

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, VOLUME II

Taken at:
Borough Assembly Chambers
Naknek, Alaska
November 6, 2001

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Present:

Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair
Robert Heyano
Andrew Balluta
Peter Abraham
Harold (Robin) Samuelson
Shirley Kelly

Coordinator:

Cliff Edenshaw

Others Present:

Pat McClenahan, Office of Subsistence
Management; Larry Buklis, Office of
Subsistence Management; Richard Uberuaga,
Office of Subsistence Management; Steve Fried,
Office of Subsistence Management; Dave Fisher,
Office of Subsistence Management; Dan Dunaway,
ADF&G; Carl Jack, BIA Native Liaison; Ross
Waite, Alaska Peninsula-Becharof Refuge; Ron
Squibb, Alaska Peninsula Refuge; Jim Larson,
King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office; Kevin
Simms, King Salmon Fisheries Resource Office;
Mark Edwards, King Salmon Fisheries Resource
Office; Slim Moristad, ADF&G; Mark Kepsel,
Alaska Peninsula-King Salmon; Andy Aderman,
Togiak Refuge; Mark Leesik, Togiak Refuge; Pat
Walsh, Togiak Refuge; Orville Lind, Alaska
Peninsula Refuge; Mary McBurney, National Park
Service; Karen Stickman, National Park
Service; Bruce Greenwood, National Park
Service; Tom O'Hara, National Park Service.

1 MR. O'HARA: Good morning. We
2 call the meeting back into session. I have
3 about six after or so. We left one part of
4 the report open yesterday. Carl Jack needs to
5 come and talk to us about No. 15, Agency
6 Reports to Fish and Wildlife Service, Office
7 of Subsistence Management. And, Carl, we
8 didn't mean to leave you off yesterday. That
9 was an oversight on our part and we apologize
10 for that. If you would like to, go ahead.

11 MR. JACK: Good morning. I'm
12 going to cover two programs. The first one is
13 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring and also the
14 halibut jurisdiction. These are going to be
15 just update reports, progress reports, no
16 action required.

17 On partnerships you will find a
18 briefing paper on Page 2 of Tab K. Last
19 February I made a briefing on this, and this
20 report is going to be just to let you know
21 where we are. I will start off by saying,
22 though, that the deadline for the applications
23 for the partnerships was extended to November
24 10th. Initially it was October the 10th. And
25 the extension was done at the request of some
regional organizations to give them more time
to collaborate with other organizations along
the Yukon, for example, to put their
applications together.

1 Where we are on this is, the
2 chairman of the Federal board has written a
3 letter to the other Federal agencies
4 requesting them to select a person to sit on a
5 panel that will be reviewing the applications.
6 And there will be two persons from the Office
7 of Subsistence Management that will be sitting
8 on the panel. As you know, the call for
9 proposals was sent out about a couple months
10 ago, and the nature of the program is
11 competitive as compared to the other 809
12 agreements. And upon the advice of counsel
13 from the contracting office, due to the nature
14 of the competitive -- due to the competitive
15 nature of the programs, we were somewhat
16 restricted in providing technical assistance
17 to the persons that prepared the applications.
18 The staff committee is going to meet tomorrow.

19 The board will have their work
20 session on the 16th, and I believe that the

1 panel will be constituted shortly after that.
Then they will get down to the business of
2 reviewing the applications. We do have -- we
have received an application from BBNA. As
3 you recall, this Council requested separation
of the program from the Aleutian Chain. And
4 although in the advertisement or call for
proposals, this region was included with the
5 Aleutians, we did say that we will honor
subregional requests, such as the proposal
6 from BBNA. While the deadline has been
extended to November 15th, looking at the
7 milestone points from that point on through
May 15th, we are still maintaining the May
8 15th deadline whereby the successful
applicants will be able to fill the positions
9 and get the programs going. And prior to that
809 agreements will be negotiated with the
10 successful applicants.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my
11 update report on partners.

12 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Any questions,
Council members? Go ahead, Shirley.

13 MS. KELLY: What's the project
14 that BBNA submitted?

15 MR. JACK: The project is to, one,
hire a biologist with an intern component to
16 essentially track what's in your briefing
paper on Page 3. Let's see. Basically the --
17 it will allow the BBNA to hire a biologist to
start looking at the -- to help them review
18 the fisheries programs and also to help them,
for example, to develop programs on the
19 grounds where they will be able to do research
activities. And also one of the components is
20 to be able to send a person to the technical
review committee.

21 And the major component, again, is
to have an internship where the intern will be
22 able to work closely with the biologist to
develop the capacity and fisheries research.

23 I will say, though, that it looks like the
application has a lot of support from the 32
24 villages. It's indicated there that they were
able to get resolutions from each and every
25 one of the 32 villages in support of the
program. So it looks like a good application.

1 MR. O'HARA: Might be a goal, huh?
2 Shirley, did you have anything else? Robin?
3 Robert?

4 MR. HEYANO: No, I don't have
5 anything else.

6 MR. O'HARA: Any other comments,
7 Council members? Is there another report that
8 Pat is supposed to be giving us on this?

9 MR. JACK: This is on halibut,
10 again on Tab K, Page 1. The briefing paper is
11 self-explanatory. I will say, though, as a
12 person that was involved and helped the
13 working group provide staff support to the
14 working group that forged the effort to
15 recognize halibut as a subsistence resource,
16 this is kind of like catching a forward pass
17 on my part. You know, what happened in Sitka,
18 I believe, was a significant accomplishment.
19 When the North Pacific Fisheries Management
20 Council took action to recognize halibut as a
21 subsistence resource, because prior to that
22 only commercial and sport was recognized.

23 And as you will note, the action
24 adopted by the North Pacific Fisheries
25 Management Council is under the ANILCA
framework, but with an explicit tribal fishery
component. Now, the Federal board has
received three proposals that relate to
halibut, but those three proposals have been
withdrawn, mainly because there's a question
on whether the board has jurisdiction on this.
So based on the advice of counsel from the
solicitor's office, the office has withdrawn
those, mainly because the management of
halibut is governed by the International
Halibut Treaty and the Northern Pacific
Halibut Act. So right now there are some
legal uncertainties whether the Federal board
can regulate the take of halibut for
subsistence. Those regulations are now being
worked on and being developed by the North
Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And I
guess their milestone -- or they're looking
towards having the final rule developed and
implemented this coming spring.

So Mr. Chairman, in short, that's

1 our update report on halibut. I might say
2 that Mr. Samuelson played a key role during
3 the October, 2000 deliberations of the North
4 Pacific Fisheries Management Council, and it
5 was only after -- it was only after -- when
6 they start talking about halibut, one of the
7 options -- there were some varied options in
8 there. One was just a Native eligibility
9 criteria. There was Native plus. And I
10 recall when Mr. Babson, general counsel for
11 NOLA made a report to the counsel that if the
12 North Pacific doesn't do anything, there was
13 likelihood of some kind of legal action by the
14 Native community. And it was only after that
15 that Mr. Penney, who is a sports advocate for
16 the Kenai Peninsula, made that motion with
17 those explicit provisions. And this is just
18 from my recollections.

MR. O'HARA: I bet that hurt. Do
you have any comment, Robin?

MR. SAMUELSON: No.

MR. O'HARA: We do appreciate that
part of the work because we will eventually
get halibut as a subsistence fish, and that is
very, very critical to the entire coastline of
Alaska. Any questions, Council members, on
the halibut issue? Thank you very much, Carl.
We have one more here now to deal with and
that would be the Federal coordinator. Pat,
will you address that? How are you this
morning?

MS. McCLENAHAN: Fine, thank you,
Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat McClenahan. This will
be very brief.

You will recall during our last
meeting in the spring the issue of the State
ADF&G funding for their participation in the
Federal subsistence program arose rather
abruptly during our meeting. This past May
the funding issues were taken care of for
2000, and an agreement was reached to resolve
a longer-term funding support for ADF&G
liaison and for coordination staffing for 2002
and beyond 2002. This has resulted in full
coordination between ADF&G and the Federal
program once again, because State support for

1 overall coordination and collaboration on
2 protocol development is a high priority and
3 additional funding is being sought and is
4 anticipated to be made available. This has
5 the highest support from both the Federal
6 Subsistence Board and from the highest levels
7 of ADF&G. That concludes my remarks. If you
8 have any questions?

9 MR. O'HARA: Any questions,
10 Council members? Being funded, maybe I missed
11 a dollar amount in here if it's in our packet.

12 MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't have that
13 for you. I'm sorry.

14 MR. O'HARA: That's okay.

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: There's an
16 agreement document that has been renewed
17 yearly and has been renewed and may be a
18 longer-term one now. I'm sorry, I don't know
19 what the amount is. Whatever that amount is
20 it will be elevated in the near future.

21 MR. O'HARA: That is marching on,
22 though?

23 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, it is. It's
24 under control.

25 MR. O'HARA: Thank you very much.
26 Appreciate that a lot. King Salmon Fisheries,
27 I believe, is next. We finished with Alaska
28 Peninsula-Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
29 yesterday. King Salmon Fisheries, Jim Larson
30 and crew. Jim, how are you?

31 MR. LARSON: Fine. Jim Larson.
32 I'm the project leader of the King Salmon
33 Fishery Resource office, U.S. Fish and
34 Wildlife Service. I just wanted to give you
35 an update on our activities this summer. I'm
36 going to start with Kevin Simms. He's going
37 to talk about our Togiak Video Salmon
38 Enumeration Project. That's a
39 subsistence-funded program. So Kevin is a
40 biological technician that did the work this
41 summer. So he'll give you a little high-tech
42 update of what we did.

1
2 MR. SIMMS: Like Jim said, my name
3 is Kevin Simms. This summer we were trying to
4 develop a method of counting salmon on the
5 Ongivinuik River, a tributary to the Togiak,
6 using some video technology. I'm working off
7 methods that were developed by Tad Otis with
8 the ADF&G. Basically what we found is that
9 the project is possible to do. We had some
10 problems producing power out on the wilderness
11 area, but we feel that we can overcome these
12 issues. And with a few changes in stuff it is
13 possible to run the video escapement project
14 on these tributaries, and we want to move into
15 the main river eventually. But using the
16 tributaries, the count in the tributaries
17 eventually will give us an index for the runs
18 of not just the sockeye salmon that the tower
19 is already counting, but all salmon species in
20 the river. We've got a little bit of a video
21 clip just to kind of show you guys what we've
22 been doing.

23 (Video clip was shown.)

24 MR. SIMMS: You can see the fish
25 moving up the stream there. What we did is we
26 set up four cameras, two above-water cameras
27 and two below-water cameras. You can see what
28 we were looking at with the cameras; the
29 above-water cameras counting the fish and the
30 below-water cameras determining species, which
31 has been one of the major issues in the Togiak
32 River.

33 MR. LARSON: He was just going to
34 show some pictures of the site and show the
35 cameras and stuff. Mainly we wanted to show
36 the underwater video. I think there's a lot
37 of potential for this technology and we're
38 going to continue to look at its application
39 in other areas. We still have a lot of work
40 to do on the Togiak River. I mean, the
41 ultimate goal there is to estimate the
42 escapement of all the salmon species in there.
43 It's been an ongoing issue and we have one
44 more year of exploratory work. The
45 tributaries is kind of a fall-back position.
46 We would still like to do an overall estimate
47 and to do that we have to get into the main

1 river. So we're going to probably focus on
2 the main river this coming year to see what we
3 can do. But it definitely has more turbidity
4 issues. That's why we tried to run sonar in
there in the past. Anyway, we're going to
continue to develop that program. Any
questions about the video stuff?

5 MR. HEYANO: Is this going to take
6 the place of the weir?

7 MR. LARSON: Yeah. The weir --
8 basically last year we gave a presentation
9 saying it's not feasible. Togiak River is
10 just way too big. We did a feasibility the
11 year before and actually produced a report.
12 It's too deep; it's too fast. Without getting
13 the Corps of Engineers in there -- if we
wanted to develop a hydroelectric project,
it's probably feasible to put a weir in the
Togiak, but -- and you're looking at a very
major, major structure to do the Togiak. It's
way beyond what we think we're capable of
doing. That's why we're looking at these
alternatives.

14 MR. O'HARA: Kevin, the water is
15 clear there, obviously, most of the time. Is
that right?

16 MR. SIMMS: Yeah, in the
17 tributaries?

18 MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh.

19 MR. SIMMS: Yeah, the water is
20 clear. We actually did some visibility
21 comparisons in the Togiak River compared to
the Ongivinuk. It seems later in the season
it's definitely clear enough that these
cameras will work.

22 MR. O'HARA: I guess what I relate
23 that to is I had the privilege of going up the
24 Yukon and the Kuskokwim with a subsistence
25 team and some of the Federal board members
invited some of us to come along, which was
really a great privilege to be able to see
what they do up there in subsistence because
it's so different from what we do over here.

1 They would have little nets that they would
2 drift with different mesh sizes for a period
3 of time and try to calculate over a period of
4 time what species of salmon they were catching
5 and it was really, really difficult because
6 the river has a lot of snags and a lot wood in
7 it during this period of time. You could put
8 your hand in and you couldn't see your hand.
9 This would not work in that system?

10 MR. SIMMS: I don't think so.

11 MR. O'HARA: They really need a
12 counting system there. I don't know what the
13 answer is.

14 MR. LARSON: The Togiak has some
15 of those problems early on. It's pretty
16 turbid. We tried to operate gillnets and it's
17 a highly biased gear.

18 MR. O'HARA: They've tried sonar.
19 They use it all the time.

20 MR. LARSON: But when you've got
21 five species, I would be very cautious.

22 That's it for the video.

23 The other person here is Mike
24 Edwards. He's a recent addition to our
25 permanent staff. He was hired under the
in-season management position funded by
subsistence. That's only kind of part of his
duties. He's also doing resource monitoring.
He operated -- supervised the Ugashik tower
project and then he provides the staff support
for the in-season management. I also expect
him to do a lot of our office coordination
with the local Native groups and project
identification and initiation. He's going to
multi-task for us as he learns the ropes
around Bristol Bay, although he has been here
for several years as a technician. So he's
not new to Bristol Bay, and actually is
probably one of the few people, other than the
board members, that was born in Alaska.
Anyway, Mike is going to give a quick update
on the Ugashik tower project. That's another
subsistence-funded project basically. I'll
let Mike talk.

1 MR. EDWARDS: Good morning. Like
2 Jim said, my name is Mike Edwards with the
3 King Salmon Fisheries office. Our office
4 began the operation of the enumeration tower
5 at the outlet of Lower Ugashik Lake on the
6 26th of July at the conclusion of the State's
7 sockeye counting operation, and we continued
8 counting through the 28th of September. The
9 first coho were not seen until the 2nd of
10 August, and then the highest daily count we
11 had occurred on the 16th of September when we
12 had an estimated 534 coho pass the tower. For
13 the season, the total estimated escapement in
14 the Ugashik Lakes was 3,606 fish. Of our
15 sampling, what age and sex sampling we were
able to complete, we determined that 82
percent of the run were age two-one fish,
which are actually four-year-old fish, and
that falls right in line with all the
available data for other coho stocks in
Bristol Bay. It seems that most coho stocks
in Bristol Bay seem to be two-one fish. This
was the first year of running the tower, so
we've got two more years of counting there.
We're exploring the option of taking some of
Kevin's video equipment down there and seeing
if we can do video escapement down there and
actually get counts 24 hours a day instead of
the way the current counts are conducted.

16 MR. O'HARA: Any questions,
17 Council members? Well, we appreciate being
18 able to get an idea. I think one of the
19 biggest concerns we've had -- and I hope money
20 is somewhere available -- to try to figure out
21 what's happening with the fishery after July
the 23rd or whatever. We've had a pretty
abundant amount of silvers this past fall.

22 Thank you very much for your
23 report. Is there anything else, Jim?

24 MR. LARSON: Yes, just a quick
25 update on a few other projects. Actually, on
that Ugashik, we were pretty surprised of the
low run in there. We'll continue that
project. Definitely we were expecting a
higher run. That was a good cooperative
project with the BBNA and the State. We had a
staff member from the State. We had a couple
people from BBNA kind of cycle through. It's

1 real important to have some consistency and I
2 think BBNA has been real good to work with on
3 that to provide some people. We identified
4 some real sharp people there that I think will
benefit a lot of the monitoring programs here
in Bristol Bay provided by Bristol Bay Native
Association.

5 We have a new project we were able
6 to fund this year with the cooperative Fish
and Wildlife Unit up at university through --
7 we managed to do that through salary savings
this year to look at resident fish in Ugashik
8 Lakes, specifically we want to focus in on
whitefish and some of the other fish that
9 haven't been looked at. That was kind of born
out of a lot of what we're hearing from this
Council and around the area about a general
decline in some of these other resident fish.
10 We're going to take a little different bent
from just salmon monitoring and look at some
11 of the ecology in some lakes. We chose
Ugashik because we had some other funding,
12 some matching funds from BRD to do some lake
trout work. So we're going to combine this
13 and we're putting on a couple graduate
students and we'll be starting that work this
14 coming year.

Another interesting project that
15 we did this summer was we took core samples
from Ugashik and Becharof Lakes. This is part
16 of Dr. Bruce Finney's long-term productivity
work. He looks at the core samples and
17 relates that back to sockeye salmon
productivity. We believe these samples will
18 probably be able to go back at least several
thousand years to document what the historical
19 run sizes were. He's done a little bit of
work on shorter cores and those went back 3-
20 or 400 years. Maybe some of you have seen
some of his presentations. He's had samples
21 out of Bristol Bay and Kodiak and Southeast.
This is a continuation and an expansion of
22 that work. The idea is to get longer cores
and he really wanted to go back to basically
23 the Ice Age, 10- to 13,000 years ago, but we
weren't quite able to do that.

24 Then the other projects. We have
three weir projects and we're continuing on
25 our limnology work in Becharof and Ugashik.
That's the end of our briefing.

1
2 MR. O'HARA: Good. Any questions,
Council members? Yes, Pete.

3 MR. ABRAHAM: I know we have a lot
4 of these projects in the summertime that go on
in Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon. I'm going
5 to speak for Refuge information technicians we
have around here. The Refuge information
6 technicians are on-call people. Us in Bristol
Bay side over here, some of us fish during the
7 summer, but the Yukon-Kuskokwim area up there,
there's a lot of RIT's up there that need a
8 job, you know, on summer projects. A few of
them work in Togiak River over there. They
9 are, well, I can't say -- they are reliable
people, because they have a knowledge of a lot
10 of things and a lot of ways, especially the
boat motor, navigation, even working with
11 biologists and all. There was some complaints
in Bethel area that they like to work, because
12 a lot of those people work maybe 40 hours in
two month's time, and they are supporting --
they have big families. They're doing a
13 tremendous job on information for the Refuges.
Like, for instance, me, you know, if I work
14 ten hours in one month, I mean, that helps.
But fortunately I worked in Togiak River, I
15 think, about a week. I enjoyed it very much
over there. Keep that in mind with the Refuge
16 managers for openings like that, because I'm
pretty sure they would be willing to work with
17 you guys because they're already working for
the Refuges already anyway. That's all I
18 have. Thank you.

19 MR. O'HARA: Thank you, Pete.
20 Anything else, gentlemen?

21 MR. LARSON: Yeah. I'd say
there's tremendous opportunity for employment.
22 We've basically doubled our seasonal staff
with the subsistence project. I know the
23 other offices have too. Out of the Bethel
area there's a lot of money going towards the
24 Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim projects, just like
what we're doing, either weir or assessment
25 projects. A lot of opportunity there. It's
good to identify those people. We definitely
want to get the local people more involved.

1 There's employment opportunities. I see it
2 just getting better.

3 MR. O'HARA: Thank you very much.
4 We appreciate this report Mike, Kevin and Jim.
5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. HEYANO: When do you expect
7 the information to be available from the core
8 samples?

9 MR. LARSON: I don't know. It's a
10 contract with the university, and the person
11 that's doing it is basically going into
12 sabbatical. I think there will be some
13 preliminary stuff fairly soon. We collected
14 the cores this summer, and I would think
15 they'd be excited to look at it. I don't know
16 when a formal report will come. I'd hope this
17 winter.

18 MR. O'HARA: Any other questions,
19 Council members?

20 MR. HEYANO: One more, Mr.
21 Chairman. The 30-some-hundred coho escapement
22 into the Ugashik, how does that compare with
23 previous years? And did the State -- I
24 believe in the past that was calculated
25 through aerial surveys by the State. Did the
26 State conduct any surveys this year?

27 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. This year's
28 flight count were 3,240 and the year before he
29 counted 4,400 in the two Ugashik lakes, which
30 was his highest count in four years of flying.
31 So it seems like -- we're right on his
32 four-year average of flying was 2,400 in the
33 Ugashik lakes. That's the only historical
34 data we have on the coho runs in the lakes.

35 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

36 MR. O'HARA: All right. Thank
37 you. Any other questions, Council members?
38 We appreciate it a lot. We would like to have
39 the National Park Service, Katmai, Lake Clark
40 Park and Preserve. Deb Liggett is not here
41 today, but Mary McBurney and Karen Stickman
42 are here today. Come up and give us a report,

1 if you would, please.

2 MS. McBURNEY: Good morning. Do
3 you mind if we all sit with Aniakchak? Come
on up, Tom.

4 MR. TOM O'HARA: Strength in
5 numbers.

6 MR. O'HARA: Thorn in my couple of
gorgeous roses.

7 MS. McBURNEY: Well, I would like
8 to just also extend the apologies of Deb
Liggett for not being able to be here today.
9 Unfortunately her schedule didn't allow for
it, but she wanted me to let you know that she
10 had planned on being at the original meeting
date. So she will join us again probably in
the spring.

11 Let's bring you up to date on
12 what's going on at least in Lake Clark and
then we'll just sort of work our way through
13 the park units in the area. One of the,
probably, I guess, most potentially
14 controversial actions that we took this last
summer was implementing -- basically begin
15 enforcing an existing regulation in Lake Clark
which basically prohibited the use of fishing
16 nets in parks and monuments and preserves
except for qualified Federal subsistence
17 users. We did an awful lot of homework ahead
of time to inform residents, local residents
of this action.

18 We also took a great deal of care
19 in also contacting as many of the folks that
we knew that had subsistence-fished under
State regulations, but that were not local
20 rural residents as well. So, fortunately,
even though we had prepared for the worst in
21 terms of perhaps having a great deal of
controversy, it did not turn out to be a great
22 controversy at all. Rather, I think people
really understood the action that we took, and
23 as a result, people got the fish that they
needed for the most part that lived in Port
24 Alsworth and Nondalton. And those folks that
had fished under the Federal subsistence -- or
25 rather the State subsistence rules, but that
were not rural residents, were able to secure

1 their fish in other ways. So essentially we
2 did not have any enforcement actions that were
3 related to this particular action at all, and
4 we anticipate that this coming year will
5 probably remain the same. So public education
6 really did appear to help in this respect.

7 And this was also a busy summer
8 for Karen Stickman. She and Andrew Balluta
9 have been working as co-investigators on a
10 traditional ecological knowledge project.
11 I'll turn it over to Karen to let you know
12 what she has done up to this point.

13 MS. STICKMAN: My name is Karen
14 Stickman. The name of the project was
15 Collection of TEK on Harvest Patterns of
16 Sockeye Salmon and Other Fresh Water Fish Use
17 for Subsistence in Nondalton. Like Mary said,
18 Andrew and I worked as the investigators. We
19 hired two interns from the high school in
20 Nondalton and they worked with us. We
21 conducted 14 interviews with local elders and
22 other residents. Most of the interview
23 questions had to do with the harvest and use
24 of salmon, and we also asked questions on
25 other fish for subsistence in the area. This
26 winter we plan on incorporating the
27 information into the GIS database for Lake
28 Clark and we'll be transcribing the
29 interviews. And we're planning on completing
30 the TEK project by next spring.

31 Andrew, do you have anything to
32 add to this?

33 MR. BALLUTA: No, I don't have
34 anything to add.

35 MR. O'HARA: Is that it, Karen?

36 MS. STICKMAN: Yeah. I think it
37 was a successful project with the interviews
38 this summer. People were really open and
39 willing to share. Personally, this is really
40 important to me, collecting TEK. I think it's
41 just as important as the western science
42 that's being conducted continually throughout
43 our region. One of the things we're going to
44 be doing is comparing what we have collected
45 with Carol Ann Woody's project and just see
46 what the comparisons are. So once the report

1 is done, we'll be getting that to you by next
2 spring.

3 MR. O'HARA: Now, in this
4 research, Karen, you were doing local fish?
5 You're talking about trout. What were you
6 looking at here in this project?

7 MS. STICKMAN: Most of the trout
8 species, like rainbow, grayling, whitefish,
9 burbot. Most of the subsistence trout
10 species.

11 MR. O'HARA: Did you look in
12 places like Tazimina or Sixmile Lake or how do
13 you do this?

14 MS. STICKMAN: We used a map and
15 we had people point out the subsistence
16 harvest areas and also changes over time.
17 Like, for example, salmon, spawning areas for
18 salmon. People see changes with where salmon
19 used to spawn and they don't anymore. So it
20 was basically pointing out on the map and
21 talking about the different locations. And
22 also place names, we gathered the Dena'ina
23 Athabaskan name of the place names and we're
24 going to be transcribing the meaning of the
25 place names also this winter.

16 MR. O'HARA: There's a little
17 creek above Tazimina that goes into a lake and
18 a lot of whitefish go into there. There's
19 been a lot of complaints. We have gone to
20 Nondalton for other meetings on the decline of
21 salmon, of course, and then the amount of
22 trout taken in Tazimina, people were concerned
23 about that too. We appreciate you looking at
24 that. I've often wondered how that little
25 lake is doing. In seemed like in the past
there was a lot of whitefish in there. I
don't know if it still exists or not.

22 MS. STICKMAN: From the
23 information we collected on the interviews,
24 there's not as much. In the reports we got
25 there's not as much whitefish and there is
concern from a lot of the local people about
this.

1 MR. O'HARA: I think our decline
2 in salmon is going to be having a long-range
3 effect on a lot of species for a long time to
4 come. Any questions, Council members?

5 MS. KELLY: In the interviews did
6 you ask questions about the harvest of fish,
7 whether the levels have gone up or down?

8 MS. STICKMAN: Yes, we did.

9 MS. KELLY: So what was the trend?
10 There was more harvest prior to --

11 MS. STICKMAN: It's been -- a lot
12 of the reports were the last four or five
13 years it's gone down, the salmon population
14 has gone down, and also some of the trout
15 species, there's been a decline in that. And
16 then the size of some of the trout species and
17 also salmon. The reports of smaller -- the
18 fish being smaller in some of the trout
19 species and salmon.

20 MR. O'HARA: Okay. All right.
21 Andy, go ahead.

22 MR. BALLUTA: Also, we have a lot
23 of spawning area that used to be spawning area
24 that's declined. There's no spawning in
25 there. One of the creeks up there in Lake
Clark used to be the biggest spawning creek in
Lake Clark and it's dead now.

MR. HEYANO: Question for Mary.
How did the non-Federal subsistence users
obtain their sockeye salmon?

MS. McBURNEY: I'm assuming
through sport fisheries outside of the Park
and Preserve or subsistence fisheries outside
of the Park and Preserve.

MR. O'HARA: That was a big
concern of Lee's when this was implemented.
It had to be the qualified subsistence users
in the area that could use the fish and
non-qualified people could not. And it went
off pretty well because of the projection of
runs in the area.

1
2 MS. MCBURNEY: I just reminded
3 myself that I actually brought examples of the
4 brochures we sent out to everyone as well just
5 so you can kind of get a sense of how we
6 introduced the concept to the public and
7 communicated the message.

8 MR. O'HARA: Thank you. Anything
9 else, Mary?

10 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes. Let me just
11 move on a little bit here. Karen has been
12 quite busy. She's also working with John
13 Branson right now wrapping up a calendar
14 project that we hope to have done and in the
15 mailboxes by the middle of December just in
16 time for the Christmas season. But this is a
17 new concept, a new project for the Lake Clark
18 Subsistence Program. We're going to be
19 putting out a subsistence calendar that is
20 illustrated with various photographs of
21 contemporary and historical subsistence
22 activities. Then the calendar itself will
23 have dates pertaining to open seasons, closed
24 seasons, various holidays, various bits of
25 information regarding the Federal subsistence
meeting cycle as well. So this will be
something new for us and we're looking forward
to getting feedback from all of the residents
of our resident-zoned communities who will be
receiving copies.

We'll be sure to put you on the
mailing list as well.

To wrap up for Lake Clark.
Currently the National Park Service has a
pilot project that is just in the formative
stages right now for training fisheries
biotechnicians, and the goal of this project
is to develop a program to train local
residents to become biotechnicians to fill
positions on NPS, National Park Service,
subsistence and other fishery resource
research projects.

And Lake Clark has been chosen as
the site for this first year for the pilot
project, which is going to be scheduled for
this coming year, 2002. And the overarching
objective for this is going to be to develop a
program that can be used throughout the

1 National Park system in Alaska so that various
2 local parks and monuments can put on basically
3 training programs, so that they can basically
4 train local residents to fill available
5 biotechnician programs and kind of bring them
6 into the Federal employment system.

7 Now, moving on to Katmai. The
8 Katmai subsistence staff again assisted with
9 the distribution of Tier II caribou permits.
10 I believe Tom tag-teamed with Orville Lind to
11 get the job done this year. Of interest to
12 the Council is also progress that's being made
13 on the Kokhanok ORV study. At this point Don
14 Callaway is compiling oral histories and other
15 information regarding ORB use in Igiugig. The
16 project had been expanded, I believe last
17 year, to include Igiugig so that the Park
18 Service could get a more complete sense of the
19 history of use by the communities in the area
20 and whatever use that they may have within
21 Katmai Preserve. So Don is planning on having
22 that pretty much wrapped up, I believe, by the
23 spring. So that will be an opportunity for us
24 to be able to report back to you on the
25 progress there.

Also, Don Callaway, Jeanne Schaff
and Bill Schneider from the Project Jukebox
project with the University of Alaska in
Fairbanks have basically completed their work
on producing a CD-Rom based project of oral
histories that were conducted in King Salmon,
South Naknek, Kakhonak, Levelock and Igiugig.
I believe that a copy of that is now on
display, or at least available for public
access, at the visitors' center here in King
Salmon. I know that the chairman had an
opportunity to accompany Don and Bill
Schneider and actually see the CD-Rom and the
program, how it turned out. And one of the
things that I would like to offer to the
Council is in the spring, if time and
opportunity present itself, that we have Bill
Schneider and Don Callaway come and share the
Project Jukebox product. This is something
that we would like to see perhaps even
expanded in this area if there's interest.

And, finally -- not finally. On
the Alagnak, to bring you up to date there.
We had more river ranger coverage this year.
There were two river rangers that were

1 assigned to the Alagnak, which greatly
improved our law enforcement coverage of the
2 river corridor this year. Fortunately, even
with the better coverage, or maybe because of
3 the better coverage there were no serious
offenses that were reported. And it does
4 appear that the stronger law enforcement
presence, though, we did make more contacts
5 with people so there were more verbal
warnings, a few more citations for minor
6 violations. This is something that we're
planning on continuing. And, in addition,
7 these two river rangers also are partnered up
with State of Alaska Fish and Game protection
8 officers and Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Coast
9 Guard for various projects and controls over
the summer season.

10 One thing that will be coming up
next year that may be of interest to you is
11 that the Katmai Biological Resources Division
is going to be working with the University of
12 Washington to conduct a social science survey
of the Alagnak in 2002. The idea is to
13 document the actual use of the river by three
different user groups, if you will. And those
14 would be the commercial users, the private
users and the subsistence users. And it's a
15 different kind of concept that they're trying
to get their hands around. It's trying to
16 quantify, if you will, the quality of
experience that these individual groups have
17 when they're out on the river. Now, exactly
how the study is designed and how they're
18 going to go about collecting this information
is not entirely clear to me. But it sounds
19 like kind of an interesting model that they're
going after, as opposed to just looking at,
20 say, number of fish or number of animals that
people are harvesting. They're actually
21 trying to get to, was it a satisfying
experience? Was it what you expected? And,
22 if not, why not? So I'll be looking forward
to seeing how that's put together and what the
23 responses come out to be. It should be very
interesting.

24 Finally, we get to the Aniakchak
National Monument and Preserve. And the
25 Aniakchak SRC was scheduled originally to meet
in November, but there has been some

1 difficulty with the Federal register. And one
2 of the new policies of the Federal register is
3 they would like to have meetings noticed
4 anywhere from 60 to 90 days in advance, which
5 for SRC purposes is a little bit difficult.
6 Because of that, it sort of messed up our
7 plans for the Lake Clark SRC meeting, which we
8 had scheduled prior to this Regional Council
9 meeting so that they would have an opportunity
10 to comment on items that you would be
11 considering. But unfortunately the Federal
12 register notice was not posted in time, and
13 also the events of September 11th also had an
14 effect on timing as well. And so we ended up
15 having a subsistence workshop where Karen and
16 I provided briefings on what was going on in
Lake Clark. But as a result, the Aniakchak
SRC was not able to schedule a meeting for
their traditional meeting time in November.
Right now we do have placeholder dates that
have been identified in February so that we
can meet that 60- to 90-day deadline. And the
way that the Federal register notice is
written, there is some latitude for changing
the time and place of those dates if they
don't end up being entirely convenient to the
SRC members.

That being said, I would like to
go ahead and turn the rest of the report over
to Tom O'Hara, our subsistence pilot for
Aniakchak.

MR. TOM O'HARA: Good afternoon,
or morning, Council and Chair, Dad. My name
is Tom O'Hara. I'm the pilot for Katmai
National Park and Aniakchak and the Alagnak.
I'm also involved in law enforcement for all
three areas and work with the SRC group down
in Aniakchak. You had a bunch of concerns
yesterday that you hit Fish and Wildlife with
pretty hard about their monitoring of moose
hunters and the subsistence harvest and
non-subsistence take. Right off the bat, I'll
tell you we did a lousy job of monitoring our
three areas this year. Correction, two areas
we didn't do a very good job on. The Alagnak
we actually covered fairly well. Some of the
reasons being that the terrorist attacks kind
of grounded our airplanes, so that kind of put
some of us out of business for a while. Folks

1 in the Alagnak were in boats, so they were
able to continue doing their job.

2 We had budget shortfalls. One of
3 our biggest concerns was that we had some ATV
4 activity from some of the villages interfering
5 with lawful hunts. So that took some of our
6 time to deal with those and out of short
7 seasons it just took up a little too much
8 time. Fish and Game, like you guys know, they
9 were short-handed this year. They still have
10 an advantage; they have a helicopter and they
11 can just drop in and check on camps.

12 Fish and Wildlife probably did the
13 best job of covering their area. Dave was out
14 there every single day with either one plane
15 or another plane, out there checking camps.
16 Our moose surveys this last year were very
17 difficult to accomplish with no snow. Kind of
18 hard to get a good count, accurate count. We
19 only got one of our areas done out of two that
20 we were concerned about. So hopefully this
21 year with a little snow we'll be able to get
22 our moose counts done. Hopefully, we'll start
23 those tomorrow.

24 We've got a lot of proposed
25 changes for our monitoring next year. We knew
right off the bat that we didn't do a good job
of covering our areas. Next year we're
planning on having two planes, two pilots
during the moose seasons, and getting out in
the field and actually checking kill sites and
seeing how much meat is actually being taken
out. Just educating our seasonal law
enforcement officers more. It's hard to get
local hire guys to come out and work during
moose season, or a lot of times during the
summer even. So educating our staff is one of
the biggest things for us and teaching them
what is usable meat from the ears to the tail.
So our concession specialist is also working
at getting us some more numbers.

One of your biggest concerns is
harvest by non-subsistence users, and we have
in Aniakchak, in the Preserve, we have three
commercial operators that can use that and
guide in it. And in Katmai Preserve we have
two commercial operators that are legal guides
to work in that area and that's it. Then you
take and look at the amount of people that you
can drop off by air taxis. And numbers I

1 pulled up real quick, thanks to Mary being
2 able to use a computer very well, is it looks
3 like we have close to 60 air taxis that can
4 drop off hunters in these areas and 18 big
5 game transporters. So, rough numbers, it
6 looks like 85 planes and five boat operators
7 could drop off hunters at any given time.

8 If you were able to -- us as
9 Federal employees can't even think about
10 changing one of the laws which you guys talked
11 about yesterday a little bit, was changing the
12 status of moose to a big game animal. That's
13 a State regulation. It would have to take a
14 State law change to include moose as a big
15 game animal or it would have to be guided.
16 That would sure eliminate a lot of our
17 difficulties. You get numbers from the State
18 as well. The State says that close to 90, 95
19 percent of their moose violations are by
20 non-resident, non-guided hunters who have no
21 clue of how much work it is to take a moose
22 out of the field. So, therefore, they get
23 part of it out and they go home. And 90 to 95
24 percent of their tickets they write are on
25 those folks. Very few tickets are written on
our guided hunts. They just have too much at
stake, too much to lose.

So if you guys were able to change
those regs in any way, that would be even more
of a help to us. I think since 1996 we've had
a total of 47 moose taken out of the Aniakchak
area. So that's, what, five years. So we're
looking at about nine moose a year, 10 moose a
year out of that area. And we don't have a
clue, you know, how many drop-off hunts we're
missing, how many moose are being taken out of
there that we can't control. So if you have
any ideas of how we can do things better, we
want to do that. That's about all I have.

MR. O'HARA: Council members, any
questions? Robert.

MR. HEYANO: Thanks. Then, the
people who hunt in Unit 9E, I believe it is,
aren't required to do the State Fish and Game
video on how to take care of meat and et
cetera?

MR. TOM O'HARA: No, that's only

1 17B, I believe.

2 MR. O'HARA: They're working on
it, though, at the visitors' center to try to
3 get that done.

4 MR. LEESIK: We requested both --
there's two different videos. There's one for
5 judging antler size on a moose and one on
field-taking of meat, two classes that the
6 State offers, and we have requested from the
State to get copies of those to be in the
7 visitors' center. We're also talking with air
taxi operators. We might make it a special
8 condition that they require their people
before they go out in the field to watch those
9 videos.

10 MR. O'HARA: Anything else?

11 MR. HEYANO: A couple more, Mr.
Chairman. Transporters are required to
12 document where they take --

13 MR. TOM O'HARA: To the State?

14 MR. HEYANO: To the State. So
that information should be available.

15
MR. TOM O'HARA: Right. If you
16 can figure out how to pull it up or get it
from the State. Becky is working on getting
17 harvest numbers from all of our commercial
operators. That's something she's working on,
18 changing our regulations for the paperwork
that people who get permits with us to work as
19 air taxis. And she's probably going to be the
one that can help us figure out how to get
20 those numbers from the State to incorporate
those in with all the numbers to add them all
21 up and get one total number.

22 MR. O'HARA: Any other questions?

23 MS. McBURNEY: I just might add
that that's going to be as of this coming
24 year. It is going to be a requirement that
each of those air taxis, that they are going
25 to provide that harvest information that they
provide to the State, so that will also be

1 reported back to us so we get a sense of
2 what's coming out.

3 MR. HEYANO: I think, the way I
4 understand State regulations is air taxis
5 aren't required to fill out any paperwork to
6 take hunters into the field, because they're
7 basically on a charter rate; whereas
8 transporters can actually have a fixed number
9 for taking a group of people out and they're
10 required to do the paperwork. So I don't
11 think there is an existing law that requires
12 air taxis to do paperwork on drop-off hunters.

13 MS. McBURNEY: My understanding
14 that what Becky is going to be requiring,
15 though -- which is why I handed out this kind
16 of passel of papers -- to give you kind of a
17 sense of how many incidental business permits,
18 for example, which is where these air taxis
19 come under. So as a condition of the
20 incidental business permit, those air taxi
21 operators would be reporting, you know,
22 whatever harvest there might be from hunters
23 that they take in and drop off.

24 MR. HEYANO: One more, Mr.
25 Chairman. Can you elaborate a little more on
this ATV issue and possible interference with
lawful hunting activities? What's happening
there?

MR. TOM O'HARA: Well, some of the
local communities are taking ATVs into the
Preserve and running them through the swamps
and tearing up land that we have discussed
that there's areas that you really shouldn't
drive an ATV in. The Preserve in Aniakchak is
not legal for ATV use. We're kind of waiting
for Igiugig and Kakhanok to get their study
done to see how that goes. The SRC wants to
wait and see which way that goes. If it
doesn't go good, they want to try a different
route. If it goes good, they want to take the
same route. They would like to be able to
have access into some of those areas. Right
now we're doing this number (indicating) part
of the time if they'll keep it out of
sensitive areas. We know it's a local
concern, but when they are using ATVs and

1 running around real close to other camps and
2 interfering with other people that are legally
3 hunting, that have a right to be there also,
4 then it takes us away from our other
5 monitoring and we have to go find them and
6 talk to them and do a little more education.

7 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

8 MR. O'HARA: Do you have anything
9 else, Robert?

10 MR. HEYANO: No. Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12 MR. O'HARA: I guess, Tom, we
13 appreciate you coming before the Council
14 today. But I want to again -- I believe the
15 Federal Preserve and Park -- and it's hard to
16 differentiate different land uses -- is
17 considerably smaller down in Aniakchak area
18 for moose as compared to what the Refuge is
19 doing.

20 MR. TOM O'HARA: We're tiny
21 compared to Fish and Wildlife's land and State
22 land.

23 MR. O'HARA: We see the decline in
24 caribou. Granted, a hunter takes 15 minutes
25 by Cherokee from Port Heiden up to Joe Kluch's
camp in Meshik; that's 15 minutes of flying
time at 125 knots. That's a long way from a
subsistence user. However, the hue and cry
comes against the Joe Klutch's of the world.
What I guess we need to do in this Council is
to make sure that we keep a good healthy
population going, and even, if possible, keep
these guides and hunters away from the people
who have a 25 horse motor, who don't have a
185 on amphibious boats and \$250,000 worth of
equipment for \$15,000 per moose clients. It's
a whole different ballgame. We want that
population to remain healthy so that the
subsistence users can have access to some
moose, at least. They can't even begin to
compete with the drop-off people. There's
just no way.

26 We appreciate the report this
27 morning. As we mentioned to the Refuge

1 people, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, whoever they
2 are, a bunch of people, we really would like
3 to continue to have a good moose count in the
area, and I guess you're going to be doing
that shortly, huh?

4 MR. TOM O'HARA: Yeah. In this
5 last couple of years we've, with Dave Cox
6 being there and Pete being at the State, we've
7 worked real hard at the three of us picking
8 out areas where, okay, we'll go here, you're
9 going there, and somebody else go over here.
10 We really try to communicate where we're going
11 and what we're doing so we can cover the most
12 area. Our chief ranger is also working on
13 trying to make it so we can be legally
14 deputized by the State to also land on State
15 lands. I mean, we're so restricted to our
16 little five million acres that we have total
17 on the Peninsula. That's all we can work in.
18 We're working on agreements with the State
19 that, you know, to get to Aniakchak we cover a
lot of State land and Federal land. If we see
something, why can't we stop. We're trained
law enforcement officers. They're working on
agreements with that. The State and Fish and
Wildlife have huge areas of land. There's
only four pilots out here, so it's a big job.
I've heard some of your Council members talk
outside the meeting of rumors of buffer zones
around communities. Have you guys looked into
that anymore?

17 MR. O'HARA: February, I would
18 imagine. I'm really seriously considering
19 that. It's very important for the Ugashik
area.

20 MR. TOM O'HARA: Our SRCs would be
21 interested in any information you have before
22 that if you come up with anything. Our SRC
23 likes to meet, the Aniakchak SRC like to meet
24 after this meeting and then just before your
25 next meeting. They want to see what you guys
do at this one, talk about that, and then in
February come up with proposals or concerns
they have before your next meeting. So we're
hopefully going to have an informational
meeting soon, and then a full board meeting
just before your next meeting.

1
2 MR. O'HARA: Just for the purpose
3 of the Council again. You take someone like
4 Upper Ugashik or the guys who have access to
5 with a Lund to go and hunt; then Pumice has
6 the same access with floatplanes. I'm
7 seriously thinking about a 10-mile buffer zone
around some of those area for subsistence use
only on moose and caribou, well, moose. You
go down to Chigniks where guys can go up the
lake and have access there where the guides
have access as well. I've been really thinking
about that.

Anything else, Council members?
Streaming right along. Thank you very much.
Appreciate your report today.

9 The Branch thing, the biologist or
10 the lady that's doing the work on the Alagnak
11 went away, and Deb Liggett's not here today to
12 talk about it and that's fine. Alaska
13 Department of Fish and Game, the last report
14 for the day and then after that any public
15 comment.

Slim, appreciate you being here
today, and Dan.

14 MR. MORISTAD: Good morning,
15 Chairman, members of the board. I handed out
16 yesterday the season summary for the
17 Commercial Fish Division. I'm Slim Moristad
18 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
19 and I'm with the Division of Commercial
20 Fisheries. I won't go through the whole
21 thing; you can just read it. But I guess a
22 couple of the key things: It was fairly close
23 to the forecast of 24-, actual run was 22
24 million versus the 24 million forecast. We
25 made escapements in all systems except, again,
the Kvichak. That had a million escapement.
We were in river on the Naknek to protect the
Kvichak on June 28th. That's the earliest
we've ever done it. One of the significant
things that came about this year was the
composition of the total run. The forecast
was for approximately 50-50, 2-ocean to
3-ocean return. What actually came out is it
was a little over 19 million, 3-ocean and just
a little over three million, 2-ocean return.
So it's going to make a significant -- that's
very significant. And depending on the how

1 the forecast goes for 2002, one wouldn't
2 expect a big 3-ocean forecast for 2002.

3 MR. O'HARA: You had a really big
4 fish in the Naknek river, huh? Massive.

5 MR. MORISTAD: Uh-huh. The
6 largest we've ever seen.

7 MR. O'HARA: The gillnets became
8 seiners, actually, just rolling in. Probably
9 100,000 fish fell out of the nets and died?

10 MR. MORISTAD: I'd go quite a bit
11 higher than that.

12 MR. O'HARA: That's pretty scary.

13 MR. MORISTAD: You could walk for
14 miles and there was fish.

15 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Pretty
16 incredible.

17 Is that all you have to say?

18 MR. MORISTAD: That's all I was
19 going to do. Robin wants to go.

20 MR. O'HARA: Dan?

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Dan
22 Dunaway, Sport Fish Division of Fish and Game
23 based in Dillingham. I'm going to try to keep
24 it short and sweet, too.

25 I handed out a preliminary
summary. I want to make note that I haven't
been able to get it fully approved out of
Anchorage, but I thought I would let this out
to give the basics of what went on. Probably
the most interesting thing is I tried to give
a fairly clear count of how we proceeded in
the Kvichak River drainage with the poor
sockeye run there. I coordinated with Slim
and the Park Service. We invoked the In-river
Management Plan that was adopted by the Board
of Fish, dropped the bag limit to two, and
closed the critical subsistence areas. I
think it worked pretty well.

I also handed out a one-page brief
on the Alagnak Creel Survey that's funded in

1 part by Federal subsistence money. That lists
the main points there. We only succeeded in
2 getting one local person to apply for a
position and we did hire that person. We are
3 just beginning to edit the data, so I don't
really have much more than those brief
4 summaries. I wanted to call your attention --
there had been a question earlier, there's
5 been some discussion that sport fish is
entering into a strategic planning process. I
6 tried to get some more questionnaires to hand
out. There's little cards available, floating
7 around. We're soliciting public input on
that. And the main thrust there is we want to
8 become a more effective division and more
accountable. And we encourage public
9 participation in that. On our web site
there's a place where you can log on and make
10 comments available that way, or you can write
in.

11 The last thing: We're in the
earlier stages of developing future proposals
12 for Federal subsistence funding. We don't
have them prioritized yet, but one of them we
13 would probably submit again is assessment of
sport fish activity on the Newhalen sockeye
14 salmon fishery, Alagnak River rainbow trout
population assessment is another one. A
15 Newhalen River-Tazimina River rainbow trout
population assessment. I know I've heard
16 concerns about that. I've started the early
stages of talking to Jim Larson about
17 coordinating a joint King Salmon project on
the Naknek River. Using their weir on the big
18 creek is an essential part of that program.
That's about all I have.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Any questions,
Council members? Andy, you have to run at
9:30?

21
22 MR. BALLUTA: Yes.

23 MR. O'HARA: Well, thanks for
being here. We'll see you down the road
somewhere.

24 Shirley.

25 MS. KELLY: Why aren't you guys
having a strategic planning meeting in

1 Southwest Alaska?

2 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman, I
3 asked that question too. I think it came down
4 to money. I pushed again when I attended --
5 there is a staff meeting that we did internal
6 strategic planning discussion as well as
7 public meetings and talked to our director
8 about it. He was trying to brainstorm a way
9 to afford one. I think it was a missed
10 opportunity that we didn't have a table or
11 some sort of a presentation at the AFN
12 meeting. I brought that up too. I think
13 other things -- they didn't see that
14 opportunity soon enough to try to find a way
15 to do that. I think it would have been a
16 great deal. But it is available on the
17 Internet or get ahold of me. I can provide
18 the cards and the addresses. I think
19 eventually there may be some point where the
20 advisory committees -- this is really the
21 infant stages, but I think the advisory
22 committees will have an opportunity to provide
23 comments.

24 MR. O'HARA: When does the next
25 advisory committee meet here in Naknek?

MR. MORISTAD: They haven't
scheduled anything.

MR. O'HARA: What were your
numbers for escapement in the Branch?

MR. MORISTAD: Towerwise it was
615,000 for sockeye.

MR. O'HARA: What did you see in
the streams?

MR. MORISTAD: 300,000.

MR. O'HARA: You saw 300,000. On
an average what do you see in there?

MR. MORISTAD: The index goal is
185 for aerial index. We only fly it one
time, so you got to pick the best time and run
timing is different for, say, on the Idavain
and that; whereas in Funnel Creek it was

1 probably 80 percent dead, but yet in Kulik and
2 that it was right on. So we got one time to
3 fly and we just try to pick the best time. So
4 you're missing some and doing okay in the
5 others, unless you flew it two or three
6 different times.

7 MR. O'HARA: But you're probably
8 happy that you got adequate escapement up in
9 that area.

10 MR. MORISTAD: Oh, yeah. It's
11 above its biological escapement goal.

12 MR. O'HARA: What did you get in
13 the Kvichak this year?

14 MR. MORISTAD: About one-one.
15

16 MR. O'HARA: So you're a million
17 short, huh? The subsistence needs seem to
18 have been met up there, however, and I talked
19 to a lot of people and they were at least
20 happy they got a certain amount of fish. Any
21 other questions, Council members? Robert.

22 MR. HEYANO: Thank you. I just
23 need to -- to develop a sport fish strategic
24 plan and hold the meetings in Anchorage,
25 Fairbanks and Juneau and not at least one
26 outside in rural Alaska where probably the
27 premiere sport fishing takes place and the
28 impact to the local residents is probably the
29 greatest. I think that hopefully you can
30 convince your superiors that they need to hold
31 meetings out in rural Alaska so they can get
32 the impacts as to how they would like to see
33 the sport fishery being developed in Alaska.
34 Because they probably feel the impacts greater
35 than any other person living in Alaska, since
36 it happens in their front and back yard. I
37 think hopefully that you can guys can find
38 some funding and have some meetings out in
39 Alaska.

40 I know that the advisory
41 committees here in Bristol Bay are funded for
42 only one meeting. Although the board got
43 their funding, somebody chose to reduce the
44 funding for advisory committees and it brings
45 up a legal question, I guess. You know, you

1 have to have two meetings a year to remain a
2 viable advisory committee. If there's funding
for one, somebody has to work on that.
The question I had for Slim is:
3 When will you be able to tell if the OEG in
the Naknek River actually saves kings and chum
4 salmon?

5 MR. MORISTAD: In numbers, it
looked like it certainly did this year based
6 on -- we put 1.8 up there, but I fished every
tide. Every single tide from June 28th until
7 July 20th, we fished every single tide. We
still put 1.8, and that was centering around
8 the tide stages and it certainly did put more
kings in the system because I saw more. They
9 were less damaged too, based on net scarring
and so forth. So I believe it did. It's a
10 significant cost. But I think the return was
-- we made it for kings.

11
12 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

13 MR. SAMUELSON: So to follow up to
that, these in-river fisheries, you got to
14 fish them harder to get more -- for sockeye to
get more kings up there? Come on, Slim, you
can't make me believe that.

15
16 MR. MORISTAD: Well, when you've
got six million -- when you've got
six-and-a-half million Naknek return, almost 7
17 million Naknek return.

18 MR. SAMUELSON: No, I'm relating
the king escapement to as much fishing as you
19 had in the river. It seems that what the
board was trying to achieve by tinkering with
20 the OEG, bumping it up to two million, was
offset by your opening the fishery in-river.
21 You had an in-river fishery basically all year
here.

22
23 MR. MORISTAD: Uh-huh.

24 MR. SAMUELSON: You must have had
a phenomenal king run, because you had all
this fishing in-the river and you still had
25 more kings escape. Seems like the two didn't
balance out.

1 MR. MORISTAD: I fished the
2 15-foot tide stages, so periods were like
3 three-and-a-half to five hours in length. And
4 I had a tremendous amount of time then in
5 between for movement, and one of the problems
6 you get when you're in-river and if you're
7 trying to control an escapement up to one-one
8 or one-four, you get fish through the low
9 waters, and then that's when you're scooping
10 up the kings in the low waters in the
11 channels. And fishing that amount of time and
12 in the 15-foot tide stages kept a lot of, you
13 know, nets off the bottom. But I would say
14 the king run was larger this year than it was
15 last year or the year before. I won't argue
16 the case there. There were more kings this
17 year.

18 MR. SAMUELSON: In the Naknek
19 drainage how many kings did you have escape?

20 MR. MORISTAD: I counted, aerial
21 survey index flies, it was close to 6,000.

22 MR. O'HARA: Any more questions?
23 Gentlemen, thank you for coming. We
24 appreciate you taking the time to talk to us
25 today.

Any public comments that we would
like to have prior to shutting the meeting
down today? This is Alan.

MR. ASPLUNDE. My name is Alan
Asplunde and I'm a local resident for 70-plus
years. My concern is in reference to the
subsistence waterfowl. And the understanding
I have now is maybe this year we're going to
be fortunate to maybe set some regulation
where it would be actually legal. Right now
they're using a method where it's a household
scoring card that we get, I think, quarterly,
what you've taken and whatever for these last
few years. My concern is to just show you
some history. I told Dan I was going to
filibuster, but I'm not going to really do
that. I'm only going to take about seven
minutes here.

Starting as a young lad, I was
about ten years old in 1940, '41, going up the

1 river here to start doing our waterfowl spring
 2 goose hunt. I used to go with my godfather
 3 and various families that did the same thing.
 4 We used to go up what we call Strawberry Point
 5 which is the end of 18 runway at King Salmon.
 6 That worked well. In the meantime, the
 7 regulators at that time was the Bureau of
 Fisheries and the territorial game warden.
 8 These were the regulators. They were aware we
 9 were doing this. But you did it with an
 10 understanding that you didn't just go shoot
 11 out the whole country. Just took what you
 12 need.

13 In the meantime, the infantry
 14 division that went down to Atu, Adak at the
 15 time was stationed at King Salmon and also the
 16 Army Air Corps and the Corps of Engineers.
 17 Naturally with us shooting right off the end
 18 of the runway, obviously creating a big --
 19 like the enemy is there. So between the
 20 colonel up there and the local leaders of our
 21 time and the people agreed, well, we'll change
 22 that in some way. He said, yeah, we would
 23 prefer if you don't come as far or maybe go
 24 further. So naturally some of the older
 25 people went as far as -- they moved down to
 what we called the Smelt Creek area. Kind of
 what if you said, well, what is King Salmon?
 Back then they called it the Naknek Air Force
 Base. It wasn't King Salmon. The colonel
 said, well, our ammunition storage is right
 across the bridge at King Salmon and the
 embankment's there, so if you go south of
 that, no problem, but we couldn't go north of
 that.

So we went up and started from the
 rapids going north up to Naknek Lake. Things
 were working well. Naturally the aggressive
 younger people would go further up, you know,
 they'd go up to the lake and do hunting. The
 older people would just stay down from Smelt
 Creek south and basically from there down to
 Paul's Creek, the lower flats of Paul's Creek,
 and that was usually where they would
 congregate before they migrate. So as time
 went on, even then during -- we were in the
 rapids area and then one young service person
 wandered off and they lost a person out there
 and found them almost a year later. The idea
 was the enticement of us shooting would create

1 attraction. It was actually off limits for
2 these military people, but you're a young
3 service person, you hear people hunting, you
4 go buy a shotgun and go join them.

5 Anyway, the whole thing was the
6 community was trying to work out moving and
7 trying to establish a place to hunt. The
8 hunting then moved more up to Naknek Lake
9 area, the upper lagoon, the two or three
10 lagoons in that area. People kind of then
11 went up there to -- like as I got older,
12 that's where I went because I even trapped up
13 in that area and did the spring hunt there.
14 We did our spring hunting and took maybe 20 or
15 30 geese and we salted them down for the
16 winter. That's basically what the families
17 did. They just migrated on through and in a
18 week they're gone. So that's fine.

19 Then, as you recall, along came
20 the extension of parks, so that's naturally
21 automatically cut out. Then, the people here
22 that still do this river type subsistence,
23 early goose hunt, they start -- being the
24 military is out of King Salmon area -- some
25 start moving kind of from the rapids on down
26 to Paul's Creek.

27 Then we have a lot of new people
28 moving into King Salmon. We have the FAA
29 station there, a lot of the various agencies
30 and everybody is screaming, oh, them local
31 people, look at that, killing all them poor
32 birds and that. There was a few people that
33 were actually new to our area even that went
34 out hunting there in front of King Salmon. We
35 tried to tell them, we don't want to do that.
36 Move off, stay up in the rapids area or stay
37 down in the swamp creek area. So all of a
38 sudden the last few years -- the Fish and
39 Wildlife had taken over since. The Bureau of
40 Fisheries is long gone.

41 All of a sudden they been doing
42 these surveys in the last, I think, three
43 years -- I don't want to get in a discussion
44 on that. I would just like to make a
45 statement. That then all of sudden they come
46 out and they start zoning the Naknek River.

47 They zone it there no there's no spring
48 hunting basically from Paul's Creek to the
49 park, all the way to the lake. In essence,
50 what you did, you told us there is no

1 subsistence -- you're killing us in one way
 here. Here's a card, tell me how many geese
 2 you got or whatever. I want to be as honest
 -- in the last couple of years I didn't get
 3 any because they had taken my personal hunting
 ground away which was down by Smelt Creek.

4 The reason I feel -- the only
 reason they moved it to arbitrary choose
 5 Paul's Creek, I believe, as the Fish and
 Wildlife's got two houses they built down in
 6 that area. If they're living there, naturally
 it's a good starting point from one agency to
 7 the other one to the park. Shut it down.
 There was no public hearing, no concern about
 8 it other than just telling us, this is a
 no-hunting zone. We want to try to stay
 9 legal. In essence, I guess it's illegal to do
 spring hunt, but they do this survey and they
 10 tell you what to take and what not to take,
 whatever. I felt it was wrong to do it
 11 aggressively without any public input.

What's going to happen now if --
 12 I'm not sure if it's going to be you folks
 become the waterfowl -- it'll be added on to
 13 you as the duty to regulate the waterfowl
 management as a subsistence, or I'm hearing
 14 they might establish a new panel or new board
 to do this. I want to bring to you folks,
 15 whoever it is, to make awareness. Otherwise,
 I feel that for this area they have taken our
 16 waterfowl subsistence right away because this
 is the area where we hunt from. You maybe
 17 heard a few people went to old Libbyville up
 the Kvichak or whatever. To me that's
 18 erroneous. That's people that just moved in
 here the last few years just trying to go out
 19 and find something, because they cannot hunt
 up in the river.

20 What I would like to do is, where
 they would justify, reestablish their
 21 boundaries, and I would agree, because it was
 traditional that we didn't hunt from King
 22 Salmon Creek up to King Salmon to what we
 called Strawberry Point, the end of the
 23 runway. We had an agreement, an understanding
 why. I realize King Salmon is now populated
 24 with various people other than, say, our local
 Native group that do most of the hunting, so
 25 we would just -- honestly, we wouldn't want to
 be hunting in front of them. But we would

1 like to at least maintain that the boundary be
2 changed from Paul's Creek to Smelt Creek north
3 to the park. Because right now all the river
4 frontage on this side of the river is
5 five-acre lots owned by our local shareholders
6 of local village corporation who owns that
7 land.

8 On the other side of the river is
9 South Naknek Village Corporation, owns all
10 that land on that side from these particular
11 boundaries. From Paul's Creek on up, the very
12 first stretch of it's about 1200 feet of a
13 Native allotment. We're hunting in front of
14 somebody's front yard, you know, other than
15 these two buildings that start at Paul's
16 Creek. Basically I just wanted to bring it to
17 you people's attention that somehow I believe
18 there should be public hearings before just
19 arbitrary boundaries are established. I'm
20 thinking if it isn't you folks, they're going
21 to go before this new panel and say, well,
22 this is what we kind of have in place now.
23 Would you adopt or ratify it? And I'm sure
24 them people would if you don't have a public
25 hearing.

With that, I thank you.

MR. O'HARA: Are there any
questions, Council members? Alan, if we
aren't the ones -- yes, come on up, Tom.

TOM (UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER): I just
have a comment on this waterfowl issue. Maybe
it might be a good idea for our next meeting
to get somebody in from our office to talk
about this, bring us all up to date. Because
it sounds like there's some issues there that
need to be brought out and some questions that
need to be answered. That's all I have.

MR. O'HARA: I think what Alan
mentioned here and Pat yesterday, that you
could probably begin looking at some
boundaries that would make subsistence a lot
more comfortable and useful to the local
people who use it. If we're not the entity
that's going to do it, we're going to
definitely influence what they're going to do,
Alan. Thank you very much for speaking to us
today.

1

MR. ASPLUNDE: Yeah. Thanks.

2

MR. O'HARA: We would like to have a committee that would consist of Shirley, Robert and myself to deal with the strategic plan meeting a little later on, perhaps here in Naknek or Dillingham, with the management people to work on the plan. Is there anything else we need to cover? Yes?

6

MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair. Yesterday Ralph Henderson from BBNA faxed me a summary, but the Council needs to take action on one request that he had. There is an executive summary for a Beluga River project on the Kvichak and BBNA would like a representative on this planning committee. And I'll forward that to Ralph and also, if and when they choose to hold a meeting with this planning, I'll see what our office can do in terms of travel to the place.

12

MR. O'HARA: Where is that going to be at?

13

MR. EDENSHAW: That's undetermined yet, but Ralph would like us to forward a name for a representative from the Council to serve on this Kvichak River-Beluga project.

16

MR. O'HARA: Any takers? I'll do it. I'm very interested in this one. We have a lady who used to be the chair of the game board in Anchorage, Laurie Quakenbush, who went to work for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I believe, who I think would be very interested in helping maybe on proposals or documents that would maybe look at this a little more carefully. BBNA, I'm very interested in seeing them doing a scientific study on this issue.

22

Anything else coming before this Council? Thank you very much for being here. We will be back in February. I would like the Council to think that maybe we need to start thinking about a buffer zone around some of the communities for subsistence on moose. Might be a radical idea. Next meeting will be what, February in Dillingham.

25

1 Motion to adjourn, unless there is
2 anything else?

3 MR. SAMUELSON: So moved.

4 MS. KELLY: Second.

5 MR. O'HARA: We're out of here.
6 Thanks.

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1 I, Leslie J. Knisley, Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and
2 foregoing contains a true and correct
3 transcription of the Bristol Bay Federal
4 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting
5 reported by me on the 6th day of November,
6 2001.

7 Leslie J. Knisley
8 Shorthand Reporter
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