

1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2
3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
4
5 PUBLIC MEETING
6 DILLINGHAM, ALASKA
7
8 VOLUME II
9
10 October 3, 2006
11 8:30 A.M.
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
14
15 Randy Alvarez, Chair
16 Pete Abraham
17 Dan Dunaway
18 Daniel J. O'Hara
19 Boris Kosbruk, Sr.
20
21 Regional Council Coordinator, Clifford Edenshaw
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 3522 West 27th Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99517
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (On record - 8:30 a.m.)
4

5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We are on Agency
6 reports, number six. I guess it's just a handout, the
7 avian bird flu. I've got a question. In King Salmon the
8 past couple weeks there's been a Beaver or Turbo on
9 floats doing bird surveys down the peninsula. I was just
10 wondering what's the report on that? Are there a lot of
11 birds or anything lacking?
12

13 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, US Fish and Wildlife
14 Service, King Salmon, Alaska. I'm aware that they're
15 flying surveys but we haven't gotten any reports yet,
16 verbal or otherwise. Generally we get a report about six
17 months later because they're generally region wide. They
18 work from the north and come all the way down to the
19 Peninsula.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Who is doing that?
22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Again, I don't know for certain.
24 Thanks. Migratory Birds. They're regional people and
25 they fly surveys periodically on a schedule.
26

27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: They're stationed in
28 Anchorage?
29

30 MR. SQUIBB: I'm not certain. Mark, do you know?
31

32 MR. KOEPESELL: It's actually Kenai, but, yeah,
33 it's the Anchorage office.
34

35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So they do the whole bird
36 migratory program around the state?
37

38 MR. SQUIBB: Right, statewide surveys. I
39 couldn't tell you what species they're doing now. I
40 apologize for that.
41

42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Maybe there will be a report
43 available by the next spring meeting.
44

45 MR. SQUIBB: I can try and get you the previous
46 ones if you're interested in those.
47

48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I was just wondering since
49 they're flying surveys it looks like the past couple
50 weeks out of King Salmon there I was wondering what's the

1 report, what's the bird situation.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: I'll make a note and if we have some
4 already existing I can send you as well then.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thanks. That will
7 bring us down to Item B on Agency reports, Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game.

9

10 MR. HILLSINGER: We don't have anything further,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.

14

15 MR. WALSH: Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat Walsh, Togiak
16 Refuge. Jim Woolington passed on some information to me
17 to give to you but I can do that when we do the Togiak
18 Refuge report. I can do that now or when we come up on
19 the agenda.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You can wait. Okay. Now
22 we're on C, BLM.

23

24 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
25 Council. My name is Jeff Denton. I'm a biologist of the
26 Anchorage Field Office of BLM. I'll give you kind of a
27 rundown. We have a summary of 2006's efforts of BLM
28 starting on Page 110 in your booklets and it goes to Page
29 114.

30

31 Probably the major thing that BLM has going on
32 right now and I know you folks are aware of it is this
33 Bay Resource Management Plan. The draft has been
34 printed. It should be out to the public, if it's not
35 already, imminently so within the next few days. It's
36 subject to a 90-day review. I have some handouts if
37 people want to take them back to the villages or
38 distribute them, we really want input because there's
39 some pretty major kind of things hidden in that plan.

40

41 One is the lifting of all the D-1 mineral
42 withdrawals that were established through ANILCA, which
43 will open all BLM lands in Bristol Bay and Goodnews areas
44 to mineral development and exploration. I know with the
45 Pebble thing it's a concern to some people. Other areas
46 it's probably a good thing for some economic development.
47 It just depends on what form it takes. That will guide
48 BLM management probably for the next 15 years. We're
49 also, relative to that same plan, going to hold village
50 hearings just for subsistence, the requirement of ANILCA

1 on any major Federal action like this to have subsistence
2 hearings. So we're going to have hearings in Dillingham,
3 New Stuyahok, Igiugig and Levelock sometime in November,
4 December in that period. Folks in those places will be
5 getting the -- those meetings will be organized for that
6 period of time. They're not scheduled yet, but they're
7 ready to get scheduled and that will be happening in the
8 next three months here.

9
10 BLM continues to participate in the interagency
11 monitoring of the Mulchatna caribou, mostly in terms of
12 providing dollars for aircraft. It's a lot easier for
13 the folks here on the ground. When they can fly, they
14 can fly instead of me trying to get out here and get over
15 the hill when the weather isn't right to get things done
16 on time.

17
18 We're also currently with ADF&G jointly applying
19 for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to
20 complete the Fish and Game study on bull distribution and
21 recruitment for the Mulchatna caribou that we're having
22 so many problems with right now. We don't know if we'll
23 get that grant or not, but the application is in.

24
25 From the fisheries standpoint, we have a new
26 fisheries biologist in the Anchorage Field Office and
27 that particular individual worked with Fish and Game on a
28 pretty large scale cooperative study in Bristol Bay this
29 summer. It's baseline inventory of basically all fish
30 distribution occurrence from the headwater streams all
31 the way down to the large streams. It will fill in a
32 great deal of the Fish and Game's Anadromous Fish Atlas
33 as well as the non-anadromous fisheries distribution and
34 what species occurrence, so on and so forth, for fish.
35 It's not done totally yet. There's another year or two
36 to be taking place on that, but this is a several hundred
37 thousand dollar inventory. So it's fairly significant and
38 it will go a long ways in terms of down the road
39 management. That's in some detail in here. I'm not
40 going to go into the details of that particular thing.

41
42 The Red Top Mine, mercury mine, has been an issue
43 over the years as a HAZMAT site. BLM has spent quite a
44 bit of money cleaning that up. We're still negotiating
45 with the State for closing the case on the retort site
46 there, which is close to the river, the Wood River.
47 We've also done a lot of samples from fish in that area
48 and actually those fish have less mercury than the
49 background fish in the rest of Bristol Bay, so there
50 doesn't seem to be a contamination problem at all.

1 They've also done an investigation of the actual mine
2 site and we haven't found any hazardous materials of any
3 concern at all.

4
5 The other larger thing that's happening is the
6 Conveyance Program, which I'll try to keep you a little
7 updated on that. In 2006 the biggest thing that's
8 happened in Bristol Bay is probably half a million acres
9 have been conveyed to the State of Alaska. That would be
10 a big chunk of those State selected land between Lake
11 Iliamna and Koliganek. There's probably 440,000 acres
12 through there that were conveyed to the State, so those
13 are no longer selected. They are State lands. I expect
14 within the next year or two all the State lands and
15 corporation land settlements to probably be finalized.

16
17 That's all I have for today. If you have any
18 questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them or refer
19 you to whoever needs to.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Jeff, thanks. I was wondering
22 with moose do you have a bull ratio percentage in the
23 whole area?

24
25 MR. DENTON: I don't. Fish and Game does the
26 fall trend count, composition counts, and they have some
27 key areas. So I don't have that data. Fish and Game has
28 that data. They actually do those particular surveys.
29 Lem would have that information and what the trend has
30 been over the years, but I don't have that data at my
31 fingertips right now.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you. Any questions for
34 Jeff. Dan.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: I was curious. Jeff might help me
37 on this. Whether it's appropriate for the RAC to comment
38 on this mineral lands activity or if the rest of the RAC
39 wants to say anything.

40
41 MR. DENTON: I know the RAC is on the mailing
42 list for the RAC members to go back to their communities
43 and drum up support or comments actually. We want your
44 comments. Because subsistence is a major potential issue
45 with these plans, I would think it's incumbent upon the
46 Councils to have some kind of response to these land use
47 plans. We are soliciting very heavily comments from the
48 subsistence community.

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: I know for the Nushagak Drainage

1 folks there's a lot of folks that are very, very
2 concerned. There's been lots and lots of opposition from
3 various groups to anything that would accelerate or
4 facilitate mine development. I think I heard on the news
5 another group spoke out in the last day or two. I've
6 been aware of this, but I haven't made myself as informed
7 as I should be. I didn't know if there were any
8 collective concerns here or whether the RAC, as a group,
9 would want to express any concern or leave it alone to
10 individual members.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think we're all pretty much
13 concerned. I was going to ask you on this Red Top Mine,
14 where did you say that was?

15

16 MR. DENTON: The Red Top Mine is up on the Wood
17 River here. It's an old mercury mine and retort site.
18 It was abandoned quite a long time ago. It's been kind
19 of an issue for several years. We did a bunch of cleanup
20 work. We're going to put in monitoring wells to make
21 sure there's still no mercury movement into the river,
22 but we spent quite a bit of money removing contaminated
23 soils, taking it off to California to a site that they
24 can dispose of that stuff, continue to test to make sure
25 the site is clean. They're kind of in the last stages of
26 closing that out with DEC and the State as well. And
27 then there's the mine site up on Marsh Mountain. We also
28 did a pretty thorough check of that whole area for HAZMAT
29 as well and cleared that.

30

31 I believe some of the folks were believing
32 mercury contamination in fish may be a health hazard sort
33 of thing. There was a concern here a few years ago of
34 that, so we did a lot of sampling of fish that are
35 actually resident fish right there on site and even they
36 have lower mercury background levels than most of the
37 salmon coming upstream.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

40

41 MR. O'HARA: Go ahead.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I have one more. I was going
44 to ask about the Shotgun Hills. What's going on?
45 Exploration? Are there any plans of doing anything, do
46 you know?

47

48 MR. DENTON: Shotgun Hills. That's the State
49 lands. We haven't issued any permits for access or
50 anything on any of our lands that are adjacent to that.

1 Other than that, that would be DNR's realm that I'm not
2 familiar with.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

5

6 MR. O'HARA: Shotgun Hills is Bristol Bay
7 Corporation lands. Are you familiar with Kemuk Mountain,
8 which is northwest of Koliganek?

9

10 MR. DENTON: Yes.

11

12 MR. O'HARA: Is that Federal or State lands?

13

14 MR. DENTON: That is State lands now. That is
15 part of that -- that was State land originally all around
16 there and almost all those selected lands that were BLM
17 here until 2006, all those lands have been conveyed to
18 the State now.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No other questions for Jeff.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank you, Jeff.

25

26 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We're down on D, Lake
29 Clark/Katmai National Park and Preserve.

30

31 MS. McBURNEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council
32 Members. For the record, my name is Mary McBurney. I'm
33 the subsistence program manager for Lake Clark, Aniakchak
34 and Katmai Preserve.

35

36 I just wanted to give you a quick recap of a few
37 Lake Clark activities, move into the Aniakchak report and
38 then I would like to bring up our new superintendent for
39 Katmai National Park and Aniakchak National Monument,
40 Ralph Moore.

41

42 A quick recap for Lake Clark. We were really
43 pleased this year that our escapement into Lake Clark
44 ended up at over 700,000 sockeye salmon, which has been
45 well above previous recent years escapement. It also
46 seemed to track along with an increased escapement for
47 the Kvichak overall, which was well over 3 million fish
48 this year. Just a quick math problem. It kind of shows
49 the fraction that the Lake Clark fish represents of the
50 total Kvichak run was about 20 percent this year.

1 The whitefish project, which has been funded by
2 the Fisheries Information Services is in its second year.
3 Sudden remote receivers were established along the shores
4 of Lake Clark, Six Mile Lake and along some of the
5 tributaries and a number of whitefish were tagged in
6 three different locations; at Six Mile Lake, the Chulitna
7 River and in Port Alsworth.

8
9 Preliminary findings are kind of interesting.
10 First of all, it appears that many of the fish that were
11 tagged in the Chulitna, perhaps Port Alsworth area, are
12 moving into the Chulitna River and that appears to be an
13 area of concentrated spawning activity. Since we haven't
14 really looked at whitefish in detail, this is the first
15 real information we have on the life history of whitefish
16 in the lake. Whitefish is one of the freshwater fish
17 that is highly utilized by a lot of the resident zone
18 communities, so it's really good to know what the
19 whitefish are doing.

20
21 The Six Mile Lake group was another interesting
22 group. It appears that that group has moved down the
23 Newhalen River and basically out of the area, but it's
24 not clear exactly where they've gone, whether they've
25 just gone into Iliamna Lake or migrating farther down the
26 Kvichak system. Since we don't have any remote receivers
27 in those areas, we've kind of lost track of them, but it
28 will be interesting to see if they come back.

29
30 Specifically, the researchers are looking at the
31 level of strontium in the otoliths of some of these fish.
32 The strontium levels are indicative that if there are
33 higher levels in the otolith that indicates that they may
34 be spending some time in saltwater as opposed to otoliths
35 that don't have a higher level of strontium in them,
36 which would indicate that they are just sitting in the
37 freshwater.

38
39 It's not real clear whether we have some
40 anadromous whitefish or not or at least whitefish that
41 are heading out to sea for a period of time and then
42 coming back. But that's an area of inquiry that they're
43 going to be looking into in greater detail next year. I
44 spoke with Dr. Carol Ann Woody today and she did indicate
45 that a report will be available by the next RAC meeting
46 and if you would like to have her come and report on the
47 whitefish study in particular, she'd be happy to do that.

48
49 Following up on the handout that you were given
50 on avian flu, one of the activities that we did do this

1 past summer was send a team of Michelle Ravenmoon, our
2 subsistence coordinator, and Judy Putera, our wildlife
3 biologist, to our resident zoned communities to visit
4 people and have one-on-one interactions to share
5 information on bird flu, what people can do to protect
6 themselves while handling birds and bird eggs. It seemed
7 to be a really successful and well-received program and
8 we intend to repeat that next spring ahead of the spring
9 hunting and egg collecting season.

10
11 So as long as the bird flu concern is high on
12 people's list, we will be making efforts to get
13 information to people so that as we have additional
14 information we can give them the latest. Hopefully, over
15 time, give folks an opportunity to hear the information
16 about how they can protect themselves. The more people
17 hear things, the more likely they are to remember them
18 and be able to use gloves, maybe take some hand sanitizer
19 with them when they're out in the field, just little
20 things they can do to protect themselves from bird flu.

21
22 With respect to the Aniakchak SRC, we did have a
23 meeting on September 19th, which Chairman Alvarez
24 accompanied me, Superintendent Moore and Lem Butler, and
25 this meeting was in Chignik Lake. There weren't any
26 proposals to consider, which really freed up an awful lot
27 of time for people to get to know Superintendent Moore
28 and also to have a really open conversation about moose
29 and caribou, which, of course, as you know, is really
30 high on people's lists of concerns. It was very nice to
31 have Chairman Alvarez attend the meeting, especially to
32 explain the RAC's actions on this past spring's proposal
33 that had been submitted by the Chignik Lake Traditional
34 Council.

35
36 One of the more notable projects that I was able
37 to report some progress on, the SRC had long requested
38 that there be a traditional access and use report done
39 for the Aniakchak Monument and Preserve area. Over the
40 years it's been a challenge to find funding for that work
41 and it turned out that Jean Schaff with our Cultural
42 Resources Division, was able to secure funding and she
43 was able to conduct a traditional access and use study of
44 the area. So we do have a first draft preliminary report
45 right now. What we intend to do is bring the report's
46 author to the next Aniakchak SRC meeting and have an
47 opportunity for the SRC members to talk to the author of
48 the study, go through the findings, and this would also
49 be an opportunity for the researcher to go back to the
50 communities to be sure that the information he's received

1 is correct and that his interpretations are correct as
2 well. So this is a study that we're hoping we'll be able
3 to bring to a conclusion here in the next year or so.

4
5 At this time I'd like to bring Ralph Moore to the
6 table and give him the microphone. For those of you that
7 haven't had an opportunity to meet him, Ralph is our new
8 superintendent for Katmai National Park and Aniakchak
9 National Monument.

10
11 MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council.
12 My name is Ralph Moore, superintendent of Katmai National
13 Park and Preserve, Aniakchak National Monument and
14 Preserve and the Alagnak Wild River. I'd like to start
15 by saying thank you for the opportunity to come to the
16 meeting the last few days. It's very important for me to
17 learn about the issues and to meet the folks involved. I
18 appreciate the chance to get to know folks both formally
19 and informally.

20
21 The one thing I wanted to update the Council
22 about, we had a Kakhonak ATV access study that has been
23 long in the works. I arrived about the middle of August
24 and this was put on my radar that this is something that
25 has been lingering and we need to move forward with this
26 and get this out to the public. The paper has been
27 reviewed internally and the next step -- the paper is
28 actually a study of findings from interviews with local
29 residents who have used ATV's over the years and
30 determining a record of how far back that went.

31
32 The next step will be to develop a position paper
33 based on these findings. I set up a meeting with our
34 regional director and deputy regional director for
35 October 20th. At that time we'll figure out the next
36 step, so I'm not sure myself how that determination is
37 made on whether something is a traditional use. I think
38 we may need to -- I just need to have a better
39 understanding of ANILCA and how that is interpreted
40 before that is released. Our target is to release that
41 to the public this winter. I do apologize for the
42 lateness and the delay. We have had some turnover, but
43 that's not an excuse. I will move forward on that and I
44 will get that to you as quickly as we can.

45
46 Also, following up on yesterday's report, I did
47 talk to Chairman Alvarez and we will contact Troy
48 Hammond, who is our chief of resource management, and
49 obtain that moose data for Unit 9(B) for you to the best
50 of our ability.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And C.

2

3 MR. MOORE: And C. Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The Katmai Preserve is part
6 9(B) and a lot of 9(C) I understand. Thank you, Ralph.
7 I have some questions and comments for you, too. On the
8 ATV for Kakhonak, I read a report this spring or this
9 fall from a mailing I got. Isn't there a similar
10 situation in Southeast where the Forest Service is also
11 determining the same ATV or off-road means into the
12 Forest Service and they were kind of waiting, wondering
13 if they both linked together. If they did one, they'd
14 probably have to do the other, so they were kind of
15 working on both of those at the same time.

16

17 MR. MOORE: I'm not familiar with that one.

18

19 MS. McBURNEY: No, I'm not familiar with any
20 activities that the Forest Service might be doing in
21 Southeast, but we do have a similar situation with Denali
22 National Park where they are also in the process right
23 now with Cantwell in determining areas of traditional use
24 using off-road vehicles.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I've got another comment on
27 those. The local people have been using the area since
28 they've been around and using dog teams, but that
29 tradition has gone away because of technology and they
30 switched over. Because they switched over I don't want
31 to see them not be able to get to that area because they
32 have different means. Who knows what will come up next.
33 Maybe gas will get so expensive and people have to go
34 back to dog teams. They still utilize the area and
35 they've been using ATV's since they were invented. I
36 don't think they'll quit doing that. I wanted to just say
37 that just because they changed their means of travel,
38 they're still going to go to their traditional areas that
39 they've been utilizing for who knows how long.

40

41 MR. MOORE: I understand that and this study does
42 recognize and it illustrates the development of that
43 technology and identifies some dates for the three-
44 wheelers, the two-wheel-drive ATV's and four-wheel and so
45 forth, and it does recognize the development and the
46 need.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Some people will say that
49 four-wheelers or three-wheelers leave marks on the
50 tundra. That's where all these trails and all the

1 villages originally started from, is from dog teams.
2 Those trails have gotten wider because of snowmachines
3 and four-wheelers. They're probably around all the
4 villages. If they say they leave marks, well so did the
5 dog sleds unless there was plenty of snow. Just because
6 there was no snow they still had to go someplace. I just
7 wanted to say that argument, you know, that they leave
8 marks. Well, everything leaves a mark. For instance,
9 hunting season, you're walking around and you're walking
10 on game trails, you know. Animals, because they walk the
11 same area, they end up having a trail there.

12
13 MR. MOORE: What you say makes complete sense.
14 Those routes were the logical routes, the best routes, so
15 the use just continued.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more questions for the
18 superintendent.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Yes. We hope you stay longer than
21 six months. Have Troy lock you up in a back room
22 someplace, then give you a contract when you get hungry
23 enough. Starving, not hungry. You can live with hunger,
24 but you can't live with starving. When you start
25 starving, then we'll give you the five-year contract.
26 All joking aside though, we do need some continuity in
27 what we're doing here. Title VIII is a very powerful
28 act.

29
30 The ATV thing, Mr. Chairman, I think that takes
31 in Igiugig, Levelock and Kakhonak.

32
33 MR. MOORE: Yes.

34
35 MR. O'HARA: The only access they have is moose
36 and mainly caribou on those hillsides. I don't know if
37 you've flown the area or not.

38
39 MR. MOORE: Yes, I have.

40
41 MR. O'HARA: Then you're familiar with it then.
42 Pretty much we have to work out something where they
43 can't destroy the habitat. We have to have that. It's
44 going to have to be protected or you defeat the purpose
45 of going there in the first place. But that's the only
46 access they really have of caribou. If the caribou even
47 come there anymore, then they have to have access to get
48 those animals. The same old story of the guy with the
49 \$250,000 airplane doesn't have to worry about anything,
50 but the guy with the 18-foot Lund is in big trouble when

1 it comes to trying to get something. Same old story. So
2 we do hope you stay a while to help us with that. Do you
3 have a written document on what's happening with Denali
4 on the ATV?

5
6 MR. MOORE: I received it electronically right
7 before I left. I haven't had a chance to look through
8 it. When we meet on the 20th, by then I will have a
9 chance to review it and I think the discussion with the
10 regional director will probably be talking about both of
11 the cases and seeing if there are things that are
12 parallel, should we approach this the same way or are
13 there different factors that come into play for the
14 Kakhonak study.

15
16 MR. O'HARA: And your director is still the same
17 lady from Anchorage?

18
19 MR. MOORE: Marcia Blaszak is our regional
20 director, yes. Both she and Vic are very interested in
21 moving this ahead.

22
23 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, we had good rapport with her
24 and that is a good thing. Randy and I need to get a copy
25 of whatever you have written down.

26
27 When you come back in February to Naknek, you had
28 quite a research program going with a GPS type locator in
29 rainbow trout on the branch on the Alakanuk, white man
30 called it the Alagnak, but it's the Alakanuk, and we'd
31 like some information on that. They inserted the GPS's
32 in them and they had a continual research program going
33 about three years ago. It came to an end, I think.

34 So, Mr. Chairman, if we could request a little
35 bit of an inventory report on fin fish of the branch,
36 mainly trout, I know that's a really highly used area by
37 non-resident people, we'd like to have an idea what
38 resource is there if you could. I guess the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game would have that or would your
40 people have that?

41
42 MR. MOORE: We'll find out and I will get back
43 with you on that.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: Okay. We'd like to have that the
46 next time we meet. And for Mary, the river up there, the
47 Chulitna River on the west side of Lake Clark, is that in
48 the Preserve?

49
50 MS. McBURNEY: It is in the Preserve.

1 MR. O'HARA: So only the five villages can hunt
2 in that area, right?
3
4 MS. McBURNEY: No. The Preserve is also open to
5 sport hunting.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Did we cover that in our two miles
8 yesterday, motion?
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I don't know.
11
12 MR. O'HARA: If we didn't, we need to put it in
13 there. The other thing, Mary, what kind of activity --
14 Branch River Air and Katmai Air have taken some people
15 down to Aniakchak Preserve and dropped them off up in the
16 Crater and they would float down to the Pacific side.
17 What kind of activity has been going on there? Has that
18 been increasing?
19
20 MS. McBURNEY: I'll have to check with Becky
21 Brock, our concession specialist. She usually compiles
22 those statistics and I can be sure we have those at the
23 next meeting. If you'd like to perhaps get a sense of
24 trends, I can put together a graph of as much data as we
25 have for as many years back as we have.
26
27 MR. MOORE: One thing that has complicated it,
28 and I don't know if this was just within the last year or
29 so, there was a rock slide that blocked part of the
30 Aniakchak River, so you can no longer float continuously
31 out to the -- there is a fairly substantial portage,
32 between a quarter and a half a mile now, to be able to
33 float to the coast.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: I didn't know that. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I've got a comment to Mary
39 about the whitefish. I moved to Igiugig from Naknek in
40 '83 and we used to harvest whitefish usually pretty soon,
41 this month until freeze-up, and I always had the
42 understanding that the whitefish came from the ocean
43 because they always came up the river, but from going to
44 meetings I guess there are some whitefish that actually
45 stay in the lake all the time, but there used to be a lot
46 of whitefish that ran up the river right before freeze-
47 up. We'd have to quit fishing for them because there
48 would be too much ice in the river. Some years they
49 wouldn't come until that happened and we wouldn't get
50 hardly any. If the ice was late, there would be a lot of

1 them. I just wanted to comment on that.

2

3 MS. McBURNEY: There has been so much focus on
4 sockeye salmon over the years that whitefish has just
5 been one of those orphan species that nobody is really
6 taking a close look at. While there is so much
7 traditional knowledge out there in the communities
8 regarding the whitefish, it's kind of nice to finally be
9 able to have some real scientific studies too to go back
10 and get a better understanding of these fish.

11

12 I'm not sure if the next step might be to do some
13 genetic studies similar to what we've done with sockeye
14 salmon in Lake Clark to get a real sense of whether we're
15 talking about some discreet populations. Maybe we have
16 this Six Mile group that is heading -- well, they seem to
17 be real travelers and then there seems to be this group
18 in the lake that is spending more time up in the Chulitna
19 area milling around in other tributaries. It's still a
20 bit of a mystery to us, but it sure is interesting the
21 more we get to know about them. I'm really looking
22 forward to Carol Ann's report because I think there will
23 be a lot more juicy stuff in there.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That would be good if she
26 could report to us next meeting. Another comment I was
27 going to say, it's good to hear the sockeye run for Lake
28 Clark was high. I was under the understanding that Lake
29 Clark used to get about 10 percent, but since 2001 it's
30 been averaging around 310,000 and the escapement has been
31 a little over two million, so it's been a little bit more
32 than 10 percent. When we had those bad years in the
33 Kvichak, for some reason the Lake Clark system was
34 getting at least what I felt was the minimum. There were
35 areas that would constantly be getting fish and when we
36 had the bad years, some areas weren't getting anything at
37 all and it was like that year after year. I can't
38 understand that, you know.

39

40 For instance, Gibraltar and Copper River on the
41 south side of the lake were doing pretty good, too.
42 Gibraltar is only a couple miles away from Upper Moraine
43 Creek. Moraine was having some record runs up the
44 branch. It was getting a million or two million fish. I
45 never saw so many fish in one little stream. They were
46 just solid. That's where all the bears from McNeil ended
47 up. The bear watchers were complaining there's no more
48 bears in McNeil. Well, it's only 15, 20 miles away. They
49 wanted to stock McNeil with more fish to attract more
50 bears and we didn't think that was a very good idea

1 either.

2

3 It was interesting when we did have those bad
4 years some areas, streams and the lake, Kvichak Drainage
5 seemed to be getting, you know, fish every year. A lot
6 of the other areas were hardly getting anything. I was
7 glad that Lake Clark was one of the river systems that
8 was getting what they needed minimum anyway, or at least
9 what I thought was minimum, at least 10 percent. I just
10 wanted to mention that to you.

11

12 MS. McBURNEY: That would be nice if we had a
13 repeat next year, too.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

16

17 MR. O'HARA: Next year, if you get another
18 Kvichak run, it will be back on cycle. Moristad is so
19 happy on the edge of his seat. So if we can get one more
20 year, we're going to be doing well. We appreciate you
21 coming, Mr. Moore, to our meeting and we'll look forward
22 to beating a path to your office, contract in hand.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Speaking of the Alagnak, what was
27 the escapement? Was there a tower program there this
28 year and was there escapement estimate?

29

30 MS. McBURNEY: I regret that I did not get those
31 numbers prior to this meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It's been going down since the
34 record four and five million. About half, two million,
35 maybe ended up. Pete.

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: I often wondered about Kvichak fish
38 over there, the declining of the sockeye. Some people
39 complain about spawning grounds disappearing and all that
40 in the lake. What about the other species over there,
41 trout and whatever freshwater fish, are they being
42 affected in that area over as far as declining?

43

44 MS. McBURNEY: To the best of my knowledge, there
45 haven't been any overall declines. Some people,
46 especially from the Nondalton area, have reported areas
47 where they have traditionally fished that they have
48 noticed some population fluctuations, but we have
49 conducted a survey of all freshwater fish that was done
50 by a graduate student last year. My understanding is

1 that overall the fish are doing well. The habitat is
2 intact and the populations are stable. I can't speak to
3 those population that perhaps people have traditionally
4 relied on though that there might be some depletions or
5 reductions in numbers, but I don't have any documentation
6 of that.

7

8 MR. ABRAHAM: The reason I ask, when I first came
9 to Togiak, nobody ever claimed catching a pike in the
10 Togiak River in the tributaries or the lakes. Where I
11 come from, the Nelson Island area, the pike eats lots of
12 fish. I've been over there for 45 years. Noticeably the
13 pikes are increasing in the river. From the old folks
14 over there, they say the Dolly Varden are declining.
15 When I talk to the old folks they blame the pikes are
16 gobbling up the spawn fish over there faster than they
17 produce. That's what they claim. That's what I thought
18 was happening in the Lake Clark area. Is there pike in
19 the area?

20

21 MS. McBURNEY: There's definitely pike in the
22 area.

23

24 MR. ABRAHAM: That's one reason why I ask, if the
25 freshwater fish are declining or increasing.

26

27 MS. McBURNEY: I'll see what information I might
28 be able to pull together and get that to you. We have a
29 separate project called an inventory and monitoring
30 program that's headed up by Allen Bennett and I know he
31 has done some pike work recently in the Lake Clark area,
32 so I can certainly talk to him and see what he's found
33 and report back to you.

34

35 MR. ABRAHAM: These old folks have a lot of
36 knowledge, but it's not documented, so it's being
37 ignored. Like Johnny Dyasek in the Refuge office, his
38 grandma told us that Dolly Varden fish don't use the same
39 river. How they know, I don't know. The people from the
40 office put tags on them. One was caught in Nunivak
41 Island, one was caught in Eek River, one was caught in
42 Egegik. They do travel. When I was very young, some old
43 guys were talking about fish. The other guys says the
44 fish don't mature in seven years. These things they
45 know, but they're not documented, so nobody knows.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Pete. Anybody
48 else.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you. We are on
2 -- Mary, did you do Item E, the Aniakchak also?
3
4 MS. McBURNEY: Yes. We rolled it all in.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So we're down to F, the Togiak
7 National Wildlife Refuge.
8
9 MR. WALSH: Mr. Chairman. My name is Pat Walsh
10 with the Togiak Refuge. Our Staff report starts on Page
11 114. There's about 25 projects listed there and I'm not
12 going to go through all of them unless you have questions
13 on them. What I would start with though is Page 116 at
14 the top. That's the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou. There
15 was some discussion about this caribou herd yesterday, so
16 I'm going to give you a brief history on that herd and
17 tell you where we are right now.
18
19 That was the caribou herd that was established by
20 relocating animals from the Alaska Peninsula in 1981.
21 There were 146 caribou moved there then. The population
22 grew rapidly through the '80s. By the early '90s a legal
23 harvest was able to be permitted. By the mid '90s the
24 caribou population there peaked. It reached about 1,400
25 animals. Since the late '90s the population has been
26 gradually going down.
27
28 The harvest so far if you add up every animal
29 that's been reported to be harvested is over 600. We
30 also know there were many animals that were not reported,
31 so whatever that ultimate number is, there's been a lot
32 of caribou that's been harvested by the communities
33 around the Nushagak Peninsula as a result of that re-
34 establishment.
35
36 Right now the caribou population is under 600.
37 The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Group has
38 established 600 as a threshold point under which no
39 hunting will be permitted. So, as a result of that, the
40 Togiak Refuge manager notified the local communities
41 after consulting with them in advance this fall and
42 notified them that no caribou hunting was going to take
43 place this fall and we're going to meet with this group
44 later this week to decide the future of caribou hunting
45 and whether we need to re-look at this plan or whether
46 that plan is still a good plan and will go without
47 hunting the rest of this year and future years. So
48 that's the situation with Nushagak Peninsula Caribou.
49
50 With moose, I'd like to mention what's happened

1 with Unit 17(A). As you're probably aware, that's a
2 population that's grown rapidly from virtually no moose
3 within Unit 17(A) about 20 years ago to its current level
4 where there's both a fall and winter hunt permitted. We
5 were able to conduct a survey last year and we found over
6 1,000 moose in Unit 17(A).

7
8 The growth in this moose population is still on
9 the upward swing. It hasn't declined any yet. If you
10 look at the demographic performance of this moose herd,
11 reproduction is still very high, survival is still very
12 high. I attended a meeting last week in Anchorage, a
13 Wildlife Society meeting where wildlife researchers from
14 around the country exchange information. An ADF&G
15 research biologist presented information on moose
16 reproductive potential for moose herds throughout the
17 state and on each one of his graphs this Unit 17(A) moose
18 herd was the highest point on the graph in terms of
19 production, survival and population growth. So this
20 isn't going to last forever. This population will
21 ultimately cease growing.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's that attributed to, the
24 no hunting?

25
26 MR. WALSH: There's a number of factors it's
27 attributed to. The first and most important factor is
28 that there were no moose present in that area and habitat
29 quality was as good as habitat quality can be for moose.
30 The second thing is predation has been relatively low.
31 There's been almost no wolf predation that we can account
32 for. The majority of the predation has been by brown
33 bears and that's mostly in the spring time when the snow
34 is deep. Even so, in the face of the predation that has
35 been there, that moose population gained critical mass
36 and then is performing beyond the point of the predators
37 that are there. So predation is not a limiting factor at
38 this point in time for that moose population.

39
40 MR. O'HARA: This Council took this issue on
41 probably before you were here and we had about 90 to 100
42 moose and the surrounding communities we had an agreement
43 with them that there would be no animals taken. Someone
44 went out and killed one and left it and it got to be a
45 big publicity thing and this has been very much on the
46 front burner of this Council for a long time and then it
47 worked. It really did work. Everybody was very careful
48 about making sure no one touched those moose and they
49 just started growing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What do you figure the land
2 would -- what kind of stable population would you end up
3 with?
4

5 MR. WALSH: We've done some assessments on what
6 habitat potential there is and any time you give a number
7 on that you end up not being right. Somewhere around
8 2,000 is what we think the ultimate population could be.
9

10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But you're thinking it's going
11 to drop down from there?
12

13 MR. WALSH: Probably. It probably will not stay
14 at whatever the peak is.
15

16 MR. ABRAHAM: According to one biologist over
17 there, they're constantly moving, going toward 18,
18 Goodnews. They're moving. But the majority of the moose
19 are hanging around 17(A)?
20

21 MR. WALSH: It's movement of moose into Unit
22 17(A) from the area to the east is what's responsible for
23 getting that population established, but its reproduction
24 and successful establishment within the area that has
25 caused the population to grow. So there's not a constant
26 influx of new moose into that area now but there was 10
27 years ago. Right now that's a population that's
28 exporting moose to the west and I had wanted to mention
29 that to you, so I'll touch on that even though that's
30 outside the purview of this Council.
31

32 Half of Togiak Refuge occurs in Management Unit
33 18 and that's an area that's been -- where moose were
34 virtually absent until about 10 years ago. Moose that
35 would pioneer their way into that area didn't live long.
36 We had examples of radioed moose that moved out of Unit
37 17(A) and into Unit 18 and they'd be harvested in the
38 winter time. So the same situation that was preventing
39 moose from being established in Unit 17(A) 15 or 20 years
40 ago has been pretty much the case there in Unit 18.
41

42 So beginning six years ago we began a dialogue
43 with the three villages on the western side of Togiak
44 Refuge, used the example of Unit 17(A), did some habitat
45 assessments and estimated what we expected the range
46 there could carry, which is not as much as 17(A) but
47 still a sizeable population, and then talked with the
48 local communities and two out of the three agreed to work
49 along with us. They took action to close what had been
50 an open State hunt even though there wasn't an open

1 Federal hunt there and that population is doing the same
2 thing we saw in Unit 17(A). We counted 64 moose there
3 last year. About three, four years ago there were less
4 than 10. So that population is increasing just as fast
5 as what we saw in 17(A) and we expect we'll be able to
6 open a hunt in that area within two years.

7
8 So that moose population success story is
9 directly a result of what happened in Unit 17(A) and it
10 truly is a result of management, people working together
11 to allow those moose populations to grow.

12
13 That's all I had to say on moose. The only other
14 thing I would bring to the Council is on Page 119. We
15 have some Staff changes that are taking place at Togiak
16 Refuge. Mike Hinkes and Rob MacDonald have both left the
17 Refuge. Rob and Mike were both pilots, so that's been
18 kind of a double whammy for us in the flying department.
19 Galen Howell from Noatak National Preserve is going to be
20 replacing one of those positions and we're going to
21 attempt to fill the other one. That's all I have.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.

24
25 MR. ABRAHAM: I notice we have studied everything
26 here except the wolves. I remember we had -- what did we
27 use to call them, six pack, that commute between Togiak
28 and Goodnews.

29
30 MR. WALSH: They're still there.

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: They're still there. Are they
33 increasing?

34
35 MR. WALSH: There is a larger pack of wolves in
36 the Tuklung Hills now than we've ever seen before, so
37 they appear to be increasing.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right, Pete. Dan.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Just real quick. I want to say in
42 my past career I had a little bit of dealings with Mike
43 Hinkes and I've found him very professional. I'm sorry
44 to see him go. And then I was personal friends with Rob
45 MacDonald. I also thought he did a great job for the
46 Refuge with his Wildlife Notebook, whichever one he has
47 on the radio here, and I'm really sorry to see him go. He
48 did a lot for PR and management of fish and game in this
49 area. I just wanted to pass on a thank you and
50 congratulations to him. I didn't get to say goodbye to

1 him when he left. If you could pass that on to him.
2
3 MR. WALSH: I'll do that.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Pat, you didn't give us a number on
8 the Mulchatna Herd.
9
10 MR. WALSH: We don't have a number on the
11 Mulchatna Herd right now. The photo census that was done
12 this summer the number is not in yet.
13
14 MR. O'HARA: What was it last year?
15
16 MR. WALSH: We didn't do one last year. It was
17 two years ago when that was about 85,000.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: It's been two years since you
20 counted them?
21
22 MR. WALSH: Well, we counted them this summer and
23 we counted them in 2004. We couldn't count them in 2005.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I was talked to Lem when we
26 went down to Chignik and asked him about that and he said
27 they haven't finished counting, but their estimation is
28 that it's lower, probably closer to 70, he thinks,
29 between 70 and 80, but closer to 70.
30
31 MR. WALSH: Yeah, maybe less than that. We'll
32 see when the numbers come in.
33
34 MR. O'HARA: You work jointly with the State on
35 that? Is that Federal lands or State lands?
36
37 MR. WALSH: Both. That caribou herd occurs over
38 about 30 million acres, so it occurs on the Yukon Delta
39 Refuge and our Refuge and it goes down onto the Alaska
40 Peninsula and Park land and BLM land.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: What's the migration pattern of the
43 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd?
44
45 MR. WALSH: They're relatively non-migratory.
46 That was hoped to be the case, but no one was sure that
47 they would do that, but in fact they have remained
48 relatively fixed in place on that Peninsula. There have
49 been a couple points in time when large numbers of that
50 caribou population have moved off and have moved back on

1 and then there have been cases where small groups have
2 moved short distances away such as up near the Snake
3 River, over into the Tuklung Hills, so there is less
4 fidelity to the Nushagak Peninsula itself now than there
5 was in the early years.

6
7 MR. O'HARA: What do you attribute the decline
8 to, lack of food, predation by wolves, bears?

9
10 MR. WALSH: It's probably multiple factors rather
11 than one. We have monitored habitat quality there with
12 lichen studies and we have found that lichen cover has
13 declined on the peninsula. That's to be expected. The
14 lichens that were there had not been grazed for about 100
15 years before they arrived, so those lichen mats were as
16 thick as they could be. There's some lichen mass like
17 that around Dillingham where caribou never have grazed
18 them. Lichens don't grow very fast, so it's easy for
19 caribou to graze them down, but then it's very slow for
20 them to come back. The longer they're there, the more
21 lichens they will remove.

22
23 MR. O'HARA: What about bear population and
24 wolves in that area? I know there's bears. I don't know
25 about wolves.

26
27 MR. WALSH: There are bears. Well, there's three
28 predators on caribou there; bears, wolves and coyotes.
29 There's a regular population of coyotes that use the
30 Nushagak Peninsula. It's the only place we have on
31 Togiak Refuge where coyotes are particularly abundant.
32 We don't have good information on the impact of coyotes
33 on caribou, but it stands to reason that they must be
34 taking caribou calves. We've seen them eating caribou.
35 We saw one with a caribou the day after we collared it
36 where you can't be sure whether it was some drug effect
37 in the animal or whether it was just a coyote caught a
38 10-month-old caribou. So we're relatively certain they
39 do play a role in predation there.

40
41 Wolves don't appear to have been much of a factor
42 until recent years. Now there appears to be more wolves
43 in the hills at the north end of the Nushagak Peninsula
44 than there have been in the past and that's so close to
45 the peninsula that it's an easy trip for a wolf to go
46 down the peninsula and go back up into those hills.
47 That's not a particularly safe place for a wolf in the
48 winter time. Snowmachine conditions down there are only
49 good for a few months of the years. When snowmachines
50 are down there, then people can deal with the wolves, but

1 most of the rest of the year they can't.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Is there many illegal caribou taken
4 do you know?
5
6 MR. WALSH: Yeah, there are.
7
8 MR. O'HARA: So that could be part of the problem
9 then.
10
11 MR. WALSH: That probably has been a big problem
12 earlier on. It doesn't seem to be as much of a problem
13 now as a few years ago, but it's hard to say. We don't
14 have hard numbers on it.
15
16 MR. O'HARA: You're a refuge manager?
17
18 MR. WALSH: I'm a refuge biologist.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: Where does the refuge stand on
21 predation as far as harvest of wolves by air or whatever
22 method?
23
24 MR. WALSH: Have we ever had an aerial wolf hunt
25 on the refuge?
26
27 MR. O'HARA: Has any refuge ever had an aerial to
28 your knowledge?
29
30 MR. WALSH: I don't know. We don't have that
31 policy and never have. I don't know if that's been the
32 case on all refuges.
33
34 MR. O'HARA: We might come to you one day with
35 one.
36
37 MR. WALSH: I know there's a lot of people
38 interested in that.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: Nushagak Peninsula Herd, remember
43 one year we had a lot of snow in the peninsula. A year
44 later we had about 80 behind Twin Hills. I presume those
45 were from the peninsula out there.
46
47 MR. WALSH: We have had one radioed animal that
48 integrated with a group of Mulchatna Caribou and left the
49 peninsula. So if one does it with a radio on it, then
50 others probably have too. We don't know whether those

1 animals that you're talking about originated on the
2 Nushagak Peninsula or they originated as Mulchatna
3 animals.

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM: We had about 1,500 down there and
6 down to 600. The question is what is the predator. The
7 only answer is they're moving out because they explore
8 different regions.

9

10 MR. WALSH: That's one possible answer, but
11 that's not the only possible answer. Reproduction and
12 survival both have gone down in that population. It was
13 off the charts in the early years in the Nushagak
14 Peninsula Herd, but it's still relatively high.
15 Reproduction and survival in the Nushagak Herd is still
16 three times higher than it is in the Mulchatna Herd. So
17 that's not the explanation for everything.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pat, I've got a couple
20 questions. What's the population for the walrus and the
21 seals over there. I see some numbers, but is it stable?
22 It doesn't look like very much. I used to be on the
23 Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council and about 10 years ago
24 one guy said there was about 30,000 seals in Bristol Bay
25 and at Cape Peirce they said there was about 5,000 one
26 time.

27

28 MR. WALSH: I'd have to go back and look, but I
29 think the highest number we've ever had was around 3,000.
30 Generally, it's around 600 for seals. Walrus numbers are
31 far more variable on the Togiak Refuge haulouts than seal
32 numbers are. They range from as high as over 12,000 on
33 the Togiak Refuge haulouts to almost none. Right now for
34 the last three or four years we've had very few walrus
35 that have used the Cape Peirce and Cape Newenham,
36 Hagemeister Island haulouts.

37

38 We do most of our monitoring in the summertime
39 though. Last fall we found 5,000 walrus hauled out at
40 Cape Peirce at a point in time we don't normally look.
41 They don't do the same thing all the time. The numbers
42 that use our haulouts are not a good indication of the
43 overall Bristol Bay walrus population and the Bristol Bay
44 walrus population is not a good indication of the overall
45 Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea walrus population. All we're
46 able to do is monitor the use patterns on the refuge, but
47 we really can't relate that to populations beyond the
48 refuge.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The walrus, are they highly

1 migratory or kind of different than the seals, they just
2 stay around the same area most of the time?

3

4 MR. WALSH: Walrus do travel long distances and
5 their feeding forays on those that had radios put on
6 them, they'll travel long distances away from the places
7 they haulout, feed for a week, move back to the haulout,
8 stay there for a week and then in the winter time the
9 bull walrus that are down here move north to where the
10 females are up on the ice pack.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is the seal population stable?

13

14 MR. WALSH: I can't tell you that. I don't know.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But they're not highly
17 migratory, are they?

18

19 MR. WALSH: I don't know that either.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.

22

23 MR. ABRAHAM: We in Togiak area as the hunters,
24 we monitor our seals, walrus. Some years ago there was a
25 biologist from Bethel, Ray Baxter, he told me we had
26 about 5,000 seals in Cape Peirce. Seven years later the
27 number went down to about 3,000 but I can't remember who
28 I talked to. Then some years ago trawlers were trawling
29 around Round Island area, Cape Constantine. I think we
30 had two big trawlers over there. Noticeably the seals
31 declined and the fat went down. Usually, even in
32 summertime, you're looking at about inch and a half fat.
33 We know because they don't eat or hunt, they're hauling
34 out in rocks most of the time. But after the trawlers,
35 the fat went down almost to nothing. People complained
36 about the trawlers over there. We monitor because those
37 are our food. We start fishing in Egegik area and from
38 the people over there, Ugashik, Pilot Point, they were
39 telling me the population of seals are increasing over
40 there. Well, they're declining over here. That's my
41 suspicion, they're migrating where there's better food
42 because they're running out of food.

43

44 Two years ago, I think it was in September, one
45 of the local kids caught a seal. I felt sorry for the
46 seal. I was kidding the kid, he must have been on a diet
47 for a long time. That poor seal didn't have no fat on
48 it. It was either sick or no food.

49

50 As for the walrus, we don't monitor that too much

1 because the sanctuary out there is off limits to local
2 people. In surrounding areas, islands, I go after walrus
3 once in a while. For two years, three years, there's a
4 lot of dead walrus out in Cape Peirce. No tusks, no
5 heads, no nothing. Last winter I counted 39. I notice
6 the dead walrus in Maggie Beach and I marked the highest
7 tide was down here and the cabins were down there. The
8 local people tried to tell me they fell off the cliff. I
9 don't think so. I looked around for bullet holes but
10 they were too old.

11
12 There was a local guy over there. Every year in
13 December, as soon as we get a little bit of snow he takes
14 off and comes back with many, many tusks. My suspicion
15 is that guy goes down when there's nobody there at Cape
16 Peirce area and comes back with nothing. My suspicion is
17 he goes down there and shoots the heck out of the walrus,
18 goes back to Togiak, December comes and he goes out there
19 and collects the tusks because the tide brings all the
20 dead walrus into that one area there. That's my
21 suspicion. I don't know.

22
23 But those two walrus up there beyond high tide,
24 they didn't fall down, the tide didn't bring them up
25 there. No way.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Are you ready for a break?

28
29 MR. ABRAHAM: I think so.

30
31 MR. O'HARA: Are you done with Walrus 101?

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Just a minute now. Did we
34 have any more questions.

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: Pat, is that meeting for the
37 Nushagak Advisory Committee later this week?

38
39 MR. WALSH: Yes.

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: What day?

42
43 MR. WALSH: Tomorrow.

44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: Do you know if they were going to
46 submit a proposal to close the season or is that going to
47 be part of the discussion?

48
49 MR. WALSH: We're going to work through that
50 tomorrow.

1 MR. EDENSHAW: You can let them know the 21st is
2 the deadline for proposals. October 21st.

3
4 MR. WALSH: Yeah. There's no need for a season
5 closure to change the rules at this point because the
6 Togiak refuge manager has the authority to do that, so he
7 can do that himself without submitting a rule change to
8 the Subsistence Board. But if there are any changes that
9 would appropriately go to the Subsistence Board, then
10 we'll keep that date in mind.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is there any more questions
13 for Pat?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We'll recess and when
18 we come back we'll be on G.

19
20 (Off record)

21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Back to order. Ten after
24 10:00. Ron.

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: I'm Ron Squibb with the US Fish and
27 Wildlife Service, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National
28 Wildlife Refuge Office. I'll be giving our report.

29
30 First is our update on the Northern Alaska
31 Peninsula Caribou Herd. Last October we did the
32 classification count in cooperation with Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game and the composition summary
34 of that was 23 bulls per 100 cows and seven calves per
35 100 cows. The seven calves per 100 cows is very low.
36 That's the second year in a row that we had that low a
37 count. Basically you can't grow a caribou herd with that
38 kind of calf survival. It's not unusual to lose 50
39 percent in the first two weeks of life, but thereafter in
40 a herd that's in good shape the 50 percent that survive
41 can keep up with the herd and predation rates go way
42 down. We weren't seeing that. Last year in 2005 the
43 calves still couldn't run with the herd three weeks and
44 sometimes later, so mortality was very bad. They
45 collared 42, I believe, newborn calves. Of those 42,
46 three weeks later only three were still alive and we
47 followed those until the batteries died.

48
49 We did a little better this year. Out of 50
50 calves or so collared in 2006 we had 11 still alive by

1 the third week. We need to get past this period of poor
2 calf survival before the herd will stabilize. I,
3 unfortunately, don't have an answer as to when that might
4 be, but we're monitoring it.

5
6 You may recall that we had an experiment we were
7 planning to do with a drug that was supposed to knock
8 back the parasites that were in the cows and to see how
9 much the parasite drain on the animals was affecting
10 their reproductive success. We had 30 cows inoculated
11 and 22 controls. As of six months after capture this
12 spring there was really no difference in reproductive
13 success. We're going to follow those same animals into
14 next year and see if there's a difference. It's not that
15 we thought we could inoculate all the cows in the herd,
16 but it was an idea of just trying to figure out what the
17 major causes were on this decline.

18
19 Feel free to ask any questions on these things as
20 we go along and I'll try to answer them the best I can.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I will. So what was
23 the calf ratio when they were born? You said there was
24 about seven that were surviving.

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: It's just an average and that's a
27 fall count, the seven calves per 100 cows. That was the
28 fall of 2005. We're going to repeat that shortly in the
29 fall of 2006. The 2004 count was almost the same.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: How many calves were being
32 born per 100 cows?

33
34 MR. SQUIBB: I don't have that data in front of
35 me. I don't know if I could give you that number.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That would be good information
38 to have. How many being born and how many are surviving.
39 We need to figure out what the problem is and try to fix
40 that, you know. It sounds like you're working on the
41 disease problem, but if it's predation, you need to do
42 something else too.

43
44 Okay. Continue.

45
46 MR. SQUIBB: Also, as you may recall, the 2005
47 post-calving count was very low. In our traditional way
48 of surveying the areas, we only picked up 1,200 and
49 that's when we closed completely the hunt. I guess we
50 did that the year before. In doing the composition count

1 in the fall, we actually got a total of 1,900 individual
2 caribou. So we've decided to no longer use the spring
3 post-calving count as a tool because it's less efficient
4 at this point with the herd. So we're going to use the
5 composition count until the herd comes back, hopefully.

6
7 We're still using satellite telemetry to monitor
8 gross movements in the herd and document that and also
9 we're looking at those individual cows that we captured
10 and use the anti-parasite drug and the controls for that,
11 so it's helping us to monitor those.

12
13 I already talked to you in passing a little bit
14 about the calf project. We're trying to look at
15 reproduction and survival. We did it in 2005 and this
16 year in 2006. Next year we're not going to do the full-
17 blown survey. We're just going after the cows we had
18 radio collared and work those animals through their
19 success is our current plan.

20
21 So that's about it on the caribou herd if you
22 have any further questions on that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Boris.

25
26 MR. KOSBRUK: I realize you collared some
27 caribou. I know one year, a few years back, I don't
28 remember which year, but we had a heck of a lot of wolves
29 in Perryville. I just wonder if Fish and Wildlife ever
30 tagged them. We don't know where they go. They left
31 Perryville.

32
33 MR. SQUIBB: Are you talking about the wolves?

34
35 MR. KOSBRUK: Yes.

36
37 MR. SQUIBB: We haven't collared wolves yet.
38 We're going to try to this fall. We've got some collars
39 and we're going to do our best to put some collars on
40 wolves this fall during the composition count.

41
42 MR. KOSBRUK: We even lost some dogs in the
43 village one year. Also, when they're there, they have a
44 den some place the back of the village but they'll talk
45 to the dogs and the dogs will talk to them. It's kind of
46 crazy. I don't know who they were talking to.

47
48 MR. SQUIBB: I'll move on to moose information.
49 Earlier there was a question about the number of moose on
50 the peninsula. We've been working, as you may recall, on

1 a project to get a density estimate of how many moose per
2 area for the peninsula. As of our last report, I'll
3 remind the audience of the count. We had documented
4 between the Park border out to short of Black Lake about
5 1,663 moose. That's our best estimate. We did this last
6 winter and spring. We had four days of working out of
7 Port Heiden, Aniakchak Bay area and Black Lake area. We
8 were able to fly 280 miles of transect lines that were
9 predetermined. We had a little bit of a technical
10 problem, but we got past that and we've got to get the
11 data analyzed now that we've fixed the problem on the
12 equipment we have so we have the right numbers. It's not
13 like a trend area. This is a technique to try to get a
14 wider area estimate, so we spread the lines out. The 280
15 miles of transect lines we encountered 69 adult moose and
16 five calves. This is an extrapolation from that. These
17 three years we've been putting in considerable effort.
18 We've run into about \$100,000 effort on this, so we're
19 trying to get as best estimate as we can. Only what the
20 snow cover will let us do and we can get down there in
21 time before it melts we'll try and continue to extend it.

22
23 You may remember Corey Adler's work on the
24 Ugashik area moose habitat. That was the UAF group that
25 worked with us to get those data analyzed. Also there
26 was another project out of UAF, a co-op unit that came
27 down and captured spring before last newborn calves.
28 Weighed them, recaptured them and then weighed them again
29 and looked at weight gain. So, between those two things
30 the folks at the university concluded that the area we
31 had them in from Park border down to about Dog Salmon,
32 all in Bristol Bay drainages. That area is not great
33 moose habitat but not bad, sort of in the middle.

34
35 The winter weight gain on the calves is rather
36 poor compared to some other areas. The details are in
37 the report. They even made remarks to the original
38 decline in moose numbers after the '70s decline. Anyway,
39 we have some more information on that, but it's not the
40 final analysis and we'll hope for maybe a little better
41 improvement on that.

42
43 Any questions on the moose research work?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47
48 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Then on the moose hunting
49 season at Big Creek, as you recall, the RAC closed the
50 cow hunt, which I think is a great thing and we issued

1 three permits for bulls in the fall hunt on Big Creek and
2 we had no success on that hunt.

3

4 Finally, on wolves, I'll give you the wolf report
5 summary. We also this fall are hoping to capture some
6 wolves and get collars on them and follow them. Our best
7 case scenario would have us get enough packs that we
8 could see where the gaps were and where you might presume
9 there was another pack and be able to extrapolate some
10 general information about numbers of packs in the area
11 and work from there.

12

13 So that's about it for my oral report. Is there
14 any questions on anything.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

17

18 MR. O'HARA: Yes. The Lake Becharof Lodge did
19 not successfully get a moose at all for their clients up
20 the King Salmon River or the Egegik River and they did
21 not have any permits in the refuge, but how did the guys
22 in the refuge do as far as number of moose they took.

23

24 MR. SQUIBB: I don't have good numbers on that,
25 just from talking to our pilot, Dave. He said that the
26 moose weren't moving, that there were below normal
27 harvest success. Another couple of guides I ran across
28 in Port Heiden the same thing. They said the moose were
29 high, they weren't moving. I think it was in general for
30 the guides it was a bad year, but I don't have specific
31 numbers. They would have those.

32

33 MR. O'HARA: When will you have them? By
34 December?

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, we'll have that.

37

38 MR. O'HARA: The guys in Becharof Lake got moose.
39 They got three or four. The reason I know is Carl Adams,
40 who hunted moose, called in a lot of moose but they were
41 all under 50 inches. That's another thing that's kind of
42 interesting, too. The guys that floated that river, they
43 got moose. Way up in there they got moose. So it would
44 be interesting to see what's going to happen there. If
45 our proposal goes through, it will be interesting to see.

46

47 MR. SQUIBB: Any other questions.

48

49 MR. O'HARA: Well, your seals are doing pretty
50 well down in Egegik, Pilot Point and Port Heiden. I

1 don't know if you've done much of a survey on the -- I
2 was telling Dan here that every year I fly from Port
3 Heiden right across to Stroganoff Point and in low water
4 you'd have huge amounts of bars there and huge seal
5 populations. The mouth of Pilot Point you've got a huge
6 amount of seals on that one bar there, too. And Egegik,
7 of course, is a good population. Sea otters have done
8 seemingly pretty well. Every year they seem to have the
9 same amount there. They go somewhere about mid summer.
10 I guess you don't count them.

11
12 MR. SQUIBB: No. Well, Susan Savage, one of our
13 biologists, was flying eagle nest, I know she would look
14 for those, but we haven't done that for a few years.
15 Whenever we're out flying over the coastline we try to
16 pick that up, but we don't do the Pacific side very
17 often.

18
19 MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more questions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We're down to H, King
26 Salmon Fish and Wildlife Resource Office.

27
28 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
29 record, Mike Edwards, Fish and Wildlife Service, King
30 Salmon Fish and Wildlife Field Office. First off, I
31 would just like to express thanks from our office for the
32 Council for their support of our two proposals to keep
33 the Perryville aerial surveys funded and then support of
34 the funding for the Togiak rainbow smelt project. As
35 everyone here is well aware, the Perryville coho issue is
36 a high priority and high concern for Boris and the people
37 in Perryville and our office, so we're glad to see that
38 work move forward.

39
40 Then the Togiak smelt, that's a very highly
41 utilized resource by the folks in Togiak and there's not
42 a tremendous amount of biological data on the population.
43 There's some baseline stuff done by the Togiak Refuge a
44 few years ago and other than that there's very little
45 information on that. So we're excited to see that and
46 get something moved forward that was not just a salmon
47 funded project through FIS. Again, we really appreciate
48 your support on those two projects.

49
50 The first overview I'll talk real briefly about

1 some of the work we've done last year and what we're
2 going to be doing this year. We finished up our Ugashik
3 Lakes Resident Fish Study. Since 2002 we've been in the
4 Ugashik Lakes systems with graduate students from UAF and
5 from West Virginia University. The first couple of years
6 we had some grad students down there working on lake
7 trout and Dolly Varden and the first couple years really
8 furthered our understanding of lake trout spawning
9 habitats in the lake. Their seasonal movements and just
10 overall population characteristics of the lake trout in
11 the Ugashik system.

12
13 In '03 and '04 we did a resident fish
14 distribution project with a graduate student down there
15 doing a lot of gillnetting and seeing how the fish were
16 distributed in the lake and that information was vital to
17 the work that was done this year. This year we had a
18 graduate student doing some hydroacoustic work in the
19 lake. He was running around the lake with sonar and
20 based on the distribution work that was done he was able
21 to segregate out the lake trout were usually found in
22 this part of the lake and the Dolly Varden were in this
23 part and the whitefish were using this part. So he's
24 finished up his surveys on the Ugashik and he's analyzing
25 his data now and we hope to have a report out of him by
26 this spring and have some abundance estimates. The goal
27 of that is we hope we've developed this hydroacoustic
28 technique now that we can take this tool and go to the
29 other lakes and get a better handle on resident fish
30 populations in these large lakes that are very difficult
31 to sample. So we're very excited about that and think
32 we've come a long way in the couple of years we've been
33 invested in the Ugashiks. That work has come to fruition
34 as far as field work and now if we can get the graduate
35 student to finish the report and give us the results.

36
37 The other work, as the Council is well aware,
38 we've been flying our aerial surveys in the Perryville
39 area counting coho down there and the table on Page 124
40 reports the counts from 2003, 4 and 5. The '05 counts
41 were lower than any we had observed in '03 or '04 and the
42 run timing was also a lot different in '05. Most of the
43 coho were counted in the last survey and in the previous
44 years the majority were counted in the early surveys.
45 They also had high water and visibility issues and
46 weather issues. The '05 surveys, we had to struggle to
47 get them accomplished. We did get the counts and they
48 were down a little, but it didn't raise any alarms with
49 us because we feel we probably missed some of the fish
50 because they were late last year.

1 Jeff just completed his first survey a week ago.
2 The numbers for that total in the four streams he
3 surveyed roughly about 2,000 fish. He has another survey
4 scheduled in the next couple weeks to get back down
5 there.

6
7 Good news. The late run sockeye into Lake Clark
8 were very good this year. He counted over 11,000 sockeye
9 in his first survey, which is the highest we've seen in
10 any of the years we've been doing it. So it appears the
11 late run in the Chigniks this year was much better than
12 in recent years. That was good to see.

13
14 Another project we began this year I'm sure
15 everyone here is well aware of the potential oil/gas
16 development in the Bristol Bay region. That, in our
17 opinion, puts a lot of the aquatic resources on the
18 Bristol Bay coastal plane at potential jeopardy or risk.
19 At this time we don't know a lot about those aquatic
20 ecosystems. We have general ideas of what fish are in
21 there and how they're distributed, but we're not certain,
22 so we began a project this summer. We went out and
23 surveyed some of the tundra ponds in the Bristol Bay
24 coastal plane. For logistic reason we stayed in the
25 Naknek/King Salmon areas, places we could access.

26
27 What the crews did was sample 18 tundra ponds.
28 They measured the size of the ponds, depth of the ponds
29 and assessed the fish communities that were in the pond
30 and took water quality, temperature, pH, conductivity so
31 we could gather some baseline data. Our ultimate goal
32 this year was pretty much a pilot study. What we're
33 trying to get at is we want to develop a model so that if
34 there is a potential oil/gas development we can look at
35 that lake, look at it with aerial survey, measure some
36 physical parameters and say it's this deep, this wide, pH
37 is this, conductivity is this. Based on our experience,
38 we expect to find this, this and this. The idea of doing
39 that is if there is potential development we could
40 provide that information without having to go out and
41 spend money. A lot of these ponds you can't get to
42 unless you get to them with a helicopter. So if we could
43 remotely access aerial photos or satellite imagery of
44 these lakes and with this model we hope to predict
45 species occurrence and we could say for remediation
46 purposes or whatever this is what we expect to be in
47 these ponds.

48
49 The last project I'll talk about -- there's two
50 more, sorry. Our office is continuing to pursue

1 alternative methods to monitoring coho salmon populations
2 on the Pacific side of the peninsula. In 2006 we
3 completed work to estimate potential coho smelt capacity
4 and adult production for streams in the Wide Bay using a
5 smelt production model to estimate the juvenile coho
6 density in pools and then we measured the amount of
7 physical habitat and then based on some of the work we've
8 already done in the Kametolook and up on Yantarni we've
9 developed this model that based on pool density and the
10 amount of available habitat we can tell if the system is
11 fully seeded based on the juvenile densities.

12
13 Unfortunately our work in Wide Bay this year we
14 got all the habitat survey done, we didn't get all the
15 juvenile surveys done, so we weren't able to estimate the
16 juvenile densities like we wanted. We had a lot of rain
17 and in conjunction with the spawning pinks we were trying
18 to get in there and get the snorkel surveys done before
19 the pinks got in and once they got in there were too many
20 pinks you couldn't conduct the surveys. That, combined
21 with high waters, we had weeks that the crews couldn't do
22 anything after they were done with their habitat work
23 because it was unsafe to snorkel. That's still on the
24 books to go back out again next year and complete that.

25
26 The last project that we're working on, our
27 office is developing a technique that we can age resident
28 fish with fin ray clips. Our ultimate goal, one of the
29 things we've struggled with with these resident fish
30 populations, especially rainbow trout, is getting
31 accurate age data. As Mr. Dunaway could attest to, age
32 data scales are good up to a certain age. After four or
33 five then it starts getting iffy of how accurate your age
34 data is. Otoliths work well, but the problem with
35 otoliths you have to sacrifice the fish.

36
37 So we've been working in conjunction with some
38 folks at the Togiak Refuge and the Kenai. Had them
39 collect some fish for us, if they had any mortalities on
40 the work they were doing and were analyzing fin ray
41 sections. Basically what we're doing is slice a very
42 thin section of the fin ray, we'll age that, compare that
43 age to what we would get with the otoliths and if they
44 agree, then we're going to take this further in hopes
45 that we could monitor these rainbow trout and other
46 resident fish populations more accurately without having
47 to sacrifice the fish for age data.

48
49 And that concludes my presentation. I'll be
50 happy to answer any questions.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Have you finished your study there
4 at Yantarni?

5

6 MR. EDWARDS: That work we did at Wide Bay was a
7 continuation of what we were doing, developing that model
8 to where we could access -- we could take how many
9 juvenile coho we're finding in the pool habitat and how
10 much habitat is in the system and determine if it's fully
11 seeded, and by fully seeded I think there's a certain
12 number of juveniles per meter of water, and if the system
13 is at that, then we feel that it's getting the adult
14 returns necessary to keep it. We've been fighting for
15 years. To do adult work on the coast is very difficult.
16 It's a dangerous area, so we're trying to see if we can
17 monitor these populations by doing juvenile work. It's
18 much easier to get over there in the summer.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: You had a crew there at Yantarni for
21 a couple months and we flew stuff in to them all the
22 time. Bill Martin has a lodge there and clients that
23 come by. What did you accomplish at that particular
24 site?

25

26 MR. EDWARDS: The one thing we did is developed
27 that model because we had weir data on Yantarni too, so
28 we knew what a good return would be and then we could
29 compare what our juvenile densities were to what the weir
30 escapement was. That gave us the confidence in the
31 model. We also used it to compare if the habitat was the
32 problem that they were having at Kametolook because those
33 systems are relatively close, they're similar, and we
34 found out that habitat really wasn't the limiting issue
35 in the Kametolook. So we got two things out of that
36 Yantarni project. Confidence in the model and we ruled
37 out that habitat was the limiting factor in the
38 Kametolook area.

39

40 MR. O'HARA: What is the harvest situation like
41 on cohos in the Pacific side, the Shelikof Straits area
42 on cohos?

43

44 MR. EDWARDS: You know, I couldn't answer that.
45 I could get into some Fish and Game annual management
46 reports and gather that information for you.

47

48 MR. O'HARA: It might be good because your
49 surveys for 2005 on the Pacific side over there, I know
50 they hit the capes really bad down in Boris's area and

1 affect a lot of things. I don't know if they're
2 harvesting cohos down there or not.

3
4 MR. EDWARDS: I know there is definitely some
5 fisheries occurring on coho over there.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Boris.

8
9 MR. KOSBRUK: I'm kind of confused here. You're
10 doing a survey in Wide Bay?

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: We did that one. It was to develop
13 our model, so we go to Wide Bay for logistics reasons.
14 It was a place that, one, had coho. We had historical
15 coho aerial studies from the State so we could compare
16 and see how these systems were. It was an opportune
17 place for us to work and develop this model.

18
19 MR. KOSBRUK: I'm confused here because we had
20 problems in Perryville, very serious problems and there
21 was no effort like that in that area. I haven't seen any
22 kind of reports on the program there and all the efforts
23 in Wide Bay. That confused the heck out of me.

24
25 MR. EDWARDS: Well, we did do that work in
26 Kametolook for two years and that's when we came to the
27 conclusion that habitat wasn't what was limiting down
28 there.

29
30 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, the habitat is what I was
31 worried about because it changed. I trapped that area
32 and it had changed. What can we do to enhance that
33 habitat?

34
35 MR. EDWARDS: Well, the conclusions from the work
36 down there was habitat wasn't what was limiting the coho
37 in the Kametolook system. I'd be happy to send you the
38 report. I thought Jeff had been to the village and given
39 presentations when his project finished down there. I'm
40 pretty certain he did.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.

43
44 MR. ABRAHAM: Do you have a quarterly report?
45 It's always a good idea to send quarterly reports to the
46 RAC personnel down there. In Togiak, I'm an RIT and RAC
47 at the same time. I get questions from different
48 directions, so I have to know. So I bug my office over
49 there about getting answers and stuff like that. It
50 makes a good relationship between the refuge and the

1 people when they know the answers. They don't bug the
2 main office over there, they come to me and look for the
3 answers. It makes a good relationship between the
4 personnel. It makes everybody happy all around. People
5 like to know what they have on hand in their area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Pete. Anything
8 else. Dan.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick. There was a volcano or
11 a landslide or something in Painter Creek area. Are you
12 still watching that?

13

14 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. We're working with AVO,
15 Alaska Volcano Observatory and Fish and Game and we were
16 going to go back and revisit the sampling we did last
17 fall, but they got some pH test kits out to someone at
18 Painter Creek Lodge. He went up to the lake and tested
19 the pH at the outflow and it was still 3-something, so
20 the influx of acidic water into the lake is still there.
21 Since it was still such a low pH at the outlet we didn't
22 see any need to go back and resample the water at depth,
23 which is what we did in the fall and confirmed that it
24 was acidic top to bottom. So until the input of acidic
25 water coming off the volcano was stopped, there's really
26 no sense.

27

28 We did get some reports that some fish went into
29 Painter Creek this summer, so it seems the acidity
30 problem is getting deluded enough so fish can come up the
31 river and are at least willing to make it into Painter
32 Creek. I haven't heard any reports of anything going
33 into Mother Goose, which is not surprising with water
34 that is that acidic.

35

36 MR. O'HARA: They came back out, too. The reason
37 I know that is we fly into Painter Creek. With the lodge
38 there, we're there all the time. But it still is killing
39 off vegetation within probably 200 feet. You can see
40 everything around the lake has died. As you go up
41 farther, all the vegetation that goes down five or six
42 miles, you can see a path where it's killed the
43 vegetation. Talking to the guides, fish had just come in
44 there and just gone back up the other. They went back
45 out. The boys had pretty good catches there at the mouth
46 of that creek when they came back.

47

48 MR. EDWARDS: I was just going to say when that
49 event happened a year ago there was some historical
50 reports that maybe this did happen in the '40s or '50s

1 that Mother Goose basically got hosed by the volcano. In
2 talking with the Comm Fish biologist for that area, he
3 thinks maybe that's part of the reason why Mother Goose
4 is kind of the lowest producer of sockeye out of
5 everything in that area.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: It's got whacked a few times.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Mike.

10
11 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Next we have I, Bristol Bay
14 Native Association. Molly.

15
16 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Good morning. I'm very sorry
17 that I wasn't able to attend yesterday because I know
18 this is the most important board to deal with our
19 resources. Our resources for this area are our way of
20 life. I, first of all, want to thank you board members
21 in dealing with this Federal Subsistence Board.

22
23 I'm not sure what I need to do except that I'll
24 introduce myself. I'm Molly Chythlook, Natural Resource
25 Division Manager. I just started with Bristol Bay Native
26 Association as their Division Manager in April. It's
27 been a wonderful opportunity. It's challenging and I'm
28 working in the department that I love. It's something
29 that when issues come up from the villages that I can
30 relate to.

31
32 To my understanding, there was some resolutions
33 that the Bristol Bay Native Association board members
34 passed and during the board meetings I was out of town,
35 so I wasn't involved in that process, but I have copies
36 of four resolutions that the board has passed. Do you
37 want to deal with these? I've made copies of them.

38
39 I was told if we can get a hold of the Secretary,
40 that we'd have these resolutions hopefully signed by the
41 end of the day. If not, we could probably fax the
42 resolutions to you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We supported three of them
45 yesterday.

46
47 MS. CHYTHLOOK: We have one more that deals with
48 moose. I've got copies. There's one thing that I'd like
49 to also thank the board for is supporting the proposals
50 that BBNA has had. You heard Robbin LaVine, our social

1 scientist, give a report on one of our successful
2 programs that BBNA has.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We can discuss the other
5 resolution when we get down to new business.

6
7 MR. O'HARA: Is it Resolution 2006-44?
8

9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I think we already
10 reviewed the other three yesterday and I thought the
11 motion that we made blanketed them, that we supported
12 them. Our coordinator was supposed to -- was directed to
13 write a letter. I think 06-44 we didn't get that one
14 until just now. We can discuss that.

15
16 MR. O'HARA: Molly, we'll do the last one under
17 new business today.

18
19 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Molly, I appreciate you coming
22 here. It is subsistence. Like you say, it's real
23 important. We have a vacancy. Maybe you should ask your
24 husband to apply for that.

25
26 MR. O'HARA: Or you could apply.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.

29
30 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Vacancy on?

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: On this Board here.

33
34 MS. CHYTHLOOK: I'll think about it.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Molly, is that your full report or
37 did you have more?

38
39 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: I have one question. Has BBNA come
42 out with a position on mineral development on Federal
43 lands, particularly the Nushagak Drainage?

44
45 MS. CHYTHLOOK: When I returned Friday, I was
46 informed that the board, and I think some of the board
47 members are here, voted to oppose mineral development as
48 a whole, not particularly naming one development, but any
49 large development if it's going to affect the water
50 quality. That's what my understanding is.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: Molly, when the resolutions are
4 signed, are you going to send copies to Lem or Department
5 of Fish and Game? On the resolutions, what you're asking
6 the Council to support, I think there are some things
7 within the jurisdiction of the Council in terms of the
8 proposals that we'll go ahead and submit proposals for
9 what we can do on Federal lands, but in terms of State
10 lands we're not going to -- I'm not sure what the -- I'm
11 just telling the Council or at least conveying to them
12 that -- I'm not familiar with the cycles or how the State
13 conducts their business, but I certainly can -- I'm up to
14 snuff on what the Council can do in terms of the caribou
15 herds that you discuss in your resolution here. So I
16 think it would be advantageous of Lem and whoever else
17 manages some of those caribou herds on State land receive
18 signed copies of the resolution because I know that once
19 I get back to Anchorage and do up proposals that are
20 appropriate for the resolutions, I'll send them back to
21 the Council and the Chair for review. Once those are
22 finalized and signed, then I would send them to Lem or at
23 least Laura Greffenius is the biologist for the Council
24 for this region and I'll inform her when I get back to
25 Anchorage. But it would be good for the State to have
26 copies of those because from just looking at most of
27 these the information on these resolutions for the
28 caribou I know the Council has addressed almost every
29 issue on here with the exception of what they can't do on
30 State lands.

31

32 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Those caribou cross
33 Federal lands in all the areas, too. We'll help out on
34 that, too.

35

36 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Delivering the resolutions to the
37 respected locations, BBNA probably has that process in
38 place. I'm not sure what -- my understanding was, once
39 these resolutions were signed, they would be going to
40 this Board. If there's one location that these
41 resolutions go first, then that's probably the process
42 we'll take.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair. It says addresses the
45 Board of Game right on it, so I would expect you'll be
46 sending it to the Board of Game. This fall it will be
47 off to the Advisory Committees. You've got a close
48 connection there. The BBNA could submit proposals to the
49 State Board of Game to have coordinated efforts, both the
50 State and Federal lands.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I agree. This is a BBNA
2 proposal and they should -- we will support it. I would
3 support the proposals myself. We did three of them
4 yesterday already. But I think it's BBNA's
5 responsibility to send it to the Board of Game. You can
6 mention that we also support that.

7
8 Any more questions for Molly.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was it then?

13
14 MS. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you. Now we're
17 on 13, new business. A is a review of the Council
18 Charter. Cliff.

19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
21 Members. If you'd turn in your booklets to Page 125, 126
22 and a portion of 127. The Charter is renewed every two
23 years and it's signed off by the Secretaries of Interior
24 and Agriculture. If the Council has any changes it would
25 like in this charter, they may make those known to me and
26 I can go ahead and write it up and those will be
27 forwarded in a packet with the other Councils.

28
29 MR. O'HARA: A question on Page 126 for removal
30 of member, if a person misses two consecutive unexcused
31 absences. Two is not very much. That should be three.
32 Is this a Title VIII thing or is this a Staff idea or
33 what?

34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: No. If you'd like to change that,
36 we can go ahead and do that.

37
38 MR. O'HARA: I think the standard is three. I
39 don't know what most organizations do, but I think three
40 meetings unexcused would be better, a little more of a
41 chance. We serve as a volunteer. The check I got
42 yesterday didn't represent what I think I'm worth.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Unexcused is different than
45 not being able to come. I don't see what's wrong with
46 two. If you can't come for some reason, medical problems
47 or an emergency came up, that's excusable. But if you
48 know about the meeting and you don't show up two times.
49 That's how I feel. I don't know about the rest of you.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Two is the standard on another
2 board I sit on.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, that's how it is on
5 another one I sit on also. I don't see any changes. Do
6 you guys?
7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete says it's good. Okay.
11 We don't need to act on this, do we, Cliff?
12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chairman. If there's no
14 changes, then I'll just forward the Councils comments
15 that there's no changes in their Charter.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We are down to B, new
18 business, customary trade.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: I think I'll just probably leave
21 that off. I kind of want to bring it to the attention of
22 Council Members that there's been some interest in the
23 region and maybe we can revisit it in the February
24 meeting.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. That's fine. Cliff.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, Dan. There will be an
29 appropriate time also for the Council after the next
30 fisheries proposals come up, the Council may submit a
31 proposal then if it's appropriate to change those figures
32 on customary trade.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
35
36 MR. O'HARA: The other question I had under new
37 business -- did you have something, Dan?
38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I wanted to bring up
40 something else, but if you have something.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: No, go ahead.
43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: I know I've prolonged parts of this
45 meeting and I apologize. I'll try not to do too much
46 more, but I've had a chance to look at this BLM, Bristol
47 Bay RNP pamphlet and thinking about a lot of my closer
48 neighbors that I -- I guess I feel responsible for
49 speaking for on the Nushagak River, there's been, like I
50 say tremendous amount of opposition and controversy

1 regarding mineral development in the Nushagak River
2 drainage and the Kvichak River drainage and I'm real
3 interested if there would be support from the RAC to --
4 for a resolution supporting minimal mineral, hard rock
5 mineral development or status quo on BLM lands that we
6 could forward to the planners for this update RNP.

7
8 And I hate to spring it on you late. I've been
9 thinking about it for awhile but until I saw this
10 pamphlet, I didn't have a lot of material to go on. But
11 -- and I know it's controversial, it's not unanimous in
12 the area but there's numerous village corporations, folks
13 who live in the Alaganik, New Stuyahok, Ekwok that use
14 those BLM lands for subsistence and Portage, and here in
15 Dillingham, and I feel I must speak out for all those
16 people, that at the minimum, let BLM know that there is a
17 lot of controversy and there is a lot of opposition to
18 hard rock mineral development in this area.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

21
22 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I think that's interesting.
23 There's been a lot of opposition to the mine, a lot of
24 people standing up and saying they don't support the mine
25 and then all of a sudden you got a certain number of
26 people who are standing up and supporting the mine. So
27 if the Nushagak is against it, that's fine. And not all
28 of Lake Iliamna or not all of the east side is against
29 it. You have people who are not against the mine, and so
30 I'm not interested in dealing with it as a Council
31 member.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: If it was on Federal land, but
34 since it's on -- well, I guess BLM land, but the mine is
35 on State land, you know, we can take a position, I think,
36 on Federal land, BLM land but you know like we have a lot
37 of -- there's a lot of opposition and quite a bit of
38 support for the mine, you know, up there in Iliamna,
39 Pebble Mine but, you know, it would be a disaster if it
40 polluted the water.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But, you know.....

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm sorry.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:I don't know if I feel I
49 should take a stand right now. You know from what I
50 understand they applied for a permit to get the, you

1 know, to get water from the Tulariks, they'll probably
2 end up having to get it from the lake, it -- I don't like
3 that idea. But, you know, will it do any good, you know,
4 it's a State decision, DNR. Maybe the next Governor
5 might slow it down some, you know, probably will, from
6 Murkowski's view.

7

8 So anyway that's my opinion on that.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, Mr. Chair, I'm trying to
11 speak specifically to those BLM lands addressed in this
12 pamphlet and I know we haven't all had an opportunity to
13 look at it. But some of these lands come right up close
14 to Koliganek and New Stuyahok and pretty close to Ekwok.
15 There's mineral exploration going on throughout this area
16 and I wasn't speaking specifically to the most advanced
17 mine development of Pebble, but generally, some of these
18 alternatives, looking through it quickly;

19

20 Alternative A says, existing withdrawals -- under
21 Alternative A for this new plan, existing
22 withdrawals other than ANCSA D1 withdrawals that
23 closed parts of the planning area to mineral
24 entry would remain in place.

25

26 In other words there's parts of those BLM lands
27 right now that are closed to mineral development, but a
28 big part of this plan would be to open those and that
29 most of the other alternatives, with my quick read.

30

31 Alternative B, the result would be to open BLM to
32 mineral exploration and development of course
33 guided by required procedures.

34

35 I think all the other alternatives open these BLM
36 lands to some level of mineral development and there is a
37 concern among some folks that opening these lands could
38 facilitate, say the Pebble the development or other
39 mineral development in the area, either through
40 encouraging more wide spread exploration and development
41 or access or something else. And there's an outfit
42 called Liberty Star that has got this gigantic chunk and
43 it's almost all State lands, in fact they even call it
44 big chunk. Then they are actively exploring, we've
45 spoken of Shotgun Hills.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, you just said it's on
48 State land, aren't you talking about BLM?

49

50 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. But what the concern is

1 amongst a lot of folks in the Nushagak Drainage is that
2 opening up Federal lands adjoining these State lands
3 could facilitate greater or more active development.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So what do you think the
6 motion should be?

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: My resolution -- I guess it would
9 be in the form of a resolution to BLM, was that members
10 of the RAC are aware that there's a lot of local Nushagak
11 opposition to mineral development in the Nushagak
12 Drainage, State and Federal lands and please take that
13 into consideration in the adoption of the alternative.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I would support that, if you
16 wanted to.....

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: I would be willing to work with
19 Cliff on getting it out.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: I guess I would say I'm neutral at
22 the moment but I rather see the study first before I make
23 a move, you know, I mean how do I know the Pebble Mine is
24 doing good. The only thing they're showing is the good
25 side of what they're doing. And the question is, you
26 know, I like to question what is the bad side of, you
27 know, the story. So I'm kind of neutral because I don't
28 know the full story of -- you know, I don't even know
29 what the gold look like anyway unless somebody smile at
30 me with golden teeth.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: So I'm kind of neutral, like I say.

35
36 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

39
40 MR. O'HARA: I sit on a board that has signed a
41 contract with, let's see Overstreet, Over-something, that
42 we have about four or five different areas where we're
43 exploring into mining in the Bristol Bay region,
44 Southwest Alaska. And came up with one area that we're
45 looking at and Shotgun Hills is another one, and Fog Lake
46 is another one. And then we heard Mary down in Chigniks
47 in that area that we're doing exploratory mining work.
48 And each one of these areas have been given the go ahead
49 by the local village corporation on this development.
50 And so whereas I'm not necessarily saying I support

1 mining and even coming out in support of the one up at
2 the Lake Iliamna. I'm not going to take any action today
3 either way on this issue.

4
5 However on Native lands if it begins to affect
6 anything in the way of fish or game then we have the
7 right to shut it down, on State lands you don't have
8 privilege, I'm not sure about State lands.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The proposal or resolution
11 that Dan was talking about was BLM, that they would
12 consider the local villages' opinion before they did
13 anything.

14
15 MR. O'HARA: That's pretty generic, I mean you
16 could do that, I mean you could do berry picking if you
17 want to do that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anyway that's what he had said
20 a minute ago so any more.

21
22 MR. KOSBRUK: Yes, I mean I'd like to say that
23 I'm worried about the natural resources that's number 1 I
24 think.

25
26 MR. O'HARA: You know if you want to look at a
27 resolution that addresses this issues you ought to take
28 BBNC's resolution that the shareholders passed last year
29 on development in the region. That's an exceptionally
30 good resolution, and it deals with, it would cover all of
31 these issues that you're talking about there. However,
32 it doesn't stop anything but it would prevent what Boris
33 is talking about in the way of they can't damage any
34 resources.

35
36 It's a pretty good resolution.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: I have some BBNC resolutions but I
39 don't think I've seen that one.

40
41 MR. O'HARA: That was done last year at the
42 annual shareholders meeting in -- or maybe two years ago
43 in Anchorage, maybe last year in Anchorage. Anyway it
44 was a good one. It was a good resolution.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, Mr. Chair, I don't -- knowing
47 the crying need for jobs and diversity in the area I've
48 been real cautious about getting involved with this. But
49 at the same time, knowing the potential hazards I've been
50 really eager to do something along the lines, it sounds

1 like what BBNC has done. And I guess I'll move on to --
2 and also from waiting for studies, I've been
3 corresponding with Norton Sound Economic Development
4 Corporation where up there there's a corporation
5 developing the Rock Creek Mine, made lots of promises but
6 they dropped their study on the public June 1, required
7 all responses by the end of June, right when people are
8 dispersing to do subsistence and really, you know, a
9 1,500 page document can be very very difficult to
10 adequately respond, and there are a number of -- well,
11 some people would view them as corporate tricks, other
12 people just call it smart business, but I know they were
13 scrambling to come up with a sufficient response in a
14 really short period of time and then discovered some --
15 and ask those guys, but some important details, were just
16 somehow omitted until it was too late for people to
17 respond and I guess that's kind of a warning to folks,
18 you must be ultra-vigilant.

19

20 I'd be willing to, at least, seek to make a
21 motion to make that resolution in the words I just said;
22 advising BLM to please take serious consideration of the
23 Nushagak Village subsistence users concerns and
24 opposition to mineral development.

25

26 I'll make that as a motion and we'll see if we
27 get a second for support.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay, we have a motion on the
30 floor. Any second.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seeing none, motion dies for
35 lack of a second. So let's move on to Item C, BBNA
36 Resolution 06-44. It's on the one that Molly just gave
37 us, the last sheet. We received the other three
38 yesterday and I wonder if we could just -- if somebody
39 could move to, maybe should just add this one onto the
40 resolution that we passed yesterday, the motion.

41

42 Anybody.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Did we strictly address caribou
45 hunting in that yesterday?

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Right.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: So it would be a friendly amendment
50 to add moose?

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Sure. We can do that can't
2 we?
3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff.
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: Perhaps Molly can answer. On the
9 other three resolutions that the Council took action on,
10 there's appropriate steps, down on the bottom, in terms
11 to A, B, C and D to extend predator control measures and
12 stuff. On the moose resolution, 206-44 it's just mainly
13 for the agencies to take appropriate steps to protect the
14 subsistence moose harvest so there isn't really any
15 action in regards to the Council, that the resolution is
16 asking the Council and the Board of Game to take
17 appropriate steps.
18
19 MS. CHYTHLOOK: What was the question?
20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: On the resolution there isn't any
22 language that requestS the Board of Game and the Federal
23 Subsistence Board or specifically this Council to take
24 appropriate actions on what is it, reduce moose harvest
25 or buffer zones, there isn't any -- it's just generic in
26 terms of appropriate steps to protect the subsistence
27 moose harvest on the Alaska Peninsula. And on your other
28 resolutions you included some, I guess, more action in
29 terms of what the Council and the Board of Game could do
30 to help resolve or take steps to improve the caribou
31 populations on the Peninsula
32
33 I'm not sure. I may be.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, our motion yesterday was
36 to support the other three resolutions and then I think
37 there was a part where you were going to convey our
38 support to the groups, you know, that would rectify the
39 problem here to the Board of Game, the Fish and Wildlife
40 Service.
41
42 Robin come on up.
43
44 MS. LEVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair and Council I do
45 remember call -- Cliff you had mentioned actions in
46 regards to buffer zones and I do recall that we were
47 discussing buffer zones as a potential action to be taken
48 in regards to the moose population. This was in Naknek
49 this spring and I believe Lem was talking about that, Lem
50 Butler. Does anyone have any updated information on

1 where that led, or is anyone coming up with resolutions
2 in regards to buffer zones and that might be King Salmon
3 folks. Does anyone have an update on that?

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair. I don't have an update
6 but I'm trying to recall, I thought we asked Virginia
7 Alec and the Refuge Staff and problem Lem Butler to work
8 with the advisory committees down there to come up with a
9 more specific game proposal that wasn't so sweeping and
10 affecting areas far beyond the local concern. And I
11 don't know, maybe the Refuge Staff could say, has there
12 been any meetings, has there been any work, did the SRC
13 come up with any sort of proposal?

14

15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I remember that now that
16 you brought it up. At our last spring meeting we
17 directed that the Fish and Wildlife Service work with the
18 people down there to come up with something and I don't
19 know if they ever did or not.

20

21 Cliff.

22

23 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman. Council. That was --
24 the action item was to create like a buffer zone around
25 the community of Chignik Lake and Perryville. But I
26 spoke to Virginia on the telephone after the issue was
27 done, and she said that she would rather just go ahead
28 and put that on the back burner because they wanted to
29 consult with more of the members of the community after
30 they were, you know, the discussion the Council had was
31 that the majority of the lands around there were
32 corporation lands and that she wanted to communicate with
33 the members of the community who serve in that capacity
34 on the corporations to further discuss the buffer zone
35 around the community.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay, so then you can contact
38 her so the next meeting we have in the spring you can
39 fill us in if anything has happened.

40

41 MR. EDENSHAW: But Mr. Chair, that doesn't answer
42 the question that I was asking Molly in terms of this is
43 for Units 9 and 17 for moose. You can see the other
44 three proposals and resolutions they address predator
45 control, they address harvest, they address, oh, what's
46 the other ones, airborne hunting. So in terms of the --
47 this Proposal No. 44, the resolution, it doesn't
48 stipulate any kind of action that the Council or the
49 Board of Game should take. So I don't see it as a action
50 item in terms of things that the Council could do. And

1 maybe someone help me if I'm wrong, say so but.....
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: If we were to add moose to the
4 title of that last resolution to amend it, it probably
5 would because I think we said take all steps appropriate.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Although I don't know, I haven't
10 heard of much moose transfer.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff was saying it doesn't
13 exactly state how to -- what the Board of Game or the
14 Federal agencies should do but I think we should support
15 the proposal that something needs to be done for moose,
16 that's what this basically saying. And that yet has to
17 be determined.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: Well we addressed the moose issue
20 yesterday with pretty wide sweeping results in that two
21 mile buffer zone on either side of these river systems is
22 going to eliminate most everybody in Southwest Alaska on
23 Federal lands. That's huge.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That would cover it.
26
27 MR. O'HARA: That was mainly for moose.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was for moose.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, I'll.....
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, I don't see why we can't
34 just add this to the other three resolutions that we
35 supported yesterday, you know.
36
37 MR. EDENSHAW: You could do that.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Might call it a friendly amendment.
42 I don't think we have to do a lot of that -- we can ask
43 if there's any objection to adding moose to that
44 resolution.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you object that we had
47 moose to that resolution that we made yesterday about
48 these other three proposals -- resolutions -- this would
49 have to be on Federal and State, you know Virginia was
50 going to talk to the people down there about the

1 corporation lands but she hadn't got back, she's not here
2 and she hasn't got to back with me. I asked Cliff to
3 talk to her before the next meeting so that she could
4 maybe ask the local people down there or the corporation
5 and then have something to report to us in the spring.

6

7 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, you could wait, that's for
8 the next season so I mean -- the next hunt.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: Corporation lands, Mr. Chairman, are
11 governed by State of Alaska.

12

13 MR. EDENSHAW: Right.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: So we don't have any say so over
16 corporation lands, even if it's on Federal lands.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So I feel we could just make
19 an amendment and add this to that.

20

21 MR. O'HARA: If there's no objection from the
22 Board it's pretty much done, uh.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, we would have to.....

25

26 MR. O'HARA:or do we have to take action?

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Would we have to take action?

29

30 MR. EDENSHAW: No, I'll go ahead and just note
31 that -- because on the original motion, Dan Dunaway and
32 Dan O'Hara made the motion so if they could just, you
33 know, agree with each other that they'd like to amend the
34 original motion and then go ahead and to say include
35 moose and we'll go ahead and do that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay, that takes care of that.

38

39

40 MR. O'HARA: Pete said yes, Boris too.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So we are on No. 14.

43

44 MR. O'HARA: No, yes, 14. Is Alvin Boskofsky on
45 the Council?

46

47 MR. EDENSHAW: Alvin, you know, when I contacted
48 him initially when he was appointed to the Council the
49 first meeting I called and asked if he was going to
50 attend, he was in Anchorage for -- at the time for a

1 consultation with a doctor for his back. And then the
2 next meeting he went to, and then in the winter he had
3 major back surgery so I.....
4
5 MR. O'HARA: I think we'd like to make a motion
6 to excuse him from the meeting today so that we don't
7 lose him off the Council.
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: I'll so move Mr. Chairman.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Motion.
14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seconded by Dan Dunaway to
18 have Alvin Boskofsky excused from this meeting because of
19 medical. Any comment.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Hearing none. All in favor
24 signify by saying aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carried. Okay, No. 14.
33 Cliff.
34 MR. EDENSHAW: On the back of your books on Page
35 129, Mr. Chair and Council, you can pencil in September
36 25th and 26th, that's when the Kodiak Council is going to
37 meet so aside from that date or else the 28th -- or
38 actually, no, that's okay during the 28th and 29th is
39 when the North Slope is meeting and the Kodiak -- any
40 time, you can see the window from August 27th through
41 August 19th [sic] is the window for that fall '07
42 meeting.
43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: To August 19th or October 19th?
45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: October 19th. And this one here,
47 Mr. Chair, will be here in Dillingham for this fall
48 meeting.
49
50 MR. O'HARA: So that's October 1 and 2 again?

1 MR. DUNAWAY: That would work for me, I like it
2 now. I don't want to mess up moose season and caribou
3 season.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No, no. 1st and 2nd.
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: 1st and 2nd.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What do you guys think about
10 October?
11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: 1st of October.
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Same time in the morning, start in
15 the morning.
16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. I don't want it to interfere
18 with my moose hunting because I never get moose for two
19 years.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You got to go hunting.
22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay, so 1 and 2. So if
26 anything changes you will notify us.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Uh-huh.
29
30 MR. O'HARA: So Bristol Bay meets in February on
31 20 and 21?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 20 and 21.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: You guys going to sing me happy
36 birthday in Naknek.
37
38 (Council agrees)
39
40 MR. O'HARA: I was going to say Cliff big eagles
41 at work and can bring me a cake.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: February 20th and 21st. Okay,
46 we confirmed the meeting in Naknek and we established the
47 fall meeting in 2007 to be October 1st and 2nd.
48
49 MR. O'HARA: Lunch time.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I guess we only have one more
2 thing on the agenda.
3
4 MR. ABRAHAM: I make a move.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: There's a motion to adjourn.
7
8 MR. O'HARA: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seconded by Dan O'Hara. All
11 in favor, signify by saying aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We're done.
20
21 (Off record)
22
23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 139 through 193 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 3rd day of October 2006, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Dillingham, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 13th day of October 2006.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08