 '93-94 the population was around 12,500, in 1997 it declined to
11 around 10,000 and the current estimate is around 9,200 animals.

12
13 As far back as the late '80's, '87-88, I was involved
14 in a project to transfer caribou from this herd to the Nushagak
15 Peninsula there on the Togiak Refuge and we noticed at that
16 time over here when we were capturing these animals to move,
17 that the range conditions had started to go down. In other
18 words, there was heavy, heavy, grazing in the area where we
19 were capturing animals and that was down around King Salmon,
20 just south of here.

21
22 In 1994-95, the area was -- the northern part of the
23 range for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd, it was inundated
24 somewhat by the Mulchatna animals and they did put a little bit
25 of pressure on the range then, however, since then they have
26 not really moved back into this area.

27
28 The Board of Game made several changes, regulation
29 changes over the years to reduce harvest, but still the herd
30 continues to decline. In 1995 the State Fish and Game and the
31 Fish and Wildlife Service started to do more intense assessment
32 work on really what was happening to these -- to this herd.
33 And they discovered in most calves that they looked at there
34 was a presence of lung worm and the general body condition of
35 the herd was mediocre, not as good as animals from other
36 healthier herds. They noticed somewhat of a production decline
37 in calves. Some of the animals were undernourished, allowing
38 them to be more vulnerable to predation and parasites.

39
40 And then in 1998 they did a more intense survey, they
41 monitored radio-collared cows to determine birth rates and they
42 actually got in and collared 39 calves, monitored those on a
43 daily rate and during this investigation they discovered a
44 lower pregnancy rate of cows. They were going into the summer
45 in poorer body condition. New calves born weighed less than
46 calves from other healthy herds. So just an overall sort of a
47 general decline in the health of the herd.

48
49 The bull:cow sex ratios from 1989 to 1992 were around
50 40 and they're currently in the mid-40s. The ideal situation

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1 would be somewhere between 30 and 40, so we do have an
2 abundance of bulls in the herd.

3
4 Just to summarize a little bit here. We have strong
5 indications that the range is being overused and that was
6 indicated by the somewhat northern movement of the herd up into
7 the Iliamna area. These animals, being undernourished, are
8 more susceptible to parasites and predation than in herds from
9 -- that are healthy.

10
11 And then one comparison I'd like to make, the animals
12 that we moved from here over to the Nushagak Peninsula, those
13 animals are healthy, they have a healthy bull:cow ratio, they
14 have an excellent calf:cow ratio and those animals are doing
15 fine. They are on relatively virgin range, so there's a good
16 comparison there.

17
18 We did look at some harvest data from 1987 through
19 1993, we analyzed around 7,000 harvest tickets, and that's in
20 Table 1 of your analysis. And we were able to go in and
21 identify where the kill was in relationship to whether it was
22 on Federal lands or off Federal lands. And we noticed a
23 decline in harvest starting out in 1997's [sic], ending up in
24 1993 as sort of a decline in harvest on Federal lands.

25
26 And at the same time there was an increase in the
27 harvest of caribou in 9(C) as that Mulchatna herd had
28 increased.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Was that '97 to '93 or '87
31 to.....

32
33 MR. FISHER: '87 to '93. Did I say '97?

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: '97, yeah.

36
37 MR. FISHER: I'm sorry, I correct myself, '87
38 though '93.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

41
42 MR. FISHER: I also have some harvest
43 information here from the household survey that was done in
44 '95-96 and '96-97 and for the Subunit 9(E) communities.
45 Household surveys indicated that caribou harvests had declined
46 from around 635 in '94-95 to 591 in 1996-97. And the primary
47 reason for this, there were fewer hunters hunting caribou and
48 not a decline in the hunter success. The hunter success stayed
49 up there pretty good.

50

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1 About 30 percent of that harvest was cows. The
2 household surveys also gave some information on land use
3 patterns during these caribou harvests and these surveys showed
4 that the Bristol Bay villages, King Salmon, Naknek, South
5 Naknek, Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik and Port Heiden harvested
6 well below 20 percent of their caribou on Federal lands while
7 the Pacific coast villages, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon,
8 Chignik Bay, Perryville, Ivanof Bay harvested from no caribou
9 up to 100 percent of their animals were harvested on Federal
10 lands.

11
12 Now, going back to harvest on Federal lands, I have
13 some more information that was pulled from the household survey
14 report and this is for 9(C) and 9(E). In '94 -- '95 and '96
15 there was 124 caribou harvested on Federal lands, this
16 represented about 11 percent of the total harvest. In '96 and
17 '97 there was 45 caribou or 4.3 percent of the harvest was on
18 Federal lands.

19
20 Caribou are the most widely used big game, large mammal
21 in 9(E). And for the 9(E) Bristol Bay villages about 90
22 percent of those villages use caribou. The 9(E) Pacific side
23 villages, approximately 85 percent use caribou. And for Pilot
24 Point, Port Heiden, Ugashik, Chignik Lake and Ivanof Bay, 100
25 percent of those villages use caribou. In '96-97 the figures
26 are approximately the same, 91 percent for the Bristol Bay
27 villages and 86 percent for the Pacific drainages.

28
29 A little bit on the sport harvest for 9(E), most
30 nonlocal hunters who have hunted in 9(E), they take mostly
31 bulls, and that turns out to be about 85 percent bulls from
32 that herd. And the feeling is that the removal of bulls has
33 not affected the herd productivity. I think I mentioned
34 earlier that we have a healthy bull:cow ratio, so the removal
35 of those bulls isn't really -- there's no evidence that it is
36 affecting herd distribution or the movements.

37
38 In summing up, the staff conclusion on this, we
39 recommended aligning Federal subsistence regulations for 9(E),
40 that remainder of 9(E), with a recent portion in the -- recent
41 change in the State regulations. In other words, we want to
42 change Federal subsistence harvest limits in 9(E) from four
43 caribou to four bulls. And the request for closure of Federal
44 public lands to the hunting of caribou for nonqualified rural
45 residents, we recommend that that part of the Special Action be
46 denied.

47
48 Our justification for coming up with this conclusion,
49 and I alluded to it in some of the data that I presented, most
50 of the harvest of caribou is currently concentrated off of

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1 Federal lands. The closure of Federal lands to nonlocal
2 hunters could force those hunters off of Federal lands and put
3 them over State lands, creating more pressure on non-Federal
4 lands, especially along the Bristol Bay side of the Peninsula,
5 that's where the major concentration of the Northern Alaska
6 Peninsula Herd is.

7

8 The recent State regulations, we felt, when they went
9 from four caribou to four bulls, we felt.....

10

11 (Tape change - machine malfunction)

12

13qualified rural users from using Federal lands.
14 Those hunters have to adhere to State regulations, so that will
15 reduce some of the impact on Federal lands.

16

17 And we don't want to forget that we're going to have a
18 cooperative management planning meeting here in late September,
19 hopefully to discuss -- I guess, maybe some of it will depend
20 on what the outcome is here today, but discuss management
21 options for this herd and also for moose.

22

23 The staff felt that implementing conservative measures
24 now may buy us some time now rather than risk maybe a complete
25 closure later on. We do have around 9,000 animals and feel as
26 though that the Fish and Game have done a good job reacting to
27 the decline in this. And wildlife biology is not an exact
28 science, sometimes you have to wait for results and so on.
29 There are factors that enter in here, weather, predation,
30 range. We talked a little bit about the range conditions. And
31 harvest, probably the most important one that we have an impact
32 on is the harvest.

33

34 That basically concludes my presentation.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, would you
37 like to ask Mr. Fisher some questions? Any Council members?
38 Okay, Robin.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have questions of Dave.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

43

44 MR. SAMUELSEN:Mr. Chairman, but I'll
45 hold them until we get into deliberations and after public.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Any other
48 members of the Council would like to ask Mr. Fisher questions?
49 Dave -- go ahead, Robert.

50

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1 MR. HEYANO: Is it more appropriate to ask
2 those questions when we get into deliberations or ask them now
3 and the information he presented us?

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think probably for
6 the sake of the audience and teleconference people it might be
7 educational for us to ask some questions now to help them maybe
8 a little bit more in their testimony. And that's one of the
9 things I want to do, so it's up to you, okay?

10
11 MR. HEYANO: Okay. Dave, the hunters with
12 guides in 9(E) average 43 caribou harvested per year. And then
13 the report goes down to say, when they were renewed in '98 the
14 number of caribou clients was reduced by approximately 50
15 percent. I guess my question is, could we expect to see that
16 43 number reduced? I'm trying to get a feel of how many
17 animals that the hunters with guides take out of Unit 9(E).

18
19 MR. FISHER: Well, I'll try and answer that. I
20 may -- maybe I just better let Ron answer that since he's right
21 here. Go ahead, Ron.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You want to give us your name
24 and.....

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, Alaska Peninsula
27 Becharof Wildlife Refuge Complex. What -- the wording of that
28 is a little confusing and what it was -- what we reduced, the
29 guides have, and Daryle may need to clarify this further, but
30 the guides are allotted so many caribou they could use. You
31 know, they could have so many caribou clients. And they had
32 been using about half of those and so our -- we were trying to
33 be proactive this summer when they came up for renewal, we
34 basically, on average, knocked them down to half. In other
35 words, we got rid of the caribou permits that they were not
36 using, therefore, we would anticipate the harvest remaining the
37 same, it's not their cutting that in half, we're cutting the
38 potential for it to increase. Does that make sense?

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Yes, so we're looking at an
41 average of 43 animals?

42
43 MR. SQUIBB: Right, that would presumably
44 continue, but I think on that question, given this change in
45 State regulations, I think that would have an impact upon that,
46 since many of those clients typically would be nonresidents and
47 during that period -- so there are certain periods that are
48 blocked to prevent nonresidents from hunting, by change in
49 State regulation, that would impact it, I think, so that you
50 might look at a slight decrease. Does that make sense, Daryle?

00020

1 MR. LONS: Yeah, that's correct. And we did
2 that.....

3
4 REPORTER: Could you come to a microphone,
5 please?

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And identify yourself here,
8 Daryle.

9
10 MR. LONS: Daryle Lons, Refuge Manager. Yeah,
11 we took that action to prevent further growth of the harvest of
12 the caribou, so we anticipated that it would stay approximately
13 43 through the next five years, the term of the special use
14 permits. However, with the State's new regulation, I would
15 expect that to go down, since a significant portion of that
16 caribou season is now closed, so I would think it would go down
17 too, I'm not sure what the numbers would be, but it should
18 significantly do that.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a good question.
21 Yeah.

22
23 MR. HEYANO: One other question. Then what is
24 the harvest for the -- they're not guided, but they're not
25 subsistence, qualified subsistence hunters either. What number
26 would that be?

27
28 MR. LONS: Just nonlocal hunters, you're
29 referring to?

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Non-subsistence hunters.

32
33 MR. LONS: I'm not sure, we might have to talk
34 to -- or get Steve Machida up here with the State, but I, from
35 talking to Dick Sellers, 1997 numbers appeared to be about 200
36 for all of 9(E) and, historically from the harvest records that
37 we have, it's about 50 percent harvest on Federal lands and 50
38 percent harvest on State lands, so that would be somewhere
39 around 100, I would think.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Robert?

42
43 MR. HEYANO: Just one more, I guess, to make
44 sure. According to the study that Ted Krieg has done, we're
45 looking at about 600 animals for the subsistence harvest in
46 9(E), 591, I think it says.

47
48 MR. FISHER: What year are you talking about?

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Well, the latest, I guess, '96-97,

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1 from '94 to 95 it was 637, it went down to 591, is that -- so
2 we're looking about 600 animals?

3

4 MR. FISHER: Yeah, in '94-95 it was 637, in
5 '95-96 it was 617 and then it went down to 591 in '96-97. I
6 may have missed that point, but the point I wanted to make on
7 that is that, although the number of hunters went down, the
8 success was still fairly good. And I don't have those success
9 figures, I could.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you hear in the back what
12 they're saying?

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good. All right. Any
17 other questions, Robert?

18

19 MR. HEYANO: So one final question. If I add
20 all three of these numbers up then I should come up with an
21 approximate total harvest for 9(E), right?

22

23 MR. FISHER: Yes, I.....

24

25 MR. LONS: Yeah, local, nonlocal and
26 nonresident.

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anyone else have
31 any questions, Council members?

32

33 (No audible responses)

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Just for clarification, Dave.
36 We have handed to us the latest action by the State Board of
37 Game and that -- is there is no nonresident taking of caribou
38 in 9(E) from September the 5th through September the 20th on
39 Federal and State lands. And from the 21st through the 30th of
40 September which would be nine days, we have both Federal and
41 State lands opened to the subsistence/nonsubsistence user,
42 which would be your urban people and nonresident; is that
43 right? Is that right?

44

45 MR. FISHER: I believe that's right, yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So what this Board is
48 dealing with today would be the nonsubsistence users between
49 September the 5th and the 20th, those who don't qualify as
50 subsistence users on Federal lands and the open period for

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1 subsistence/nonsubsistence qualified people and nonresidents in
2 both 9(E) from September the 21st through September the 30th,
3 both on Federal and State lands. Those are opened areas of
4 hunting that take place right now on this herd; is that right,
5 Dave?

6
7 MR. FISHER: Yes. The other thing you're
8 dealing with is the change in the harvest regulations, going
9 from four caribou to four bulls.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And taking of bulls only
12 during that time.....

13
14 MR. FISHER: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:both -- for all user
17 groups?

18
19 MR. FISHER: Yes, sir.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And nonresidents are not
22 going to be hunting at all?

23
24 MR. FISHER: Yes, sir.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I just wanted to mention it
27 so that when people would testify they would know what this
28 Council is dealing with when it comes to the caribou issue
29 today. Okay. All right.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question on the harvest ticket
36 data, Mr. Chairman for Dave. Dave, did you factor in, besides
37 the harvest ticket data, the unreported catch in the 645 to 381
38 or was that strictly harvest ticket data?

39
40 MR. FISHER: That was strictly information we
41 got off the harvest tickets. If it was a successful hunter,
42 we'd mark it down, if it was unsuccessful, there was no hunter
43 factors factored in.

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, it's a known fact that
46 subsistence hunters do not usually fill out harvest ticket
47 information. I'll take the village of New Stuyahok, for
48 example, which is one of the largest villages in Bristol Bay.
49 I think there were seven caribou reported on harvest ticket
50 data last year. And every time I've been to Stuyahok there's

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1 always a pot of caribou meat on the stove and everybody is
2 talking about going hunting, so, you know, I think we got to --
3 in that light we got to look at the harvest ticket as not a
4 real concrete number. If the east side villages over here
5 harvest in the traditional way that the west side villages are
6 harvesting, then your subsistence users in the villages are not
7 filling out harvest ticket data and it's not reflected here.

8
9 MR. FISHER: Well, what we need to do is go in
10 and take that harvest ticket data that we have and somehow
11 correlate that to what the actual household surveys indicated
12 and the results from that, and we haven't done that yet. We
13 could probably work up something for the -- for our September
14 meeting, I could get together with Ted and Jim Fall and the
15 State and we can analyze the harvest ticket data versus the
16 household survey stuff and may come up with some figures for
17 you people for that September meeting.

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, because the take by
20 subsistence users was substantially higher in them village over
21 there when we were looking at them or when the Nushagak
22 Advisory Committee and the Game Board was looking at them, and
23 reported by Larry VanDaele, the ADF&G biologist at the time,
24 than what the actual harvest ticket numbers were showing.

25
26 MR. FISHER: So it is confusing when you're
27 talking real harvest ticket versus household surveys.

28
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think that'll do it.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a good point, thank
32 you. Any other questions, Council members, of Mr. Fisher,
33 David Fisher?

34
35 Yes, Robert.

36
37 MR. HEYANO: Dave, the 637 caribou from '94-95
38 and the 591 from '96-97 came from harvest tickets and not from
39 Ted's household?

40
41 MR. FISHER: No, that came from -- that was
42 household survey. That was done from Ted Krieg's report.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Okay, that's what I thought that
45 said.

46
47 MR. FISHER: I'm sorry if I misled you.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: Then I guess Dan's comments -- so
50 what we're looking at under this Special Action is to close

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1 Federal lands to nonsubsistence hunters from September 21st to
2 the end of the month?

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

5
6 MR. HEYANO: Two week period? Because based on
7 the State's action those other times are already closed on
8 Federal land?

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's just part of it.
11 There are still people who can hunt on Federal and State lands
12 who are nonsubsistence qualified users, right, Dave? Could you
13 address that? The State of Alaska can't address it, but we
14 can?

15
16 MR. FISHER: Yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I want to hear.
19 Tell us what that represents.

20
21 MR. FISHER: Well, what the Special Action
22 would do, it would close Federal lands to nonsubsistence
23 hunters.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay, that's the
26 other part.

27
28 MR. FISHER: And it would also change the
29 harvest from four caribou to four bulls.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. We got three
32 items to deal with.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess for just a little
35 further clarification on my part, Mr. Chairman. The State
36 action when it closed from the 5th to the 20th and it took away
37 the month of October.

38
39 MR. FISHER: Those are for nonresidents
40 hunters, those are for hunters from out of state.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Out of state.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Right. But those -- so those
45 nonresident hunters are -- those seasons are already taken away
46 on Federal land based on State action?

47
48 MR. FISHER: Yes.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

00025

1 MR. HEYANO: Okay, that's it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, but, still for this
4 Council, they don't have to deal with it, but you need to
5 inform the teleconference people and the audience that there
6 are nonsubsistence users still available to use Federal lands
7 from September the 5th.....

8

9 MR. FISHER: Those hunters would be
10 nonqualified rural residents.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

13

14 MR. FISHER: In other words, residents that
15 don't have customary and traditional use determination for
16 caribou hunting in 9(E), people from Anchorage.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. And that --
19 yeah, Robin, go ahead.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Which make up what percent of
22 the harvest?

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's a good point,
25 good question.

26

27 MR. FISHER: Those hunters from -- the resident
28 hunters?

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: The resident hunters from
31 Anchorage and other parts of the state of Alaska.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who are not qualified
34 subsistence users.

35

36 MR. FISHER: I going to have to maybe make a
37 guess at this, but I remember, maybe some number that Sellers
38 gave me, I think we're probably looking -- he figured Anchorage
39 hunters around probably 45 percent and you add their -- so
40 we're probably looking at maybe somewhere between 50 and 60
41 percent.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

44

45 MR. FISHER: That's just kind of a.....

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: I thought it was higher than
48 that.

49

50 MR. KING: Can you quantify that in a number?

00026

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm sorry, we're not taking
2 public comment at this time. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. FISHER: That's all. I'm waiting for the
5 next.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. But certainly, if
8 you'd like that clarified a little later on we'll be glad to
9 let you address that, Butch, in your comment, okay? Yeah.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: I guess, Mr. Chairman, it says
12 under this report "most of the reported harvest using known
13 residency came from the Anchorage area, 49 percent, with the
14 out of state hunters making up about 9.3 percent."

15
16 MR. FISHER: Did I -- I said 45, well, 49.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Right, okay. I guess to follow
19 that up to get it into numbers, you said nonsubsistence hunters
20 took up about 100 caribou, so if I took 49 percent of 100 that
21 should tell me -- approximately how many animals that those
22 people harvested, correct?

23
24 MR. FISHER: On Federal lands?

25
26 MR. HEYANO: Right.

27
28 MR. FISHER: Probably ballpark, yeah, you're
29 probably.....

30
31 MR. HEYANO: I guess what's confusing to me,
32 Mr. Chairman is I see percentages and I see numbers and I'm
33 just trying to -- I'm really interested in how many animals
34 we're talking about.

35
36 MR. FISHER: Then when you throw in harvest
37 ticket data versus household surveys.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Daryle, did you have a
40 comment you wanted to make there? If you'll give us your name,
41 please?

42
43 MR. LONS: Yeah, Daryle Lons, just from the
44 conversation that I had with the area biologist Sellers, last
45 week, he indicated to me last year's nonlocal harvest was about
46 200. And, like I said before, historically, the harvest in
47 9(E) has been about 50 percent on Federal lands and 50 percent
48 off Federal lands, so we would be talking nonlocal harvest of
49 100 animals, if that was correct.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. That's
2 good. Thank you.

3
4 Council members, any other questions of the report from
5 staff today?

6
7 (No audible responses)

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, hearing none, at
10 this time we would like to take written comment. And we've
11 been going for an hour, by the time we finish with written
12 comment, if we could take a break at that time and we'll come
13 back and we'll be ready for public testimony.

14
15 Okay, Helga.

16
17 MS. EAKON: Yes, Mr. Chair, and when we take a
18 break, on-line people, please do not hang up, otherwise you're
19 going to have to be reconnected. Just leave your phones live,
20 okay?

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Teleconference people, you
23 hear that, we're going to do written public comment at this
24 time, take a break, don't leave your phones if you would like
25 to stay on line.

26
27 MS. EAKON: Just leave them on.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Leave it on. Thank you.

30
31 Helga.

32
33 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, the program received
34 three written public comments. The first one was from the
35 Bristol Bay Native Association, signed by Terry Hoefflerie who
36 is the chief of their operations. It is a letter of support.
37 And BBNA urges this Council, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
38 Council, to recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board that
39 Unit 9(E) be closed to all nonsubsistence caribou and moose
40 hunting immediately. And since Ted Krieg of BBNA has signed up
41 to testify, I will leave it to him to elaborate on the reasons
42 they support the request.

43
44 The second request came from Mark Olsen who is the
45 Chair of the Kodiak/Aleutian Islands Subsistence Regional
46 Advisory Council. And on behalf of that Council he urges
47 support -- strong support of the requests. He cites the 1998
48 report that was led by Richard Sellers, ADF&G, and quotes from
49 that report that "its current size and productivity, the
50 caribou herd is only marginally able to meet the harvest

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1 demands of local hunters."

2

3 And this time I wonder if Mark Olsen did come on line?

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mark Olsen, are you on line
6 at teleconference?

7

8 (No audible response)

9

10 MS. EAKON: I guess not. He cites that this is
11 the same kind of declining -- the decline of the caribou herd
12 -- he said this is the same pattern that the Southern Alaska
13 Caribou Herd has experienced, and thus subsistence users were
14 not allowed to hunt for three years. And he ends by
15 recommending that Unit 9(E) be closed to the taking of caribou
16 by nonsubsistence users.

17

18 And, finally, the letter I referenced at the beginning
19 of the meeting from Roy Skonberg of Chignik Bay Village Council
20 and we are treating this as a public comment. It was a request
21 similar to the six others that you are considering at this
22 time.

23

24 He said that if productivity continues to decline, we
25 may be looking at being closed entirely by as early as next
26 year. We cannot afford that. We request that the Federal
27 Subsistence Board take immediate action to protect the
28 subsistence needs of our communities.

29

30 That concludes the written public comments, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any questions,
33 Council members, on the written comments?

34

35 (No audible responses)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing none from the
38 Council, at this time, we'll take a 10-minute break. And we'll
39 request that the teleconference people would stay on line if
40 you would. We'll be back in 10 minutes.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (On record)

45

46 REPORTER: Okay, we're on record.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, call the meeting
49 back to order. And while we're waiting for our coordinator,
50 I'd kind of like to see if we have our teleconference people

00029

1 still on line.

2

3 MS. EAKON: Alfred Kalmakoff.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Alfred Kalmakoff, are you
6 there?

7

8 (No audible response)

9

10 MS. EAKON: Vivian Brandal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Vivian Brandal, are you
13 there?

14

15 MS. BRANDAL: Yes, I'm here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

18

19 MS. EAKON: Roy Skonberg.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Roy Skonberg. Roy, are you
22 there? Roy Skonberg?

23

24 (No audible response)

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

27

28 MS. EAKON: Elizabeth Andrews.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Elizabeth Andrews.

31

32 MS. ANDREWS: Yes, I'm here for the Department
33 of Fish and Game.

34

35 MS. EAKON: Jim Fall.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who?

38

39 MS. EAKON: Jim Fall.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim Fall.

42

43 MR. FALL: I'm here.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Jim is there.

46

47 MS. EAKON: Tom Boyd, et al.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom and staff? Tom Boyd?

50

00030

1 MS. EAKON: Taylor Brelsford, are you guys
2 still on line?

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor?

5
6 (No audible response)

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Must have lost them. Any
9 Federal staff people on board? On the teleconference?

10
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you Federal staff?

14
15 (No audible response)

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Continue with your.....

18
19 MS. EAKON: Okay. James Shanigan.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim Shanigan? Jim, are you
22 there, Shanigan, Pilot Point?

23
24 (No audible response)

25
26 MS. EAKON: Boris Kosbruk.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Boris? Boris Kosbruk, are
29 you there?

30
31 MR. KOSBRUK: I'm here.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MS. EAKON: Roy Matsuno.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Roy Matsuno?

38
39 MR. MATSUNO: Yeah, I'm still here.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

42
43 MS. EAKON: David Osterback.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: David Osterback?

46
47 MR. OSTERBACK: Roger.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

50

00031

1 MR. OSTERBACK: I'm here.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Helga.

4
5 MS. EAKON: I'm going to call our office from
6 the other office, tell them they're off line.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. At this time,
9 Council members, would it be okay if we begin public testimony
10 from the teleconference people? Would there be any objection
11 from Council members?

12
13 (No audible responses)

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right, you on line
16 in teleconference, we've come to the point of our meeting where
17 we're accepting public testimony and the teleconference, those
18 who are on teleconference if you would like to give testimony,
19 would you please give us your name and who you're representing,
20 if you would, please. Do we have anybody on teleconference who
21 would like to do public testimony at this time?

22
23 MR. MATSUNO: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Give us your name
26 and who you're representing, please.

27
28 MR. MATSUNO: Yeah, this Roy Matsuno and I'm
29 with Ugashik Traditional Village Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Roy.

32
33 MR. MATSUNO: And I, you know, support closing
34 down the caribou hunting during -- from September 15th on
35 because the rut ruins all the meat. And, you know, I know I
36 usually do a lot of hunting on Federal lands up by the Ugashik
37 Lake and on some of our APC lands, which is Federal land. And
38 I notice when I went up King Salmon this summer that usually by
39 July 1st the caribou have come through already, but I was up
40 there like the 17th of July, 18th of July doing some sport
41 fishing and I didn't notice any caribou here in the river. And
42 there wasn't any tracks up there.

43
44 And I think, you know, with all the sport fishing
45 pressure up there it's changed the caribou migration route up
46 there. And there was probably about 40 sport fishermen up
47 there when I was there, you know, I was going after kings.
48 And, you know, with the population going down I really support
49 a subsistence priority, you know, for our locals, you know,
50 during these times of shortages.

00032

1 And I've noticed, too, that there's a few more wolves
2 around down in that area and I've heard some of the people say
3 that the wolves have been coming, you know, right into town, so
4 I know, you know, that's probably affecting the population,
5 too. And then, you know, I'm sure there's quite a few bears up
6 there that are up the lake, in that area there, killing off the
7 calves.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

10
11 MR. MATSUNO: Yeah, you know, also, you know,
12 going up hunting up in the Federal lands up there in the
13 Ugashik Lake, in the refuge up there, we have a few guides up
14 there and, you know, I think that kind of cuts down on the
15 amount of caribou that are up in that area. The Lower Ugashik
16 Lake, there's some guides -- three guides in that area that are
17 hunting caribou.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anybody else on
20 the teleconference line who would like to give public
21 testimony?

22
23 MR. KOSBRUK: Boris Kosbruk from Perryville.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Boris, we're ready.

26
27 MR. KOSBRUK: Number one, I often wonder about
28 the seasons, the caribou seasons and a lot of the meat they
29 bring in here is rutting already and I just wondered if you
30 guys take into consideration the seasons on the caribou so that
31 they won't get the rutting animals, that's wanton waste. Last
32 year they brought some meat in that we couldn't use at all and
33 that was a waste.

34
35 And caribou migrated down here and August 10th they're
36 migrating back up so unless there's some caribou that's
37 stranded over this side, we're kind of (phone cut out)
38 Perryville.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else?

41
42 MR. KOSBRUK: Not right now.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
45 members, of Boris Kosbruk?

46
47 (No audible responses)

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Boris. Anyone
50 else on the teleconference who would like to give public

00033

1 testimony?

2

3 MS. BRANDAL: Vivian Brandal, Chignik Lagoon
4 Native Corporation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, go ahead, Vivian.

7

8 MS. BRANDAL: Yes, I noticed -- we've been
9 hunting for many, many years on the land here and in the last
10 four or five years the decline has been tremendous on the
11 caribou herd. And, as Boris said, the season goes into the rut
12 and as they did, we got meat here from one of the (phone cut
13 out) wanton waste also.

14

15 And that's my comment.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else, Vivian?

18

19 MS. BRANDAL: No. I just would like to see
20 this closed off to the sport hunters and saved for the
21 subsistence hunters because with the poor season, I think we
22 really are going to need this.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you very much.
25 Any questions from the Council members?

26

27 (No audible responses)

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Vivian.
30 Next member who would like to testify on the teleconference
31 line.

32

33 (No audible responses)

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyone else teleconference
36 want to make a public testimony to the Council?

37

38 MS. KALMAKOFF: Lori Kalmakoff, Ivanof Bay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What was your name?

41

42 MS. KALMAKOFF: Lori Kalmakoff.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Lori, got it.

45

46 MS. KALMAKOFF: We wanted to mention -- it
47 seems never, like it's never been brought up, but we've never
48 seen caribou here in the last 10 years and we always have to
49 barter for it from people that we know, Port Heiden, King
50 Salmon, Dillingham. And we've never even gotten any meat from

00034

1 sport hunters.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

4

5 MS. KALMAKOFF: Two years of fishing -- three
6 years of fishing disaster, the people here really need an extra
7 chance to get some meat.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Lori?

10

11 MS. KALMAKOFF: That'll do it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Lori, you said that
14 it's been many, many years since caribou have even showed up in
15 your area?

16

17 MS. KALMAKOFF: That's right.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any question,

20 Council.....

21

22 MS. KALMAKOFF: It's the first time we've also
23 seen a wolf pack last year, we've never seen wolves down here
24 before, but not this last year, it was two years ago.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Lori.
27 Any other Council questions?

28

29 (No audible responses)

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Appreciate your
32 comments. Any other members of the teleconference that would
33 like to give public testimony?

34

35 (No audible responses)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anybody else on the
38 teleconference that would like to give public testimony before
39 the Council today?

40

41 (No audible responses)

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, hearing no other
44 individuals that are on line right now, we'll go into the
45 public testimony here in Naknek. But, teleconference members,
46 if someone shows up and wants to testify, we certainly can
47 accommodate them as we go along, since a teleconference is a
48 little difficult piece of equipment to deal with.

49

50 And, Council members, on that point we'll go on now at

00035

1 this time to public testimony. If you've come in late since
2 we've started the meeting and you'd like to testify today, you
3 can certainly take one of these cards and sign up and give
4 public testimony.

5
6 At this time we like to begin the public testimony in
7 the Naknek area and I'll ask for Hazel Nelson, Becharof
8 Corporation.

9
10 MS. NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, thank you for allowing me
12 to share my testimony with you. I'm speaking on behalf of
13 Becharof Corporation. We represent approximately 183
14 shareholders out of Egegik, half of whom live year-round in
15 Egegik and their continued ability to supplement their food
16 supply with the resources in 9(E) is crucial to their survival,
17 much like everywhere else in Bristol Bay and further down the
18 Peninsula.

19
20 Recent actions taken by the Board of Game partially
21 addressed local concerns for meeting subsistence needs on State
22 lands. We appreciate this opportunity to address these needs
23 to the Regional Subsistence Council and we hope for further
24 action.

25
26 Several factors have contributed to local concerns in
27 raising this issue to both the State and Federal bodies and
28 this request for Special Action. Number one is competition.
29 Locals are concerned that it would be difficult to meet
30 subsistence needs while competing with sport hunting interests
31 while in the field. Several shareholders have reported
32 conflicts along the Egegik River and in the Becharof National
33 Wildlife Refuge while hunting for caribou or moose.

34
35 Along the Egegik River and the King Salmon River more
36 competition than ever is present because of local outfitters,
37 transporters and guides bringing in sport hunters. Sport
38 hunters have impacted the local hunting patterns to the extent
39 that Becharof Corporation has hired a trespass officer to
40 patrol the property along the Egegik River to ensure that
41 shareholders are able to hunt without competition from sport
42 hunters on corporation land, as well as in other areas where
43 locals hunt. Some shareholders have given up hunting moose
44 entirely because of competition with sport hunters along the
45 King Salmon River.

46
47 I guess BBNA has put a lot of effort in trying to get
48 as specific numbers as possible from the local populations in
49 regard to their subsistence take, I understand that those
50 numbers are voluntary, which gives me concern that you guys may

00036

1 not have as accurate numbers as we would hope.

2

3 This year it will be especially difficult for
4 shareholders to travel further afield because of travel costs.
5 Many people are now working to make ends meet for the winter
6 and will likely forego a trip to Becharof Lake to get moose
7 because of the cost associated and the likelihood of
8 competition with sport hunters in those areas where moose and
9 caribou can be found.

10

11 Again, I would like to express my concern. Earlier I
12 heard Dave Fisher report, I think, a percentage, 20 percent or
13 whatever it was in regard to locals who take their meat from
14 Federal lands. Whether it's 20 or 50 percent, those numbers do
15 not take into the factor of competition. And when a local is
16 out there with not much money in their bank to cover gas and
17 groceries to go up on a subsistence hunt, they're going to stay
18 home, so those numbers are foregone hunts, rather than the
19 expense of going up to just meet with one hunting camp after
20 another in their historical hunting grounds.

21

22 Competition still exists on both Federal and State land
23 because there are still nonresident and nonsubsistence hunters
24 out there competing.

25

26 Number two. By adopting the State seasons, the job is
27 only half done. ANILCA is meant to provide a subsistence
28 priority and to protect the resources in times of shortage. By
29 allowing nonresident and nonsubsistence hunters a season, the
30 Federal Subsistence Program will fail to allow a Federal
31 subsistence priority. This would defeat the intent of Title
32 VIII in ANILCA which provides for subsistence priority.

33

34 Right now if you mirror the State regs, this doesn't
35 meet the intent of Title VIII. Therefore, to meet your
36 mandate, you should first eliminate the nonresident,
37 nonsubsistence sport hunting before you limit the residents to
38 bulls only. If you allow any nonsubsistence hunting or
39 nonresident hunting it is an unnecessary restriction to limit
40 subsistence users to bulls only.

41

42 Caribou and moose hunting should be closed during the
43 rut because it's a waste of food which can be harvested when
44 the animals are out of rut, especially now when the herd is
45 down and biologists cannot predict with any certainty as to
46 when the herd will recover. Closing hunting for everyone
47 during the rutting season is a minimum that this Board can
48 implement.

49

50 Number three. We have a population explosion of wolves

00037

1 on the Peninsula and this is becoming a serious problem. We've
2 never seen so many wolf packs or had them so close to our
3 village. I understand that wolves with rabies have been seen
4 and when they have rabies it's obvious that the population is
5 too high and that they're preying on caribou herds in high
6 numbers, especially during the calving season.

7
8 I also -- from personal experience, I know that our
9 brown bear population is way too high, and they, as well, prey
10 on the caribou herd. I think that the managers on Federal
11 lands need to balance their trophy brown bear population goals
12 with the needs of the communities for subsistence, especially
13 with the dying herd of caribou.

14
15 Becharof Corporation is concentrating on bear hunts
16 when the season will allow in the future to cut down on bear
17 predation and we will be addressing this in a proposal to you
18 soon.

19
20 Thank you for listening to my comments. And I'll try
21 to answer any questions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

24
25 (No audible responses)

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hazel, I have a question.
28 You mentioned in your presentation that the rut season should
29 be closed to both the -- to all user groups, is that what you
30 meant to say?

31
32 MS. NELSON: Absolutely. I don't know of any
33 local subsistence users who go out hunting during the rut, I
34 don't think anybody does and it's obvious to people who live in
35 the villages year-round that nobody should be hunting during
36 the rut.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would like to maybe just
39 differ with you on that, because I think the local people can
40 differentiate between a rut bull and a usable cow. And I know
41 here in Naknek, up Snow Creek, sometimes that's the only time
42 when they pass through that they might be able to use it, so I
43 just wanted to kind of mention that because I think the local
44 people can figure out, you know, the difference between the two
45 animals and still get a good usable subsistence animal.

46
47 MS. NELSON: Thank you for clarifying that. I
48 spent a lot of time talking with locals from these other five
49 villages who have put in letters similar to ours and although
50 we know that when locals are out hunting for subsistence it's

00038

1 awful hard to determine whether it's a bull or a cow when
2 they're out hunting. And giving up cows won't be easy for
3 locals, but if that's part of what they have to do and if it's
4 going to be during the rut, well, it should be done.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good, thank you. Any
7 comments, Council members?
8 (No audible responses)

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Hazel, I
11 appreciate that.

12
13 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Gary "Butch" King, Junior, if
16 you would, please.

17
18 MR. KING: This is my first Federal subsistence
19 meeting and I met a few of you folks and I'd like to meet more
20 of you. I know many of the people in the Port Heiden and Pilot
21 Point region and I'm becoming more familiar with the people in
22 the Chignik areas. I built the school years ago as a young
23 contractor in Port Heiden and in Chignik Lake.

24
25 I started down on the Alaska Peninsula in 1971 at the
26 Cinder River Lodge, so I'm a pilot and a master guide and I run
27 operations in that area. I've got a letter here, and I'm not
28 sure if Helga got an opportunity to distribute that to
29 everybody.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, we have it.

32
33 MS. EAKON: I did, Mr. King.

34
35 MR. KING: Okay. Thank you. Well, let's just
36 kind of go through this letter here.

37
38 On behalf of the many Alaskans who rely on the wildlife
39 resource of the Alaska Peninsula for their subsistence and
40 livelihood I urge you to reconsider these proposals in front of
41 you right now. In nearly all cases the moose that we harvest
42 as guide and outfitters are in very remote areas, far beyond
43 where the local village people can access. The meat from our
44 harvest I have delivered to the villages every year. And I've
45 got some information that gives you some numbers and some
46 weights and some people that receive that stuff.

47
48 Before making this decision, consideration must be
49 given to those local village families, the single mothers and
50 elder residents who rely upon the meat provided by my lodge

00039

1 operations each year. And also consider the economic impact on
2 Alaskans like myself and my more than 20 Alaskan employees who
3 earn the major portion of their annual income here on the
4 Alaska Peninsula.

5
6 My wife and I were both born in Alaska. We have
7 operated Wildman Lake and Cinder River Lodges in the Port
8 Heiden area, guiding sportsmen here on the Alaska Peninsula. I
9 am known in the Port Heiden, Pilot Point, Central Peninsula
10 region, and I believe I am well-respected because I purchase
11 fuels and supplies on a regular basis and I always deliver the
12 moose and caribou meat that we've harvested by our nonresident
13 hunters. I already have orders for 1998 and I've already made
14 several deliveries.

15
16 Kathy and I have made substantial long-term capital
17 investments in this area. We provide employment for several
18 Alaskans, these include registered guides, Class A assistant
19 guides, assistant guide, fish guides, pilots, cooks and camp
20 helpers, as well as moose packers. We've also built electric
21 meat houses with high voltage to keep the bears out of the meat
22 so we can deliver it in good condition. I've got that
23 installed at both lodges. Have for several years.

24
25 Our clients bring hundreds of thousands of dollars into
26 the Alaska economy annually for the privilege of enjoying
27 Alaska's outdoors. These nonresident hunters not only help to
28 provide employment for Alaskans up and down the Peninsula, but
29 they also provide tens of thousands of pounds of fresh moose
30 and caribou meat to the village people in our area.

31
32 I have prepared some sheets that illustrate the
33 economic impact on our lodges and employees, as well as the
34 impact on the local village people, subsistence users, if our
35 activity is curtailed by the action of this Board or the State
36 Board of Game. The few mature bull caribou and moose that we
37 harvest each season go a long ways toward providing the
38 subsistence needs, the food needs, the real food needs, of
39 these villages.

40
41 What I'm unable to illustrate is the negative impact
42 that this closure will cause on the Alaska guiding industry and
43 tourism industry, which guiding is, who compete on the world
44 market for their clients. Many of our client have booked their
45 '98 hunts more than a year in advance. They have already
46 purchased non-refundable airline tickets, special equipment and
47 clothing and arranged personal schedules, all in anticipation
48 of a wonderful Alaskan experience. Radical changes in hunting
49 seasons and game laws and political climate toward nonresident
50 hunters is normally associated with third-world countries, like

00040

1 Africa and Russia and places like that, not in Alaska.

2

3 Let's not deal a multi-million dollar tourism industry
4 a deadly blow. That is the future of a lot of people up and
5 down this Peninsula, is tourism. And if the tourism industry
6 can also provide meat to the villages at the same time it is an
7 economic base, I think we've got a hand in hand relationship
8 that can be established between the local village people and
9 the big-game guiding industry. And I'm not economy expert, but
10 it would seem that getting one foot off commercial fishing in
11 some of these villages might not be a bad program.

12

13 So please reject the proposals that you've got on the
14 1998 moose and caribou closure for 9(E). This closure will
15 deprive more village families of valued moose and caribou meat
16 than it will feed. Our friends in Port Heiden and Pilot Point
17 are counting on the meat from the moose taken and the caribou
18 taken by our nonresident clients. And as lodge owners we are
19 counting on this season's income for our very livelihood as
20 well.

21

22 I understand well that there's an economic situation in
23 Bristol Bay that's been caused by a poor return of fish. An
24 economic situation in one industry is bad enough without
25 causing an economic situation in another industry, as well as
26 they go hand in hand, especially when that industry can provide
27 meat that's needed for the subsistence use that we're hearing
28 about. And I sympathize with the need for meat and stuff in
29 the villages.

30

31 And this is not a new thing to me, bringing meat to the
32 villages. Some guides have had -- have not been as faithful
33 about bringing meat to the villages as others have. And part
34 of this is they haven't been introduced or the initiative
35 hasn't been taken by those people in the village to come out
36 when an airplane lands and meet the guide and meet the people,
37 we don't know each other well enough and that's a problem. We
38 need to spend more time talking and talking about our mutual
39 concerns and needs regarding the local wildlife.

40

41 If these proposals -- this proposal, combined with the
42 State proposal that's happening now, that basically we would
43 eliminate 22 nonresident caribou hunters that we will take this
44 season. Now, I personally curtailed my caribou hunting on
45 October 10 this year for the purpose that the meat is better
46 accepted at the village if we take it before October 10.

47

48 The meat that we would normally deliver to each
49 village, let's just talk about caribou meat, we would deliver
50 normally this year 10 caribou at an average weight, because we

00041

1 deliver with the bone in because it hangs better and keeps
2 better, about 250 pounds. That figure comes right out of the
3 State Fish and Game book and that's. according to the airplane
4 that I fly, that's about right.

5
6 That's a loss of 2,500 pounds of meat that we would
7 deliver this fall to Port Heiden. We'd probably deliver six
8 caribou at 250 pounds to Pilot Point, that's 1,500 pounds of
9 caribou meat. Chignik Lagoon, I bring fuel in from Seattle to
10 Chignik Lagoon and Clem Grunert takes care of that fuel for me.
11 And I bring in caribou meat in and each time I ask -- each time
12 I deliver meat, I ask to make sure the meat is delivered to the
13 older folks, the people that can't hunt and the people that
14 need the meat because a lot of the people that I deal with at
15 the airport, they're pretty able-bodied tough guys, they come
16 down and hang around the airport and lot of them work on this,
17 that and the other. But those are the people that I see, so
18 those are the people that I give the meat to, but I always ask
19 them to distribute it.

20
21 So the pounds of meat delivered from the hunts that we
22 would -- that we do have scheduled for this year is about 5,500
23 pounds of caribou meat. At 200 pounds a family that's about 13
24 families in Port Heiden, eight in Pilot Point and eight in
25 Chignik Lagoon. Now, some of the other villages would think,
26 well, why don't we stop by there? Well, we have to have a
27 reason to stop. My supplies come into Port Heiden, my fuel
28 comes into Chignik Lagoon and I get fuel in Pilot Point. These
29 are why we go to those villages. If we got requests from other
30 villages and it's economically feasible, like Chignik Lake, we
31 can stop by Chignik Lake easy enough because it's on the way to
32 Chignik Lagoon. And I did stop in there and talk to Johnny
33 Lind about delivering meat there and we would be happy to do
34 that.

35
36 As far as moose, I'll just give you some numbers on
37 moose. Our harvest in moose between both lodges that we
38 operate is approximately 18 moose, if we have a successful
39 season. That's about 6,400 pounds of moose meat to Port
40 Heiden, 3,200 to Pilot Point, 1,600 to Chignik Lake, we thought
41 we'd bring some Chignik Lake in, moose this year. Johnny Lind
42 ask me to bring kidneys, I'm not sure I can find a kidney, but
43 if I can, I will. And Perryville, we hunt over next to
44 Perryville, over in Ivan Bay and Slim Creek, we have
45 concessions over there with the Federal concessions. And we
46 usually take a couple of moose on that side and we've been
47 taking meat over to Perryville in the past.

48
49 I won't go into how many families that'll feed but it's
50 substantial. I've also listed names of people who I've

00042

1 delivered meat to on a consistent basis for more than 20 years.
2 I said I started in '71 on the Peninsula, that's 27 years. In
3 the Aniakchak region of -- the Federal land in Aniakchak, I
4 believe I can truthfully say that no man has spent more nights
5 in that Federal region of Aniakchak than myself.

6
7 And I fly hundreds and hundreds of hours every year. I
8 survey the animals, I've got surveys going back 15 years. I
9 count every single bull moose that I can find, which is
10 probably about 75 percent. I do my surveys right before the
11 season when the antlers are out of velvet and I can see the
12 moose. I write every single moose down on a sheet of paper
13 that I can find, all the bulls, I'm just looking for bulls at
14 that time because you can't -- it's hard to find the cows at
15 that point. And we adjust our harvest in that fashion.

16
17 When I first -- I started as a partner with Lee Holen,
18 and some of the older folks will remember Lee Holen, and when
19 Lee retired and I took over the operation in '83. The moose
20 population on the Peninsula, some of you will remember, was in
21 terrible condition at that time. And the caribou population
22 was pretty good in that particular time in our history. But my
23 point is when I took over as the operator, not just a partner,
24 I curtailed our moose hunting. I went to taking one bull moose
25 a year, and we used most of that meat there around the camp
26 during the season. And for three years we only took one moose.

27
28 As the population started to recover we started taking
29 three moose and then we went to five moose. And the population
30 of the moose in that region is as high as I've seen it since
31 when I was just a young boy down there flying around in the
32 mid-'70s. So the population has rebounded in the moose in that
33 region. And to my knowledge, we have never had a conflict in
34 the field with the people out of either of the closest villages
35 to us, Port Heiden and Pilot Point. The closest one I can
36 remember is when the head guy, Jack's son there -- Jack that
37 runs the store, his son was chasing a bull moose and had a few
38 shots at it and it ran to the east and a few days later we
39 killed that 72-inch bull with one of our camps and we delivered
40 all the meat right back to the village. So he saved Honda fuel
41 maybe.

42
43 Economic impact of these hunts is substantial and I'll
44 just give you a for instance and I won't bore you with all
45 these numbers, you've got copies of them. But just so the
46 people in the audience understand what the impact is of a moose
47 hunt. For instance, our -- one moose hunter will spend coming
48 to Alaska, he will spend about \$9,000 with us for the right to
49 come or the privilege to come and the experience of that hunt.
50 He will buy an airline ticket from the Lower 48 for about \$900.

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1 He will fly from Anchorage to King Salmon, \$289. He will fly
2 from King Salmon down to Wildman Lodge, \$370, so the loss to
3 air carriers, \$1,559.

4
5 In transit he'll have a hotel in Anchorage, and they're
6 getting 180 bucks at the Clarion a night, and he'll have to
7 spend the night when he comes and a night when he goes, that's
8 \$360. He'll spend about 250 in meals, \$25 on taxi cab rides
9 and he'll get about \$500 worth of hipboots, rain gear and warm
10 clothes. So the loss to local business about \$1,135.

11
12 Then once he gets his trophy he's got the shipping of
13 that on Reeve to Anchorage and that employs all the boys in the
14 building over at Reeve's. He will have trophy care, he'll have
15 taxidermy work and then he'll have to have that shipped to him
16 in America, \$1,720.

17
18 Local purchase, gift shops, supply over here in the
19 King Salmon Airport and wherever he buys gifts and stuff for
20 his wife and children and so forth, he'll drop 100 bucks in
21 that. He'll buy a nonresident hunting license for \$85. Of
22 course, he's going to buy a fishing license because after he
23 gets his moose hunting he wants to go out and cast a few and
24 catch a couple of fish.

25
26 He'll buy a nonresident moose tag for \$400. Wolf tags
27 are now down to \$30, down from \$175. Everyone of our clients
28 this year will buy a wolf tag. And so we're doing our best to
29 help eliminate the wolf problem because we've seen it too. A
30 lot of them will purchase a wolverine tag, \$175 and they will
31 give tips to their guides, their packers, their cooks, and so
32 forth, about \$400. So they'll drop, right here on the
33 Peninsula and, with the license, another \$1,220.

34
35 Economic impact per moose hunter, \$14,634. You
36 multiply that by, out of our two lodges, 18 moose hunters,
37 that's \$263,412. That's the economic impact of curtailing
38 moose hunting in 9(E) will cost the State and the Peninsula.
39 The same thing for caribou, it goes further.

40
41 My main point, because these are all evidently my
42 problems, the financial end of this thing. But the main thing
43 I want to stress to you people is we need to work as guides and
44 the village people need to work closer with us as guides, so we
45 can provide more meat to the villages. So we can work hand in
46 hand in this deal. We're in it together and during the seasons
47 that we hunt, we can bring more meat to the village than I
48 think if everybody got on a Honda and went out, that they could
49 possibly find. We've got the equipment for the job and we're
50 glad to do it and, you know, I propose that we work real hard

00044

1 on this particular issue, is to bring meat back to the village.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Butch, are you about ready to
4 wrap things up here?

5

6 MR. KING: I'm getting real close. The
7 elimination of hunting the cow caribou, I think in the joint
8 effort right now, I think it's a real good idea because of the
9 herd numbers. Presently there's about 2,000 caribou that I
10 flew right through the bulk of them last night between Pilot
11 Point and Port Heiden. And there's good numbers out there.
12 The surveys that I have done have shown about a 20 percent, a
13 25 percent calf survival to this point.

14

15 I'm also present during the month of May and I watch
16 the calving process, the cows like to have those calves out
17 there right in the swampy ground, they drop them right in that
18 cold water, say "welcome to Alaska." And then the wolves and
19 the eagles, those are another thing that's preying on the
20 caribou. I witnessed about four different eagle kills this
21 year. And wolves are running pretty rampant on the caribou
22 population. So those are a couple of the predators that we're
23 concerned about, too.

24

25 And so I'll wrap up my testimony. The same people, and
26 I really hate to see it because I've seen a lot of these people
27 grow up, the young people, and I know a lot of the people from
28 the villages, almost all my adult life that are saying, stop
29 the nonresident hunting are the same people that I have
30 faithfully delivered meat to, and there's nobody that can deny
31 that. And Terry Christensen knows it and so does Johnny
32 Christensen and Macarlo there. Johnny Ball at Pilot Point, all
33 the Gretchens. They all know me. Clem Grunert over there in
34 Chignik Lagoon. They all know me and I deliver meat and I've
35 been faithful at it for a lot of years.

36

37 So that's all I have to say.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you very much,
40 Butch, maybe you'll -- any questions that you might have of
41 Butch? Yeah.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Butch.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come on back up and sit down,
46 Butch.

47

48 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have a -- you take a total of
49 22 caribou hunters out per year?

50

00045

1 MR. KING: That's what we got booked for this
2 season, sir.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. On an average.....

5
6 MR. KING: Excuse me, those are the hunts
7 affected by this -- you know, if it's closed like what was
8 projected.

9
10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, that's -- then I assume
11 you got 22 hunts on Federal land. How many do you have on
12 State land?

13
14 MR. KING: Well, see our State land has already
15 been affected.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, so has your Federal land.

18
19 MR. KING: Okay. See, I don't -- I'll take
20 those caribou hunters where I wish to take them within my
21 quotas on Federal land. See, so I don't, like, book you for
22 Federal land and you for State land. Primarily we do a lot of
23 caribou hunting on Federal land because it's further away from
24 the village area and stuff.

25
26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

27
28 MR. KING: But, I mean, we hunt where the
29 caribou are, but again, we haven't had much for conflicts.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Will you share with me how many
32 caribou hunters you bring up annually?

33
34 MR. KING: It varies from year to year because
35 of the bear season, but we would take anywhere from probably 20
36 to 45 hunters in a year total.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. And on an average, what
39 percentage of them 20 to 45 hunters harvest their caribou on
40 Federal land?

41
42 MR. KING: I'd say it's probably a 50/50.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: What's the average take of your
45 clients? Is it one caribou, two caribou, three caribou?

46
47 MR. KING: It's a one-caribou area.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: One caribou?

50

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1 MR. KING: One bull caribou.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: You've been flying in that area
4 for a good number of years, '71; have you noticed the decline
5 of caribou?

6

7 MR. KING: I have noticed that the decline,
8 primarily in the ratio, seems to be heavy on the bull side.
9 The calf survival is what I'm most concerned about. And, of
10 course, you know, the number of cows. I can remember seeing
11 the caribou herd down in the 8,000-9,000 numbers prior --
12 before. I also witnessed that when the Mulchatna herd moved up
13 into this area that it syphoned off a lot of Peninsula caribou
14 because when that happened the decline was noticed shortly
15 thereafter, okay?

16

17 There is a decline in the herd right now, it's in a,
18 you know, it's in a bit of a low spell. But I also noticed we
19 took two caribou here last week and we delivered one to John
20 Ball in Pilot Point and the other one to Nina Christensen, a
21 single mother in Port Heiden. Both of those bulls were in
22 excellent condition, very, very, fat and one of the guides,
23 Dave Daniels who has guided out of the Wildman Lodge since the
24 late '70s, said it's the biggest-bodied caribou he ever saw in
25 there, so they seem to be in good condition anyway.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Why do you think the caribou
28 are not migrating over toward the Pacific side, the Perryville,
29 Ivanof Bay, Chignik areas?

30

31 MR. KING: Okay.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: In your opinion.

34

35 MR. KING: In my opinion. Back in the '70s,
36 all right, the Peninsula Caribou Herd -- and I was -- my
37 experience in that time was basically was south of the Meshik
38 River and north of Pilot Point, okay, in that region there.
39 And we would see the large majority of the caribou coming right
40 down the -- across the Lower Meshik around between Port Heiden
41 and the Aniakchak volcano there and they would come and they
42 would walk right at the edge of the cinder line. And they
43 would walk that cinder all the way down to where they got to
44 about Ugashik Airstrip and they'd usually cut back east to get
45 up there where they could cross the rivers one at a time
46 instead swimming the bay. They would cross the King Salmon,
47 the Dog Salmon and the Ugashik and then from there I don't know
48 where they went. But the biggest movement of caribou has
49 always been on the Bristol Bay side. It has always been there.
50 And in those days we could fly and hunt the same day, we had --

00047

1 I don't know what the limit was, but it was several caribou,
2 bulls, cows, you know, I mean it was very liberal in those
3 days. And we could have gone anywhere for the caribou but the
4 numbers came down that side.

5
6 Now in the early '80s we saw a change in the way the
7 caribou moved and they started filtering through the mountains
8 and I would say about 50 percent of our caribou hunting or more
9 is done in the mountains and they tend to congregate up there.
10 We have a lot of resident bulls that hang out in the brush
11 line, just in the parts between the brush and then they --
12 about this time of year, as soon as they get the velvet off,
13 they go to the top of the mountain. They get the cows together
14 and then they move.

15
16 In the Wildman area it's a little bit different because
17 of the Big Deniminof (ph), they congregate down on the flats,
18 but again, all on the Bristol Bay side, 80 percent. And it's
19 been like that since '70s.

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. So you're a highly
22 mobile operation and closing 9(E) lands to caribou, would that
23 force you into the Mulchatna Caribou Herd?

24
25 MR. KING: No, it won't. I've got the Wildman
26 Lodge which is nearly a million-dollar facility, okay? And we
27 do sport fishing all summer, that's primarily why it's so
28 cushy. And I've got the Cinder River operation. The State of
29 Alaska allows us, all guides, three guide-use areas, my three
30 guide-use areas are Aniakchak Preserve, AKP, this refuge land,
31 AKP-11 and AKP-12. I cannot move. My facilities -- and I have
32 the Cinder River Lodge in the Aniakchak, that was built in 1964
33 and I still operate it.

34
35 I can't move. I'm a resident of the Alaska Peninsula,
36 there's where I am and there's no where I can go. And many of
37 the other guides that are here, Joe Klutsch, Tracy Vrem are in
38 the same boat, we have got investments, we've got -- we put all
39 our eggs in one basket, we're here, we're not gypsies, we can't
40 move to the Mulchatna. Now, we're mobile within our guide
41 area, but that's as far as we go.

42
43 MR. SAMUELSEN: So you can't move because of
44 regulation?

45
46 MR. KING: I cannot move this season because of
47 regulation for sure. If I wanted to, I couldn't go there by
48 regulation of the State, no way.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Interesting. Any other

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1 questions, Robin?

2
3 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members?

6
7 (No audible responses)

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Butch.

10
11 MR. KING: Yeah. I hope you understand how
12 that works, that State law, because it's very real.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We do now. All right. Van
15 Hartley, if you would, please.

16
17 MR. HARTLEY: My name is Van Hartley, I operate
18 Branch River Air Service in King Salmon. Going right to what
19 you asked about, the Mulchatna herd, I've already interjected
20 that to some of the clients that I've got coming up for caribou
21 and the additional cost of going up into the Mulchatna herd is
22 going to eliminate some people from going there. Right now
23 we've flown an hour and a half out of King Salmon towards the
24 Mulchatna herd and can't find them. When you connotate that
25 into charter it increases -- doubles, triples the amount that
26 people are going to spend.

27
28 In looking at that, if they have to buy air fare from
29 Anchorage to King Salmon and then charter north, it's cheaper
30 to go out of Anchorage with a different air taxi service. The
31 economic impact to me is going to be substantial, probably this
32 year, and most notably next year.

33
34 I've tried to keep any conflicts that I've had
35 minimalized because of our mobility in a float plane to, oh,
36 the areas within the refuges and the preserves and State lands.
37 So we try to minimize conflict and we give away any meat that
38 we can to the locals.

39
40 So I guess that's all I got to interject.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions?

43
44 (No audible responses)

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Van, you said that the cost
47 of going from here to the Mulchatna area is prohibitive as far
48 as your clients go. Can you go to the Mulchatna as an air taxi
49 operator, you can go there, huh?

50

00049

1 MR. HARTLEY: Yes, we can.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But Butch can't go there
4 because he's a master guide in his area; is that right?

5

6 MR. HARTLEY: I suppose so.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I think we're talking
9 about the decline of the animal and whatever the cost is
10 involved is just one of those factors that's a difficult thing
11 to deal with. And, granted, I know about coming through Lake
12 Clark Pass or Port Alsworth, there's lot of good air taxis up
13 there. Certainly more desirable than coming to King Salmon and
14 flying for, you know, two or three hours up into the Bonanza
15 Hills and those areas. I understand that. So we appreciate
16 the comment.

17

18 Any questions, Council members?

19

20 (No audible responses)

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Van. I'd like to
23 take, at this time, Johnny Lind, Chignik Lake Village.

24

25 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, my name is Johnny
26 Lind, I'm representing the Village of Chignik Lake. Most of
27 our community members who hunt caribou share their catch with
28 other families further south because they do not have caribou.

29

30 I am also Chairman of Chignik Advisory committee. When
31 our committee discussed this issue last February, we were
32 concerned that our herd does not decline similar to what is
33 happening in 9(D).

34

35 The main points. We request that you close Federal
36 lands to all nonsubsistence and nonresident hunters.

37

38 Further, we believe that subsistence hunters should not
39 be limited to bulls only. We strongly recommend that Federal
40 lands be closed to all hunting during the rutting season.
41 Especially now, when the herd is declining and there is no
42 certainty that this herd will soon recover.

43

44 As a minimum, hunting during the rut should be closed
45 on Federal lands.

46

47 Subsistence hunters should be given a priority and we
48 need this protection more then ever now that our caribou herd
49 is declining.

50

00050

1 We realize that sport hunters are not solely
2 responsible for this declining condition, because we have a
3 growing problem with wolf packs, which are preying on caribou
4 near by Black Lake area.

5
6 Two wolves were killed in the village in recent years
7 and we never used to see wolves like this before. Also, a
8 survey was done recently in Black Lake for bears and it's up in
9 numbers or new record numbers.

10
11 In closing, we hope that you consider our request in
12 light of the impacts of two disastrous fishing seasons. What
13 you decide for us today is going to be the most important
14 provision for food later this winter when the fish and geese
15 are gone.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
18 members?

19
20 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Is there a number what the bear
21 survey was?

22
23 MR. LIND: Dick Sellers told me 290. They did
24 two surveys.

25
26 MR. BOSKOFISKY: That just in Black Lake or the
27 whole Chignik?

28
29 MR. LIND: Black Lake, west fork area. They
30 did three surveys, but what they came up was 290. That was
31 last month, I think.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: John, you said -- Excuse me,
34 go ahead.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's all right, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. You said close it to
39 the rut season. What do you mean by that? Do you think
40 everything should be closed to subsistence on a rut or are you
41 talking about the nonsubsistence?

42
43 MR. LIND: When they rut, we don't hunt them.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't hunt the rut,
46 period. Okay, all right. Do you think that -- it looks to me
47 like you might have a lot of animals and they still may not go
48 to Chigniks and we can't do anything about that, you know. So
49 that's not an easy issue to deal with. You may have a lot of
50 caribou, you may have 17,000 animals and they may choose to

00051

1 come up on the Bering Sea side, you know, along the coastline.

2

3 We heard Butch say, and we know this from we who have
4 flown it for years and years and years in that area, that the
5 animals are more moving for the mountains and we don't even
6 know sometimes where they go through the mountains. So I guess
7 I wrestle with you close it down and yet the animals don't go
8 there. We got to figure out some way to getting you over there
9 or something to get the animals where they're moving for the
10 subsistence use. But I really appreciate your comments because
11 it's out of the Chignik areas.

12

13 Any other -- you had a question there, Robin.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Johnny, you said that -- or
16 stated that our recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board
17 was a bull only, that you would prefer that it be either sex,
18 bull or a cow. How strong a conviction is that on behalf of
19 the village people of Chignik Lake?

20

21 MR. LIND: I talked to a few of them and they
22 said the winter time they mostly get cows because of the fat.
23 And the summertime they want bulls for the fat.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: So it's the fat content that
26 you guys are.....

27

28 MR. LIND: Yeah.

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, any other
33 questions?

34

35 (No audible responses)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, John, appreciate
38 that. Tracy Vrem, is that -- did I pronounce that correct?

39

40 MR. VREM: Vrem.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Vrem, okay. Pretty important
43 that we say those names correctly. All right, Tracy, thank you
44 for coming before us today.

45

46 MR. VREM: Well, thank you for having me. I
47 appreciate being able to voice my concerns. I'm a master
48 guide, I've.....

49

50 REPORTER: Pardon me, could you state your name

00052

1 for the record, please?

2

3 MR. VREM: My name is Tracy Vrem, I live in
4 Chugiak, I'm a lifelong resident of the state, as my wife and
5 my three kids, obviously. I've been coming down here since
6 1974 and I bought out my current operation in 1983. All three
7 of my guide areas are -- basically I'm very close between
8 Egegik and Pilot Point on the State land and then I have one on
9 the island arm of Becharof Lake on the Federal land.

10

11 And this is my sole business, I mean this is a huge
12 economic impact to myself and I can sympathize with the plight
13 of the commercial fish, you know, for the last couple of years.
14 The biggest thing that I can step forward and do to help is, in
15 the past my clients have taken the vast of the majority of
16 their meat with them, I'm set up, I have flaxed fish boxes,
17 banding machine, you know, they take their meat home. And so
18 -- which I think they have every right to do, but in light of
19 the situation now and with the commercial salmon season going
20 down and the lack of money and the caribou dwindling, I'm
21 easily going to step forward and supply all the meat that my
22 hunters take and take it to Egegik. And I don't know so much
23 that there's need in Pilot Point because I think that's getting
24 addressed by other hunters.

25

26 And if for some reason, there happens to be enough, if
27 Egegik, for say a 10-day period, and I have some around, maybe
28 PenAir can stop by when they're dead-heading down to Chignik
29 Bay or something or Chignik Lake.

30

31 So, you know, that's my concerns. I think one thing
32 that hasn't been touched on is that this is a non-bear season
33 on the Peninsula in Unit 9(E), so there is even going to be
34 smaller numbers of bull caribou taken. Number one, we're not
35 going to have the nonresident harvest -- well, obviously
36 because it's closed, but the resident harvest is going to be
37 somewhat lower because there is no bear season. And so we're
38 not going to be getting the people from Wasilla, Fairbanks,
39 Southeast Alaska to come to the Alaska Peninsula with the main
40 idea of hunting bear, slip a caribou harvest tag in their
41 wallet. So those numbers are going to go down.

42

43 And that's about all I really have add to it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members?

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Just a minute, don't leave
50 yet, Tracy.

00053

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, as advisor to the
4 Regional Council, you know, I'm very happy that the guides are
5 delivering meat to the villages, but that is not the issue
6 here. The issue is that we have a caribou population that is
7 in decline. We have a caribou population that's showing signs
8 of massive stress throughout its migratory range, whether it be
9 feeding [sic]. We have a caribou population that has developed
10 a lung disease. We have a caribou population that has a high
11 predator control on it. As Tracy mentioned, this is a non-bear
12 year and bears are a major predator of caribou, especially in
13 the calving areas.

14

15 And we have subsistence users that have continuously
16 stated to us over -- since the formation of this Council and
17 the Federal Subsistence Board that they're -- it started in the
18 southern portion that they weren't meeting their subsistence
19 needs in caribou and we took the appropriate action hoping that
20 caribou would migrate to the Pacific side. And now we're faced
21 with these other regulation actions that we need to consider at
22 this point.

23

24 So I guess from testimony from here on out, I know
25 we're running through them pretty fast, but I'd like to hear
26 more from the guiding industry on how this problem could be
27 corrected, the impacts on their businesses, more
28 recommendations from the guiding industry on how to alleviate
29 this problem, if there is an answer to this problem, than the
30 good work that they're doing delivering meat to the villages.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, Council
33 members?

34

35 MR. VREM: Well, I would just like to interate
36 [sic]. Right now we're pretty much stuck, I mean we have our
37 clients and commitments. We can certainly make an adjustment
38 in numbers for next year, you know, but this year we're just in
39 a bad spot. It's just like being out in the bay and having
40 your net in the water, I mean, you know, we've got our clients
41 coming and we've got everything in place, so there's not a lot
42 we can do. We've already lost a large amount of our season and
43 our clients for this year. And so, you know, we can plan for
44 the future, it's hard to plan right now for the present, I
45 mean, in the situation we're in. And all three of my areas are
46 here. I've already spoke with the Department of Occupational
47 Licensing, as Butch touched on, I cannot go anywhere by
48 regulation. There is not even an emergency regulation that
49 they've adopted for such a situation. Hopefully there will be
50 one after this. So, you know, I have no options.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You do have the option of
2 hunting on State lands, though?

3
4 MR. VREM: Yes, I do have the option.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You have a window of the 21st
7 to the 30th in which you can take your clients, if they happen
8 to be in that time frame.

9
10 MR. VREM: Right.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Even if we close down Federal
13 lands to all nonsubsistence user, you still have an option of
14 going on State land. So does Butch and so does Van Hartley,
15 they can go on State lands and hunt those nine days. We have
16 no control over State lands.

17
18 MR. VREM: Right.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But you do have a window,
21 that might be small, but if you want to look at my fish
22 tickets, my window is pretty -- much smaller than what you've
23 been talking about today, and that has nothing to do with the
24 decline of the caribou herd, but, you know, we're talking
25 economics here.

26
27 MR. VREM: Right.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay.

30
31 MR. VREM: Yeah, it's a substantial economic
32 impact to myself. I mean it's a definite plight.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. But you still
35 have State lands and it's important that this audience know
36 that you can go on State lands. And you're at Egegik River?

37
38 MR. VREM: No, I'm on that old oil road system.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, there at Jensen's?

41
42 MR. VREM: Yes, near Jensen's, exactly.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

45
46 MR. VREM: So I don't go to the Egegik, I'm
47 kind of land locked.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, thank you. Any
50 other questions for Tracy today?

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1 (No audible responses)

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you for your testimony,
4 appreciate it. One you nervous guys want to take a break or
5 what?

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: When are you going to break for
7 lunch?

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're not taking lunch.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, all right.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't eat in this crowd.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're non-union.

18

19 MS. EAKON: If I may explain why. In order to
20 accommodate on-line teleconference participants, we had to go
21 out of the state for a Federal bridge number, somewhere in the
22 Lower 48, and so we have this line opened until 2:30.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you imagine the Feds just
25 going straight through for hours and hours on end and never
26 taking a break, that's pretty considerable, huh, Helga?

27

28 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's all right. Okay,
31 we'll take one more and then we do need to have -- take little
32 breaks. And we'd like to hold it to 10 minutes.

33

34 But, Joe Klutsch, would you like to take this time?

35

36 MR. KLUTSCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
37 members of the Council. My name is Joe Klutsch, I've lived
38 here in King Salmon for 26 years, worked as a hunting and
39 fishing guide during all of those years, done some commercial
40 fishing, served 16 years on the Naknek-Kvichak State Advisory
41 Committee. And I think I have probably testified before you
42 nearly everyone of your meetings, I almost feel like I'm
43 getting to know you a lot better now.

44

45 What I'd like to discuss, and I'm just going to do this
46 really right off the top of my head, is where I personally
47 think we stand, biologically, with this herd. Those of you who
48 have been around for many years know that caribou herds
49 traditionally cycle, they always have historically. Ups and
50 downs, some of the downs are more drastic and sometimes the

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1 increases are significant, like what we've witnessed with the
2 Mulchatna herd.

3
4 I remember, of course, as most of you do, when this
5 herd was around, when it increased to a level of 10,000
6 animals. And people around here were really happy, they
7 thought it was great. And I don't recall at that time anybody
8 really feeling like or ever saying anything about not being
9 able to fulfill their needs. I'm just pointing that out
10 because I lived through that period.

11
12 What I see in the population now, a combination of
13 things. A change in the range condition, an older herd, a
14 reduction in the calf productivity, slightly less healthier
15 animal than what we used to see, these animals aren't as
16 healthy as the Mulchatna animals are right now. We do have a
17 good bull to cow ratio, 40 plus per hundred. And that kind of,
18 in an overview, it seems to me what's going to make the
19 difference in what this herd does will be -- hinges or is
20 contingent upon the survival and health of cows and calves,
21 which translates into bulls, cows and calves.

22
23 I'm hoping, best-case scenario, that this decline, that
24 maybe we've reached the low end and that it'll stabilize in
25 this range for some years and then possibly in future years
26 start to come back, like it has done, I guess, what, three
27 times in the century that we're aware of.

28
29 The State Board, in an overview, the State Board,
30 somewhat to everyone's surprise, took action -- an emergency
31 action request, as you're well aware, to eliminate nonresident
32 harvest in Unit 9(E) during the entire month of October. In
33 addition, they closed during the September 5 - September 15
34 period. That was the remedy that our Naknek-Kvichak Advisory
35 Committee felt was sufficient to address the problems,
36 particularly in Unit 9(C).

37
38 To reduce the level of harvest we're going to ask
39 locals to shoot only bulls, that's going to increase the level
40 of bull harvest. To offset that and to share in the
41 conservation burden, I believe is one of the terms you used,
42 Robin, it was determined that some reduction in the level of
43 nonresident harvest or non-area harvest was warranted. So
44 that's what our committee advised and that's what the Board
45 did. But they went a much bigger step, went a lot farther than
46 what certainly we anticipated, and I think probably
47 unwarranted, eliminating all of the October season.

48
49 So from a biological end, I think there's been a hell
50 of a dose of medicine issued here and I want to believe that

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1 it's sufficient to address the problem.

2

3 The other things that I'd like to address, and it's one
4 that's not talked about too often, or you haven't heard guides
5 respond to it very much or air taxis or anybody else, and
6 that's the issue of competition. And we started hearing this
7 more and more lately. And I can say with all honesty in all
8 the years that I've been out there I have never ever
9 encountered a subsistence user during the seasons when I hunt.
10 I can look you right in the eye and tell you that. Now those
11 are in the areas where I operate.

12

13 I know there's been conflicts in other areas, in
14 certain locations, but by and large, that's a huge area for
15 those of you who have flown over it. Most guides and most air
16 taxi operators are taking people where most residents don't go.
17 And lot of that is on Federal land. It seems, from my
18 experience in living in the King Salmon/Naknek area and living
19 the better of 10 years trapping down in the Cinder River and
20 Meshik River area, access by locals is along the Bering Sea,
21 along that State land corridor, as Dan pointed out, and that
22 seems to have been traditionally a more used ground, more
23 important for locals to access.

24

25 So my point here is that, by and large, I think that
26 your guided and air taxi efforts focus on areas that most
27 locals don't go to, by and large. I really believe that.

28

29 The other thing that hasn't -- is rarely every
30 addressed is the edibility issue, addressed by guides. The
31 notion that rut caribou is not usable. For people who don't
32 know how to handle it, it is, it's not often used like it
33 should be. There's a way to use it and I've got my method and
34 I've proved it to Daryle Lons. You can take the stuff and you
35 can soak it in rock salt, put it in a bucket in rock salt and
36 layer it, let it sit a couple of months in there, take it out.
37 I'll put it in a fish net, hang it in the river and let it soak
38 overnight or let it soak (phone noise) then you take it and you
39 cut it up and you grind it with some other kind of meat. You
40 can throw in some beef suet or pork suet or moose suet or
41 whatever kind of fat you want to put in there and you can make
42 a decent enough grind out of it. But it's work.

43

44 And you hear a lot of people in different quarters -- I
45 see Robin smiling, that'll say.....

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just don't invite me for
48 dinner.

49

50 MR. KLUTSCH: I've had a lot of people tell me

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1 -- I eat spawn-outs and red fish, I've learned the from Teddy
2 Melgenak, I really like silver spawn-outs. And you can tell a
3 lot of people that. They'll say, you can't eat those old red
4 fish. Well, you can. In fact, I actually like a spawned-out
5 red salmon, in a lot of ways, better than I do a fresh one.
6 That's a fact. I like it, it's a little lighter and it's firm
7 and it's a good fish. But a lot of people would sit her before
8 this Council and tell you couldn't eat it. So, I guess, you
9 know, there's different ways to handle the stuff and I think
10 with the right commitment on the part of people and good
11 enforcement that issue can be addressed.

12
13 The other thing is that in relation to what's been done
14 regulatory-wise, the refuge people have taken the step to
15 reduce, and our operation's planned a number of animals -- or
16 number of hunters by species, caribou, that we could take. We
17 wish they would have consulted us before they took that action.
18 And, as I expressed to a number of the Federal people, we would
19 have voluntarily done that, I don't think you would have had
20 any problem at all.

21
22 So you've listened to a lot of testimony, a lot of the
23 things that I'm saying here I've said in letters, I discovered
24 one in there that goes back to January 10, '95. A lot of the
25 same points I'm making now, I've made then. And I've got
26 another one I made last spring. We got a workshop meeting
27 coming up the end of the month where we can explore other
28 options to help reduce conflicts with locals, to learn to get
29 along and work better together. And we really will, you know,
30 I've made that commitment and I'm here again.

31
32 So that's where I stand on it, I've tried to keep it as
33 simple as I can. I'm not going to get in and wail about the
34 economics of it, I -- you guys know what that's about as well I
35 do, all of you fish and so you know the score in that regard.

36
37 And with that I'll conclude my remarks.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

40
41 (No audible responses)

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joe, where you located in?
44 In the Meshik?

45
46 MR. KLUTSCH: In the upper reaches of the
47 Meshik River and I also have a camp that I utilize in the
48 western boundary of Katmai in the Becharof Refuge. It would be
49 to the east side of Big Creek and against the park boundary.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What kind of equipment
2 do you use for getting around?

3
4 MR. KLUTSCH: A Piper Super Cub and a Husky.
5 And then I charter Peninsula Airways or I'll charter Branch
6 River Air.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Do you have access
9 to State lands?

10
11 MR. KLUTSCH: I do have access to portions of
12 State lands, yes.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And do you have moose
15 clients?

16
17 MR. KLUTSCH: This year?

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh (affirmative).

20
21 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So if you did not have
24 any caribou, you still have access -- on Federal lands, you
25 still have access to State lands and some moose residents.
26 We're not dealing -- most likely going to be dealing with
27 during Sept.....

28
29 MR. KLUTSCH: There really is no -- where I am
30 working there are no moose readily available on State lands and
31 if there were I'd steer clear of them.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we're not going to be
34 dealing with, I don't think, moose in this issue because of
35 what the Federal Board has already issued to us. That doesn't
36 mean we can't debate it. So, you know.

37
38 What do you think about -- Butch King said they had a
39 25 percent increase in calf survival and I don't know where he
40 got that number. What are your thoughts about calf survival
41 rate in the caribou herd of the Peninsula in 9(E)?

42
43 MR. KLUTSCH: All I can go on, Dan, is what I
44 got from Dick Sellers and he said 24 per hundred was what his
45 initial count was in June. And then he went back in late July
46 and that's what kind of triggered this sequence of events is
47 when he found the ones with the lung disease and he saw about a
48 10 or 15 percent reduction in the calves that were born this
49 year.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we have his report in
2 our -- and I've read it and highlighted things that I thought
3 were really important.

4
5 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah, so I'm basically going on
6 what Dick said and I have no current field observations. I
7 will within another month.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think it's really
10 interesting that, you know, with the increase in bear
11 population, of course, you couldn't do anything about it now if
12 they gave you a bear season in October, it wouldn't do any
13 good. It takes you a year to, you know, bring in clients, but
14 I think we need to look -- I talked with Hazel about that this
15 morning, about some other possibilities we can help the guides
16 out with animals and substitute the declining caribou herds.
17 You know, we need to do something creative, we're just -- we're
18 dealing with a very difficult issue.

19
20 Any questions, Council members? Yes.

21
22 MR. KLUTSCH: I neglected to mention one thing,
23 Dan, if I may, and that was also on this issue of telling bulls
24 from cows. All of us, as hunters, should be able to discern a
25 bull caribou from a cow caribou.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We can do that.

28
29 MR. KLUTSCH: Even right on through the winter,
30 if you're a good serious hunter you should be able to do that.
31 And even during October -- Robin's probably going to question
32 my taste again, but I'd rather have a two to a three year old
33 bull than a cow than with a one year old calf or a cow that's
34 passed her prime or pregnant. I'd much rather have those
35 younger bulls and they're not hard to tell and they're
36 available all through the season. I mean, rut or no rut,
37 they're great to eat.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Guys in Anchorage have a hard
40 time telling the difference between a cow and moose. That's
41 their problem. We'll take a 10-minute break and then we'll
42 come back.

43
44 MR. KLUTSCH: Thank you, all.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I call the meeting back to

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1 order. All right, at this time I'd like to have your -- call
2 us back to order and ask Eddie Clark if he would come up and
3 testify before the Council today. (Pause) Name, rank and
4 serial number. Aircraft number preferably.

5
6 MR. CLARK: That's taped over right now.
7 Anyway, Eddie Clark, I'm a transporter and I've lived in Naknek
8 all my life and I've run hunters over 20 years. I just kind of
9 get weeded out, there's just so many regulations and I suppose
10 I just don't choose to live up to them, so.....

11
12 REPORTER: Pardon me, Mr. Clark, could you move
13 the microphone in front of you?

14
15 MR. CLARK: All right. And I fly a lot, I Pipe
16 fly every day, locally, mainly fly the 9(C) and a touch of 9(E)
17 area and I think the numbers are really down on caribou. And I
18 try to look at the last couple of years on why and there just
19 seems to be a lot of little problems. I think we have a lot
20 more increase of sports fisherman guides that are hunters all
21 of a sudden and they take a lot of hunters. A lot of sports
22 fishermen, people that used to be just sports fishermen are
23 hunters now or they take hunters.

24
25 We have a large increase of wolves, we're in third and
26 fourth generation of wolves, that's a 16 and 24 wolf packs. I
27 think there's a large increase of bears. And, you know, as a
28 resident hunter we can only take one every four years and we
29 may have to look at that, that's -- I think we have a large
30 population of bears. And we get them here in town, but this
31 year has been a real large local bears.

32
33 I got some stuff written up here. I believe the number
34 is a level where action is needed. As a commercial fisherman I
35 relate the regulating of the commercial game to my commercial
36 fishing. If the numbers of fish are down for the oncoming
37 season then usually there's a lot out telling you the numbers
38 are down and stuff. Then everyone watches their expenses and
39 they don't hire too many people knowing what might happen.
40 But, you know, we still have air fare, we have food, we have
41 fuel, we still gear up for the commercial fishing season, just
42 like the guides would do, okay?

43
44 And I so I feel that the guides or anyone depending on
45 the game as a commercial business should be aware of their
46 income, their animals a year or two ahead of time. I've
47 attended quite a few Advisory Committees and we were discussing
48 a possible closure even last year. And so I believe that they
49 have known about this, okay?

50

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1 In commercial fishing the last two years we were all
2 dressed up and no place to go. We were sitting waiting and --
3 for a salmon opening and nothing happened. And when we finally
4 get a salmon opening the fish are gone, okay? So just like the
5 guides, too. And so just with the guides and the air taxi
6 people, you know, they should know the numbers are down.

7
8 And so, as fishermen, we know that we need a certain
9 number of fish up the river, so we can have a return for the
10 future. As commercial users of the animals everyone needs to
11 understand that there needs to be a certain number of caribou
12 or just animals for a future herd. And if the numbers are
13 there then I think everybody needs to participate in why the
14 numbers are down, okay?

15
16 I feel there's a big increase of wolves and bears in
17 the area. And, just trying a number out for size, I felt that
18 if the caribou got down to 5,000 in the Peninsula herd I think
19 that would only feed the predators. I mean if it got down that
20 low, there's such an increase.

21
22 And I had a couple of other thoughts. Like even the
23 wolves increased, maybe even get it back opened to land and
24 shoot as a way of slowing some of the wolves down, okay? And
25 everybody talked about bring rutted meat in or meat in, and I
26 bring a lot of meat into the people here and the first thing
27 they ask if it's stinky, you know, and I -- might as well be
28 honest with them because those old folks know and so then I
29 kind of go down the chain where they get rid of the meat and it
30 gets as where the dog team people won't even take it because
31 their dogs don't want to eat it. Even right in the newspaper
32 it says, don't bring rutted meat to the sausage companies, they
33 can't even hide the smell in it. So I don't think I'm going to
34 salt my rutted meat for two months and hopefully it's going to
35 be good, when I feel I should get a good caribou, so I don't
36 know if I would do that.

37
38 We had discussed about the Mulchatna herd being so big
39 and a possible -- I brought up, possible the same-day airborne
40 shooting of the Mulchatna, and I was told that they didn't want
41 to get into that because that's political, but that might be an
42 answer to some of it. The Mulchatna herd gets so big it's just
43 something -- some disease will get them and then they'll be
44 gone anyway, but if those numbers are up that might a possible
45 to do something to help everyone. But I just can't help the --
46 I hunt and I also fish and I -- we've had bad fishing seasons
47 and the guides are -- and everybody feeling the same on the
48 hunting and that's what we choose to do and how to make a
49 living and most of the commercial fishermen now are becoming
50 construction workers and that's the way it is.

00063

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

4

5 (No audible responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A couple of questions, Ed.

8 One is you said something about the possibility of liberalizing
9 the take of wolves, and our biologist here, Dave Fisher, I
10 think probably knows better than I that you cannot shoot and
11 hunt and the same-day airborne on Federal lands. I think
12 Congress passed a law. We don't have any control over that,
13 that's something that went beyond probably all of us. In the
14 Mulchatna area there's so little Federal lands, it's just all
15 State land. If you look at the white deal here, it's all State
16 lands, it just -- there's hardly any use, and these guys know,
17 we're not dealing with the Federal lands up there, this is what
18 this Council represents.

19

20 I did note that you mentioned the increase in bear
21 population. Sellers just finished his survey and they just --
22 they have really gone up in big numbers, so certainly something
23 to keep in consideration.

24

25 Thank you very much, Eddie.

26

27 MR. CLARK: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Terry Christensen.

30

31 MR. CHRISTENSEN: For the record, my name is
32 Terry Christensen. With me in the room is Olaf Matson, we
33 represent the Village Council of Port Heiden. We come forward
34 to request that you close Federal lands to all nonsubsistence
35 and nonresident hunters.

36

37 Further, we believe that the subsistence hunters should
38 not be limited to bulls, only as long as other hunters are
39 allowed to hunt in Federal lands. We strongly recommend that
40 Federal lands be closed to all hunting during the rut,
41 especially now that the herd is declining and there's no
42 certainty that this herd will soon recover. As a minimum,
43 hunting during the rut should be closed on Federal lands.

44

45 ANILCA mandates that subsistence hunters be given a
46 priority and we need this protection now more than ever that
47 our herd is declining.

48

49 The Native Council of Port Heiden in concert with the
50 Alaska Peninsula Corporation closed lands around Port Heiden to

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1 all sport hunting and sport fishing and we hired a trespass
2 officer to patrol the lands to ensure that subsistence hunters
3 do not have to compete with the sport hunters on the
4 corporation lands.

5
6 We realize that sport hunters are not solely
7 responsible for this declining condition. As you well
8 documented, we have a problem with wolf packs that are preying
9 on caribou herds in the nearby village. Several locals have
10 reported seeing sick wolves and one was shot this summer in the
11 village that was confirmed to be rabid. This tells us that the
12 wolf population needs to be addressed as surely as sport hunting
13 impacts.

14
15 Further we are concerned that our area has become
16 overrun with brown bear and we'd like to see this Council
17 address this. This is part of the larger plan to assist in
18 recovery of our caribou herd.

19
20 We consider the impacts of the disastrous fishing
21 season two years in a row now to be extenuating circumstances
22 and that you consider our request in this light. Ultimately
23 what you decide for us is going to be the most important
24 provision for food when the dead of winter comes.

25
26 I'm an able subsistence hunter and I can honestly say
27 that I've never taken any guide meat in my time.

28
29 (Telephone interruption)

30
31 Thank you for your consideration for our request. I'd
32 be happy.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hold on a minute, Terry.

35
36 OPERATOR: Hello.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead.

39
40 OPERATOR: This is the agency conference
41 operator, just letting you know that a Mr. Brelesford just
42 requested an hour extension on your call and he wanted me to
43 let you know that hour has been added to the conference.

44
45 MS. EAKON: Till 3:30?

46
47 OPERATOR: Taylor Brelesford had requested that,
48 so we added that and extended the call by one hour for you so,
49 yes, it will end at 3:30 now.

50

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1 MS. EAKON: Thank you very much.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sorry, Terry, about.....

4
5 MR. CHRISTENSEN: No, that's okay.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You were in the middle of
8 saying that you have never taken any meat from a guide?

9
10 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I've never.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13
14 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Contrary to one guide's
15 comments, I've never taken any meat from a guide and I've never
16 seen that much meat brought to my village.

17
18 I thank you for listening to me and I'd, you know, I'll
19 try to answer any questions you have here.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

22
23 (No audible responses)

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I have a couple of questions,
26 Terry. You said that you want 9(E) closed to everyone except
27 the qualified user?

28
29 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So you have three
32 types of people we're talking about. You have the nonresident,
33 which has been pretty much taken care, except for a little time
34 between September.....

35
36 MR. CHRISTENSEN: The nine-day closure.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, the nine-day.....

39
40 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Or opener, rather.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay. And then you have
43 the residents which are not qualified to be on Federal lands
44 for subsistence, which has not been addressed, and then you
45 got, we, the local people who live in the area.

46
47 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Exactly.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So those are the three group
50 types we're dealing with.

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1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: User groups.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. And I believe,
4 unless I'm wrong, Helga and Dave, there is not going to be any
5 rut meat taken -- closure. Is it only nonresidents that's not
6 going to taking rut meat in October?

7

8 MS. EAKON: Only nonresidents, that's correct.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. So it's
11 opened to residents and the qualified subsistence --
12 nonqualified subsistence user, right, Dave?

13

14 MR. FISHER: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Okay,
17 that's -- I just wanted to clarify that more for myself than
18 anybody else.

19

20 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, well, I understand.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So we understood what your
23 testimony was. All right, thanks.

24

25 Now, don't forget now, we are going to have in
26 September -- you know, we're going to be dealing with this
27 overall big picture and up to this point we had never heard
28 from another guide except Joe Klutsch, today they're here in
29 big numbers, so you know the notice is out.

30

31 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Well, I can understand their
32 point. We're all in a situation here. I never thought where
33 we'd be fighting over food, but we are, so.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thanks, Terry,
36 appreciate it.

37

38 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Thank you for listening.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Richard Johnson. And
41 following Richard Johnson will be Ted Krieg. That'll be the
42 last one to testify. Richard.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Richard Johnson, I'm a
45 local. I'm speaking on behalf of myself as a hunter,
46 fisherman. The economical side of this doesn't matter as far
47 as I'm concerned. The thing that bothers me is the decline in
48 our caribou herds. I also fly, like Eddie Clark, but not as
49 much as he does, but I did fly here the last couple of days
50 ago. I flew the coast to Egegik, Johnson Hill, down past

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1 Egegik then I flew past inland up around the hills, Jensen
2 Strip back through back to Egegik. And this time of the year
3 here where we get these west winds, usually during the hunting
4 season for ducks and geese, there's usually a lot of big
5 caribou down around the coast, you know, south a bit, and down
6 also at Ugashik.

7
8 But I didn't see a one, not one single caribou did I
9 see on the coast. I flew inland, I followed the road all the
10 way up to Jensen Strip, I didn't see any caribou, none. And if
11 they're coming through, if there's any in numbers at all, there
12 should have been some caribou there around those hills this
13 time of the year.

14
15 But I've flown for quite a few years and I've noticed
16 that these caribou come through down there. And I flew and I
17 landed at Jensen Strip and took off there. Mr. Lons can tell
18 you I was there because I talked to him. And I flew back
19 straight across to Egegik again over the hill behind Egegik, I
20 saw one caribou is all I saw on the whole trip down and back to
21 Naknek where I should have seen a lot more than that.

22
23 And for everybody to participate,
24 subsistence/nonsubsistence, I think the thing we have to keep
25 in mind is, in that time that's better meat than killing one
26 that's in the rut. I never did go along with big horn hunting,
27 when animals are in the rut, for moose or caribou, I think
28 that's a waste, I don't think that's right.

29
30 But the State and everybody else seems to be able to
31 make regulations on us concerning our fishing, emergency, you
32 know, regulations and I can't see why all of a sudden they
33 can't come out and say, hey, there's a problem here, we got to
34 consider it, we got to look at this.

35
36 I grew up in Naknek, I was born in 1935, there wasn't
37 any caribou here then, you're lucky if you saw any of them.
38 They used to have their reindeer herds. My mother was born in
39 Alaska, she moved up here in 1916, there wasn't even a moose
40 here then either. And I've watched the caribou come, I've
41 watched the moose come. I've watched the caribou go, I've
42 watched the decline and it takes many years for them to come
43 back again, many years for them to get strong.

44
45 I think the reason we're seeing a lot of bear now is
46 because there's no fish, so they have to eat on something, so
47 they're after what's easy, the weak herd, which is the caribou.
48 The animals are weak now, that's what Fish and Game says,
49 they're not strong. And that's why the wolves are moving in
50 down south, I think, also, it's because the herd is weak and

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1 they're easy to get, rather than chase a strong herd.

2

3 So these are all things that have to be looked at. But
4 the first thing each and everyone of us has to keep in mind is
5 our delinquent herds and what we're going to do about them, so
6 we can get them back to the coast. There's caribou but there's
7 nothing on the coast. The local hunters aren't going to get
8 anything there, they're going to have to travel to get them
9 now. And we never had to do that in the (indiscernible -
10 cough) years, but it's getting that way now.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Richard. Any
15 questions, Council members?

16

17 (No audible responses)

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Richard.

20

21 Well, I guess we saved the best till last, at least
22 you're last, Ted. And this will end the public testimony.
23 Thank you for coming before the Council today.

24

25 MR. KRIEG: My name is Ted Krieg, I work for
26 the Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural Resource
27 Department. I'll try to be brief because of time constraints,
28 but as Joe Klutsch mentioned and I guess Dan mentioned it too,
29 we're going to have a caribou and moose workshop at the end of
30 this month and it's going to include State and Federal
31 managers, representatives from the village and guiding
32 interests. Also some of the Regional Council members will be
33 there and Dan will be chairing it.

34

35 And as I understand it, this Special Action Request,
36 you know, whatever decision this Council makes, it's only in
37 effect till the end of this year. Somebody should correct me
38 if I'm wrong, but till the end of this regulatory year, which
39 is June 30th, 1999.

40

41 And as everybody knows, you know, Terry Christensen,
42 just mentioned this too, Title VIII of ANILCA mandates that
43 there's a subsistence priority and that's the Federal law. And
44 as I see it, until other uses are decreased, subsistence cannot
45 take any kind of hit and that includes changing the season to
46 bulls only.

47

48 And I guess that's the main thing that this Council has
49 to keep in mind. I know that there's tough decisions to be
50 made but that's, as I see it, subsistence priority is the

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1 number one thing that you guys have to keep in mind.

2

3 There's a BBNA letter, it's the last set of papers in
4 the report. I'm not going reread it, you know, basically we
5 support the Special Action Requests. There's some other
6 information included here, some of the tables from the
7 subsistence harvest survey reports that BBNA and -- worked
8 cooperatively with Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife
9 Service. And I have those two reports if somebody doesn't have
10 them here, if you need additional information.

11

12 I guess there were just three things I wanted to
13 mention briefly and, I don't know, maybe I'm out of line, but I
14 guess there -- within the staff analysis there were three
15 things that I noticed that, I guess, if I could get some
16 elaboration on it, I guess I'd like to, you know, hear maybe a
17 little bit more about it. But the one -- I guess the first
18 thing would be if the harvest pressure is great enough -- well,
19 it concerns the genetics and younger bulls breeding doesn't
20 mean a natural selection for a larger healthy animals won't
21 occur. That's one thing.

22

23 The other thing that was news to me, that I hadn't
24 heard before, is that part of the Northern Alaska Peninsula
25 Herd joined the Mulchatna Herd this past spring and traveled
26 north to the herd's calving grounds and I -- you know, that was
27 news to me. I guess it sounds like that was just this year and
28 I hadn't heard anybody locally say that previously. I know
29 that's one of the things that people had thought happened, you
30 know, at sometime -- I guess in -- when was it, '93-94 when
31 Mulchatna was way down and Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd was
32 up. So I don't know, that was something new.

33

34 And I guess the last -- well, the last thing here is
35 given the geographic bounds of the Alaska Peninsula, a shift
36 north is the only range expansion possible. And I guess what
37 I'm -- you know, what I read into that is while we had a
38 shortage for a long time in Ivanof Bay and Perryville and, you
39 know, it seems like the only thing that's going to happen next
40 is if things have to move north, well, then it's going to start
41 hitting Port Heiden, Ugashik, Pilot Point and, I don't know,
42 that's what I read into this.

43

44 And I guess just the final thing that I wanted to bring
45 up is the staff analysis conclusion and it seems to me like,
46 you know, I didn't read anything in the Special Action Requests
47 about changing the bull -- you know, to bulls only. And it
48 seems like things kind of got turned around there, that, you
49 know, that shouldn't even be an issue, it shouldn't come into
50 the, you know, play. At least as I see it in staff analysis.

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1 So with that I'll conclude, unless there's any
2 questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

5
6 (No audible responses)

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I have a question, Ted. I
9 really question, and I don't know if staff put in there that
10 the North Peninsula Caribou Herd, which is the Alaska Peninsula
11 Caribou Herd, because there's a southern herd as well, joined
12 in big numbers the Mulchatna herd, I really question that. I
13 don't think they have. And I'm not a biologist, but I've flown
14 the area, almost on a weekly basis, you see both animals
15 walking opposite directions. I'd be interested to see if they
16 had some scientific information to tell us that 3 or 4,000
17 animals went to Mulchatna. It would be interesting if that
18 took place, I question that. But I appreciate you mentioning
19 it.

20
21 Okay, no further questions?

22
23 (No audible responses)

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

26
27 MR. KRIEG: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That ends public testimony as
30 far as we know it.

31
32 And Federal agency comments, Helga, who's going to
33 handle that?

34
35 MS. EAKON: This is an opportunity for any
36 Federal agency participating or listening to make a comment at
37 this time. It's a courtesy gesture, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any Federal
40 comments at this time?

41
42 MR. LONS: Mr. Chair, members of the Council,
43 thank you. I'll keep this brief in the interest of time, I
44 just wanted to basically -- my name is Daryle Lons, Refuge
45 Manager of the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife
46 Refuges.

47
48 I just wanted to state that the Refuge's position is in
49 support of the staff analysis and the recommendation.
50 Basically I think three factors are involved in supporting

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1 that. The biologists have determined, pretty much, that the
2 emergency action of closing caribou hunting to nonsubsistence
3 hunters to protect -- is not necessary to protect the short-
4 term health of the herd. I think everybody recognizes what
5 [sic] the caribou and their continuing declining trend.
6 Actions do need to be taken, but as far as an emergency action
7 for this fall it isn't necessary since the bull:cow ratio is
8 high and there's a surplus of bulls that can be taken.

9
10 And, in fact, this action may be detrimental to the
11 local hunters and villages because if we close Federal lands
12 there could very well be a displacement onto State lands and
13 bring more hunters closer to the local villages, so there could
14 be actually increased competition to the local villages.

15
16 I mean, definitely, there will be an economic hardship
17 placed on the guiding industry that probably isn't needed to be
18 done at this point in time. You know, we have the workshop
19 scheduled for next month or later in this month and I think all
20 the stakeholders have to get together and be creative and try
21 to work out things so that we can meet our Title VIII mandates
22 as well as Title I ANILCA mandates as far as providing
23 customary and traditional uses on Federal lands. And you know,
24 hopefully, we can come up with some good ideas and solutions to
25 address this problem for the long-term health of the caribou
26 herd. I mean that's number one, is protecting the caribou
27 herd. This emergency action, I don't believe, you know, is
28 necessary at this time.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you have any further
31 comment?

32
33 MR. LONS: No, I don't, thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?
36 Robin.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A
39 report put out by the Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish
40 and Wildlife Service, a cooperative arrangement there at -- one
41 sentence on the second page says "at its current end
42 productivity the herd is only marginally able to meet the
43 harvest demands of the local hunters." What that sentence is
44 telling me is that because of the drop in numbers, because of
45 the predation problem, because of the food problem that this
46 herd is not sustaining itself at a static level. And the
47 analysis clearly points that out. You take the harvest, the
48 reproductive rate and we're still dropping.

49
50 And the statement by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

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1 the Department of Fish and Game stating that local subsistence
2 hunters, because I would assume that all local hunters are
3 subsistence hunters, that this herd could marginally sustain
4 that hunting pressure, let alone nonresident or other Alaska
5 resident hunters.

6
7 Do you concur with that statement and still come to the
8 conclusion that you did?

9
10 MR. LONS: Okay, it's unfortunate that
11 Mr. Sellers isn't here today, but I think I state this
12 correctly, maybe we can talk to some of the State folks and our
13 biologist, Ron Squibb, to clarify it further. But that
14 statement was made prior to the completion of this year's
15 survey. Mr. Sellers made that statement based on a population
16 model that he had developed that came up with a number of 7,800
17 caribou instead of 9,200 caribou prior to the end of the
18 survey, you know, so we're talking about a difference of 1,400
19 animals between 9,200 and 7,800. That statement, you know, if
20 the herd continues to decline is, you know, fairly accurate.
21 And that's what I'm saying, is a need that we're going to have
22 to address in the near future. You know, we may have to take
23 more restrictions or totally close Federal lands to nonlocal
24 users, you know.

25
26 So I would agree with that statement, if the numbers
27 were, indeed, 7,800 which Mr. Sellers population model at that
28 time expressed.

29
30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Sure. As a manager, can
31 you manage that herd for, give or take, 1,400 animals? Is your
32 precision of management that close?

33
34 MR. LONS: No, it isn't.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: So what we have to look at, as
37 stewards of that resource is trends; would you agree?

38
39 MR. LONS: That's right.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members?

42
43 (No audible responses)

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Daryle, the -- this was
46 triggered when Dick Sellers gave his report to the Naknek-
47 Kvichak Advisory Committee where we had this reduction in
48 animals. The Naknek-Kvichak Advisory Committee, at that time,
49 put into place these -- what the Game Board acted on, which we
50 know to be emergency regulations which took place.

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1 So you don't agree with the Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game, Game Board on the closures of Federal and State
3 lands.....

4
5 MR. LONS: No, I'm not saying I don't disagree
6 [sic] with that, I'm just saying further action, probably,
7 isn't needed at this time to protect the herd.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh.

10
11 MR. LONS: Dick -- Mr. Sellers.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's important that you say
14 that then because I had misinterpreted that now.

15
16 MR. LONS: You know, Mr. Sellers, the area
17 biologist, feels strongly that the protection of the cow
18 component of the herd is what's critical at the moment. And he
19 does not feel, you know, that it was necessary to do further
20 restrictions than what the State Board has already done.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. However, Mr. Sellers
23 is not here today.

24
25 MR. LONS: He is not. There are
26 representatives from Fish and Game here that can.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. But we rely pretty
29 heavily on the local biologist.

30
31 Any other questions, Council members, you might have?

32
33 (No audible responses)

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, Daryle,
36 we appreciate it.

37
38 MR. LONS: Okay. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other Federal agencies
41 that -- yes.

42
43 MR. R. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, Rick Clark
44 representing the National Park Service where I'm the Chief of
45 Resource Management for Katmai National Park and Aniakchak
46 National Monument. Basically we'd like to go on record
47 supporting the staff analysis as indicated. Being a relatively
48 small stakeholder as far as overall acreage is concerned, we're
49 heavily reliant upon our sister agency, the Fish and Wildlife
50 Service, as well as the State, for the overall biological

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1 analysis, but in looking at it we feel there's no reason to,
2 you know -- you know, otherwise as far as the recommendations
3 that are before the Council. We feel it is accurate and we
4 would support the analysis as conveyed and indicated to you.

5
6 That would conclude our remarks.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, Rick, when
9 the Game Board made their regulations on Federal and State
10 lands and they did make regulation for us on State lands when
11 the State Board did meet, you're satisfied with that? That's
12 as far as you'd like to go as a Federal agency?

13
14 MR. R. CLARK: Yeah, at this point, that's
15 correct.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

18
19 MR. R. CLARK: We would defer for the meeting
20 that is planned for the end of this month where hopefully we'll
21 be able to discuss that at further length.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other questions,
24 Council members?

25
26 (No audible responses)

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much.

29
30 MR. R. CLARK: You bet.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other Federal agencies
33 that want to make a comment on the issue before us today?

34
35 (No audible responses)

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing none, the next one
38 will be the Alaska Department of Fish and Game comment. Anyone
39 representing Alaska.....

40
41 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is
42 Elizabeth Andrews in Juneau, can you hear me all right?

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

45
46 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also
47 wanted to mention Jim Fall is on line if Council members have
48 any questions about the subsistence harvest. And also I
49 believe Steve Machida is there for the Division of Wildlife
50 Conservation. Dick Sellers was already scheduled to leave and

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1 was unavailable. So if you do have subsistence or Department
2 of Fish and Game wildlife questions, please direct those to
3 those staff members.

4
5 Now, Mr. Chairman and Council members, thank you again
6 for the opportunity to participate here. Basically, we do
7 support the staff conclusion in the staff analysis for three
8 reasons that I want to mention. One, is that it's important
9 for biological reasons that this be a bulls only hunt. It's
10 necessary to protect the reproductive capacity of the herd.
11 And I know you've heard statements about that from some people
12 as well as in the staff analysis.

13
14 Second point is, is that the Department believes that
15 there remains a surplus of bull caribou which can be taken,
16 either on State or Federally managed lands.

17
18 And, thirdly, the Department supports the alignment of
19 the Federal hunting season with the emergency regulations
20 adopted by the Board of Game on August 19th.

21
22 I'd also like to mention that the Department is
23 committed to participating in the already scheduled management
24 workshop at the end of this month. We believe that these
25 issues are best addressed in that type of setting, it's in the
26 spirit of collaborative problem solving that we need users and
27 managers involved in that process.

28
29 And that is one of the reasons that the Board of Game
30 took some emergency action, but they also were well aware that
31 this workshop was coming up at the end of September. And also
32 that there will be a full discussion of this topic at the Board
33 of Game's March meeting as part of its regular cycle. As many
34 of you in the Fish and Game Advisory Committees are aware, our
35 Board of Game works on a cycle where certain parts of the state
36 are taken up each year, and the region in question here is part
37 of this year's cycle and was scheduled to be addressed in
38 March.

39
40 Our Board of Game took action on an emergency basis,
41 knowing that there would be this full discussion later on next
42 spring. They also are aware that the Fish and Game Advisory
43 Committees will be meeting this fall and may submit proposals
44 to the Board of Game for consideration.

45
46 So, in the meantime, the Department believes that the
47 Board of Game responsibly addressed this issue and took
48 emergency action for conservation of the herd and that we plan
49 to continue with the hunt as specified by the Board of Game for
50 State-managed land.

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1 That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman, and if there
2 are questions that subsistence or wildlife staff need to
3 answer, could you please direct them to them at this time and
4 we'll be glad to help out. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, thank you very
7 much, but I'm sure we'll probably have some questions of you,
8 too, Ms. Andrews.

9
10 MS. ANDREWS: Okay.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any questions,
13 Council members? Yes, Robin.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Elizabeth, this is Robin. How
16 long is the emergency action taken by the Board of Game in
17 effect?

18
19 MS. ANDREWS: It's in effect just for this
20 season, so when the hunting season concludes that will be the
21 end of it and then the Board would take it up as part of their
22 regular cycle. It's an emergency regulation and I believe they
23 expire after a certain number of days.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, Council
28 members? Yes, Robert.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: One question. Is the Game
31 Management Unit 9 scheduled to come up this next Board cycle
32 along with Unit 17?

33
34 MS. ANDREWS: Yes, it is.

35
36 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, Council
39 members?

40
41 (No audible responses)

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ms. Andrews, I have a
44 question, this is Dan, the Chair.

45
46 MS. ANDREWS: Uh-huh.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was at the office of the
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game when the Game Board dealt
50 with the emergency issue of the decline of the caribou herd on

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1 the Alaska Peninsula. The Game Board, did they make
2 regulations on this emergency order on recommendation from
3 staff or was it something that the Game Board did themselves?

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hello.

8

9 MS. ANDREWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Board of
10 Game had some materials -- background information that was
11 prepared for them by the Division of Wildlife Conservation that
12 was part of their Board packet, in addition to the written
13 public comments that came in from, like, Bristol Bay Native
14 Association and so forth. And then the Board had their
15 discussion, you know, as you're aware, and made some amendments
16 to the regulation that's in effect right now, and then -- or
17 not in effect, but was in effect, and then adopted that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it seemed to me like
20 there was a little bit of the element of surprise to the
21 management of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game when your
22 Game Board took a pretty bold stroke in shutting down some
23 areas on Federal and State lands, and that's the reason I asked
24 that question. I think you answered it.

25

26 MS. ANDREWS: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman,
27 the Board of Game, you know, does operate independently and
28 sometimes their actions are not always as we might predict
29 them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay, thank you. Any
32 other comments from State of Alaska on this issue for the
33 agenda?

34

35 (No audible responses)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing no more comments from
38 the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, at this time
39 we will -- how long we been going? We'll go ahead and conclude
40 with public testimony, Federal, State comments, Helga, and then
41 ready for Council action.

42

43 MS. EAKON: Yes, and as a matter of courtesy to
44 anyone who may have come on line during the course of the
45 meeting, maybe we should ask if anyone out there wanted to say
46 something -- any new participant wanted to say something. Do
47 we have anyone new that came on after we started?

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. For those who are on
50 line in the teleconference, in case you have come in late and

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1 wanted to testify, have not had an opportunity, as a matter of
2 courtesy, we'd like to offer this opportunity to you at this
3 time. Is there anyone on the teleconference line that have not
4 testified and you'd like to make a comment at this time?

5
6 (No audible responses)

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyone?

9
10 (No audible responses)

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, hearing none, we will
13 close public testimony and Federal and State participation and
14 any -- have the Regional Council discuss the recommendation to
15 the Federal Subsistence Board and its justification for the
16 actions we'll take at this time.

17
18 And you can certainly go right into a motion or have
19 discussion or call on staff or what's the pleasure of the
20 Council at this time? Robert.

21
22 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, I guess there seems
23 to be two issues here, maybe we can get some feedback to see if
24 there's any Council members who disagree with Chairman
25 Demientieff's letter stating that the justification for closing
26 moose, I mean, for nonsubsistence users in Unit 9(E) does not
27 meet the criteria for a Special Action. Then we can, you know,
28 depending on the outcome, we could focus our energies.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. That's a good
31 point. Thank you for reminding us. We were going to bypass
32 that without discussing it. Are there any comments and
33 concerns that the Advisory Council has on dealing with the
34 moose issue in Unit 9(E)? Federal Board says we are not going
35 to be addressing that issue. They will not be addressing it
36 because basically there's not a biological reason for closing
37 it completely to -- for other than subsistence.

38
39 Anybody have any concerns about that? Yeah, Robert.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: I don't have a concern,
42 Mr. Chairman, I guess I would just state that I agree with
43 their reasoning and their findings, based on the (indiscernible
44 - cough) Special Action requests.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any other
47 discussion, Council members?

48
49 (No audible responses)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, what's the wishes
2 on the Council for the Special Action requested here today
3 before this Council? Council members?

4
5 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, if it's appropriate,
6 I would move that we take no action on the request for the
7 closure of the moose season and support the findings of the
8 Federal Subsistence Board.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second?

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: I second the motion.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, would you like to
15 speak to your motion?

16
17 MR. HEYANO: I just would like to incorporate
18 all my previous comments, Mr. Chairman, I personally feel that
19 -- I support the findings of Chairman Demientieff and that it
20 doesn't meet the requirements for Special Action consideration.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments, Council
23 members?

24
25 (No audible responses)

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question's been called for,
30 all those in favor signify by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

35
36 (No opposing responses)

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Takes care of
39 that action item.

40
41 Next item will be the caribou in 9(E), what's the
42 wishes of the Council? Any discussion?

43
44 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion
45 to shut the caribou from the 21st through the 30th for
46 nonresident and resident hunters in Unit 9(E).

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second to that
49 motion?

50

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1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, a second. Would you
4 like to address your motion, Alvin? You have the first
5 opportunity to address your motion.

6

7 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Well, basically a lot of it is
8 the rut season and, you know, the wanton waste issue of animals
9 that -- when they're being taken.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Other Council members,
12 discussion? Yeah, Robin.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've
15 been dealing with this issue for, I think, ever since the
16 Council -- the Peninsula Caribou Herd, ever since the inception
17 of the Council. The caribou numbers have been all over the
18 board. However, we haven't seen the disease problem, we've got
19 a mortality problem with the calves, we have a predator
20 problem. We got a lung worm problem, an unhealthy herd.

21 Subsistence users have stated that -- starting in the
22 southern portion that they're not meeting their subsistence
23 needs in caribou. I'm not looking at it as an issue between
24 subsistence users and the guided industry or subsistence users
25 and the nonlocals, folks from Anchorage.

26

27 I think we have a biological problem here. These
28 gentlemen got up from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and stated
29 they could not manage within a range of 1,400 animals. We're
30 currently at 9,200 animals, if we were at 7,800 animals he
31 indicated that things would be very different. Dick Sellers
32 went out and did his first count, he counted 7,800 animals and
33 that's where that one statement came from. If we were at 7,800
34 animals, which we could very well be next year at the rate of
35 harvest by the sport, commercial, nonresident and the
36 mortality, we could be at 7,800 level next year because we're
37 in that trend, and I think that's what we need to look at, is
38 trends on this herd.

39

40 I guess at this time I'd like to offer an amendment to
41 the -- and I also believe that everybody should share in the
42 burden of conservation and that it is in the best interests of
43 subsistence users, sport users of the Peninsula caribou herd
44 that this resource get healthy. That subsistence users could
45 go out and enjoy a subsistence harvest, that sport hunters
46 could go out and enjoy it. So I will make an amendment to the
47 motion that would only allow a bull harvest to subsistence
48 users. I think that in everything that I've read it shows that
49 with the decline and the comments provided by the State of
50 Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that we currently

00081

1 have a healthy cow to bull ratio, but that is the key to
2 revitalizing and this herd bouncing back is the bull to cow
3 ratio. And we need to keep them cow numbers up as high as
4 possible. I would only restrict the subsistence harvest at
5 this time to bulls.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Is there a second
8 to that motion?

9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, the motion is seconded.
13 You spoke a little bit to it, did you care to address it
14 further?

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, as I stated,
17 Mr. Chairman, you know, subsistence users need to share in the
18 burden of conservation. We've heard from public testimony a
19 number of people that this would provide -- or this would
20 impose a hardship on them because they prefer to hunt female
21 caribou because of the fat content. But I think in light of
22 the state of the herd, the health of the herd, the declining
23 numbers, that subsistence users also need to share in that
24 burden of conservation. This isn't a one-way street. I think
25 we all need to participate in whatever shape or form to make
26 sure that this herd rebounds, so I don't think it's an undue
27 restriction put on subsistence users at this time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So your motion reads that
30 there would be a bull harvest in 9(E) for subsistence users
31 only?

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's like in October?

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes. And this regulation
38 expires, Mr. Chairman, June 30th, I believe, 1999.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Am I correct, Dave?

43
44 MR. FISHER: Yes.

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: If it does pass.

47
48 MR. FISHER: Special Action will expire at the
49 end of the regulatory season. (Indiscernible - away from
50 microphone) regulations will revert to what the regulations

00082

1 were before the Special Action. And at the end of the Special
2 Action, after that expires, if you want to make a change you
3 have to go through the regular process or another Special
4 Action to maybe deal with it.

5
6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. And another thing,
7 Mr. Chairman, I'm not trying to circumvent the committee
8 process that we all supported. I just think that because a
9 number of proposals came in asking for emergency regulation to
10 be adopted that it expedited the concerns that we heard last
11 fall. I still want to hear back from that committee, this --
12 if this passes, this is an interim measure, as indicated by
13 Dave, that expires. I think then when the committee meets they
14 can consider the moose action, they can also talk about the
15 different avenues to proceed on the caribou problem that we're
16 having on the Peninsula and we will be looking at their report
17 at the next Federal Subsistence Advisory meeting, wouldn't we,
18 Helga? But we wouldn't necessarily take action until next
19 fall, we'll still carry their recommendation forward to -- or
20 their proposal would be sitting there for our consideration
21 next fall.

22
23 MS. EAKON: Special Action S97-09 is still on
24 the table, and that was a similar request from Aniakchak
25 Subsistence Resource Commission. It's still there. What you
26 did at your last meeting was to defer it until this workshop
27 convened and then at your October meeting, at this very place
28 next month, October, you're going to take it off the table and
29 see what the workshop people came up with.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: So what we're doing here then,
32 is what we agreed to do later on, we're saying no, we're not
33 going to do that, we're going to take action now.

34
35 MS. EAKON: Yes.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: But that still does not -- they
38 still will go ahead with the committee meeting?

39
40 MS. EAKON: They will still go ahead with the
41 committee meeting, September 28th through 30, here.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Yeah, I think that'll
44 probably be a five-year plan we're looking at, a long-range
45 plan on that. We're not just going to be dealing with the
46 following year plan on the committee meeting, we're going to be
47 looking at it very long-term.

48
49 Any other comments? Yes, Robert.

50

00083

1 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, are we now
2 addressing the amendment? And we'll be addressing the full
3 motion later?

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, we'll vote on the
6 amendment first and then on the full motion.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Okay. Speaking to the amendment,
9 Mr. Chairman, I can support that. I think in the telephone
10 conversation I had with Sellers it was his opinion, and I hope
11 I don't misquote him, is that we can't afford any harvest of
12 cow caribou on that North Peninsula. There is a surplus of
13 bull caribou that can be taken. In that light, Mr. Chairman, I
14 think, you know, looking out for the resource, which is our
15 number one priority, we have to take that step, you know, and I
16 note, according to the staff report here, it shows that 66 to
17 70 percent of the subsistence harvests were made up of bulls
18 anyway, so I guess the impact, in my opinion, isn't that great
19 based on the high percentage of bull caribou that are currently
20 harvested.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comment on the
23 amendment that was made? Yes, Tim.

24
25 MR. ENRIGHT: I have a question. Does this
26 include just for the rural residents or is this for people like
27 from Anchorage can come out here or somewhere else, you know.
28 That's just the rural residents.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin, do you want to address
31 that?

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: I believe the main motion was
34 -- maybe you could ask Helga.

35
36 MS. EAKON: In fact, I was going to ask Alvin
37 to restate the main motion. I got a little bit confused. I'm
38 sorry, could you please restate your motion?

39
40 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Close it for nonresident and
41 resident.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In 9(E) from the 21st to the
44 30th. That was -- I wrote down, because that's what you said.

45
46 Helga, is that understandable?

47
48 MS. EAKON: Everything.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It'll be a subsistence user

00084

1 only.

2
3 MS. EAKON: Oh, okay.

4
5 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Not for the subsistence, no.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, qualified subsistence
8 users only.

9
10 MS. EAKON: Okay. You want to close Federal
11 public lands in Unit 9(E) to nonsubsistence harvest of caribou
12 between September 21 through September 30, 1998.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. And then the
15 amendment was that there be harvest of bulls for subsistence
16 users only in 9(E). Does that include September and October?
17 I guess it would, huh?

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. I have a
22 question then. We still probably haven't addressed -- okay,
23 all right, that's fine. That covers it all.

24
25 Any further discussion, Council members?

26
27 (No audible responses)

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call for the question.

30
31 MR. BALLUTA: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor signify by
34 saying aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

39
40 (No opposing responses)

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let the minutes show that
43 it's unanimous on the amendment, that's the amendment.
44 Everybody understand you were voting on the amendment?

45
46 (No audible responses)

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. The main motion
49 was that we would have a closure of 9(E), September 21 through
50 30, and it only be opened to qualified subsistence users only.

00085

1 Call for the question.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Oh, Mr. Chairman, we get to
4 comment on the main motion?

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.
7 Speeding right along, huh?

8

9 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't
10 support the main motion or the motion that's before us. Based
11 on my information that's brought us, I think what we're talking
12 about is approximately 143 caribou by this type of action.
13 That's what we're going to be saving. And I'm not sure that
14 we're going to be saving that many because, as you know, that
15 the State lands, which are closer to the communities, are going
16 to be opened to some of these people, if not all of them, to
17 move over. So I think by closing the Federal land to
18 nonsubsistence -- non-Federally recognized nonsubsistence
19 hunters that effort is going to shift onto the State land.

20

21 You know, we've heard testimony and it's the nature of
22 that industry that these people are coming, the plans have been
23 made well in advance, so in my opinion, they're going to be
24 there hunting someplace in 9(E). And looking at the land
25 status map, you know, you can say that the Federal land, for
26 the most part, is the furthest from most of the communities,
27 with probably the exception of the villages on the Pacific
28 side.

29

30 You know, I'll also note that according to this report
31 we had, is that well below 20 percent of the caribou harvested,
32 particularly the Bristol Bay villages, happened on Federal
33 land, so a large portion of that caribou harvest, subsistence
34 harvest, is on State land, also with the exception of the
35 Pacific villages. I think some of those, one or two of those
36 that show 100 percent on Federal land.

37

38 So I think -- you know, it's my opinion, Mr. Chairman,
39 by taking this action and closing Federal land to
40 nonsubsistence hunters what we're going to be doing because of
41 what the State has already done, is going to be forcing those
42 people closer into competition with the subsistence hunters.
43 And I think, Mr. Chairman, I would -- I view what the State did
44 as more than adequate to protect the herd. In my opinion, they
45 probably went a little further than I would go as far as
46 restrictions on nonsubsistence hunters at this time, especially
47 in consideration of only, you know, 143 animals. It's a pretty
48 small amount, I think. And most of that harvest is taking
49 place far, far away from the villages, you know, so I think
50 it's going to be a mistake.

00086

1 And then the other part of it, Mr. Chairman, is, you
2 know, we've always tried to be consistent on having State and
3 Federal regulations because of the land status with no definite
4 boundaries for most of these places to be consistent whenever
5 possible and I guess I weigh all that and I weigh the benefits
6 to the subsistence users and, in my opinion, it just isn't
7 there, and, in fact, we're going to be compounding the problem,
8 so, you know, it's -- basically we're talking for a real short
9 period of time here, two weeks, and it's going to be over.
10 And, you know, with your committee meeting coming up on line,
11 the next hunting season is potentially going to have a whole
12 different set of regulations.

13
14 So in that light, Mr. Chairman, I won't be voting in
15 support of the motion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any further discussion
18 on the motion before us?

19
20 (No audible responses)

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Helga, we will call for the
23 question and we'll have a roll call vote. Question.

24
25 MS. EAKON: Alvin Boskofsky.

26
27 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Yes.

28
29 MS. EAKON: Andrew Balluta.

30
31 MR. BALLUTA: Yes.

32
33 MS. EAKON: Robert Heyano.

34
35 MR. HEYANO: No.

36
37 MS. EAKON: Peter Abraham.

38
39 MR. ABRAHAM: No.

40
41 MS. EAKON: Dan O'Hara.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

44
45 MS. EAKON: Timothy Enright.

46
47 MR. ENRIGHT: No.

48
49 MS. EAKON: Robin Samuelson.

50

00087

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

2

3 MS. EAKON: Total of four yeses and three nays,
4 the motion carries, Mr. Chair, four to three.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess we're not a rubber
7 stamp. That takes care of that. That's the only business we
8 have before us today, Helga?

9

10 MS. EAKON: That is correct. I wanted to
11 mention that the Federal Subsistence Board will meet on these
12 requests and your recommendation, they will consider your
13 recommendation on September 9.

14

15 Taylor, are you still on line?

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, are you with us?

18

19 MR. BOYD: Helga, this is Tom Boyd, Taylor is
20 out of the room.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

23

24 MS. EAKON: Tom, do we have a time on September
25 9?

26

27 MR. BOYD: We don't have it firmly fixed but
28 we're looking at September 9th and we'll get an announcement
29 out on that.

30

31 MS. EAKON: Okay, thank you, Tom.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments, Council
34 members? Yes, Robert.

35

36 MR. HEYANO: On that same question, Helga, if
37 we wanted to be hooked up to that teleconference, do we call
38 you?

39

40 MS. EAKON: Yes, just let me know and then
41 we'll make certain that you will be on line, okay?

42

43 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

44

45 MS. EAKON: And our 800 number is 800-478-1456.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No further comment. Motion
48 to adjourn. Who moved?

49

50 MR. HEYANO: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

00088

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2
3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Robert moved, Robin
6 seconded. We are adjourned.

7
8 (Off record)

9
10 (On record)

11
12 REPORTER: We are on record, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Would you like to
15 go back and play for us then the motion we made.

16
17 REPORTER: The original motion or the.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Amendment.

20
21 (Off record comments -- finding spot on tape)

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, we've reconvened
24 because we have a question on the amendment that we voted on
25 concerning bulls only in 9(E). And we'll ask our court
26 recorder if he would playback that discussion, if you would
27 please.

28
29 (Record playback - see page 79, line 47 to page 84,
30 line 30)

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. It's pretty
33 obvious that what we voted on, Council members, correct me if
34 I'm wrong. And Mr. Boyd, we're back in session, okay? Tom?

35
36 (No audible response)

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Not on here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that's okay, we can do
41 it.

42
43 MR. SAMUELSEN: He's not on.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's okay. We've come back
46 into session because we have had a misunderstanding on what the
47 amendment to the motion was. And it's my understanding, and
48 each of you had an opportunity to address this amendment, so
49 we'll all understand what we're talking about now. It's my
50 understanding that there would be taking of bulls only by

00089

1 subsistence qualified users in 9(E) from September 21 to
2 September 30th. That was what I voted on, but that is not what
3 the motion said.

4

5 Any other comments from Council members? Yes.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I thought you
8 were -- besides the year, I thought you were asking me when you
9 said September and October -- does that include September and
10 October.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And it did.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it did.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was wrong, I just did not
17 understand it.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: However, you know, I want to
20 remind the Council that this action is dead in June of.....

21

22 (Phone rings)

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Helga.

25

26 MS. EAKON: Hello, this is.....

27

28 MS. COLLINS: Hello, Dan?

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

31

32 MS. COLLINS: This is Janice in the regional
33 office, I'm looking for Helga.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She's here.

36

37 MS. EAKON: I'm here. I had asked Terry Wild
38 to connect us with Tom Boyd and I don't know what happened. Is
39 Tom there?

40

41 MS. COLLINS: Okay, Helga.

42

43 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh.

44

45 MS. COLLINS: They're cutting us off.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Pay your bill.

48

49 MS. COLLINS: Okay. All right. You guys are
50 cutting us off, okay. I can connect you to Tom.

00090

1 MS. EAKON: Yeah, connect us to Tom, please.

2

3 MS. COLLINS: Okay, I will do.

4

5 MS. EAKON: Thank you.

6

7 MS. COLLINS: Okay, let me try this again, I
8 got a busy -- something's not going right, let me try again.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, well, while they're
11 hooking him up, let's go ahead and so we can all thoroughly
12 understand this amendment that took place.

13

14 Robin, would you mind speaking to the -- tell us what
15 you made in the way of a motion on this amendment?

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. My motion was the
18 duration, including September and October, no other months
19 between now and June of 1999. And my justification for that,
20 Mr. Chairman, if you go in the packet, on the last page where
21 it says "Justification -- Staff Justification" It states there
22 "a concern, however, about deferring the Special Action is the
23 impact that the potential harvest of cows will have on the
24 declining caribou herd." If you go to the study in the front
25 on page four, under "Discussion," it says "the chronic --
26 whereas the low pregnancy rate of NAP caribou suggests that
27 females have had suboptimal conditions over the summer during
28 the last three years."

29

30 When we start talking about the reproductive rate,
31 keeping this herd healthy, we're seeing a decline, I thought --
32 my motion was intended -- between now and June 1999, based on
33 them two -- basically them two statements in the staff report
34 that we would not allow the take of cow caribou by subsistence
35 users.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do all the Council members
38 understand the amendment? He's saying that from this date
39 forward, on Federal lands, there would be no taking for
40 subsistence use cows from the North Peninsula herd; is that
41 right?

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Until June of '99.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Helga.

46

47 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, the Federal subsistence
48 season in the remainder of 9(E) ends on April 30.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right, that's

00091

1 fine. Any misunderstanding on the amendment that's before us?
2 All Council members understand this motion now?

3
4 (No audible responses)

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

7
8 MR. BOSKOFISKY: How does that fit with the
9 motion of -- the exposure of Unit 9(E) for 21st through the
10 30th?

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It fits just exactly like you
13 said, there will be no taking of any cows from, I believe it
14 would probably be September 5th; is that what we're dealing
15 with? Or whenever the Federal Subsistence Board meets and
16 whether they act on it or not, until the end of the caribou
17 season, that there be no taking of cows by subsistence users,
18 period. There will be no taking of cows, period from that day
19 forward.

20
21 So all of September -- or September and October and
22 December and January, February and March and it goes to the
23 30th of April or.....

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, 30th of April, okay,
28 there will be no taking of cows. That's the issue. Okay,
29 everybody understand that?

30
31 Robert's Rules of Order says we can -- since it is a
32 motion that carried unanimously or that was -- had a positive
33 -- you can't come back and bring a negative motion back up on
34 the floor. But you can vote again on a positive motion, one
35 that carried. That's my understanding. So we're legal within
36 voting, again, on a positive motion that we voted on earlier,
37 right?

38
39 (No audible responses)

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Helga, who's going to go to
42 jail?

43
44 MS. EAKON: Nobody.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay.

47
48 MS. EAKON: You can blame me.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. All the -- the

00092

1 motion is on the floor and all the Council members understand
2 that motion. All right, let's have a roll call vote.

3
4 MS. EAKON: Okay. Tim Enright.

5
6 MR. ENRIGHT: Yes.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oops, excuse me.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay, point of order.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I believe according to the
17 Robert's Rules of Order that we need to vote on
18 reconsideration, whether we will accept. A motion's got to be
19 made for reconsideration of the amendment.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: We vote on whether we're going
24 to reconsider it, bring it up before us and then vote on that
25 reconsideration motion.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, so we need a motion for
28 reconsideration?

29
30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I need a motion for
33 reconsideration on the amendment.

34
35 All right, you so move?

36
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second? Is there a second
40 for reconsidering this motion?

41
42 (Inaudible second)

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second. Any further
45 discussion? Did you care to address your motion?

46
47 (No audible response)

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question. Does everybody
50 understand that we're just bringing this -- now voting to bring

00093

1 this -- now voting to bring this back up for reconsideration,
2 that's all we're doing?

3
4 (No audible responses)

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All in favor say aye.

7
8 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Aye.

9
10 MR. BALLUTA: Aye.

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Aye.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aye

15
16 MR. ENRIGHT: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Aye.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, we have two oppositions
25 then for reconsideration.

26
27 MS. EAKON: Robert and who?

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And Robin.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Me.

32
33 REPORTER: I'm sorry, who was the.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert Heyano and Robin

36 Samuelson.

37
38 REPORTER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, the motion
41 carried. Now, we need the motion to vote on the amendment,
42 right?

43
44 (No audible responses)

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The amendment is still
47 on the floor, right?

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's back.

50

00094

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It back. We voted it back
2 up. So we understand the amendment that's on the floor at
3 this time says that "there will be no taking of cows by a
4 subsistence user, September through the end of April."
5 Everyone understand that?

6
7 (No audible responses)

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Everyone understand that?
10 (No audible responses)

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. All those
13 in favor signify by saying aye.

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, let's have a roll call
18 vote.

19
20 MS. EAKON: Tim Enright.

21
22 MR. ENRIGHT: Yes.

23
24 MS. EAKON: Alvin Boskofsky.

25
26 MR. BOSKOFSKY: No.

27
28 MS. EAKON: Robert Heyano.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

31
32 MS. EAKON: Dan O'Hara.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

35
36 MS. EAKON: Robin Samuelson.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

39
40 MS. EAKON: Pete Abraham.

41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

43
44 MS. EAKON: Andrew Balluta.

45
46 MR. BALLUTA: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It failed.

49
50 MS. EAKON: Five yeses and two nays.

00095

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So we're stuck with a bull
2 season only in September through the end of April?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the way the motion
7 read?

8
9 MS. EAKON: The original motion would -- yep,
10 you're stuck with a bulls only season on Federal public lands
11 between now and the end of April if the Board accepts your
12 recommendation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. I'm going to
15 write that on my forehead in indelible ink that I voted no.

16
17 Well, thank you very much, Board, for your
18 consideration and Council and we appreciate your coming back.

19
20 MR. ENRIGHT: I make a motion to adjourn.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a motion to adjourn.
23 Second?

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, we're out of here.
28 Lunch time.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00096

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:
10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 95 contain
12 a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL
13 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, taken
14 electronically by David Haynes on the 4th day of September,
15 1998, beginning at the hour of 10:30 o'clock a.m. at the
16 Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to
20 the best of my knowledge and ability;
21

22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
23 interested in any way in this action.
24

25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of September,
26 1998.
27
28
29
30

31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00