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1 BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING
3

4 October 6, 1999
5 8:30 a.m.
6

7 Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers
8 Naknek, Alaska
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chairman
13 Harold R. Samuelsen, Vice Chairman
14 Timothy M. Enright, Secretary
15 Robert Heyano
16 Andrew Balluta
17 Peter M. Abraham
18
19 Jerry Berg, Coordinator

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

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good morning. I'd
6 like to welcome you to our council meeting today, but first
7 we'll call the meeting to order here. It's about what,
8 9:40.....

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 8:45.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 8:45 sounds good. And
13 Smiley said everyone needs to sign in today. And, Jerry,
14 could we establish a quorum?

15

16 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the Bristol
17 Bay Regional Advisory Council in Naknek, October 6th. Dan
18 O'Hara?

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here.

21

22 MR. BERG: Robin Samuelsen?

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Here.

25

26 MR. BERG: John Christianson? Robert
27 Heyano?

28

29 MR. HEYANO: Here.

30

31 MR. BERG: Andrew Balluta?

32

33 MR. BALLUTA: Here.

34

35 MR. BERG: Peter Abraham?

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: Here.

38

39 MR. BERG: Tim Enright?

40

41 MR. ENRIGHT: Here.

42

43 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair, we have a quorum, and
44 Tim -- or John Christianson is ill in Anchorage, and so has
45 an excused absence.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Yes, that
48 Council members will excuse John Christianson. He had to
49 go into Anchorage. Apparently he had pneumonia or
50 something that took place, and he can't be here. He took

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1 Alvin Boskofsky's place on the Council. Okay. Thank you
2 for your nod on that. We appreciate it.

3
4 In the way of just a welcome today, last Saturday
5 we had our native corporation board of directors meetings
6 up in -- no, it was annual shareholders meetings at
7 Nondalton. And, lo and behold, we had more native staff at
8 the meeting than we had shareholders. And I look out here
9 today, and we certainly are gaining on bureaucrats as far
10 as getting more in the audience than we have people coming
11 out to deal with the issues of fish and game. But we're
12 glad to have you here. Got a great staff. And I'd like to
13 welcome you here.

14
15 I think that maybe just in the way of a little
16 introduction this morning before we get to agenda items,
17 that we have a few more to put on, that there's a great
18 deal of confusion going on throughout the entire State of
19 Alaska on what jurisdiction the federal take-over
20 represents. And for the -- for our own understanding,
21 we're only dealing with the federal take-over on federal
22 lands and federal waters, is that right? That's right.
23 Okay. In other words there's no extraterritorial
24 jurisdiction taking place yet. And so wherever you go, all
25 the commercial fishermen and subsistence users think that
26 -- you know, that everything will be shut down for the
27 subsistence user on certain river systems which we have no
28 jurisdiction over whatsoever. None. And the commercial
29 fishermen are worried that the feds are going to start
30 managing fisheries within their watersheds, and that's not
31 true, except maybe in a couple of cases.

32
33 I think the Togiak area is all federal, that's a
34 refuge, if I'm not mistaken. That could be a situation
35 where the feds would have a lot to say over what's going to
36 take place with the fisheries. Chigniks, is that part of
37 the refuge? Who owns the federal land?

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That is mostly private
40 land.

41
42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Corporation.

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Corporation.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The water system, too?

47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Inaudible reply.)

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A lot of federal land out

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1 there anyway. It might be a little different than what --
2 we're not dealing with.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And so what the
7 issue boils down to, so we all understand what's going on,
8 is that the State of Alaska is going to have management of
9 this fish from the time it enters into state waters until
10 it gets to federal lands. And they will deal with the
11 harvest and the escapement and subsistence needs until it
12 gets to federal lands. And the majority of people in
13 Bristol Bay and wherever I travel don't understand that.
14 So it's important that we understand that.

15
16 And then you have something surfacing like this
17 little phony issue of Lake Clark National Park doing a very
18 -- a study on the red salmon up in the area, and I was
19 approached by an individual in Nondalton asking me that if
20 this -- and they're calling this, and maybe we'll have some
21 light shed on this before this meeting is over, but this
22 council needs to be very aware of this. They're calling it
23 a unique salmon. Now, you can take that unique salmon and
24 liken it unto a bill that Congress would pass. By the time
25 the federal government and the people involved with it deal
26 with that bill, you'd never recognize it by the time it got
27 to the streets. So when Lake Clark begins doing a unique
28 study on sockeye, I'd be really doubtful if that's any more
29 unique than the Ugashik red or a Naknek red or Becharof
30 Lake red. If you find something unique about a red salmon
31 in Lake Clark, you all should get raises, you know. The
32 fact that they don't show up, let's deal with that issue,
33 but call them unique, and then -- and then this one guy
34 said, well, does that mean it's going to become an
35 endangered species? You know what kind of fear that
36 strikes in people's hearts when you talk about endangered
37 species? Interesting. And things that we need to look at
38 very carefully. So that is an issue that probably way in
39 the making of a study that's going on, and I'm glad these
40 studies are taking place.

41
42 And the other issue is not necessarily a fun one
43 either, but this Council's going to have to deal with the
44 Alakanuk, the Branch River, called the Alagnak. That's
45 just a very over-crowded system, and we're going to have to
46 do something about some equality there for both subsistence
47 users and the sports people. And we need to take into
48 consideration that these people do make a living by, you
49 know, the sport fishing. We can't deny that. And just
50 like we don't want to be denied as commercial fisherman,

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1 that, you know, we need to make a living, so we're going to
2 need some help from the Department on that, and as the day
3 goes along and we go into tomorrow, we need to start to
4 begin shaping this towards what has to be one there.

5
6 And so that is just some opening remarks that I
7 wanted to welcome you with today. We really appreciate you
8 all being here. I think we're down now to the -- let's
9 see. Maybe before we get to the election of officers, this
10 is the -- we're supposed to do that this meeting? Election
11 of officers? Okay. Maybe we should go around and
12 introduce ourselves, so we know who's here. My name is Dan
13 O'Hara, I chair the council. I'm from Naknek. And why
14 don't we go here at the head table, and then we'll start
15 with the audience.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin Samuelsen,
18 Dillingham.

19
20 COURT REPORTER: David, court reporter.

21
22 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg, acting coordinator
23 for the Bristol Bay Council.

24
25 MR. ABRAHAM: Togiak, I'm Pete Abraham.

26
27 MR. BALLUTA: Andrew Balluta from Iliamna.

28
29 MR. ENRIGHT: Tim Enright, Ugashik.

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Robert Heyano, Dillingham.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. If we can go to
34 the audience, and tell us your name and what you do?

35
36 MR. KNUTSEN: John Knutsen, or Smiley, with
37 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in King Salmon. Alaska
38 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, RID.

39
40 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, I'm subsistence
41 coordinator and (indiscernible - away from microphone),
42 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

43
44 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, I'm with the
45 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge, refuge ranger.

46
47 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Bristol Bay Native
48 Association.

49
50 MS. EAKON: Helga Eakon, U.S. Fish and

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1 Wildlife Service, (indiscernible - away from microphone)
2 board.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And it's nice to
5 have you back.

6
7 MS. EAKON: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

10
11 MR. BUNDY: John Bundy, I'm (indiscernible
12 - away from microphone).

13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
15 from microphone)

16
17 MR. MORSTAD: Slim Morstad with Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game (indiscernible - away from
19 microphone).

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
22 from microphone) and wildlife biologist for (indiscernible
23 - away from microphone).

24
25 MR. LISAC: I'm Mark Lisac, I'm a fish
26 biologist for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm Taylor Brelsford. I
31 work in the Anchorage office of Subsistence Management, and
32 I (indiscernible).

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm Tod (ph)
35 (indiscernible - away from microphone) for Fish and
36 Wildlife Service, Anchorage. (Indiscernible).

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible - away
39 from microphone) I'm the (indiscernible) biologist
40 (indiscernible).

41
42 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike, I'm the
43 (indiscernible - away from microphone).

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible - away
46 from microphone).

47
48 (This portion, people introducing themselves are
49 not near the microphones, and therefore are indiscernible).

50

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1 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife
2 biologist (indiscernible).

3
4 (Indiscernible)

5
6 MR. LONS: Daryle Lons, Refuge Manager for
7 the Alaska Peninsula (indiscernible).

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're at the end of the
10 line there, huh, Daryle?

11
12 MR. LONS: Yep.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Good.
15 The -- we are glad to have you here today. Appreciate you
16 being here.

17 Election of officers. Council members?

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: I nominate Dan O'Hara.....

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN:as president.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other nominations?

26
27 MR. HEYANO: Move that the nominations be
28 closed.

29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Okay.
33 Do we vote on that now? No, we don't want? Okay. That's
34 unanimous consent then?

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Vice
39 chair?

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Nominate Robin Samuelsen.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Second. Any other
46 nominations?

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Who's.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second? Okay.

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1 MR. ABRAHAM: I seconded.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. This is just like
4 Russia. You just kind of do it that way. What is the next
5 one, secretary?

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible).

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That's unanimous
12 consent on the vice. Okay. Secretary?

13

14 MR. ABRAHAM: I nominate Tim Enright.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other further
17 nominations?

18

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

20

21 MR. HEYANO: Move they be closed.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, let's do the
24 motion and then have the second. Okay. All right.

25

26 MR. BALLUTA: And I'll second Robert's
27 motion, too.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Unanimous consent. Do we
30 have any other nominations? I mean, as far -- is that the
31 three officers as needed for the.....

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:system? Okay. So
36 we have unanimous consent that I be chair, Robin be vice
37 chair, and Tim is secretary. Treasurer also? Are the
38 treasurer, too?

39

40 MR. ENRIGHT: No treasurer.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, we thought we'd get a
43 little money out of you or something.

44

45 MR. ENRIGHT: Helga's the treasurer.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And Jerry.....

48

49 MR. ENRIGHT: Keeper of the coin.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, thanks,
2 guys. We appreciate you -- your confidence in letting us
3 help you out for another year. We hope this works out
4 pretty well. Okay. So the chair, vice chair, and the
5 secretary's already been taken care of.

6
7 And we need to deal with the adoption of the agenda
8 items, and we do have a couple of new items we'd like to
9 add to the agenda, is that right? Tim, you wanted to do
10 one?

11
12 MR. ENRIGHT: You've got it. I gave it to
13 Jerry.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

16
17 MR. BERG: Yeah, we have a resolution that
18 Tim submitted that he'd like to submit for the Council to
19 consider, and we'll -- we have copies of that when -- I
20 guess we would add it under.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tab what?

23
24 MR. BERG: Number 11(a).

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. This is a support
27 resolution. Okay. And then we had one more resolution
28 from Peter Abraham that he wanted to be address as an
29 agenda item.

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, it's not a
32 resolution, it's just introduction of our Nushagak Shores
33 (ph) subdivision on 11(b).

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, 11(b), I'm sorry.
36 Okay.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: What is it?

39
40 MR. ABRAHAM: Nushagak Shores subdivision.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other agenda items
45 that needs to be taken care of here for setting up our
46 agenda for the day? Yes, Robin?

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know, maybe D
49 encompasses it, Mr. Chairman, but under organizational
50 structure, staffing and budget, I'd like to have some

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1 discussion on comanagement opportunities.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'd also like to have a
6 discussion on Board of Fish activities.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: What role you as chairman
11 will play in future Board of Fish.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN:deliberations when it
16 comes to the area of subsistence needs aren't being met.
17 We all know that eventually AYK/Norton Sound region is
18 going to put in a proposal to curtail the fisheries in the
19 False Pass Fishery. Having spent the last 20 years in the
20 Board of Fish process, in and out of it, I know there's a
21 lot of smoke and mirror games played. Bristol Bay will be
22 pulled into that argument by certain groups that are in
23 that battle, and I think that if Bristol Bay is pulled into
24 that battle, then we need to be represented, because it
25 could have a profound effect on our fishery even though
26 we're off on the side wings watching the battle. And I'd
27 like to have that discussion up front.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Give staff ample time to
32 plan. I don't think nothing's going to happen this year,
33 but surely next year in the planning process.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.
36 All right. Good. We'll put that down there under that
37 agenda item B. Two items.

38

39 Any other agenda items, Council members that you'd
40 like to address for the agenda for the next two days?
41 Hearing none, could I have a motion to accept the agenda?

42

43 MR. ENRIGHT: I make a motion we.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second?

46

47 MR. BALLUTA: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Seconded by Andy.
50 Any further discussion? Call for the question?

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1 MR. HEYANO: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say
4 aye?

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

9

10 (No opposing votes.)

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We have the
13 agenda. I don't know if there's anyone who wanted to
14 address the public comment period here or not today, but we
15 always leave that item open as people come in and out. If
16 there's some needs that they might be interested in
17 representing.

18

19 Current issues that we are going to be dealing with
20 right now on the agenda items, the first one will be the
21 status update for the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou
22 herd, and I believe, Jerry, we have two people that will be
23 handling that, Ron Squibb and Dick Sellers will be helping
24 us with that report today? If we could have that, we'd
25 appreciate it at this time.

26

27 MR. BERG: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, we did --
28 we still have the adoption of the -- and review of the
29 minutes from the last.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I'm sorry.

32

33 MR. BERG:winter meeting?

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah. Okay.
36 Under tab D you have the minutes, and any corrections or
37 deletions on those minutes? Additions to them? Council
38 members?

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Move to adopt the minutes
41 of March 23rd, 24th, 1999?

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second?

44

45 MR. ENRIGHT: Second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Tim Enright
48 seconded that. Any further discussion on that? Question
49 called. All those in favor say aye?

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

4
5 (No opposing votes.)

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let the minutes
8 show that it's unanimous. And I looked over the minutes,
9 they looked good to me. Are we ready?

10
11 MR. BERG: Yeah. Yes, Mr. Chair. And then
12 I'll give an overview of the process that we went through
13 to issue the federal permits as well, and then Dick and Ron
14 are going to give an update on the population status of the
15 herd.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yes, sir, you have
18 the floor.

19
20 MR. BERG: Okay. Well, as you all know,
21 the Regional Council last March recommended that the
22 federal permits for the caribou hunt in Units 9(C) and (E),
23 that those federal permits be limited to residents of Units
24 9(C) and (E), so we developed kind of a plan as to how to
25 issue those federal permits. And basically we went off of
26 -- the harvest records indicated that about 10 percent of
27 the popu -- or ten percent of the harvest in Units 9(C) and
28 (E) for caribou came off of federal lands, so once the
29 harvest level was identified by the State, which was
30 estimated at around 600, it was -- they were able to
31 harvest around 600 bulls, so that left 60 federal permits
32 to be issued, which was 10 percent of the harvest.

33
34 So based on that information, we waited until the
35 State had issued their Tier II permits, and saw what
36 percentage of those permits went to each village, and then
37 we tried to back fill some of those areas in villages that
38 didn't receive as many permits as some of the -- as some of
39 the others. And we contacted each village and tried to get
40 input from each village, and then we also had
41 representatives from the Park Service, Fish and Game, and
42 then our office that got together and tried to come up with
43 an allocation process of how to distribute those permits.
44 And that's what you'll see under tab E is the number of
45 permits that were issued to each one of those communities
46 based on that process.

47
48 And there was -- you know, it was -- we had to
49 really rush through that in the end, because the Tier II
50 permits, the way that their system works, and then we were

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1 trying to follow in the steps of that, and we did make it
2 through the process this year and it worked out all right,
3 but we do plan to get together and try to come up with some
4 ideas of making that a little bit better process and a
5 stronger process to try to identify some of those needs
6 ahead of time this year.

7
8 That's all I have for a report on issuing those
9 permits. Unless you have any questions, we'll go on to the
10 population information.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, before we go to
13 that, you issued some permits then to people who felt they
14 did not get permits or were left out of the process, and
15 you had -- how many did we have? Sixty on the federal?

16
17 MR. BERG: Correct.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And you issued --
20 and do you have any left over?

21
22 MR. BERG: No, we issued all of those 60
23 permits. We had -- we had more people ask for those
24 permits than what was actually available, so that was --
25 those were all issued to each -- in fact, we ended up
26 having to shuffle some of the permits around, and take some
27 back from some of the villages, and give more to other
28 villages in the end.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. BERG:based on talks with
33 different people in the villages.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know what the
36 council has heard, but I think that everyone's been pretty
37 satisfied to be able to get what they got in lieu of what's
38 happening with the herd, I think it's worked out pretty
39 well to -- and Tim probably would know more about that,
40 coming from his area, and I don't know if you have any
41 questions or comments, Tim, on what happened as far as
42 issuing permits go?

43
44 MR. ENRIGHT: The only problem I seen was
45 there's a lot of -- some of the people that got these
46 permits, you know, that don't live in Alaska, you know.
47 They just come up here and fish in the summertime, and they
48 live in other states, you know, that got permits. And I
49 don't know how you're going to -- how you're going to stop
50 that, you know, because they still say they're resident of

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1 Alaska, because they haven't been gone for 12 months, you
2 know. They still classify themselves as resident, but, I
3 don't know. I know about three people got permits in
4 Ugashik alone that I feel that don't deserve them, you
5 know. So, I don't know, but there's got to be something
6 done, you know, to stop that somehow, but I don't know how
7 to do it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, they left before
10 the caribou got here, so.....

11
12 MR. ENRIGHT: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:the caribou are
15 safe. Yeah?

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess what I'd like to
18 see, Mr. Chairman, is that they had a deadline when the
19 permit applications had to be filed, and those permits had
20 to be received in the Anchorage office, and the only
21 complaint I've got from villagers is that the -- should be
22 -- the last date should be the post office date, that you
23 have to stamp it, because mail service like into Port
24 Heiden, and to the Chigniks is something to be desired, and
25 a person here in Naknek, I think it was Norm Anderson that
26 I heard from that you file by the deadline, but it had to
27 go to Anchorage office. It wasn't -- you didn't use the
28 postmark date.

29
30 MR. BERG: Oh, that was for the State Tier
31 II permit deadline. Oh, I see. Right. Yeah, there were
32 some people that missed that deadline I know.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: So we should use the post
37 office date. The only other thing I heard, Mr. Chairman,
38 is that when I was in Port Heiden here a couple weeks ago,
39 three weeks ago, whatever it was, that I think they had --
40 at that time they had harvested three caribou, and they had
41 asked me to help them extend the season, which I went back
42 to Dillingham, I contacted Ted Krieg at BBNA to coordinate.
43 I didn't know if it was just germane to Port Heiden, or if
44 it was all up and down the Peninsula. Those villages
45 through BBNA requested additional hunting time, which was
46 granted to them by.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Both federal and state.

49
50 MR. SAMUELSEN:(indiscernible -

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1 simultaneous speech) and state land.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know if Dick and
4 Ron is going to mention that in their report today, but
5 that did take place, and it was done quite quickly. I
6 talked to Laurie, the Madam Chair of the Game Board, and it
7 was done.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, that's no small thing
10 when you extend the season in that short of notice. I
11 mean.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. No.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN:that's a major piece
16 of regulatory work that has to be done then. Both state
17 and the federal managers got to be complimented for their
18 past action.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And I was -- under the
23 report that Jerry and I'll be giving later on, I'll mention
24 that I attended the Game Board as chairman of the Council,
25 and that was a different experience, and it went pretty
26 well, but the people from Bristol Bay sat down and
27 caucused, and Smiley was there, and maybe others, too.
28 Ted, you were there? And they come with an agreement on
29 how to handle this issue, and so what we come up with in
30 the way of the permits being issued, and becoming a Tier II
31 issue was handled I thought in a unique -- I don't know if
32 I want to use that term unique or not, but a very -- I
33 think a very democratic matter of -- are we going to have a
34 report on unique before the day's over here, or.....

35

36 Thank you. Got anything else?

37

38 MR. BERG: I guess I would just comment
39 that I did participate in the Board of Game hearing on.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

42

43 MR. BERG:extending that season, and
44 they did comment on your participation in the March
45 meeting, too, and I think that helped move that along.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

48

49 MR. BERG:faster, so I think
50 that.....

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. BERG:all worked out really well,
4 so they appreciated that effort as well.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It was a good connection.
7 Anything else, Jerry?

8

9 MR. BERG: No. I think we're ready
10 for.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, right. Let's have a
13 report from -- status report if we could, please? And we
14 probably need another chair up here?

15

16 MR. SQUIBB: That's easy to do. We'll take
17 a minute to get an overhead set up.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Okay. Would
20 you.....

21

22 (Off record conversation)

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sirs?

29

30 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'm Ron
31 Squibb with the Alaska Peninsula Refuge.

32

33 MR. SELLERS: I'm Dick Sellers, Area
34 Wildlife Biologist with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

38

39 MR. SQUIBB: Do you want to take the lead,
40 or.....

41

42 MR. SELLER: I'll start off with a review
43 of some of the biological data that's been collected over
44 the past year to kind of bring the Council up to date on
45 the status of the herd. I guess first and most importantly
46 is that all the work that's been done on this herd over the
47 last several years has been truly a cooperative effort
48 between our two agencies and the local staff here. And I
49 think that's really improved the quality of the information
50 we've been getting on not only the Northern Peninsula herd,

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1 but also the Southern Peninsula herd, both in terms of
2 pooling our financial resources and manpower, too.

3
4 Last year, almost a year ago, very mid October, we
5 captured 21 young female caribou from just south of where
6 we are now all the way down to Port Moller, and put on
7 radio collars. This is kind of an on-going effort to
8 maintain an adequate number of radio collars in the herd to
9 facilitate our post-calving summer count, which is the
10 basis of our population estimate. It was kind of startling
11 to find out that of these 21 young caribou, 71 percent of
12 them had died by this past June. And we didn't get to the
13 carcasses to recover the radio collars until June when we
14 had a helicopter available, so that it was pretty difficult
15 to establish the exact cause of death. However, virtually
16 all of them died on the wintering grounds north of Becharof
17 Lake, including up to the headwaters of Paul's Creek, which
18 just in itself probably rules out bear predation, since
19 most the bears, or virtually all the bears would have been
20 hibernating during the time that these caribou died. A
21 number of the carcasses did have evidence of wolf activity,
22 but at that late date, it was hard to establish whether
23 they were predators or scavengers at that point, but
24 there's certainly some wolf involvement in several of the
25 carcasses.

26
27 That level of mortality, and that's probably -- of
28 course, those are the more vulnerable animals, the young
29 calves, but that's pretty alarming, especially when you
30 compare it with what we found with the Southern Peninsula
31 herd. We did the same exact collaring technique down
32 there, and found over the same period of time that only
33 seven percent of those caribou died. So there's a dramatic
34 difference in mortality rates now between those two herds,
35 and it's actually the exact opposite of what we experienced
36 during the 80s when the Southern Peninsula herd died off.

37
38 In addition to doing the radio collaring, we
39 collected ten female calves last October to assess body
40 condition and disease prevalence. All ten of those calves
41 showed evidence of lung worm infestation, had lesions on
42 their lungs, although none of them appeared to be in
43 severely stressed condition however. Weights were about
44 average over the last five years since we've been
45 collecting them in the fall. Weights were intermediate
46 compared to other herds.

47
48 And we also conducted the typical sex and age
49 composition survey there. We found 30 calves and 31 bulls
50 per 100 cows. That bull/cow ratio was used to project what

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1 an allowable harvest would be, and that's one of the basis
2 for that estimate of a 600-bull allowable harvest, which
3 was incorporated into the Tier II permit allocation.

4
5 And finally I'll turn this next section over to Ron
6 to discuss some work that was initiated to try to determine
7 once and for all whether there is interchange between the
8 Northern and Southern Peninsula herd.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB: In that regard, we're, as I
11 think we mentioned in a previous council meeting, trying
12 some new technology, given that just to monitor the
13 movements more closely and given the time it takes to fly
14 the whole area and find them with your standard radio
15 transmitters on them, so we chose to go with some collars
16 that transmitted to satellites and had the locations
17 received to us through the satellites. And in -- excuse
18 me, please. When the collaring was done last October, we
19 also included some of those satellite collars. They're
20 expensive little units, and it's sort of an experimental
21 technique, so we didn't go too heavily into it, but we got
22 14 of the collars, and we distributed them, I believe six
23 on this side of the Port Moller/American Bay line, which is
24 the -- both the 9(E), Unit 9(E) and the subunit 9(D)
25 boundary, as well as the traditional boundary between the
26 Southern and Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herds, and 8
27 on the other side of that boundary.

28
29 And I have -- basically we had high mortality on
30 them. We're a little -- I guess more than a little bit
31 worried. It's a very heavy unit that carries the satellite
32 transmitter on it, and they -- the company that makes them
33 has gotten the technology such that they have a weaker
34 transmitter that requires less power, therefore the
35 batteries are the heavier parts of those collars. So we're
36 looking at maybe going with that to lighten it up, because
37 we had fairly heavy mortality early on. We had three die
38 within the first I believe two or three months, in early
39 win- -- the early part of winter, and then we had two more
40 die for five out of 14 by spring. Now, since early spring,
41 about April, we haven't had any mortality, so hopefully
42 we're going to get long term out of the other -- the
43 remaining I guess, what do we have there, the remaining
44 nine. And now only three are on the northern Peninsula
45 side where from my perspective anyway we were hoping to
46 have a few more animals than six are on the southern
47 Peninsula side.

48
49 And the critters as we would presume. We've seen
50 no movement, although with the small sample size when Dick

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1 Falconberger (ph) (indiscernible, coughing) collaring, they
2 distributed them close to that line. We've seen no
3 movement across the line. And I guess some of the thought
4 of investigating that goes back to -- I can't remember the
5 year exactly, Dick could I'm sure help me, the one year
6 when the Northern Peninsula herd went down by 1,000 and
7 incidently the count on the Southern Herd came up almost
8 1,000 as well, so -- but just as an example of this, I've
9 got one overhead just to show the typical pattern. I
10 didn't -- it gets kind of messy. We get a report every
11 week, once a week. In order -- the things a programmable
12 collar, you could ask it, I want a location every day, or I
13 want a location every month, or I want a location every
14 week. And in order to save batteries and get maximum life
15 out of the collars, we chose to go once a week, thinking
16 for our purposes that was more than sufficient. So I have
17 an example here, just -- with just one location per month
18 I'll show you.

19
20 Okay. I just -- just as -- rather than clutter the
21 whole map, as I said, we just went once per month, and I
22 didn't put all the month labels on there, just to make it a
23 little more easy to read. And I chose on the southern
24 Peninsula -- well, I guess I'll -- well, let me give you
25 some landmarks here. Okay. First off, as I was saying,
26 the line here is Port Moller across to American Bay.
27 That's the typical line. And this southern Peninsula
28 animal, this is typical of all their patterns. This
29 actually is the animal that moved the furthest, I wanted to
30 -- and spread it out, and the distances are less than 40
31 miles, in his full -- or her full annual pattern. This
32 runs from October through September, almost a full year.
33 And then most patterns, most of them stay in a tighter area
34 than even that. And this is a typical -- of all three
35 animals, this is the one who ranged the farthest, but Dick
36 and Pat collared the thing in the mountains, real close to
37 the line in October. A month later it was moved up to the
38 Sandy Lake area. And then another month area, it was up --
39 twist my head here, like I guess Cinder River, and then by
40 January, early January and late January it was north of
41 Becharof system. And then February and March and April,
42 it's -- it hovering up above the Ugashik Bay, and then,
43 bingo, it's back down here the end of May. And this
44 perhaps, I would presume is its caving area. And in order
45 to save weight, we did not add the standard VHF
46 transmitter, so we can't fly these guys down and find them,
47 again, knowing ahead of time that they were rather heavy
48 collars. And then shortly thereafter it went back to its
49 summer range, and very loyal to that, being it's back here.
50 Hopefully we'll get a little -- several year -- a couple

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1 more years out of these, and -- and see how tight they are
2 to the patterns. But basically there's none across the
3 line, and the technology certainly interested us to try and
4 continue it, and try the new, lighter collar, which we
5 might be able to fit the standard VHF transmitter in it,
6 and then we could have both the knowledge of their annual
7 pattern, as well as being able to find them and get the
8 calving data, the reproduction data that Dick has been
9 carrying on with his cohorts and known age females.

10
11 So that -- any questions on this from the Council?
12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members? Ron,
14 that lower section where your pluses are down there?
15

16 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir?
17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Show the farthest
19 southern point of those animals on the Peninsula? Put your
20 pencil on there. You've got about five or six of them
21 there on the.....
22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, I'm sorry. I misled you.
24 These are -- these marks are not individual animals. These
25 marks -- these -- the crosses represent one animal. We
26 only 14 in the field, and, like I say, five died, so we
27 only have nine in the field now,.....
28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But they went.....
30

31 MR. SQUIBB:six in.....
32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:down that far,
34 that's the point. They went past Moller?
35

36 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir. Again, the -- we --
37 I apologize for not going clear. When the collars were put
38 out, on October 6th, were north of this line,.....
39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
41

42 MR. SQUIBB:if I can -- there, try
43 and get my hand to go the right way on this.
44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
46

47 MR. SQUIBB: So six were in this
48 vicinity,.....
49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

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1 MR. SQUIBB:and then eight were
2 deployed south of the line in this vicinity. So this just
3 represents one location per month for one animal. And as I
4 said, this is the one animal that moved the farthest.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. SQUIBB: Most of the annual patterns of
9 the southern Peninsula animals are in this area, almost
10 half of the dimensions of that.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. SQUIBB: And the three surviving
15 northern animals, all of which again Dick and Pat put them
16 very close to the line to see if we had any -- you know,
17 again a small sample, but just curiously to see what kind
18 of movement we were getting. And this is one of those
19 three animals that survived the winter and is still going,
20 and this is her pattern for a year,.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. SQUIBB:from October 8th to
25 September -- the first week of September. And I just
26 wanted to point out that the movement is extreme. This is
27 typical. It is the farthest movement. Of the other two
28 that survived, one marched up to -- forgive me for not
29 being able to control this. It's almost like trying to do
30 something in a mirror, but the other one that survived
31 marched up and wintered just above Ugashik, and then came
32 down, and then the third marched up and stayed right
33 around.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: More towards.....

36
37 MR. SQUIBB:Port Heiden,.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Port Heiden, yeah.

40
41 MR. SQUIBB:and then came back. And
42 so they all have that migratory pattern. These others are
43 more sedentary annual pattern. They move from location to
44 location, but usually stay within 30 miles of their
45 original location.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could that be the
48 southern herd?

49
50 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir, that is -- those are

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1 all southern herd animals. And the northern herd animals
2 are doing as well.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

5
6 MR. SQUIBB:you know, in this area
7 now will do their.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

10
11 MR. SQUIBB:standard migration.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. That answered
14 the question. Any other questions, Council members? Do
15 you have more information?

16
17 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir, not at this time.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: On this subject anyway.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We didn't get a
24 chance to ask Dick any questions, so can we go ahead and do
25 that now, or did you have more to say, Dick, before we
26 ask.....

27
28 MR. SELLERS: Mr. Chair, I had.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:questions.

31
32 MR. SELLERS:a couple other
33 things.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

36
37 MR. SELLERS:to cover.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead.

40
41 MR. SELLERS: In line with what Ron just
42 covered, one of the other things we're doing is looking at
43 the genetic distinction of herds and we use that over --
44 use the word unique.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you have.....

47
48 MR. SELLERS:are these herds.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:a unique herd down

00023

1 there? All right.

2

3 MR. SELLERS:truly unique or not, or
4 do they mingle and, you know, abandon one herd to.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

7

8 MR. SELLERS:join another, and that's
9 a pretty important management question. So we're just now
10 -- have submitted blood samples from, oh, I think probably
11 about 15 herds around the State to see in fact whether --
12 especially, for instance, whether the Northern and Southern
13 Peninsula herd have much in terms of common genetic makeup
14 or whether they have been isolated more or less for a long
15 period of time, so that will be interesting results, and
16 hopefully we'll get those back in a few months. They have
17 to -- the samples go down to a Canadian laboratory to be
18 analyzed.

19

20 Then the other most recent information is the
21 summer count we do in late June and in a cooperative effort
22 with myself concentrating on the calving grounds along the
23 Bristol Bay coastal plain, and Ron and other Fish and
24 Wildlife Service people working in the mountains and on the
25 Pacific side. And I guess the long and short of it, I
26 counted about 6,000 on the calving grounds, which is down a
27 little bit. And Ron and his crew I guess counted about
28 2600, and he may want to cover that in a little more
29 detail, but the bottom line is that the total is about
30 8600, down about 7 and a half percent from what we counted
31 last year. Of those, the ones we classify, we classified
32 several thousand out of that, and only 19 percent of them
33 were calves, and the lowest percent calves that we've
34 seen.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What.....

37

38 MR. SELLERS:on this herd.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What percentage?

41

42 MR. SELLERS: Nineteen.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nineteen percent calves.
45 Nineteen percent -- yeah.

46

47 MR. SELLERS: Nineteen percent calves.
48 Typically it's been in the mid 20s, 24, 25 percent, so
49 they're not a real encouraging indication, but still much
50 better than the Southern Peninsula herd experienced during

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1 the period of that herd's decline, so again we're not in as
2 dire a condition as we saw on that herd, but somewhat of
3 concern. Do you want to cover some more on what your
4 efforts were?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you hear them in the
7 background, everyone? Okay. Just make sure you speak into
8 that mike so they can hear you in the back.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB: As Dick said, he worked the
11 Bristol Bay coast where more of the VHF radio transmitters
12 are located, and we worked the -- from the lakes inland,
13 and then to the Pacific side. And we tried -- usually get
14 our best count on the warm, calm days when the caribou are
15 higher in the hills on -- in those areas, and it's fairly
16 efficient, fairly easy to count. And we had some -- a
17 little rainier, more normal summer this year, and it took
18 us -- we made quite a bit of effort to try and get out
19 there, and didn't succeed for some time. So we were able
20 to count our traditional survey area, which includes the
21 Kejulik Mountains and river, and the Pacific coast through
22 Kejulik Bay on the south, and the uplands above Ugashik
23 Lakes, and the Mother Goose area and the Painter Creek, and
24 Old and Pumice Creek areas. And in doing so, our count was
25 a little bit down from last year. You know, again our
26 contribution to the total as Dick said was 2600. And I'll
27 have to -- our contribution in the previous year was about
28 2800, so we're comparable in numbers. We unfortunately
29 were running so late that we didn't finish until the.....

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 MR. SQUIBB:we chose not to fly the
36 Chignik Unit as the low- -- like the Pacific side down
37 toward Perryville, Ivanof Bay, as we had last year, because
38 we didn't want to get a false count there from mixing from
39 the Bristol Bay coastal areas. So -- and last
40 (indiscernible) data had indicated very, very strongly
41 again in the Chignik unit, we observed one-tenth the
42 animals per hour of survey as we did in the Ugashik unit.

43
44 I've just got one overhead to demonstrate the
45 distribution real quick on that among the areas. Basically
46 as you can see, there's a lot of noise from one year to the
47 next, but the main point is that Wide Bay and then
48 secondarily the mountains on the other side, the Ugashik
49 Lakes area, tends to be where we see the lion's share of
50 our animals. The Becharof Refuge area, the coast there,

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1 Puale Bay and Becharof Lake tends to be fairly low numbers,
2 and we get sometimes some animals concentrations on Mother
3 Goose and Painter, but again Wide Bay is the biggest area,
4 and followed -- other big areas were you can depend on
5 seeing large numbers of animals are Ugashik drainages, and
6 then -- I call it the Chiganogik coast, but it's just those
7 bays south of Wide Bay to Kijulik Bay. And those are our
8 strong areas. And our counts have been fairly stable
9 through the last seven years, but still, you know, we tend
10 to have all the num -- our counts don't seem to be going
11 down as fast as on the Bristol Bay coast, but our calf,
12 percent calves has always been a little bit lower, which is
13 a curiosity. That's -- I guess that's all I'd have on our
14 component of the survey, if you have any questions?

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ron, you say the calf
17 ratio is lower on the Bristol Bay side versus the Pacific
18 side?

19
20 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir, it's lower -- in our
21 counts, it's lower on the Pacific coast and the refuge
22 side. That could be somewhat of sampling situation. We
23 tend to fly a faster airplane, and we tend to see them up
24 in the mountains where we just can't get as close to them,
25 so -- and we try and photograph the groups that are larger,
26 that we're not getting a clean count on, but oftentimes
27 we're looking across on a slope, a steep slope, and, you
28 know, the calves sometimes get behind their mothers
29 and.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

32
33 MR. SQUIBB:get mixed in the herd.
34 And I believe Dick's photo surveys for calf estimates are a
35 little lower and looking down, and so it may be a sample
36 difference, or it may be real. It's hard to call on that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dick, where do you find
39 the larger number of concentration of calving taking place?
40 It used to be, you know, between Port Heiden and Moller
41 along those big flats, and I don't see them there any more.
42 Where are they at now, do you know?

43
44 MR. SELLERS: Well, the pattern
45 distribution during calving is still fairly similar.
46 There's a segment of the herd that calves in the Cinder
47 River, Mud River, Hook (ph) Lagoon area, and then still the
48 primary effort has actually shifted maybe a little further
49 south. It's now mainly from Three Hills down through Sandy
50 River, and then, of course, just within a week or two after

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1 calving they start to form nursery bands and start moving
2 already, but still primarily on the Bristol Bay coastal
3 play.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Anything
6 else? Yeah?

7
8 MR. SQUIBB: I might just kind of project
9 where we go from here. We -- later this month we'll be
10 doing the sex and age composition survey, and that will
11 give us information on productivity and early survival and
12 also the bull/cow ratio which will be used to again project
13 an allowable harvest, whether we can maintain the 600 Tier
14 II permits that the state issues or whether we need to cut
15 back again from that level, and that will be based
16 primarily on the bull/cow ratio. It should come up a
17 little bit considering the level of hunting was curtailed
18 last fall and from what I hear so far this fall, it's been
19 fairly light harvest, so I would expect the bull/cow ratio
20 to come up, and that may cushion the need to cut back.

21
22 And then one other issue that came from that March
23 Board of Game meeting, and those of you that are familiar
24 with the state's Intensive Management Law, when the Board
25 of Game restricted access to this herd through a Tier II
26 hunt, that automatically triggered provisions of the
27 Intensive Management Law. And under that law, they are
28 required at their next scheduled board meeting, which is
29 this -- the last week of October up in Barrow, to review
30 the status of the herd and evaluate any options that might
31 be employed to either increase productivity or further herd
32 growth. We're required to present a report the end of this
33 month kind of outlining what may or may not be feasible to
34 do in terms of enhancement, either predator control,
35 improving habitat, addressing disease problems or whatever.
36 So we're still working on that report (indiscernible,
37 coughing) so I don't have any more elaborate hand-outs or
38 anything for you, because we're in that process right now,
39 and under the gun to get something to the Board to help
40 them determine whether it's feasible to do any intensive
41 management for this herd.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

44
45 MR. SQUIBB: I have one more.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you've got one more?

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: I wanted to get on one more
4 subject, but also wanted to mention under I believe it's
5 our agency report under Tab M, which is the second agency
6 report, we do have a summary of some of the data listed
7 there in brief, for -- in terms of the herd count numbers
8 and some other of the work we cooperatively have done with
9 Dick. And among those things, we mentioned in previously
10 meetings, we're -- as we've said, it appears that one of
11 the major problems is the condition of the animals,
12 reproduction, calving is a little down, and that appears to
13 be somewhat attributable to the body condition, and perhaps
14 therefore, you know, they may not be getting enough
15 nutrition from the range. And one thing we started in 1998
16 and we have continued through 1999 was having a botany crew
17 evaluating the vegetation in certain areas of the refuge
18 lands, and off refuge lands for two objectives. One is to
19 try and get a handle on the different plant compositions
20 relative to caribou preferred forage; and the other is also
21 to work towards getting a habitat map eventually so that we
22 might be able to, you know, come up with a better idea of
23 what the range itself can carry in terms of the caribou and
24 other animals as well.

25

26 I also wanted to give you a short update. The
27 botanists are extremely thorough scientists, and they
28 collect a huge amount of data and specimens, and so the --
29 they don't have any results directly towards those issues.
30 I have -- but I have some preliminary observations they
31 made, and I'll just go over with you the areas they've
32 sampled, with one more overhead.

33

34 Okay. In 1998 if I can talk and point at the same
35 time here, the lead botanist is Steve Talbot out of our
36 office, and it's -- of course, helping (ph) was a retired
37 professor out of British Columbia. And so from the top
38 down, they worked at 20-Mile Lake south of King Salmon.
39 They worked on top of Whale Mountain, taking samples there
40 in '98, and then also in '98 they worked above the Ugashik
41 Narrows. Among all this clutter here, if I can find Mother
42 Goose Lake down in here, they worked above that, and then
43 also they went to the shore of Sandy Lake, which -- right
44 here I believe, if I read it right, and worked in that
45 area, looking at habitat. And then -- in all I think they
46 did 150 or 60 five-by-five meter plots, which they do in
47 extreme detail, and do -- through a range of different
48 habits. They usually work up from the lowlands up to the
49 highlands. And this year they were able to get down to
50 Ivanof Bay, and worked above the village, and to the --

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1 towards Stepovak Flats, but didn't get too far into that.

2

3 And we also -- one of the things we wanted to do
4 was compare an ungrazed area where there hasn't been
5 grazing by caribou or other big deer with what's been going
6 on on the refuge where, you know, we've had, you know,
7 moose and caribou in large numbers for a long, long time.
8 So we got out to Natchamak Island and -- which hasn't been
9 grazed for 75 or more years according to Alec Peterson out
10 -- who was born there out of Chignik Lagoon. And then also
11 they worked the Wide Bay area up here this year for -- in a
12 shorter season.

13

14 And the one observation of interest they have from
15 this year was that at Natchamak they found an abundance of
16 lichen in the alpine and highlands, whereas in all these
17 other areas lichens are very sparse, and so that lichen are
18 a known preferred forage for caribou, and so that is of
19 interest. It's nothing to jump to in terms of conclusions,
20 but the same group also worked on the southern Peninsula
21 area, and they -- I believe it's off of this map, but they
22 did comparisons with Deer Island which is off of Cold Bay,
23 and the mainland and found the same thing. And there the
24 lichen were into habitats, wetlands, that they normally
25 didn't see lichen. And so it's -- it was an interesting
26 comparison, just comparing ungrazed and grazed range.

27

28 So that's just a short update. Do you have any
29 questions on that.....

30

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

33

34 MR. SQUIBB:effort?

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else?

37

38 MR. SQUIBB: Not from me I believe, sir.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mr. Sellers? Dick, could
41 we ask you a few questions on your report?

42

43 MR. SELLERS: Sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 8600 is about what you
46 predicted I think maybe the herd might -- somewhere in
47 there, eight or 9,000 anyway, with the way it might end up
48 here by this fall. You said -- did you collar 21 animals?

49

50 MR. SELLERS: Twenty-one with the standard

00029

1 collars, and then 14 additional ones that weren't included
2 in those mortality figures, in the satellite collared ones.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you -- those two
5 numbers combined, how many animals did you end up with.....

6

7 MR. SELLERS: Well, from.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that survived?

10

11 MR. SELLERS: From the northern Peninsula,
12 if you count the satellite ones, which were older animals,
13 so it's kind of a different, apples and oranges situation,
14 but we collared a total of 27 I guess.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And how many survived?

17

18 MR. SELLERS: Seven with the standard --
19 seven out of 21 young caribou.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. SELLERS:with the standard
24 collars, and then three out of six with the satellite
25 collars.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's all that survived.
28 Uh-huh. Did you get any more new information on predator
29 increase or decrease on the Peninsula herd.....

30

31 MR. SELLERS: Well, we.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:as far as wolves or
34 bears or that type of thing?

35

36 MR. SELLERS: We did our annual stream
37 surveys in August down at Black Lake, and came up with all-
38 time record numbers of bears. It averaged just under 300
39 bears per three hour replicate survey of those tributaries,
40 so there's no doubt the bear population is up. And without
41 any hard data on wolf populations, I think it's fairly safe
42 to say that wolf numbers are up, too, from casual
43 observations and reports from long-time residents.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The calf ratio survival
46 on this herd for this year, do you have that information?

47

48 MR. SELLERS: We'll be getting, you know,
49 the calf ratios later this month.

50

00030

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see.

2

3 MR. SELLERS: We didn't do a calf mortality
4 study on the northern herd this year. We worked again
5 cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the same
6 type of study on the Southern Peninsula herd, so we don't
7 have any data on this year's early calf survival, although
8 it's probably fairly similar to what we found last year.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The lung worm
11 thing that you talked about. Could you address that again
12 just a little bit? That might have been found in the
13 animals?

14

15 MR. SELLERS: Well, we first began noticing
16 lesions on lungs, they're little pin head sized hemorrhages
17 in the lung tissue in 1995 when we first started collecting
18 these calves in the fall. And sent samples off and have it
19 diagnosed as a fairly common lung worm. And then we
20 started noticing some -- or had the opportunity to look at
21 some new born calves that were dead in '96 I guess it was,
22 the first year that we started finding -- or had the
23 opportunity with a helicopter to look at fresh dead calves,
24 and noticed bacterial pneumonia as the cause of death of
25 several of these, so I think from what I know, and I'm not
26 a disease expert, but they say it's probably kind of a
27 combination of sub-optimal nutrition, if you have animals
28 that are nutritionally stressed, that kind of makes them
29 more vulnerable to impacts from bacteria and parasites
30 both, so there's -- you know, the feeling is now that --
31 you know, that lung worm may have always been around, but
32 it's just more easily noticed now with these animals not in
33 as good of condition as they had been prior to that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That goes back to the
36 number of animals you found with collars on them, maybe a
37 month later after they had died. How much of the animal
38 did you find -- were you in on that, or did you have staff
39 that located these animals?

40

41 MR. SELLERS: Are you referring to these
42 21.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

45

46 MR. SELLERS:that were collared?

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

49

50 MR. SELLERS: Well, I went in to retrieve

00031

1 the collars in June, but, of course, most of them again
2 probably died during mid winter, and so.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

5
6 MR. SELLERS:basically found a pile
7 of bones and hair, so.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So there wasn't
10 anything.....

11
12 MR. SELLERS:there was no way to.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:there to -- yeah.

15
16 MR. SELLERS:determine whether
17 disease was a.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cause of death.

20
21 MR. SELLERS:factor in those deaths.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. I don't
24 know if any Council members have any other questions? Yes,
25 Robert?

26
27 MR. HEYANO: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 If I heard you correctly, Dick, you said that out of the 21
29 young female caribou that you collared, you had a 71
30 percent mortality rate. How do you apply that information
31 to the herd as a whole?

32
33 MR. SELLERS: Well, at this point it mainly
34 just kind of confirms the fact that the census results
35 dropped from 9200 to 9600 (sic), and if you factor in some
36 level of high winter mortality with what we observed as
37 subpar productivity, it just leads -- lends credence to the
38 fact that the herd is still on the downward trend. Beyond
39 that you know, it's hard to get any more refined in terms
40 of what that mortality means.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: You know, what stands out here
45 is 71 percent. That's seems a really high number.
46 (Indiscernible - microphone cutting out) 71 percent of the
47 young -- (indiscernible) say 71 (indiscernible).

48
49 MR. SELLERS: Well, again, you know,
50 there's a lot of things that go into extrapolating what

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1 that means to the herd. Now, just the fact that they wear
2 collars may predispose them to mortality. It may be that a
3 wolf sees a caribou with something flopping on its neck and
4 targets that animal more than one without. Now, we -- as I
5 say, we do know that it's much harder than was observed on
6 the Southern Peninsula herd. Now, that's a valid
7 comparison, but to say -- apply that 71 percent mortality
8 to all calves is probably not prudent. And again, you
9 know, it's a relatively small sample size, so I'd be a
10 little cautious to project that for the whole herd.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robert.

13
14 MR. HEYANO: Then in summary, if I heard
15 you correctly and understood it, you said 17 percent were
16 calves?

17
18 MR. SELLERS: Nineteen.

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Nineteen percent, excuse me.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Survival rate?

23
24 MR. SELLERS: Pardon?

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Was that survival rate of
27 numbers of animals?

28
29 MR. SELLERS: Oh, that's just out of all
30 the caribou that we saw this summer, you know, 19 percent
31 were calves,.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MR. SELLERS:at the end of -- in
36 early July.

37
38 MR. HEYANO: Based on past experience, what
39 would that number be?

40
41 MR. SELLERS: Well, the average is about
42 25, and during the period in the early to mid 80s when the
43 herd was growing, it was at times as high as 30 percent
44 calves. Although again that -- with the inclusion of
45 caribou that the refuge folks saw in the mountains and on
46 the Pacific side, that tends to water down that percentage
47 a little bit. Less productive.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: I guess my question is, if you
50 did the survey before they calve again, what percent would

00033

1 you expect -- what percent of that herd would be calves?

2

3 MR. SELLERS: Well, it actually may jump a
4 little bit, just because there will be fewer yearlings in
5 there, of course, and they aren't going to produce any
6 calves, so it may jump just for that fact alone. Things
7 you have to be aware of is the composition of the herd. If
8 you have a really good bumper calf crop one year, that
9 tends to produce a lot of yearlings, which produces a
10 percent of the calves that summer, because those yearlings
11 aren't producing calves.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You said it dropped from
14 92 to 96, did you mean from 92 to 98 -- or eighty -- it
15 dropped.....

16

17 MR. SELLERS: What I meant to say, it
18 dropped from the period in the 80s when the herd was
19 growing, in the early 80s,.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. SELLERS:until where it peaked in
24 the mid -- late 80s, that tended.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And went.....

27

28 MR. SELLERS:to be around 25 percent
29 calves.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Then went down in the
32 90s.

33

34 MR. SELLERS: Yeah, and by comparison, the
35 Southern Peninsula herd when it was declining, the summer
36 percentage was generally in the teens, you know. Fifteen
37 percent would be an average for the southern herd when it
38 was declining.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, did you have
41 anything else?

42

43 MR. HEYANO: No, that's fine. Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The calf survival rate on
46 the Mulchatna herd, that may not be your department, but
47 that's been considerably higher percentage obviously than
48 what we've experienced on the Peninsula herd?

49

50 MR. SELLERS: Generally it's been a little

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1 bit higher in recent years, not going back again to the
2 80s. It wasn't much higher then.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you talking about the
5 Mulchatna herd?

6

7 MR. SELLERS: Right.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. What do they
10 have, survival rates like for last year, do you have any
11 idea?

12

13 MR. SELLERS: Well, they don't -- they
14 don't have radio-collared calves. Or at least not until
15 the last year. But the calf/cow ratio in the fall there
16 generally is in the 40s for the Mulchatna herd.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, wow. That's a big
19 difference. Okay. Anything else? Dick? Yeah, do you
20 have a question?

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Under this intensive game
23 management principle the state implements on your Tier II
24 hunt, Dick, does that take into consideration like the
25 bears and the wolves, looking at the predator/prey
26 relationship? And does -- do as the manager of the State
27 of Alaska's state lands, would they be looking at same-day-
28 airborne for wolf hunting and relaxing their restrictions
29 in the area of taking of bear in the area to one bear a
30 year to cull the bear population or something like that?

31

32 MR. SELLERS: Well, all those things will
33 be addressed and considered I'm sure. One of the
34 advantages we have is that we've conducted quite a bit of
35 bear research down at Black Lake which coincidentally is
36 kind of centrally located in the core calving area, and as
37 part of this review, I was looking at movement data, and
38 found that actually a fairly small percentage of that bear
39 population travels out onto the coastal plain during June
40 when they would be predators of newborn calves, something
41 like 13 percent of the bear population potentially could be
42 involved in calf mortality, and certainly not all those
43 bears that wander out there are killing calves, so, you
44 know, the wholesale reduction of bear numbers probably is
45 going to have very minimal beneficial impacts on calf
46 survival. One thing they may do is look at say a spring
47 extension on state lands within the calving area to try to
48 target those animals that are out there in that habitat,
49 but again, you know, there's all the other considerations
50 in terms of politics and feas -- how much benefit that will

00035

1 be.

2

3 In terms of wolf control, again that's a pretty
4 complex issue, and I'm not sure how the Board will address
5 that. In the past when they've done wolf control up in the
6 40-mile caribou herd or done some other intensive
7 management in Unit 13 on the Nelchina herd, that's
8 generally spawned a huge amount of research and public
9 planning efforts, and, you know, I mean, we've spent
10 millions of dollars up on the 40-mile herd to help that
11 herd out. And whether either the Board or the
12 administration is prepared to go that route here is beyond
13 my guess at this point.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just talking to the
16 village residents, both on this side and on the Pacific
17 side. All of them stated to me time after time that the
18 wolf population has increased on both sides of the
19 peninsula, and the bear population has seemed to increase.
20 And I guess we'll just find out here when you go to your
21 meeting the end of the month.....

22

23 MR. SELLERS: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN:how far the Board of
26 Game wants to.....

27

28 MR. SELLERS: Yeah, I think given, you
29 know, what we know now about range condition and
30 nutritional condition of these caribou, it's -- even with
31 some kind of a predator control problem -- project, it's
32 pretty unlikely that you'd see an instantaneous change in
33 productivity and herd growth, and that may in fact not even
34 be desirable, but, you know, with wolf control, you may be
35 able to substitute human harvest for wolf harvest, and not
36 expect herd growth immediately, but at least, you know,
37 change who's getting the meat to eat. And that's probably
38 as much as we could expect at this point.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. And I guess for you,
41 Ron, I was kind of curious why over on the Nushagak
42 Peninsula that the lichen studies weren't expanded over
43 there with the transplanted caribou animals that we have on
44 the Nushagak Peninsula, that population seems to be
45 thriving and looking -- just looking at the geographical
46 size of the Nushagak Peninsula versus the Alaska Peninsula
47 here, you know, it's about 50 times bigger here. Then you
48 put in perspective the amount of caribou we have over in
49 that small area versus the amount of caribou you have in
50 this area.

00036

1 MR. SQUIBB: I'm sure the Togiak staff
2 could have, you know, more insights than I do on that, but
3 I do know that they did set up and are continuing to
4 monitor some permanent -- I believe they're permanent
5 vegetation transects, and some -- I think they had some
6 exclosures at one time as well, so I do believe they are
7 maintaining a real good base of data on what the range
8 condition is as the herd grows. I think that they can
9 address that, but I don't know the details, but I do know
10 they were doing that.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. I'll wait for them.
13 Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Any other
16 questions, Council members? You know, they kind of laughed
17 at Hickel when he was up at the -- with the Secretary of
18 Interior, and he made the statement, you can't let nature
19 run wild. You cannot let nature run wild, you know. The
20 ideal situation would be to make a wilderness area and let
21 the animals just chew on each other until they're done
22 chewing on each other, but we're going to eat some of those
23 animals, and so this is why, you know, there must be a
24 management in place where all of the species can we hope to
25 be healthy and to be able to use them as well. And we
26 can't lose sight of that, along with all the special
27 interest groups that will be regulating out of D.C., you
28 know, affecting us here in rural Alaska. It's a very
29 serious issue. And I think when it comes down to some of
30 the departments, maybe the State of Alaska might understand
31 that a little more than the federal government might
32 understand that, so.....

33
34 We appreciate you guys working together and doing
35 the best you can. It's going to take a while I think for
36 this thing to come back to us.

37
38 Dick, did they extend the bear season either
39 earlier or later on the Alaska Peninsula, or was that just
40 up in the upper Lake Iliamna area?

41
42 MR. SELLERS: The entire Unit 9 season was
43 extended earlier. In Unit 9(B) it now opens September 20th
44 instead of the 1st, and in 9(C) and 9(E), 9(D), it now
45 opens October 1st instead of the 7th, so it's.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Until when?

48
49 MR. SELLERS: Until the 21st.

50

00037

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The 21st of October,
2 okay. No further questions, Council members?

3
4 Before we take a break, a ten-minute break, Tony
5 Tallypolich (ph) is from here. Did Howard come down, Tony?

6
7 MR. TALLYPOLICH: He'll be down
8 (indiscernible - away from microphone).

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And Richard
11 Johnson, you came in this morning later.

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: (Indiscernible - away from
14 microphone)

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good, it's nice to have
17 you here, too, and anyone else that might have come in this
18 morning that I might have missed before when we had
19 introductions? Judy Gottlieb is a member of the Federal
20 Board, right?

21
22 MS. GOTTLIEB: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And I think this is the
25 first time that we've been blessed with the presence of a
26 Federal Board member at a council meeting. I think you
27 take that into consideration and you all buy her lunch or
28 something. Put that in the minutes, and we're going to be
29 in big trouble. Take a ten-minute break?

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ten-minute break. All
34 right.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're going to go
41 down -- Jerry, was there anything we need to do special
42 before we get to the federal subsistence fisheries
43 management here with Taylor?

44
45 MR. BERG: Yeah, we could move right into
46 that, Mr. Chair, if you'd like to by-pass B and C and come
47 back to them later.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And this is because that
50 you're going to be hooking up with KDLG or not?

00038

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, we have Alexi Rubenstein
2 on line now, so.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Alexi, are you on there?
5 He doesn't talk back to us?

6
7 MR. BERG: He may be on mute. He -- I told
8 him it would be about ten minutes. So I don't know if he
9 stepped away.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So if that's okay
12 with the Council, we'll go on down to item D, which is the
13 Federal Subsistence Fisheries.

14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
16 from microphone)

17
18 MR. BERG: Oh, his -- I think on his end.

19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, Mr.
21 Chairman,.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:there's a -- the
26 button on top that says mute is lit. I just want to.....

27
28 (Discussion re mute button)

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Alexi, are you on there?

31
32 (No answer)

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyway, if you would just
35 come in, and we'd like you to sign up -- where is our sign-
36 up sheet at over here?

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: On the back table.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Back table, okay. Be
41 sure and sign in if you just come in. We'd appreciate that
42 very much, and at this time we'll get into a new section of
43 our responsibility as a Council, advisory council, and that
44 would be the handling the fisheries part of it, so.....

45
46 MR. BERG: (Indiscernible) is here, and we
47 can maybe go into.....

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

50

00039

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'm going to object to KDLG
4 being on the teleconference. I think that we're entering a
5 new era in resource management with the inactivity of the
6 Alaska Legislature. I think that the federal managers as
7 well as the Federal Subsistence Boards are on the -- going
8 to be under intense scrutiny to provide the press with any
9 time we stumble, they're going to make a little stumble
10 into a mountain, and if my memory serves me correctly,
11 Taylor gave this presentation to the BBNA Board over at
12 Dillingham yesterday, and I feel KDLG had ample
13 opportunity. There's a difference between Taylor giving a
14 presentation to the BBNA Board and giving a presentation to
15 the regional council, because we're going to be asking
16 questions and trying to feel our way through this. We're
17 not taking any regulatory action. This is a briefing by
18 staff to us, and I just don't feel it right that we make a
19 special circumstance for KDLG. I'm not trying to suppress
20 the information, but I just feel that under the sensitivity
21 of this issue, that we as regional council members need to
22 fully understand and need to be able to speak freely with
23 staff without the press over our shoulder. And I think if
24 it was important enough, KDLG should have been here in
25 person.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What is the wishes of the
28 Council?

29

30 MR. ENRIGHT: I agree with.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to disconnect
33 them? Want to pull the plug? We can do that.

34

35 MR. BERG: Well, can we -- is the -- it's a
36 public meeting. I don't know. They.....

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well,.....

39

40 MR. BERG: I'm not sure.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I mean, you know,
43 we're the first regional council in the State of Alaska to
44 have a regional council meeting after the October 1st
45 deadline, you know. But if we have six news organizations
46 sitting here, it would be pretty disruptive to our process.
47 And I'm not trying to suppress the news media's right to
48 public access information, but I feel that Taylor afforded
49 an opportunity yesterday in Dillingham. I guess we could
50 broadcast Taylor's -- you know, Mr. Chairman, we could

00040

1 broadcast -- I'd be totally comfortable with broadcasting
2 Taylor's presentation, and when it comes to question and
3 answer, pull the plug.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that agreeable to the
6 council members? Robert, did you have.....

7

8 MR. HEYANO: It's just a comment, Mr.
9 Chairman. If there's some problem with the open meeting
10 regulation and whatnot, I guess we could request to go into
11 executive session for the question and answer period.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think we want to
14 do an executive session. We're just advisory, and we
15 really don't carry any weight on what we do. We do, but
16 they don't have to pay any attention to us if they don't
17 want to. We're advisory only, so -- that's fine with me if
18 you'd just like to get the information out to the public,
19 and then sign off the air, it would be fine with me.

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think there
22 are probably two considerations to focus on. First, it is
23 an open and public meeting, and that is our legal
24 obligation under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. And
25 secondly, the text that I'll be reading from is actually a
26 presentation that Tom Boyd and Peggy Fox are making in the
27 other regional council meetings at this point, and also in
28 other groups, as United Fishermen Alaska. So this is in a
29 sense the overview provided for the general public. It's
30 very similar to what's been done in the press conferences
31 and in the press materials that we've handed out. So I
32 think from the standpoint of we're ready to share this
33 information with the general public, and it's important for
34 the general public to start following this issue with a bit
35 more detail. I would certainly urge that we make it
36 available to other residents of Bristol Bay through KDLG.

37

38 On some of the question and answer, I'm not sure
39 that we're really in a position to go into executive
40 session for that reason alone. I think what we may say is
41 that some of the questions we'll hold off until the breaks
42 or things of that sort, but I believe in general we're
43 better served by proceeding in a public -- as a public
44 forum.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think the issue is this
47 is a public forum. And if you want to put KDLG on there
48 additional, that's fine. We're not obligated -- we're
49 having a public meeting here, and if they want to come to
50 the meeting, this is public. Whether we have to plug them

00041

1 in or not is the additional issue. And it's fine if we can
2 get the information out to them, but if CNN wants to come
3 in here and say we've got to be plugged into you, well, you
4 know, we're not obligated to CNN or anybody else to be
5 plugged in. We're having a public meeting, and we're not
6 going to go into any kind of a closed-door session. And so
7 -- and we're advisory only. So give the report, and then
8 we'll thank KDLG and we'll sign off.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: Very well. Why don't we
11 just confirm, Alexi, are you on line and able to pick me
12 up? We've moved microphones closer to be sure that you're
13 able to get a good sound signal.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They may not even be on
16 line, so.....

17

18 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm wondering if he's
19 waited the ten minutes. Do you want to try and phone the
20 station to tell them that we're going to go ahead?

21

22 MR. BERG: Yeah, I can try that on a
23 different phone.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: On a separate line? I
26 think because our time is short, and we need to keep
27 moving, I will begin. What I'd like to do is direct your
28 attention as the Council members to some materials in your
29 booklets.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Give us a tab?

32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, you'll find Tab H,
34 sort of the full chapter and verse of the 14 points on
35 fisheries implementation plan. Now, I'm going to summarize
36 our work on a handful of the most important items right
37 now. We want to focus on the priorities or the most
38 important issues now, but this is available for you if you
39 want to read further into the details of the planning -- of
40 the planning work. So I'm not going to read the whole
41 thing. We're not going to touch on all 14 points.

42

43 Secondly, at the table, there's a set of public
44 documents that were handed out last Friday, on October 1st.
45 The top sheet says news release, and it talks about the
46 Federal Subsistence Fisheries regulations coming into
47 effect. It has quotations from Secretary Babbitt and from
48 Marilyn Heiman, Secretary Babbitt's special assistant, and
49 then from Mitch Demientieff, our chairman. It basically
50 lays out the policies that continue to guide the

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1 department. That's followed by a little flyer that says
2 questions and answers. Helga, was this provided in the
3 packet,.....

4
5 MS. EAKON: Yes, it is.
6

7 MR. BRELSFORD:the supplemental
8 folder for the folks? You don't have to get it off the
9 table, it's in that second.....

10
11 MS. EAKON: Yes.
12

13 MR. BRELSFORD:folder. So the
14 questions and answers are trying to anticipate some of the
15 real simple things that come up most often, and by reading
16 through this, you all would be in a good position to answer
17 some of the simple questions that you'll hear around the
18 village. And the final page of that little packet is a
19 summary of the regulations, and it's again an effort to
20 just continue to get across some of the basics on what
21 these regulations do, and maybe allay some of the
22 misunderstandings that Dan was referring to when we began
23 this morning.

24
25 So please feel free to use these as kind of
26 information basis for yourself when you're trying to, you
27 know, have conversations in the villages about this federal
28 take over. It's a complicated, wide ranging change in
29 fisheries management, and we want to be sure that people
30 don't jump to the wrong conclusions as a result. So your
31 ability to help simplify, clarify, that's a real important
32 role that the regional council members can serve for us.

33
34 Alexi, do I hear you back on line? This is Taylor
35 Brelsford.

36
37 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Yeah, I'm here.
38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. The Chairman has
40 adjusted the agenda, so we're actually going to proceed
41 with the presentation at this point, so let me go to it.

42
43 I'd like to begin this overview of the planning
44 effort on subsistence fisheries with a couple of comments
45 that were offered by Secretary Babbitt and by our chairman,
46 Mitch Demientieff. Three weeks ago many of you know that
47 the Alaska Federation of Natives held a conference in
48 Washington, D.C., titled a National Forum on the Future of
49 Alaska Natives. And this was an effort to ensure that at
50 the national level people realized the significance of the

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1 subsistence issue to people in village Alaska.

2

3 At that meeting Secretary Babbitt came and made a
4 presentation, and he said that on October 1 we will begin a
5 transition into a new world of fisheries management in
6 Alaska. It will not be a cataclysm so long as all of us
7 remember to work together. And I think that theme of
8 cooperation with ADF&G, with the tribal organizations, with
9 the existing fisheries organization, I think that's sort of
10 a marching order for all of us, that we need to really keep
11 a focus on.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cataclysm, what does it
14 mean?

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: Cataclysm means like a
17 catastrophe.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: This will not be a
22 catastrophe as long as we remember to work together.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll speak in simple
25 terms so we can all go from there on up.

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Point taken.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: I'll make a note for the
32 Secretary.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That would be a good
35 idea.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Last Friday at our press
38 conference on October 1st, Mitch Demientieff stood and
39 spoke with a very full heart, and what he said is he wanted
40 to respond to the criticism or the worry that federal
41 subsistence fisheries management would be management in
42 Washington, D.C. And he said it will not be management in
43 Washington, D.C. This program will be management in Alaska
44 by Alaskans and with the cooperation of Alaska people at
45 the local level. He went on to talk about the importance
46 of the regional advisory councils in the subsistence
47 fisheries effort. So he wanted to reassure very strongly
48 the public that this is not a remote control fisheries
49 management program. It is one in which Alaskans locally
50 and through the regional councils will have a great deal to

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1 say about the implementation of the federal program.

2

3 Turning now to the presentation that Tom Boyd, our
4 director, had prepared, let me start with a few background
5 and introduction comments, and then go on to talk about
6 half a dozen of the priority issues in planning and
7 implementation. We've been faced with the upcoming
8 management of subsistence fisheries since the Katie John
9 decision in 1995. During that time -- since that time,
10 there have been several rounds of public meetings leading
11 up to final regulations that were published in January of
12 1999, but did not go into effect until October 1st. There
13 were something on the order of 40 public meetings held
14 throughout the State, and we've had briefings with the
15 regional councils across four years now on this topic. Now
16 the day that we thought might never come has actually
17 arrived, and we do enter into this responsibility as of
18 October 1st.

19

20 Our planning efforts now take root, now they take
21 effect. Since January we've begun the process of planning
22 for the operational side of federal subsistence fisheries,
23 and in April a framework was laid out for this planning
24 effort. It's the 14 points of this implementation plan
25 that you have in your packets. These are the tasks that we
26 need to address in order to move forward after October 1st.

27

28 The topics I'm going to focus on in the next few
29 minutes are first of all the staffing and organization, and
30 in particular looking at the information needs. We want to
31 make this program add value to fisheries management
32 statewide by bringing new fisheries scientific information
33 to bear on these management decisions. Secondly, I'll talk
34 about cooperative management with tribes and other native
35 organizations. Thirdly, the important issue of federal and
36 state cooperation. Next, regional council advisory
37 structures. Then extraterritorial jurisdiction, customary
38 trade, and several smaller topics that we'll turn to at the
39 end.

40

41 Following several of these items, I will stop for
42 questions and comments. Some of the topics are actually
43 later agenda items, and you will have more detailed
44 discussions and requests for input, but I'll try and make
45 this something of an interaction rather than just a long
46 presentation followed by a few questions.

47

48 Starting with this issue of how to staff, how to
49 organize, how to budget for the federal program, one of the
50 most important things is figuring out how the five federal

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1 agencies can operate in a consistent and unified fashion.
2 In working on the budgets and staffing plans, we wanted to
3 come up with an organizational strategy that would
4 encourage effective coordination between the five agencies.
5 As you well know, fisheries management is far more complex
6 than wildlife management, and it calls for a new approach.
7 We began by looking at how we were going to organize
8 together and analyze fisheries information in order to make
9 sound regulatory decisions particularly in the quick turn-
10 around time required for in-season management decisions.
11 If five agencies were operating five separate programs, the
12 ability to synthesize, to bring those data together quickly
13 for the use of in-season management decisions would be much
14 more difficult. So we've come up with an approaching that
15 we're referring to as unified resource manage- -- pardon
16 me, unified resource monitoring. This recognizes the need
17 for all five agencies to work together in identifying
18 resource monitoring priorities, looking at river systems as
19 a whole, not looking at the fragments that might be under
20 management by the refuge or the park or the forest. We
21 want to whole river systems and have a comprehensive
22 approach to information needs, priority setting.

23
24 The staff from four of the five agencies, the
25 Department of Interior agencies, will be co-located at key
26 field locations, and we will establish addition
27 connect.....

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD:still not sure --
34 (feedback) -- approach to information needs, priority
35 setting. The staff from four of the five agencies, the
36 Department of Interior Agencies will be co-located at key
37 field locations, and we will establish additional
38 connections between the agencies to insure consistent and
39 common direction for this information gathering program.

40
41 A central office in the Fish and Wildlife Service,
42 separate from the Office of Subsistence Management, will be
43 responsible for coordinating the resource monitoring
44 program, and for compiling and reporting that information.
45 This office will be required to put fast moving information
46 together for the in-season management decisions.

47
48 The administration, or the management side of the
49 program will continue to rest primarily with the Office of
50 Subsistence Management. Our staff will be enlarged with

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1 fisheries biologists, support staff for the regional
2 councils, and administrative staff to ensure adequate
3 technical support to both the councils and to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board. In some parts of the state, there will
5 be additional field staff with responsibilities,
6 particularly in the area of delegation of responsi -- of
7 management authority for in-season management, for timely
8 decisions and the quick turn around of in-season -- of the
9 in-season period.

10
11 Let me stop and see if there are any questions and
12 comments on the organizational approach at this point?

13
14 Moving to the next question of cooperative
15 management with native organizations, and, Mr. Chairman,
16 this would in part respond to the concerns raised by Robin
17 Samuelsen earlier this morning. As part of the planning
18 effort, we have recognized the need to build on and to
19 expand our cooperative work with native communities to
20 enhance local involvement in the management of subsistence
21 fisheries. This summer we completed an inventory of
22 fisheries projects currently being managed by tribes and by
23 regional tribal associations. We learned that there are
24 upwards of 50 individual projects underway in the last
25 several years managed by the tribes. We want to build on
26 this capacity as we implement the fisheries program. We
27 expect it will take several months to identify, design and
28 initiate field projects for cooperative programs in the
29 summer, but our goal is to have several high priority
30 efforts active during the first fishing season in the
31 summer of 2000, and then to build on that program in future
32 years. Selection of field projects, cooperating with the
33 tribes, will be based on the statewide priorities for
34 information.

35
36 The types of projects we are considering include
37 conducting village harvest surveys, and this is one in
38 which BBNA has actually been an outstanding cooperator in
39 recent years. Managing fish monitoring stations that will
40 allow us to ensure adequate escapements for subsistence and
41 for spawning. These include fish weirs, counting tours,
42 and test fisheries. And finally we expect to support
43 cooperative management planning project through the tribal
44 associations.

45
46 Let me stop on this topic and see if there are
47 questions or comments about this cooperation, Section 809,
48 cooperative agreements with the tribes?

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah?

2
3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. What do you say, what
4 do you mean when you say -- excuse me. By tribes, are you
5 talking about traditional councils or from borough or?

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: We're -- in the first case,
8 Mr. Abraham, we are talking specifically about the tribes,
9 so that would be the IRA councils in many villages or the
10 traditional councils in many villages. We recognize that
11 most tribes have banded together for their natural resource
12 programs, working with a regional tribal association like
13 the Bristol Bay Native Association in this area. In most
14 regions it's the -- it's the regional tribal associations
15 that have a staff and a program, and a track record, and we
16 would expect that most of these programs -- they're fairly
17 sophisticated projects, we would expect most of the time
18 those will be with regional tribal associations rather with
19 -- rather than individual villages.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Thank you. I
22 understand that.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Question?

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, Mr. Heyano?

27
28 MR. HEYANO: Why limit it only to native
29 and tribal entities and not provide the same opportunity to
30 either boroughs or municipality?

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: It's a good question. I
33 would say that it has been a policy directive from the
34 Secretary that we will maintain and strengthen our
35 relationship with Alaska native tribes as part of the
36 fisheries expansion. It is not limited to that. Section
37 809 in ANILCA outlines a broad program of cooperative
38 agreements, and it specifically refers to cooperation with
39 the State of Alaska, with universities, and with other
40 organizations. We do anticipate cooperative projects with
41 groups like the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, or the
42 Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association. My comments
43 here were focused on the Secretary's interest in
44 strengthening the tribal relationship, but we expect to
45 broaden that to include many organizations as is outlined
46 in Section 809 of ANILCA.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good question, Robert.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think you know, and

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1 I've expressed this concern in the past is that, you know,
2 a subsistence priority isn't a race-based priority, and
3 although, you know, in many of the rural communities the
4 population is predominantly native, it's always been -- I
5 mean, I always maintain that it's an individual's right to
6 (indiscernible, microphone cutting out) irregardless of his
7 race or (indiscernible) community. So I guess that's where
8 my concern is, you know. Is it a race-based priority, or
9 is it a rural priority?

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think.....

12
13 MR. HEYANO: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
14 speech), you know, is that those folks who are not involved
15 -- either native or tribal members I think need to be
16 afforded some opportunity, full participation in this
17 process, and that's something that always bothered me when
18 we limit it to tribal or native organizations. There's no
19 way that they have the same access as somebody who is a
20 tribal member or a native (indiscernible) because those are
21 organizations that are based on membership that he has no
22 control over, or she has no control over, the individual.
23 And maybe this is some place we can discuss it later on,
24 and get a clear understanding so that those folks who
25 aren't native or tribal members know where they fit into
26 the process for their subsistence priority.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, AFN was very
29 clear on a rural preference, period. And there again, you
30 know, we don't want to see something read into the system
31 that the Secretary can just put in there because he thinks
32 that's what it should be. Because you're going to be
33 dealing with the big red population of Ugashiks, who has a
34 city, and Egegik, who has an organized city, and Bristol
35 Bay Borough, the first borough in the State of Alaska is
36 not going to sit here while everything goes by it. It's
37 going to have a participation level in that, so that is a
38 good comment.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think it's
41 important to be crystal clear that the rural subsistence
42 priority is for rural residents regardless of their
43 membership in a tribe. It's based on the fact that they
44 participate -- they live in communities that rely on
45 subsistence resources. So as far as the opportunity to
46 harvest under the subsistence regulations, there is no
47 question that's for all rural residents of those
48 communities.

49
50 What we focused on here is actually management

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1 projects, resource monitoring projects, and we've had some
2 success in building on local institutions that have some
3 strengths, and we want to continue to do that.

4

5 I think the comment that we ought not to limit
6 those management projects to just the tribes is well taken,
7 Robert. I guess I want to say a little further that in --
8 throughout this implementation plan, we will do staff work
9 that is later subject.....

10

11 COURT REPORTER: You can back that
12 microphone off.

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. We will prepare a
15 studies program each year that is reviewed by the regional
16 councils and by the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt the
17 particular projects, to make the budget decisions, so there
18 will be additional opportunities for you all to look over
19 our shoulders about picking the right projects, picking the
20 right partners, picking the right priorities. I don't want
21 to suggest that that's something that will be done in a
22 back room without public review, without review by the
23 regional councils.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, are you satisfied
26 on that?

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

31

32 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Continue on then, if you
35 would, please, Taylor?

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Turning now to the question
38 of cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
39 I think the starting point here is all of us recognize that
40 in fisheries management neither the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game nor the Federal Subsistence Program can
42 success, can operate successfully in a vacuum. They have
43 to cooperate. River systems have mixed jurisdiction. In
44 some instances, the spawning grounds in the headwaters in
45 Bristol Bay are in federal management, but the lower river
46 systems are not. In other instances, as in the Togiak
47 Refuge, the federal management will run all the way to the
48 tidelands. But working together is the only way in which
49 this program can succeed, and we think that's a minimum and
50 a necessary foundation.

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1 I want to point out that the State of Alaska will
2 continue to have management authorities over many fisheries
3 throughout the state. All of the nonsubsistence fisheries
4 will continue to be managed by the Alaska Department of
5 Game -- of Fish and Game. That means that the commercial
6 fisheries openings will be managed by the Alaska Department
7 of Fish and Game as they have been in the past. The sport
8 use fisheries, the personal -- the sports fisheries and the
9 commer -- and the personal use fisheries will also be
10 managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

11
12 The limited responsibility of the Federal
13 Subsistence Program will focus on fresh water, these will
14 be fisheries occurring on inland navigable waters inside of
15 the federal conservation units. So within the Togiak
16 National Wildlife Refuge, within Lake Clark National Park.
17 It is not in the near-shore waters, the marine waters,
18 where most of the commercial fisheries occur. That is
19 managed by the Alaska Department of Game. This separation
20 of responsibility is very important as a basis for our
21 program, and again with this mixed jurisdiction, close
22 cooperation and coordination of management is extremely
23 important.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead, Robin?

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman? Do you have
28 a -- Taylor, do you have legal solicitor's opinion on that?

29
30 MR. BRELSFORD: I can say that through the
31 three years leading to these regulations that were
32 published in January of '99, the National Solicitor's
33 Office, John Lesche is the solicitor, the senior attorney
34 for the Secretary of Interior if you will, they have
35 reviewed very, very closely the definition of the waters
36 affected by the Katie John decision. So I think it's --
37 what I would suggest is that in creating these regulations,
38 there was a legal review at the highest levels nationally.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: I'd like to talk for just a
43 second about the efforts to -- at dialogue between the
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Federal
45 Subsistence Board. There have been three meetings held
46 that we have referred to as summit meetings since September
47 of 1998. These have included the chairs of the Alaska
48 Board of Game, and the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the
49 Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of the Department,
50 and the entire Federal Subsistence Board. In the most

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1 recent meeting in June of this summer, Dan O'Hara from the
2 Bristol Bay Regional Council, and Willie Goodwin from the
3 Northwest Arctic Regional Council were also present to
4 represent the regional councils' views on these questions.

5
6 The meetings were difficult, but they did result in
7 clarification of the areas where the two programs can work
8 together, and then some of the separate and independent
9 responsibilities that cannot be delegated between programs.
10 Importantly, both the state and federal managers placed
11 conservation of the resource as the first priority. Among
12 uses, both the state and the federal managers identify
13 subsistence needs as having a priority over other uses of
14 the resources. However, separating rural from nonrural
15 subsistence users is a federal responsibility. It's the
16 state from the responsibilities of the Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game. Moreover, the Board and the regional
18 councils want to work together, want to maintain their on-
19 going direct relationship, whereas the state works
20 primarily with advisory groups, the local advisory
21 committees, who represent a broader constituency beyond the
22 subsistence users alone. As a result, we will continue to
23 have a separate regulatory process on the federal side for
24 both wildlife and fisheries, but these will be coordinated
25 regulatory processes. We want to work closely with the
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in each of the ways that
27 we can.

28
29 We identify five areas where we think that
30 cooperation should focus. The first of these is on the
31 sharing of information. It's critically important that all
32 of the fisheries data be freely available to both state and
33 federal managers. Secondly, it's crucial that the
34 fisheries management frameworks be coordinated on state and
35 federal waters in the preseason planning phase, in the in-
36 season management phase, and in the post-season wrap up,
37 the point at which projections for upcoming years will be
38 drawn. We want to look at the ways of scheduling so that
39 the state and processes can work together for joint
40 solutions, so that local advisory committees and regional
41 councils can put forward proposals that would bring a
42 common action, a common regulation on both state and
43 federal waters. We want to be sure that there's no lack of
44 -- we want to make sure that the schedules work together so
45 that the state boards and the federal boards can act in the
46 same year on a joint regulatory approach. And finally we
47 want to strengthen the direct interaction of regional
48 advisory councils and local advisory committees.

49
50 Our immediate goal is to have a draft agreement on

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1 cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, and in
2 particular we're focused on an area we're calling the in-
3 season protocol, looking at how the managers would work
4 together during the in-season or emergency order period.
5 That plan is to be available in January for regional
6 council review and detailed discussions during the winter
7 regional council meetings. Our goal is to have a complete
8 agreement in place with the state prior to the commencement
9 of the commercial -- of the salmon fisheries in March of
10 the year 2000.

11
12 Let me stop there and see if there are questions
13 and comments?

14
15 Another item that's of less important in Bristol
16 Bay -- less importance in Bristol Bay, so I'll quite brief,
17 on a river system like the Yukon River, we actually have
18 several different regional councils, three councils on the
19 Yukon River, two councils on the Kuskokwim. Again,
20 recognizing that we have to manage whole river systems, we
21 will be working with those three councils to find a way of
22 coordinating their recommendations to the Board to insure
23 that we have unified advice and recommendations to the
24 Federal Subsistence Board rather than fragments of a single
25 river system. We'll provide you more information about how
26 that dialogue with those three councils, what structural
27 relationships or changes in regional councils might result.

28
29 Now, on the controversial issue of extraterritorial
30 jurisdiction, since 1995, the draft and now the final
31 regulations on federal subsistence fisheries acknowledge
32 the Secretary's existing authority to extend jurisdiction
33 beyond federal lands and waters if it is necessary to
34 protect subsistence fishing and hunting that occurs on
35 federal lands and waters. This would be reaching off,
36 reaching beyond the fed- -- direct federal jurisdiction to
37 protect an activity on the federal lands and waters. We
38 recognize that management of migratory species, such as
39 salmon, may require adjustments in allocations downstream,
40 outside of federal jurisdiction, in order to protect
41 subsistence uses. This authority, however, has not been
42 delegated to the Federal Subsistence Board. It remains at
43 the secretarial level. It is a national level decision to
44 extend jurisdiction in that fashion.

45
46 We realize that the public needs to know the steps,
47 the procedures for this exercise of extraterritorial
48 jurisdiction, and as a result, we've prepared draft
49 procedures for handling petitions on extraterritoriality,
50 and these are currently in the Secretary's office being

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1 reviewed.

2

3 I want to say that extraterritorial jurisdiction is
4 extremely rare in the 20th century. It has been used less
5 than a dozen times in all of the past century. It is not a
6 simple matter. It's not a casual matter. It's one that
7 would be handled with great care. We see it as an extreme
8 measure in which a fishery source is being depleted outside
9 a federal area to such an extent as to cause a failure in
10 subsistence harvests in the federal areas. Under those
11 extreme circumstances, the Secretaries do have the legal
12 authority to extend jurisdiction and provide a remedy. The
13 process would not be the normal annual regulation or
14 proposal cycle. It would be by special petition. The
15 petitions would require extensive consultations with the
16 State of Alaska, and with other fisheries authorities, as
17 well as a thorough analysis of the best available
18 scientific information. We will provide the regional
19 councils with copies of the procedures as soon as those are
20 known, and each of you actually has a copy of the draft in
21 the packet that's been provided today.

22

23 Let me stop on that topic and see if there are
24 questions and discussion at this point?

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin?

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: To get a clear
29 understanding of this, Taylor, I'll go back to about 1980 I
30 guess and the Federal EEZ, and the Japanese caught a record
31 number of chinook salmon, about 60 percent of the chinook
32 salmon were bound for the Nushagak River, which is the
33 largest chinook river system in Bristol Bay. That
34 devastated the chinook runs to Bristol Bay and put us just
35 -- in that river system in a ten-year rebuilding mode where
36 subsistence, commercial, sport was curtailed drastically.
37 Under this scenario, the ET proposal I'll call it, the
38 Secretary then would step in and -- or our petition would
39 be submitted to the Secretary to curtail the fisheries in
40 the federal EEZ waters of those fisheries that are
41 harvesting chinook salmon?

42

43 MR. BRELSFORD: That's the -- that's what
44 an extraterritorial petition would be about. It would be
45 saying that on federal lands and waters, inland waters,
46 where the subsistence priority applies, people are unable
47 to meet those subsistence needs, because of impacts on the
48 stocks that have occurred offshore. In the specific
49 scenario that you outlined, Robin, it's actually one
50 federal department managing in the offshore fisheries, and

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1 therefore responsible for the by-catch issue, and that
2 would be a conversation between the Secretary of Interior
3 and the Secretary of Commerce, if I'm following your
4 scenario. It's actually.....

5
6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD:not the three-mile
9 limit, not the state-managed fisheries, but offshore
10 fisheries?

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I'm doing a
13 composite.....

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: The process.....

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN:because it's two
18 federal fisheries.

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. The process would
21 be the same. It would originate with a petition by
22 subsistence users who are unable to meet their needs, and
23 that petition would be reviewed and again the scientific
24 information has to be strong and compelling to demonstrate
25 the cause that these offshore events are the cause of the
26 failure, or the subsistence -- for the protected
27 subsistence activities. The Secretaries have to consult
28 before the Secretary of Interior would reach outside of his
29 normal jurisdiction to regulate an offshore activity of
30 that sort. So a high test of the fact basis is an
31 important element here, and then the procedures that allow
32 full deliberation and full consultation. Basically they
33 want to be sure that there -- that all the other options
34 have been exhausted before this extreme measure would be
35 undertaken by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of
36 Agriculture.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: And these regulations will
39 be out October 1?

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: The regulations that
42 identify the Secretaries' responsibilities and the Federal
43 Board's responsibility are already in your hands. These
44 are the same regs that were published in January of 1999.
45 The procedures, the sort of steps about what information is
46 required in a petition, and the time frames for a response,
47 it's one of those procedural steps, are in draft form at
48 this point, and we expect that to be approved by the
49 Secretaries sometime around the first of the year.

50

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1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

4 Yeah, Robert?

5

6 MR. HEYANO: It probably stands to reason
7 then all the inshore waters would be closed to
8 nonsubsistence harvest of whatever species that this
9 petition is addressing first?

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I wouldn't say closed, I
12 would say scrutinized, but.....

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, I think there's a lot
15 of room between regulated.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD:in order to protect
20 the necessary allocation for subsistence fisheries, and a
21 complete closure. I guess what I would see here is that if
22 the extreme measure were necessary, it would be limited and
23 focused so that it only did what was needed to protect the
24 subsistence needs in the federal waters. I do want to say
25 it would not be a permanent change in jurisdictions. It
26 would be limited only to what's required to ensure the
27 upstream allocation for the subsistence purposes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin?

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think a follow-up to
32 Robert's question is under Title VIII we're mandated to
33 provide a reasonable opportunity, not mandated to provide a
34 catch. We're mandated to provide a reasonable opportunity.
35 And if subsistence users are not afforded a reasonable
36 opportunity -- Danny's a die-hard subsistence user and he
37 goes out there in the rain, I need sunshine, so, you know,
38 it's been raining all subsistence season. So Danny's
39 harvested his stock of fish under subsistence, and I don't
40 get any, because the sun didn't come out. Well, there was
41 a reasonable opportunity provided for Danny and I to go
42 harvest. And I think that's what Title VIII's all about.
43 It's not a guarantee. Subsistence is not a guarantee. And
44 if subsistence users can prove that they're not being
45 afforded a reasonable opportunity, because we need fish for
46 escapement, have an interception problem on high seas of
47 chinook salmon, and then two factors, they're being limited
48 from traditional seven days a week to three days a week,
49 and still there's not enough, and either U.S. Fish and
50 Wildlife Service or Department of Fish and Game is thinking

00056

1 about shutting down the subsistence fishery if the numbers
2 dwindle even more, the reasonable opportunity laws kicks
3 in. They haven't been afforded a reasonable opportunity to
4 harvest. So it isn't -- in my eyes, it isn't an all or
5 nothing.

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. And I think we
8 don't want to focus so much attention on this that we lose
9 sight of the fact that the goal here is to provide for
10 subsistence fisheries. It represents on a statewide basis
11 something on the order of two percent of total fish
12 harvests. We don't see a lot of dislocation, a lot of
13 displacement of existing fisheries as a result of this
14 protection of the subsistence need, of the subsistence
15 priority.

16
17 I want to add to Robin's comment by saying in
18 Section 815 of ANILCA, it actually says that we would not
19 unnecessarily restrict other uses, so that we have a
20 balancing responsibility here to protect the subsistence
21 opportunity, but at the same time not to unnecessarily
22 disrupt other uses of the public resources. And I can't
23 say enough that the Secretaries, the Federal Subsistence
24 Board view this as an extreme measure only, that all kinds
25 of other adjustments, of cooperative discussions with the
26 Department of Fish and Game about allocations, all of that
27 will solve most problems. We don't see this as the first
28 way to fix a problem. It is the last way to fix a problem,
29 only after all of the other measures have been exhausted.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: However, Taylor, using it
32 once may be a very extreme situation. You said it's only
33 been used a few times in the last century.

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: That's correct.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Using it once in Alaska
38 may be very devastating to various user groups, but it has
39 some very broad dark coloring that could be a bad
40 situation, and it's the one I fear the most of what we're
41 going. Go ahead. Go ahead, Robin, you have a.....

42
43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think when you --
44 by October when you come out with how this is going to be
45 implemented, protocol and the definitions, you've got to be
46 absolutely clear under the state management system in the
47 Board of Fish arena. There's many different definitions
48 for one thing. It depends what side of the fence you're
49 on. Save us all a headache. Now, there's harm, what
50 degree of harm? Reasonable opportunity, what degree?

00057

1 You've got to have that all spelled out right up front,
2 otherwise you guys will be tied up, and the users will be
3 tied up in court forever. And that's what I've seen in the
4 -- under the state management system is the ambiguity of
5 the definition of harm. Some lawyer comes in and says, oh,
6 that's arbitrary and capricious what you just did. And out
7 the window it goes. So I think you've got to be very
8 careful and define to the max everything that you're
9 putting in this proposal for October 1st to the Secretary
10 and how we're going to implement this.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, do you have more
13 information on this extraterritorial jurisdiction?

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: I do want to say that
16 the.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I have a question to ask
19 you, too, along those lines.

20
21 MR. BRELSFORD:the draft, it should
22 be in your packets in the supplemental.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's yellow?

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD:folders. I guess it's
27 brown in the packets for you. It's very much nuts and
28 bolts procedures.

29
30 MR. BERG: It's the one pager.

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, one page.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyway -- okay. Thank
35 you.

36
37 MR. HEYANO: I don't have it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Taylor, would you be free
40 to speak on what the Federal Board is going to be doing
41 about this particular issue? To what extent could you
42 address that? What our Federal Board in Alaska is going to
43 be doing?

44
45 MR. BRELSFORD: As far as specific
46 responsibilities in the regulations already published, it
47 says that the Federal Subsistence Board will receive
48 petitions and conduct the finding of facts and make
49 recommendations to the Secretaries. Let me -- I could
50 actually read the language for you, Mr. Chairman. The

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1 Federal Subsistence Board's responsibilities are to
2 evaluate whether hunting, fishing and trapping occurring on
3 lands or waters in Alaska other than public lands outside
4 of the federal lands interfere with subsistence hunting,
5 fishing or trapping on the federal public lands to such an
6 extent as to result in a failure to provide the subsistence
7 priority. They will evaluate whether that is the cause of
8 a failure to provide the subsistence priority, and after
9 appropriate consultation with the State of Alaska, the
10 regional councils and other federal agencies, the Board
11 will make a recommendation to the Secretaries for their
12 action. So the Federal Board's role is fact finding and
13 recommending to the Secretaries. The responsibility to
14 make a decision of this sort is only at the Secretarial
15 level.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What does the Federal
18 Board have to do to get that jurisdiction?

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: Again, the Board itself
21 will not exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction. They will
22 evaluate petitions or.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do they have a document
25 in hand saying we can go the Secretary and request this?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: The public could initiate
28 the request through a petition, and the draft procedure for
29 petitions.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me make the
32 question.....

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD:before you lays that
35 out.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:a little more
38 clearer then. Has the Federal Board already started toward
39 that direction?

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: No. The only work that the
42 Federal Board has done at this point is to.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is what I want,
45 yeah.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD:clarify the
48 procedures, the steps, and to delineate who will do what as
49 these things would go forward. All of the cautions at this
50 point are ensuring that there legally defensible procedures

00059

1 in place for a decision of this sort. The analytic
2 yardsticks, the guidelines for information gathering and so
3 on, have not been laid out in the way that Robin is
4 recommending. And I do want to say, Robin, I think that's
5 very important feedback to the federal program. It's the
6 result of your years of experience watching the intercept
7 fishery issues, the very difficult deliberations by the
8 Alaska Board of Fisheries, and we need to have the benefit
9 of that experience on your part.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

12

13 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me -- I have a one
14 other hot button, and then a couple of small details to
15 mention to you. The next one is the question of customary
16 trade that has been fairly controversial in several parts
17 of the state. The definition of subsistence uses in Title
18 VIII does include customary trade as a legitimate
19 subsistence practice. In our regulations, customary trade
20 is defined to include the exchange of subsistence taken
21 fish and their parts for cash, so long as it does not
22 constitute a significant commercial enterprise. this is a
23 permissive approach to allow an on-going practice in
24 village Alaska. It's designed to permit the continuing
25 practice of selling small quantities of fish, but to keep
26 this separate from commercial sales. We recognize that
27 there may be a need for additional regulations that more
28 carefully define customary trade practices on a regional
29 basis to ensure the separation of subsistence from
30 commercial use, and to prevent abuse. Later in the agenda
31 we will have a more detailed conversation with you about
32 identifying customary trade practices in this region.
33 We're actually consulting with each of the ten regional
34 councils for more specific information on that topic.

35

36 I'll move quickly through these last items. We
37 recognize the need for more training and orientation for
38 these new fisheries responsibilities on the part of the
39 regional councils, and for the federal staff. Last month
40 you received a letter that invited you to a training
41 session or an orientation session in November.....

42

43 (Busy signal)

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think KDLG just went
46 away.

47

48 MR. BERG: The on/off button.

49

50 MR. BRELSFORD: Here we go. Okay. The

00060

1 training session early -- original scheduled for November
2 has now been postponed until January 2000. We were
3 concerned that we wouldn't be able to do the complete
4 preparation, and most especially we still haven't sorted
5 out the in-season management issues that are critical nuts
6 and bolts for us to be able to bring the information on.
7 We do hope to have that ready for the January rescheduled
8 training and orientation session for the regional councils.
9 The proposed dates and a draft agenda of topics are a later
10 agenda item. There will be some more discussion for us in
11 a few minutes.

12
13 On the regulatory schedule, when proposals are
14 submitted and so on, that's also one of the planning
15 issues. I want to emphasize that the current regulations
16 for the year 2000 fisheries, the upcoming fishing season
17 are already in place, but we will be starting the process
18 of proposals and making regulation changes for the year
19 2001 starting in January. This is similar to the wildlife
20 process where the public and the councils can submit
21 proposals. That will be open in the winter council
22 meetings in February and March of 2000. Those changes
23 would be evaluated by the staff, a technical report would
24 be brought back to the councils for their review and
25 recommendations. That will occur in the falltime a year
26 from now. And then shortly after that, in December next
27 year, the Board will meet and make its regulatory decisions
28 for the year 2001 fishing seasons. You have a handout that
29 summarizes those schedule dates in your packet.

30
31 I'll end by emphasizing a couple of the main points
32 again. The Federal Subsistence Fisheries Program will
33 result at the outset in little or no disruption to existing
34 fisheries. We will start with regulations that are
35 virtually identical to existing state subsistence fisheries
36 regulations. Jerry and I actually did a line-by-line
37 review of the federal regs and the state regs, and the
38 principal change, nearly the only change there is that rod
39 and reel is recognized as a subsistence method in the
40 federal program where it is not in the state. Again, at
41 every opportunity, please emphasize to people that the
42 federal program will not result in disruption or
43 displacement of existing fisheries. We will start slow,
44 and we will adjust those regulations as we need to in the
45 public process over the years to come.

46
47 We expect to cooperate with the Alaska Department
48 of Fish and Game, that is not optional. That is
49 fundamental to the success of the Federal Subsistence
50 Program. And we do expect to work at the local level in

00061

1 these management projects, the fish weirs, the count
2 towers, working primarily with the tribal organizations,
3 but there are other regional fisheries groups that we
4 expect to work with together.

5

6 So with that, let me close and invite any other
7 comments as you may wish, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any
10 questions, council members?

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have one.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, on page 11,
17 coordination with the North Pacific Fishery Management
18 Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service on
19 interjurisdictional issues. I brought that up at the
20 council meeting, North Pacific Fishery Management Council,
21 and I think it's very important, because we've had high
22 chinook catches, and high chum catches, chum catches of
23 western Alaska origin when them commercial and subsistence
24 and sports fisheries are closed, and now it's in a Tier II.
25 I think that three groups need to get together along with
26 the IPHC, the International Pacific Halibut Commission,
27 because right now the council has on hold a subsistence
28 halibut committee that will be starting up probably in
29 December. We're getting -- now that the issue of whether
30 the feds were going to be managing subsistence or the State
31 of Alaska. We were waiting for that particular problem to
32 be settled before we moved forward. So I suspect that in
33 December the subsistence halibut issue will surface. Well,
34 it's going to surface next week in Seattle, and we're
35 probably going to reactivate the committee.

36

37 There's a couple of things that gets into trade and
38 barter, and the federal regulations under customary trade
39 and barter are very vague. And judges have cited that
40 \$9000 worth of subsistence herring roe on kelp was not
41 excessive when them three gentlemen in Southeast decided to
42 load them in back of a pickup and take them through Canada
43 and down to Washington. What they got them on was the Lacy
44 Act, transport of. So on our customary trade, and I think
45 we have \$100, \$200 and \$300 in the proposal as an option,
46 and I don't know if that's going to set a precedent on what
47 is customary trade and barter as far as the dollar amount
48 goes. We had no problems on -- in committee. And I'm only
49 speaking from the committee side of it, because it hasn't
50 gone for a final vote to the council. But the committee

00062

1 felt that any time that people wanted to trade halibut for
2 moose or a caribou or whatever resources of subsistence
3 resources, that was fine. But one thing the committee did
4 want to address was the dollar amount because of the
5 Southeast roe case of \$9000 wasn't excessive. That would
6 be a real important one for you guys to track. I don't
7 know if it's going to be precedent setting or what, if the
8 council even adopts it. The IPHC, you know, they're
9 charged with setting the over-all total allowable catch for
10 halibut, and the council's set up, North Pacific Fisheries
11 Management Council is set up where it allocates the
12 resource amongst the user groups. That's one of the big
13 issues coming forth at this time. So it's going to touch
14 on several of your points that you guys are working on.

15
16 MR. BRELSFORD: I think looking at the
17 customary trade regulations before us, we're advised that
18 the court holdings to date are not binding on the Federal
19 Subsistence Program at this point, that we need to make
20 positive regulations that would then cover this issue for
21 the Federal Subsistence Program, and I think it's perhaps
22 fair to say that it was in the absence of regulations in
23 the past that the court's have inserted dollar figures and
24 threshold values. We think it's extremely important for
25 the councils to focus on this and to work with us on
26 region-specific regulations that are appropriate, they
27 separate customary trade or subsistence uses from
28 commercial uses, if that requires a dollar value, a
29 threshold figure in a particular region. We want to have
30 that on the record from the regional councils. It's when
31 we have not been proactive in formulating full regulations
32 that we think the courts are left with a much wider
33 latitude. That was an example that has been cited with
34 worry by native people around the state, that that was --
35 that was inappropriate for their regions. So what we're
36 doing at this point is trying to make sure that we have
37 regionally appropriate regulations that will be -- that's
38 the importance of this up-coming agenda item on customary
39 trade. And as you say, our regulations at this point are
40 vague. They could -- if they're left vague, there could be
41 an unfortunate outcome, and it's important for all of us to
42 try and get that right early on here.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, that's exactly the
45 problem that -- on customary trade that we faced. There
46 was no legislative history. They allowed it to happen.
47 There was no dollar amount cited in the legislative
48 history, and you create these regulations with all this
49 ambiguity, and people start misinterpreting the intent,
50 because subsistence fishery, or some people took

00063

1 subsistence fishery, made it a commercial fishery, and, you
2 know, a judge rules that 9,000 is not excessive. And
3 everybody that I've talked to throughout the State of
4 Alaska in every region, subsistence users as well as
5 commercial fishermen, thought that was highly excessive,
6 and the system was taken advantage of. Also, that goes
7 back to spelling out. As you guys define things, spell
8 things out for the judges and the attorneys and the users
9 on all sides. It will save us a big headache later on.
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: Good point
13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I might mention before
15 you leave, Taylor, for you who have just come in today, of
16 the public, we'd like you to sign up over there, just so
17 we'll have a record of who's here. And then we do have
18 blue cards, don't we, for those who might want to testify
19 on issues that are on the agenda. And if you are
20 interested in doing that, I think we'll probably have, if
21 that's okay with the Council, an opportunity in the
22 afternoon to go ahead and to -- in case you have any
23 comments you want to make. Anything else, Taylor?

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: No, Mr. Chairman. Thank
26 you very much.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. It was
29 -- appreciate that report.

30
31 (Whispered conversation)
32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jerry, if we could do the
34 moose management plan, and then we'll take a little early
35 lunch, because there will be probably a lot of people
36 ending up at the restaurant here. Who is going to be
37 handling the moose management plan from the Refuge? All
38 right.

39
40 MR. BERG: Actually, Mr. Chair, there's two
41 more issues under B that follow Taylor's presentation. I
42 don't know when you would like to address those, but issues
43 seven and eight under B, under where Taylor just finished,
44 we'd like to cover those as well. Customary trade and then
45 the training session, issue number 8. Issue numbers 7 and
46 8. I don't know if you want to do those later?

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. Taylor? Is it.....

49
50 MR. BERG: Well,.....

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, excuse me.

2

3 MR. BERG:actually I'm going to cover
4 one of them.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you're going to do
7 them, okay.

8

9 MR. BERG: The issue of customary trade
10 Helen Armstrong is going to cover that, and she won't be
11 here until tomorrow. She's the staff anthropologist
12 filling in for Pat McClenahan.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you do the one now,
15 and then we'll go to the Refuge people.

16

17 MR. BERG: Okay. Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Good. Sorry,
20 guys, we will have you here as quickly as we can.

21

22 MR. BERG: As far as the training session,
23 and on your agenda it refers to it as the November
24 training.....

25

26 (Tape malfunction)

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (On record)

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Moose. Aaron and
33 Mike I think is going to be handling this?

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mike and Andy.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mike and Andy will
38 actually -- okay, guys, we want a lot of shouting and
39 screaming, because we're going to fall asleep here right
40 after lunch if you don't make it really, really
41 interesting. Okay.

42

43 MR. HINKES: No shouting and screaming.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, we want some
46 shouting and screaming.

47

48 MR. HINKES: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

00065

1 MR. HINKES: I'll try and speak up then.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

4
5 MR. HINKES: Andy will be giving most of
6 the information on the moose plan, and answer most of the
7 questions. I'm just kind of up here as.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10
11 MR. HINKES:if there's anything to
12 add. But there was some interest earlier on the Nushagak
13 caribou herd, if I could just say a couple things about it?

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. HINKES: Just as far as some
18 comparisons, and then you mentioned about the range work
19 that was going on, so I can tell you a bit about that, but
20 with our.....

21
22 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, could you state
23 your name for the record?

24
25 MR. HINKES: Mike Hinkes.

26
27 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

28
29 MR. HINKES: Sorry. As you know, the
30 Nushagak caribou were introduced on the Nushagak Peninsula,
31 and they're -- the parent herd is on the Alaska Peninsula
32 here. And our composition count this last year was we had
33 -- we were talking about percent calves, we had 28 percent
34 calves on our surveys that were done at about the same
35 time. And our cow/calf rat -- or calf/cow ratios were 62
36 percent. And of our radio collared females that had --
37 that produced calves, 70 percent of them survived until the
38 fall. Until the composition counts. It was just -- I'm
39 just mentioning that.

40
41 It's a range that's in excellent condition, and our
42 range studies -- we've -- just this last summer went back
43 and reread all of our exclosures and our permanent
44 transects and we're working up the data right now, but the
45 range -- in our observation though the range is still in
46 excellent shape, as well as the population over there. So
47 just kind of pointing that, you know, it may in fact be a
48 range problem over here as well as a predator problem. But
49 we will have that range information, we'll analyze it this
50 winter, and it could be used comparing the two ranges as

00066

1 well as, you know, the two populations. That's.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could you give us.....

4

5 MR. HINKES:all I have to add on.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could you give us the
8 percentages again on cow/calf ratio and survival rate of
9 the calves?

10

11 MR. HINKES: Okay. As far as the percents,
12 we had 28 percent calves,.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. HINKES:45 percent cows. And as
17 far as the ratios, we had 62.6 calves per 100 cows. And
18 then our bull/cow ratio was 57 bulls per 100 cows.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Got it. Okay. Good
21 Thank you. Council members, do you have any questions on
22 that? Caribou? Anything else? No, Mike? Okay.

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: All right. Thank you. My
25 name's Andy Aderman. I'll address the moose management
26 plan update. As you may recall at your last meeting,
27 excuse me, at your last meeting we presented a draft
28 management plan to you for moose in Unit 17(A). After that
29 meeting representatives from this council, Pete and Robin,
30 along with refuge staff and state Fish and Game and members
31 of Togiak, Twin Hills, and Manokotak met in the Village of
32 Togiak and reviewed that same plan. And I guess by
33 consensus we changed a few things, but most of the plan
34 that we presented at your last meeting remained intact.

35

36 After that meeting, I sent out the new draft, which
37 I just passed around, for review. I sent it out to all the
38 villages that have C&T for moose in 17(A), along with
39 agency staff, asking for comments. I haven't received any
40 comments from sending it out, any written comments,
41 however, this -- in this last week the Nushagak Advisory
42 Committee was able to look at it, and they had some
43 comments, and then I also received a phone call comment
44 from the Village of Kwethluk yesterday. And I can go over
45 those comments if you wish?

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would like that.

48

49 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Starting with the
50 Nushagak Advisory Committee, and, Robert, you might help me

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1 on this, the comments that -- or concerns with the
2 management plan that they had was the provision in there
3 that aircraft access, off aircraft access is restricted,
4 and also they would like to see some more specifics as far
5 as if a winter hunt is allowed, when it will take place,
6 how permits are distributed, how many permits. Is that a
7 good account of the Nushagak Advisory's concerns?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: Yes, I think it is, Mr.
12 Chairman. The -- I think part of the concern we had was
13 the vagueness of what happens between three and 600 and
14 after 600. There should be more discussion that you -- at
15 what point do you consider having a hunt? How many
16 animals, you know, and what's your bull to cow ratio and
17 things of that nature, and then there may be further --
18 stepping it further up, what happens when you reach 1,000
19 animals.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What number are we at
22 now?

23
24 MR. ADERMAN: Our last population was March
25 of this year, 1999, and we had just over 500. I believe in
26 the thing I handed out, it was stated as 509.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 509, yeah.

29
30 MR. ADERMAN: I actually found a couple
31 more adding up the numbers again,.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. ADERMAN:511.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a good success
38 story from where we started. Any -- yes?

39
40 MR. HINKES: I think it's pretty much laid
41 out what happens between three and 600, and I think that's
42 the static -- status quo with a moose -- fall moose hunt
43 from the 10th to the 20th of August, and the 15th of
44 September with permits issued in Togiak with the
45 restrictions of -- that are, you know, set out in the plan.
46 It's after that 600 animals where he's saying it's more
47 vague or it's left open on how we go from there. There
48 will be several options that this board and the advisory
49 board could take up when we do reach that level. And
50 depending on how the population is doing at that time. But

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1 I think it was purposely left that way so that we wouldn't
2 get anything hard and fast, and that these -- that the
3 boards -- the council and the advisory board would have,
4 you know, the leeway to, you know, to liberalize it in the
5 way that seemed most appropriate. You know, we'll be able
6 to make a recommendation at that time, but, you know, we
7 just felt that we didn't want to get that concrete with it.
8 You know, if we'd tried to write a moose management plan
9 five years ago, I'm sure that you can all see that it would
10 be -- we'd have to be making some major adjustments right
11 now to that plan. And I guess the main objective was to
12 get the minimum numbers in there that we thought were, you
13 know, were -- was the most important. Then you could deal
14 with this future surplus if it happens, you know, at that
15 time.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Any other
18 questions of council members? Is that the extent of your
19 report?

20
21 MR. ADERMAN: I have a little bit more, Mr.
22 Chairman. Kwethluk's comments were also.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. ADERMAN:in regard to the
27 aircraft access restriction, and they were in favor of it,
28 as long as it was enforceable. And that was really the
29 only substantial comment they had on the actual plan.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that meant you could
32 land and the next day hunt? Use the aircraft to access to
33 the animals, is that what you're talking about?

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: As it is right now, to hunt
36 moose in 17(A),.....

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. ADERMAN:the only aircraft access
40 is to state-maintained airports.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I see. No floats
43 or.....

44
45 MR. ADERMAN: And their comments are that
46 they would like to see it stay that way as long as it's
47 enforceable.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see. What jurisdiction
50 do we have over them doing something different on state

00069

1 (indiscernible, coughing)? Oh, you mean -- Oh, like within
2 the community's state airports, use, access to the animals.
3 Yeah. Okay. All right.

4
5 MR. ADERMAN: I guess my -- continuing
6 further, we plan to meet with the Togiak Advisory
7 Committee. They haven't set a date for their next meeting.
8 I will also bring this in front of the Yukon/Kuskokwim
9 Regional Council next week at their meeting in Quinhagak,
10 because some of the Unit 18 villages, like Kwethluk,
11 Goodnews Bay, Platinum, have C&T for moose. And then I
12 envision a meeting similar to the one we had in Togiak with
13 representatives from this council, the advisory committees,
14 refuge and the state, getting together and seeing where
15 we're at.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would that be in
18 Dillingham then maybe? Probably?

19
20 MR. ADERMAN: It could be. It could be in
21 Togiak. Wherever. That's.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else?

24
25 MR. ADERMAN: That's all I had.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's all we have
28 today, Mike? Okay. Any questions, Council members? All
29 right. Thank you very much. We appreciate that. Jerry,
30 we're on C?

31
32 MR. BERG: Let's see, that would take us --
33 correct, yes. That's right, Mr. Chair, we did pass by C,
34 8.C., so -- correct.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We go to Tab G?
37 And, Ron Squibb, are you handling that?

38
39 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

42
43 MR. SQUIBB: I'm Ron Squibb with the Alaska
44 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
45 And the -- as you mentioned, the report is under G, and
46 it's also reported in our agency report under Tab M, as the
47 same data in both places. I'll put the -- okay. As --
48 We'll get the overhead going here and then get started with
49 the background.

50

00070

1 As you'll recall from last winter's meeting, we
2 addressed the proposal to close Pacific side drainages from
3 I believe Cape Igvak through Stepovak Bay to moose hunting
4 by nonrural residents. And at that time over the winter
5 during the normal moose survey period, we had -- we being
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dick Sellers, and the
7 refuge staff, had surveyed the areas in black, and those
8 were -- the ones marked by an N, let's see, on the screen
9 there, the ones marked by an N are not long-term areas.
10 We're thinking about expanding some into those areas to
11 create long-term trend areas, because we were a little
12 short on long-term data on the Pacific side. All the
13 Pacific side trend area was here, the Nakalilok, and
14 Yantarni and Amber Bay area. And we had surveyed these
15 areas, these new areas not for numbers so much as for
16 composition. The rationale being that there was
17 overhunting by outside hunters who would be shooting bulls,
18 and therefore we were looking here for bull/cow ratios.
19 And we did a pretty good job, but we did not get past, oh,
20 here, and as the council brought up at that meeting, that
21 since we had data here to address the question, they
22 modified the proposal -- you modified the proposal to
23 include all the areas more or less south and west of the
24 Black Lake/Chignik Lake drainage.

25
26 And so come May, we -- in order to address that, to
27 give more information to the Subsistence Board, we flew
28 some surveys in that area. And the areas blackened we have
29 are -- oops, let me get it all on screen. The blackened
30 areas, it's kind of hard on this map, but we don't yet have
31 our GIS system up -- made so we can make these look a
32 little nicer, but the dark black ones as opposed to the --
33 you know, the darker areas in here are native corporation
34 lands, but the dark black ones are the areas we flew --
35 were able to fly in the first week in May. And the -- we
36 see a lot of these things. In fact almost all the lands
37 here, these large areas in the Bristol Bay drainage, these
38 are state lands, and here, this is corporate lands down
39 here for Perryville and Ivanof Bay, and this is I believe
40 Chignik Lake corporate lands. We did get a section in here
41 that -- along Portage Bay and these drainages that is
42 federal land for subsistence purposes. So that's the area
43 we flew in May, and I'll move back here and summarize the
44 data.

45
46 Okay. On the 6th through the 8th of May, we flew,
47 and at that time we were in our transition between pilots,
48 and we certainly don't want to go without acknowledging the
49 Park Service assistance in letting Tom O'Hara help us fly
50 these surveys. And the flying conditions were very, very

00071

1 good. We -- virtually no turbulence. Visibility was good
2 over all with the exception of the 8th on the Pacific side,
3 we got -- had a little snow flurries and some low weather.
4 But had -- unfortunately by that time a lot of the snow was
5 gone. We were looking at 50 percent snow cover or less
6 down near the coast, and higher up in the drainages we had
7 adequate snow cover. But the moose had scattered out a
8 bit.

9
10 And I believe the summary table under Tab G, I'll
11 just review there at the bottom of the page. In all we in
12 that period counted 245 moose in those areas I showed you
13 on the overhead. And on the Bristol Bay side, we got,
14 let's see, summary, rather than summarize everything, just
15 the Bristol Bay side we had 133 animals, and on the Pacific
16 side drainages we had 112.

17
18 And I guess the points that I wanted to make
19 related -- that we had very little prior data to that,
20 since there were no long-term trend areas in there. And
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game area biologist, Dick
22 Sellers, had flown some of the lands on the Bristol Bay
23 side in 1982 and 1988, and as I understand, Dick was at
24 that time looking for some areas to develop into long-term
25 trend areas. And in late January '82, Sellers had good
26 snow conditions, and counted 144 in the Bristol Bay side
27 southwest of the Black and Chignik Lakes. We -- he counted
28 the Muddy River, and we did not, nor do we count the King
29 Salmon River, and in those areas Dick counted 38 moose in
30 1982, and if we deduct that number from his count, so we
31 have comparable areas, Dick found 106 moose with good snow
32 cover in '82, and we found 133 with patchy snow cover in
33 1999 in May.

34
35 And the only other data besides that that was
36 existing from the past is in March of 1988, Dick again was
37 down there on the Bristol Bay side, and surveyed between
38 the Milke River and Port Moller, and there he counted 65
39 moose. And again, since we didn't count the King Salmon,
40 reducing it by the 17 moose he saw there, he had a count of
41 about 48 moose where we counted about 38 with patchy snow
42 cover in 1999. And from those data, we concluded that
43 there was no evidence to -- at least on the Bristol Bay
44 side to conclude there had been a substantial decrease in
45 moose numbers, with scanty data, of course. And on the
46 Pacific side, we were -- we did fine in the Portage Bay
47 area, 104 moose with, oh, adequate conditions up high, and
48 a little lack of snow cover down low, and I think we're
49 going to look towards trying to work that into a long-term
50 trend area as well as some of the areas that we counted at

00072

1 Black Lake and both in the spring and the previous
2 December, to look at those as potential trend areas so we
3 have a little bit more long-term data base developed for
4 that area.

5
6 So that's my report on the biological survey. Any
7 questions on that?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, council
10 members? Council members, the reason that we recommended
11 that there be a closure down there is that there had not
12 been a survey, and we were fairly certain that the numbers
13 were there, and the guides and different people who flew
14 the area pretty much understood the animals to be there,
15 but no one had gone out and looked at it, so we made a
16 proposal -- or we recommended that that area be shut down
17 for subsistence use only unless adequate animals there.
18 And there was enough votes on the Federal Board to support
19 that proposal, and then they immediately entered action
20 late in May which was -- well, I guess it must have been
21 early in May?

22
23 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, the first week.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, and did find
26 animals under -- and they did a good job, whoever -- you
27 know, Tom and different ones who flew your surveys found
28 the animals, and the guides were sitting in a meeting in
29 Anchorage, and we agreed in the Anchorage meeting that we
30 would allow the hunt if they found adequate animals. And
31 it was just forcing the issue of going out and looking for
32 those animals, and that's where we're at, so what we have
33 on our table here apparently is still a proposal that we
34 need to address, or is it a moot point now?

35
36 MR. BERG: Right, it's just follow up to
37 that.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

40
41 MR. BERG:to that whole proposal.
42 Right.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And they went ahead and
45 opened it up with the proper number of animals and we felt
46 comfortable doing that, so we appreciate your following up
47 on that.

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you. No more questions?

50

00073

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

2 Yes?

3

4 MR. HEYANO: So is this, the aerial counts,
5 is this going to be an annual event now?

6

7 MR. SQUIBB: On the -- most of the trend
8 areas we don't get annually, there's -- in contrast to the
9 caribou surveys, the moose trend surveys are a lot more
10 intensive coverage of a small area, and so we just --
11 perhaps we could show the map again.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: While you're showing that
14 map, Ron, I'm going to maybe ask Dick Sellers, if he will
15 come up here at the end of this report and since you're
16 going to have a microphone, if you don't mind telling us if
17 there's any future surveys that you're going to be doing,
18 Dick, after he finishes here, if you wouldn't mind
19 answering that?

20

21 MR. SQUIBB: And I'll ask Dick to help me
22 out on this as well. Now, the areas that again -- I'm
23 sorry.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

26

27 MR. SQUIBB: Go ahead? Okay. On this
28 overhead, the areas that have the N letter on them for new
29 are not long-term trend areas, but I believe we got -- this
30 is all that exists beyond the Ugashik Lakes, am I correct
31 on that, Dick? Down Peninsula from Ugashik Lakes? We
32 didn't miss any of that here? Because we got -- those
33 would be -- here this is the flat -- there's a couple of
34 Flats A and Flats B and patch in here, one composite area
35 of three smaller areas. We have the Mother Goose Lake
36 trend area. We had the Cinder River area that Dick flew
37 and the Meshik that Dick flew on the Pacific. And those
38 were all the trend areas. Now, you go up the Peninsula,
39 and they're a little denser in this area I believe. We
40 also have the Dog Salmon trend area, the Ugashik Lakes
41 trend area, and -- is there a Blue Mountains as well.....

42

43 MR. LIND: Yeah.

44

45 MR. SQUIBB:Dick?

46

47 MR. SELLERS: Yeah.

48

49 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, okay. Blue Mountain, and
50 you get further up, and there's the Kijulik River trend

00074

1 area. And as you come above the map, if I can get it to
2 move, there also are two areas in the Big Creek and park
3 boundary area. And so there's a number of those, and we're
4 always stuck on this -- as you guys know, the weather out
5 here, we're stuck between having enough snow to drive the
6 animals down into the trend areas, and getting it done
7 before the antlers fall off. And so with the weather
8 combined in there, it's -- we're actually real proud of
9 ourselves that we got this much coverage done in that
10 amount of done in the previous winter. And then as well
11 our effort as the refuge, we can concentrate right here,
12 and Dick also has his trend areas up in other parts of Unit
13 9 to cover as well during the same period. So in answer to
14 the question, we don't normally succeed in -- it would be a
15 very, very, very good year, perhaps never happen, to get
16 all of them done. And I know we're going to try and make
17 an effort to do -- some of these areas have the potential I
18 believe, Dick can elaborate, that you need to have an area
19 where you can count about 100 or more moose in one fairly,
20 you know, compact area, and -- in order to qualify as a
21 good trend area, we can -- they can expect repeatedly to
22 fly that Portage Bay, it seems like it might have that
23 potential, probably does, and then in the Black Lake area
24 around the Alek River, Cathedral Creek, and the West Fork,
25 and then I guess we skipped the next river. That area we
26 could have that potential as well, so we might be able to
27 look towards setting some up, so.....

28
29 Dick, if you would address things, if you want?

30
31 MR. SELLERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Dick
32 Sellers, Department of Fish and Game. You know, my annual
33 moose survey budget's about \$6,000 a year, and that's to
34 cover all of Unit 9. In the past we have attempted to kind
35 of rotate concentrating in, for instance, Unit 9(B) one
36 year, and then 9(C) the next year, and 9(E) the next year.
37 Of course, it depends on what the hot issues are at the
38 time, but now that we actually have a brand new moose hunt
39 in 9(D), I've got one more subunit to worry about getting
40 some kind of data on, and obviously I personally am not
41 going to be able to promise any routine coverage of any
42 particular area from anything probably more than a three or
43 four year rotation.

44
45 And again, we kind of concentrated our effort where
46 it seems like there may be, you know, a real need for data,
47 and part of the reason that we hadn't done anything on that
48 extreme southern end of the Pacific coast was that all our
49 harvest data indicated that there was very light pressure
50 by nonlocal hunters, and that there was certainly no trend

00075

1 of an increase in that harvest. And in addition to that,
2 virtually all the land where the moose were likely to be on
3 that part was native corporation land. And given their
4 ability to control access, that became a pretty low
5 priority on my schedule.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And probably
8 still is, Dick, as far as next year goes?

9
10 MR. SELLERS: Quite frankly.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

13
14 MR. SELLERS:it probably is.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17
18 MR. SELLERS: But I would also like to
19 mention that, you know, following the results of the
20 cooperative surveys that we did with a fairly high bull/cow
21 ratio, over all I think it was 64 bulls per 100 cows, that
22 we did go to the Board of Game in March with a proposal to
23 lengthen the winter hunt, and the Board did extend that
24 winter hunt through January 20th with the idea that that
25 later season would provide better travel conditions for
26 local residents, and, you know, trophy bulls will have
27 dropped their antlers for the most part so that there would
28 be very little additional outside pressure during that
29 extended season, so that was an attempt to make those bulls
30 more available to local hunters.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And your browse down
33 through the Alaska Peninsula, Meshik and down to Chigniks
34 seem to be pretty compatible for moose populations to
35 remain or increase?

36
37 MR. SELLERS: Well, again, I wouldn't want
38 to encourage the idea that we've got a lot of unused
39 habitat down there. You know, the primary food is willow
40 and that occurs in just scattered patches. Given that
41 rather limited available habitat, and, of course, the
42 problems with bear predation on neonatal calves, I think
43 we're probably doing fairly well to maintain what we have,
44 and that appears to be what's going on.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I'm really pretty
47 satisfied that we got some information on surveys as late
48 as it was and as desperate as it was, we still got
49 something to work on, so I think that's all I had. I don't
50 think I had any further questions. Robert?

00076

1 MR. HEYANO: One more further question I
2 guess. Do you have an explanation for the difference in
3 numbers from this -- what I assume is this private
4 individual sighting or count of moose?

5
6 MR. SQUIBB: Right. He flew in -- I can't
7 remember the dates, but he flew in deep snow conditions. I
8 -- from his -- he's a resident of Chignik Lagoon, and by
9 his estimation, it was unusually deep snow for down there,
10 and he went there, he said they were all crowded at the
11 bottoms of drainages, and he had them bunched up at the
12 bottom, with good snow, and we didn't. We had them
13 scattered with 50 percent snow cover down low, and getting
14 towards low snow cover up high where the moose were, so I'm
15 sure we missed some that he saw. I don't think there's any
16 -- in that particular time, I would presume there's no
17 mortality and probably not any migration out of the area,
18 just -- that's just your sitability (indiscernible,
19 coughing).

20
21 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
24 Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

25
26 If there's any desire by the public members to
27 comment on any of this stuff, you certainly feel free to
28 fill out a blue card and we'll let you testify. Okay.

29
30 We've finished the federal.....

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead, Robert?

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, Jerry,.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Jerry, do we need to make a
41 motion on 99-36 to put it to rest, or is it already gone?

42
43 MR. BERG: That was -- no, those -- that
44 was to provide an update since that was a deferred proposal
45 that the Federal Board deferred to a later decision. So it
46 was just follow-up information. There's no action needed.

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Good enough.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're -- we have

00077

1 number 7 under fisheries for tomorrow. B.7.,.....

2

3 MR. BERG: Yes, that's correct.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:customary trade?

6 How about other regional council comments and

7 recommendations? This is where we're at now as far as the

8 fisheries things go?

9

10 MR. BERG: Right. That's just if the

11 council would like to make any recommendations I guess

12 regarding that training session that I went over just

13 before lunch, or otherwise then if you have any comments on

14 the customary trade issue, but that won't be covered until

15 tomorrow morning.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll save those comments

18 until -- unless you have any comments on this piece of

19 paper that we had just before lunch today, but the three-

20 day meeting, I don't know if you've had much of a chance to

21 look at it or think about it. It's kind of new here. But,

22 council members, do you have any thoughts on that right

23 now? Okay. Well, we'll have another day to think about

24 it, and we'll go on from there. New business? Okay. Take

25 us to 9.E., Jerry?

26

27 MR. BERG: Okay. Mr. Chairman, that's --

28 this is the opportunity for the regional council or members

29 of the public to bring up new proposals that will be

30 addressed in the upcoming year. Those are proposals that

31 the council will address and make recommendations on this

32 coming year. And so this is just an opportunity to discuss

33 proposals. There are two deferred proposals that Helen

34 Armstrong will go over again tomorrow morning, and those

35 are deferred proposals actually for residents of Unit 17 --

36 or residents of Unit 18, two different proposals, to come

37 over and hunt caribou in parts of Unit 17. And I would

38 rather wait and let Helen address those a little bit more

39 specifically unless Pete wants to talk to them -- talk

40 about them a little bit more.

41

42 And then there's another deferred proposal that's a

43 statewide issue, number 3, deferred Proposal 99-15, and

44 again Helen will go over that when she gets here tomorrow

45 morning.

46

47 So unless the council has specific proposals that

48 you'd like to talk about and bring up at this time, there

49 -- or the public, then there aren't any other specific

50 proposals for the council to address at this time.

00078

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just have one question,
2 Mr. Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

5
6 MR. SAMUELSEN: If we're going at such warp
7 speed, who's going to be here tomorrow morning?

8
9 MR. BERG: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe we'll have
12 Armstrong send a written report, and we'll be done?

13
14 MR. BERG: We may have to fill in for Helen
15 if we ended up.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We can get her on the
18 telephone.....

19
20 MR. SAMUELSEN: (Indiscernible -
21 simultaneous speech)

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is fine. This I
24 think is an opportunity in case the public or the council
25 themselves would be interested in addressing any future
26 proposals that -- or concerns that we might have here.
27 Proposals to change seasons, harvest limits, and methods
28 and means and -- or harvest of customary and traditional
29 use determination, federal subsistence regulations, all
30 these things that you might interested in addressing. If
31 you're happy with the way things area, we're fine. If not,
32 then we can have some comment. Robert?

33
34 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, the deadline for
35 these proposals is November 5th.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Correct.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Postmarked November 5th?

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Postmarked November 5th.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And if the public
46 is interested in addressing any of these concerns,
47 certainly feel free to fill out a blue card and -- did you
48 get ahold of Alvin, by the way?

49
50 MS. EAKON: Yes, I.....

00079

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Name?

2 MS. EAKON: My name is Helga Eakon, and I
3 did try to call Alvin Boskofsky at the Chair's request at
4 1:14. The phone rang eight times, there was no answer, Mr.
5 Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Okay. We may have
8 to call someone else at Chignik Lakes to get -- find him
9 and get ahold of that, get that taken care of, because he
10 apparently had something he wanted us to submit as a
11 council. So.....

12
13 MS. EAKON: I'll try again.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. I mentioned
16 earlier that maybe as a part of discussion, and then we'll
17 go on from the subject to the rest of our meeting here,
18 we'll take the annual report after this one, Jerry, but I
19 want the council to think about, and I guess we'd have to
20 address it now, and the pressure that's being put on the
21 Branch, I really think it's time for us to begin looking at
22 it as a council, whether or not we want to do something
23 about the amount of activity that can take place on that
24 river system, and still maintain a good supply or adequate
25 supply of fin fish up there. I think it's becoming
26 unreasonable that we would have this much pressure there,
27 and I'm concerned about the resource, and yet I guess we
28 need to proceed with caution, because people have made a
29 great investment there, and we can't take that away because
30 we're -- it's a delicate balance I think between the
31 subsistence use and the amount of pressure taking place on
32 that river system. And we can do it one of two ways. We
33 can either as a council go ahead and make a recommendation
34 that perhaps there be a limit of permits on the river
35 system, or we can, you know, one of us can submit a
36 proposal ourself on how to handle that. What are -- have
37 you had any thoughts on that, council members? Is there
38 going to be a report on the.....

39
40 MS. LIGGETT: Mr. Chair,.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

43
44 MS. LIGGETT: (Indiscernible - away from
45 microphone)

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oops, got to have a name
48 and come to the microphone. And that's for the purpose of
49 the -- when we get the script back, we must have a name to
50 go with that.

00080

1 MS. LIGGETT: Deb Liggett, superintendent,
2 Katmai/Lake Clark/Aniakchak and the Alagnak. Mr. Chair, I
3 was hoping to address Alagnak issues in Katmai National
4 Park's agency reports.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

7
8 MS. LIGGETT: We can do it at that time, or
9 we can do it at the Board's convenience.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We'll do it
12 at that time, and that will be -- that will answer the
13 question. Okay. Thank you very much. Any other comments
14 on proposals? Any of these -- Yes. Do you have a blue
15 thing? Good.

16
17 MR. BERG: Thank you.

18
19 MR. CLARK: I need to go flying again, and
20 I've been flying, but I've -- I -- just some comments on
21 (indiscernible - away from microphone).

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: He's wearing a black hat,
24 camouflage coat, he matches. He goes first.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Give us your name, if you
29 would, Ed, so that he can get it on the recording?

30
31 MR. CLARK: Eddie Clark of Naknek, Alaska.
32 I've been busy, and I need to go again, but I'm just trying
33 to see where you are on the agenda, Dan, and I've got --
34 I've just some ideas. I've got a problem with -- on that
35 blue clark there, commercial -- or subsistence fishing in
36 commercial waters. My father, he's 78, and we
37 traditionally fish in front of our setnet cabins in the
38 summer when it's closed, in the spring when it's closed.
39 We have the free week. We don't fish until the 21st, or
40 16th of June, and we can't subsistence fish in front of our
41 setnet site. We have to be above closed waters. And they
42 let us slide before, no one said anything, but the last
43 couple of years, it's been really pushing it. Fish and
44 Game, a lot more enforcement. Enforcement parking where
45 they're seeing, and it's happening in Ugashik, it's
46 happening at Pilot Point, and it's happening in the Village
47 of Igiugig itself, and Coffee Point. There's a lot of us
48 at Coffee Point that need the fish, and that's the perfect
49 time to put it up. We have a couple weeks to put it up,
50 and we're just getting a little bit of pressure.

00081

1 I've called King Salmon to see if they can make
2 announcement. Dillingham is allowed to subsistence fish in
3 commercial waters during closure and the biologist at King
4 Salmon said, well, we're using Dillingham as a subsistence
5 net, as test fishery. I said, then use us as test fishery,
6 but they won't. So I would like some sort of effort, and
7 if it's passed, to give direction to the state that -- some
8 sort of proposal that the village people, because in the
9 Village of Igiugig that -- in commercial waters, not above
10 the line, so it's absolute illegal to put a net out
11 anytime. It's not like the Naknek at all. You just go
12 down here and put a net out, and you're above the line.
13 The Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, it's all different. And
14 I know for a fact those three areas are affected, and the
15 elders and everybody else. My father's not going to get in
16 a skiff and go up the river four miles through the sand
17 bars and stuff, the weather changes, everything, and get a
18 subsistence fish. And he's at the point where, that's
19 fine, then they just have to come and ticket me, but I
20 think if we could do it legally, because I think it is a
21 problem, and it's going to be a future problem, because
22 enforcement is so great that I'd like to see if I could
23 address something and get something changed.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Ed, this is an
26 issue that we can't deal with on this council, because we
27 -- our jurisdiction only comes down -- where does the
28 Refuge begin on Egegik River? Right up there by the
29 rapids? Yeah, that's as.....

30
31 MR. CLARK: Right.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that's the only
34 jurisdiction is -- we have no jurisdiction as a council
35 anyway, but the Federal Board has nothing to do with, and
36 can say nothing about the fisheries from the rapids on
37 down.

38
39 MR. CLARK: Okay. So this new take
40 over.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It doesn't pertain to
43 any.....

44
45 MR. CLARK: It just pertains to waters.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Federal. Federal land,
48 yeah.

49
50 MR. CLARK:in the federal land.

00082

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, the.....

2
3 MR. CLARK: Okay.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would think probably
6 within the first year there would be so little impact, and
7 if we continue to get fish, it -- there may not be any
8 impact at all really. It's going to affect the sports
9 fisherman probably more than anyone.

10
11 MR. CLARK: Okay. So then maybe I can get
12 how you feel of what I'm trying to say. Do you, as a
13 council feel that what I'm saying is true, or would you
14 back something like that if I took it to the state?

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert?

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, well, you
19 know, coming from the Dillingham side, Nushagak side, being
20 involved in the local advisory committee, we do support
21 that over there,.....

22
23 MR. CLARK: Right.

24
25 MR. HEYANO:but, you know, my
26 recommendation would be is get together with the Lower
27 Bristol Bay Advisory Committee, submit a proposal, I think
28 the deadline is like April, and maybe if you need some
29 additional information on how it's conducted or what the
30 regulation says at Nushagak, you have Jim Browning here
31 today, and also Molly Chythlook, and maybe they could give
32 you some good baseline information to take before that
33 Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee, or submit it as an
34 individual so it is in the state process for the year 2000
35 and.....

36
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: One.

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Which is, you know, basically
42 a season away.

43
44 MR. CLARK: Okay. I'll get with Molly
45 then.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That would be great, and,
48 Jim and Molly, I don't think we had a chance to introduce
49 you today. But we're glad you're here, and Ed might be
50 real interested in talking to you. We appreciate you

00083

1 coming, Ed, before the Council. We're probably not much
2 help to you, but.....

3
4 MR. CLARK: Well, you know, I.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:thanks for taking
7 your time.

8
9 MR. CLARK: Right. I just.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. CLARK:I just feel that, you
14 know, our elders are important, and I just don't -- I just
15 see it's a problem everywhere that's.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Yeah.

18
19 MR. CLARK:the commercial fishing
20 district's way up inside the line.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that is a problem.
23 Thank you very much. Yeah.

24
25 MR. CLARK: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anyone else have a
28 comment on proposal changes or concerns you might have?
29 Yes?

30 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Andy
31 Aderman, Togiak Refuge. Dave Fisher from the Subsistence
32 Office asked me to I guess put a bug in your ear about a
33 possible proposal which would concern beaver trapping, and
34 also otter trapping. At the last Board of Game meeting
35 they extended the beaver and otter trapping seasons to the
36 end of March in Unit 17, and that I believe was a proposal
37 coming from the Nushagak Advisory Committee.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see.

40
41 MR. ADERMAN: So it would be something to
42 align federal.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

45
46 MR. ADERMAN:and state trapping for
47 beaver and otter.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jerry, could we put that
50 under new business and act on that at the end of the

00084

1 meeting?

2

3 MR. BERG: Yeah, sure. You bet. Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess we're on new
6 business right now, but, yeah.

7

8 MR. BERG: I think Dave also provided Helen
9 with a copy of that, and I think she's bringing that with
10 her.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't have to act on
13 this thing today, Andy?

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is not an action
18 thing? No? Okay. But.....

19

20 MR. BERG: No, it's just -- and I guess the
21 idea is, you know, that's -- it's a possible.....

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: (Indiscernible -
24 simultaneous speech)

25

26 MR. BERG:proposal that could be
27 submitted.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. All right.
30 Okay. That's -- yeah. All right. Okay. Good. Thanks,
31 appreciate that. Anything else today? Hearing no more, we
32 are going to go the next item. We have some of these
33 deferred ones until Armstrong, is that the name?

34

35 MR. BERG: Right. Helen Armstrong.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Helen Armstrong?

38

39 MR. BERG: Yes, she'll be here.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And so we.....

42

43 MR. BERG: tomorrow morning.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:can do the annual at
46 this time?

47

48 MR. BERG: Right. Correct. Uh-huh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's -- shall we

00085

1 do that?

2

3 MR. BERG: Okay. Well, as the council
4 members know, you submitted your annual report last spring,
5 and then the Board replies to your annual report every
6 year, and that.....

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 MR. BERG:was sent on August 13th
13 this year, and the council submitted basically five issues
14 in their annual report last year, and the Board did address
15 each one of those issues. Customary and traditional use
16 determinations were completed for the Bristol Bay Region
17 for the most part last year. There were as the issue of
18 ORV use in Katmai National Preserve. The issue of the
19 Alagnak Wild River continues to be of high importance to
20 the council. And then the wanton waste of caribou and
21 moose meat by sport hunters. And then interagency
22 cooperation on projects such as the caribou permits in
23 Units 9(C) and (E), and then the moose management plan over
24 in 17(A). So those were issues that the council identified
25 last year in their annual report. And this is your
26 opportunity this year to identify what issues you'd like to
27 see in your annual report: continue with those same
28 issues, add other issues, or whatever the wishes of the
29 council are for their annual report this year, and then
30 that will be finalized at your winter meeting again this
31 coming March.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comment, council
34 members? There's one I think that we should look at a
35 little bit that -- probably for -- since the fisheries, it
36 will be relatively new to us, and I don't know -- yesterday
37 down at Pilot Point I had a chance to talk to the Lower
38 Kvichak Advisory -- no, it's called the Lower Kvichak
39 Advisory.....?

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Lower Bristol Bay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Lower Bristol Bay
44 Advisory Committee for State of Alaska, for just a very
45 brief moment, and talking with them for a little while,
46 they -- they're probably just as new at this as we are,
47 trying to figure out what the next step will be, and Allen
48 Aspelund mentioned to us today that -- how are we going to
49 educate the State of Alaska advisory boards along with the
50 Federal advisory council as we go along. We just keep this

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1 in mind as we go along this year, Jerry, to either have
2 someone go to the advisory board meeting, and maybe make a
3 report. Our advisory board meeting here with the
4 Naknek/Kvichak Advisory is fairly easy. You guys meeting
5 over there in Dillingham surely -- and as council members
6 can certainly inform them on -- and Togiak, the lower
7 Peninsula, Iliamna. I guess we're pretty well covered. So
8 if we could interact with the advis -- with the state
9 advisory boards, to kind of keep working together and keep
10 them informed, I think that's something that this should be
11 a long-term deal, and it would end up in our annual report
12 next year. That's the only concern I have. Nothing yet
13 from Alvin?

14
15 MS. EAKON: I have it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you have it, okay.
18 Anything else? Yes?

19
20 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess, Mr. Chairman,
21 sitting on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council,
22 there was several issues that came up that because of the
23 stock migrating inside of three miles and outside of three
24 miles, under federal management and under state management,
25 certain species, we developed an MOU with the Board of
26 Fish, and.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: MOU meaning what?

29
30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Memorandum of
31 understanding. And whenever there's proposals that will
32 any way affect this, what falls under the State of Alaska
33 Board of Fish purview, that's happening out in federal EEZ,
34 we notify them, and vice versa. They notify us. And we
35 have a committee of three and three that sit down and go
36 through all the proposals that will affect each group.
37 Stellar sea lions, for example, affects both parties. And
38 that format has worked out real well. And in fact the
39 Board of Fish and the council, you know, those two groups
40 were kind of knocking heads a little bit, but now we seem
41 to be working real well together. Because of the MOU that
42 we developed, we got a clear understanding, and definitive
43 understanding of where our roles were, and when it came to
44 resource issues, we're going to sit down, and instead of
45 just pass a regulation in front of the board or the
46 council, and then ship it off, we give them prior notice to
47 it, and then the board is allowed to give their concerns to
48 the council, and the council is allowed to give their
49 concerns to the board. And it's worked out real well, and,
50 you know, I'd like I guess under this new management regime

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1 we're under, whenever proposals come up that are going to
2 have any kind of effect on Bristol Bay, whether it's state
3 or federal, that some kind of MOU be developed that we're
4 made aware of it as federal regulators and the state folks
5 are made aware of it, the state managers of the resource.
6 That way there will be a constant change of information on
7 the regulatory end of things on where people are submitting
8 proposals, and where those bodies are going with them
9 proposals.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any other
12 comments? Yes, Robert?

13
14 MR. HEYANO: Just on your comment of the
15 local advisory committee process and how it interacts with
16 the federal system, and I think that we should discuss this
17 either sometime before we submit our annual report, and I'd
18 like to see that as an item, if we feel that it's important
19 and necessary for the federal system to (indiscernible,
20 microphone cutting out) educating it and making the local
21 (indiscernible) committee a part of this process other than
22 depending on the regional council member (indiscernible) be
23 a source of information, especially in light of the aspect
24 with the fisheries (indiscernible).

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How would you do that,
27 Robert?

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think as an issue in
30 the annual report, if the council deems it necessary, is
31 that maybe make a request that that -- that they do some
32 sort of training or information with the local advisory
33 committees. You know, maybe it's only important to this
34 region and not the other regions.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if we could pull it
37 off in this region, we'd be doing great. Yeah.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: But I guess that's an issue I
40 don't want to lose, and when we do our annual report,.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

43
44 MR. HEYANO:(indiscernible) further
45 discuss it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Earlier today, Jerry,
48 there was a comment either by Robin or someone that, how is
49 this Council going to interact with the Fish Board. You
50 know, that's kind of going to the level of the Federal

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1 Board. I don't know how we're going to do that, or if it's
2 our place to do it.

3

4 But I might mention to you on the annual report
5 last year, I did attend the Game Board in Anchorage, and I
6 don't think they've ever had a chairman from the council
7 before go before the Game Board, but we had the caribou
8 issue that was pretty pressing, and it worked out pretty
9 well. We got the Tier II out of it, which is the best
10 thing with the biggest amount of populations on the Bering
11 Sea side, that was the way to do, and then deal with
12 Chigniks if they had any permits that needed to be taken
13 care of from those villages, then they'd be covered. It
14 worked out pretty well. And they were very receptive, and
15 I think it was a good step forward to what we do on this
16 council as trying to work cooperatively together.

17

18 Later on in the agenda we're going to be dealing
19 with comanagement. That will become, obviously, something
20 that's going to be -- we don't want to discuss it now,
21 because it's an agenda item. That's going to be something
22 that's going to have to be dealt with on the annual report,
23 because the eyes light up everywhere when they say, oh, the
24 federal management of fish on federal waters or game, can
25 we comanage this issue? I believe it's going to be
26 something that's going to be interesting to take place.

27

28 Okay. Any other items, council members, that might
29 deal with the annual report or future.....

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Item.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think in items 8.D.(a),
36 structure, staff, and budget, proper management, number 2.
37 Number 3, number 6, number 7, number 8, issue number 8,
38 that should all be included in the annual reports.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN:so we'll be able to
43 track not on a statewide basis, but on a region-wide basis.
44 It should be -- the report should be broke down to us that
45 -- what's happening within our region so we're aware of it,
46 how many contracts -- how many contracts have been let.
47 You know, I think we'd -- I'd surely be interested in
48 seeing the federal/state cooperative management strategy,
49 and what's in that document, training and educational
50 needs, options, I guess that's more for us. The

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1 extraterritorial jurisdiction issue. I think we'd want to
2 review that priority, whenever that issue is finally
3 settled. And I think the issues that we have today, since
4 they're not settled, traditional ORV use in Katmai National
5 Park, that's on-going, the Alagnak Wild River issue, based
6 on the report that we've got coming up, that's still an
7 issue.

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it doesn't seem to be
12 resolved this year. That doesn't mean it's not on a high
13 priority to this council,.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN:so I think that we
18 need -- until we have issues such as those two issues
19 resolved, we need to keep putting them on our priority
20 list, unresolved to the issue.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jerry, do you know the
23 dollar amount that the -- all the State of Alaska will be
24 getting under this federal management program?

25
26 MR. BERG: On June 1, \$1 million was
27 released to the federal program, and then on October 1st
28 there was an additional \$10 million that was available to
29 all the federal agencies, and they've estimated that about
30 60 percent of that money will goes towards collecting more
31 fisheries information that decisions will be made on.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what we have to
34 look forward to in the future as far as a budget goes.
35 What we could advise the Federal Board on how that money is
36 spent is something that's going to be very, very critical
37 to us. And just taking a peak at the rough draft which we
38 saw, I wonder how much we'll go into, you know, research or
39 producing fish versus salaries, or do you need the salaries
40 to reproduce the fish, you know. That's something that
41 we've got to look at, and that's something that we want
42 this council to address the Federal Board with. And I
43 don't know of any group do people that know more about how
44 to handle that budget than the people who work in this
45 system like we do.

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think, Mr. Chairman, a
48 good lesson is the back-to-back disasters that we had, and
49 once the money came into play, Seward Skill Center got a
50 good portion of our Bristol Bay disaster funds. The

00090

1 University of Alaska Fairbanks got a good portion of our
2 disaster. We have the disaster, and the majority of the
3 funds go outside the region.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: And, you know, I heard a
8 couple of statewide organizations mentioned earlier in this
9 meeting. It's my intention -- or my hopes that as much
10 money is spent within a region doing region projects as
11 possible by region people and region staff, and I think
12 we'll all benefit instead of having these nonregional
13 organizations -- I realize that sometimes we have to go to
14 nonregional organizations, but as we evolve in this, you
15 know, we're trying to -- all of us have pushed on the local
16 level to push local kids to go get college educations and
17 become involved in resource management, and live productive
18 lives, but if we keep turning our backs on these local
19 kids, you know, -- we want them to get involved in U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife Service, we want them to get involved in
21 ADF&G, and they've got to start somewhere. In high school,
22 you know, you have internships out in the field working
23 alongside these folks. If we don't involve them, we'll
24 never have them involved. And I don't want to see our --
25 you know, these federal subsistence dollars when it's an
26 in-region project going to statewide organizations that
27 just seem to be around to siphon off the dollars.
28 Managers.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're meddling now a
31 little bit here,.....

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and that's okay.
36 That's good for the movers and shakers to hear what we're
37 talking about today.

38
39 We have -- Karen is with us today, working for --
40 what department, Karen, do you work for? Yes?

41
42 MS. STICKMAN: (Indiscernible - away from
43 microphone)

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. But see there's a
46 system now where one of our people have gone out, and
47 become educated and gone to work. I landed in Huslia
48 during this time that we went over there, and met Orville
49 Huntington, one of the four native biologists in the entire
50 State of Alaska, who's gone back to the region to work in

00091

1 the system. And I want to remind you that this is not only
2 regional, and I appreciate you mentioning this, Robin, but
3 I think his name is Robert Monroe, the president of
4 Alyeska, has moved his headquarters. He looked at
5 Anchorage and he saw 75 percent of his people living in
6 Anchorage, or hired out of Anchorage, working on the
7 pipeline, and he said, this is ridiculous. We've got all
8 these people here in this city who work out there, so we're
9 going to relocate. You either quit or relocate. And he
10 saved millions -- of not millions of dollars on travel and
11 other situations, and the money went into the region. And
12 to take 11 or \$12 million and give it to a parasite
13 organization like Anchorage without any benefit to the
14 region -- Where's KDLG when they're -- we need them.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I was meddling, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now we're getting
20 personal. All right. Okay. All those guys are making --
21 pulling their hats down. Well, anyway you get the drift of
22 what we want. We want the dollars in the region. Okay.
23 Any other -- anything else? Yeah?

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Is there is going to be an
26 opportunity for regional councils to comment on the budget?

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would -- if there is a
29 bear in the woods somewhere, there better be.

30 MR. BERG: Yeah, I think, you know, at this
31 conference that we're going to be having in January, I
32 think we would encourage people to step forward and
33 suggest, you know, different agencies or projects that
34 would help out with different fisheries information in the
35 region. As far as reviewing the budget and having comments
36 on the budget, I don't know to what extent that's going to
37 be covered at this conference, but I'm sure the council --
38 you know, we certainly have plans to keep the councils
39 involved and as informed as we can. I see Taylor coming up
40 here, so maybe he.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sneaking up on us.

43
44 MR. BERG:wants to add a little bit
45 more to this.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take a break after
48 this, okay? Yeah.

49
50 MR. BRELSFORD: While we're meddling,

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1 Taylor Brelsford, there are boundaries in which the
2 oversight role of advisory bodies kind of reaches a limit.
3 Staff salaries, some of the budget items are really beyond
4 the reach. Personnel management, for example, is beyond
5 reach of the advisory programs. But on the positive side,
6 your job is to set goals,.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. BRELSFORD:and to argue for
11 directions, and to argue for priorities, and in those areas
12 you have on-the-ground expertise that's generations in the
13 making, so I think particularly when we're talking about
14 the resource monitoring program, the concrete on-the-
15 ground, how do we do.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD:a better job managing
20 fisheries, that's where that kind of expertise is
21 especially valuable. So I -- in my sense, the way to look
22 at it is that the management staffing is probably beyond
23 the boundary, but the resource monitoring program is very
24 much one where we think advice in the priority setting, in
25 the way in which projects would be conducted on the ground
26 when we're talking about community harvest surveys, we need
27 your concurrence, we need to have the support of local
28 communities. So those are areas where I think your advice
29 and recommendations would be really very, very valuable.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But don't overlook what I
32 said, Taylor, earlier that when you look at the money
33 that's going to be allocated to Bristol Bay from that \$12
34 million,.....

35
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:I think you need to
39 analyze carefully the amount that's going to go into a
40 salary versus -- and maybe you need the salary to find the
41 end result of the best use of that dollar to get the most
42 amount of fish back. Do you understand what I'm talking
43 about? That's I think pretty critical. I think sometimes
44 the Federal Government likes salaries and people and
45 numbers and those type of things, and we want to be here to
46 say, we'd be really careful about that.

47
48 The other thing is, is the Park Service has been
49 very good about, you know, they've called native
50 corporations and nonprofits such as BBNA with Ted here,

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1 saying we've got a job coming up, there's a position open,
2 what do we have available? So along with the bashing,
3 there really should come some credit, too, as far as you've
4 done a good job of calling us and saying we want the local
5 people out there to do these jobs, and a lot of times they
6 won't do it. They don't want to relocate, or maybe they're
7 not qualified, so -- but they've made the offer, and so
8 thank you for your.

9

10 If you don't have any more items here, council
11 members, we're going to take a ten-minute break. We'll be
12 back.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come sit down again we'll
19 continue on with our meeting.

20

21 (Whispered conversation)

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. If we can get our
24 coordinator, we're going to go into regional council
25 charters instead of to the agency reports. Jerry, if you
26 could look at -- under 9.C., regional council charter?
27 Jerry?

28

29 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. As you know,
30 the regional council's charter is a biannual -- it has to
31 be renewed biannually, and your current charter extends
32 through the year 1999, so in the year 2000 it needs to be
33 renewed, so -- or it extends through 2000, excuse me. And
34 so you won't need to take any final action on it until your
35 winter meeting, but this is just your first opportunity to
36 suggest any changes that you might want to make. And if
37 you'll remember, at the winter meeting in Dillingham, there
38 was a request from the Village of Ekwok to add two council
39 seats to the council, and that would be taken care of under
40 the charter. And I believe Helga has some additional
41 information to present on behalf of the Chignik area as
42 well.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Helga?

45

46 MS. EAKON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you
47 requested earlier this afternoon, I did get ahold of Alvin
48 Boskofsky. For the record, Alvin Boskofsky is a former
49 member of the regional council. His seat is now filled by
50 John Christianson of Port Heiden. Alvin has been in

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1 contact with all of the five Pacific side villages, namely
2 the three Chigniks, Ivanof Bay and Perryville, and they all
3 have written (indiscernible, microphone cuts out), and will
4 be sending faxes to Chairman O'Hara, requesting that the
5 seat be designated for their five villages on this regional
6 council, so that in his words, their substance interests
7 could be represented on this council.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Helga.
10 Any comments from council members? I think along that same
11 line, if we took the three villages on the Nushagak:
12 Koliganek, Stu, and Ekwok, they requested, and had an even
13 number of nine. What would be the next step of us
14 addressing an issue like this, Helga, or Jerry?

15
16 MS. EAKON: Yeah. Excuse me, Jerry, I
17 could go ahead and explain?

18
19 MR. BERG: Yeah, go ahead.

20
21 MS. EAKON: The process would be if you
22 make a motion to change your charter for an increase in
23 membership to nine seats, asking that one seat be reserved
24 for the Pacific side villages, and one for the -- for
25 Kokhanok and New Stu and what's the other village?
26 Igiugig, right? That was their request?

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. No, it was
29 Koliganek,.....

30
31 MS. EAKON: Koliganek?

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:New Stuyahok, and
34 Ekwok on.....

35
36 MS. EAKON: Ekwok.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:the Nushagak, yeah.

39
40 MS. EAKON: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy represents the other
43 villages up there.....

44
45 MS. EAKON: Right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:very adequately.

48
49 MS. EAKON: Okay. And if you make a formal
50 motion and were it passed, it will be a recommendation for

00095

1 a change in your charter for an increase in seats from
2 seven to nine, and this would go before the Federal
3 Subsistence Board. (Indiscernible, microphone cuts out)
4 would act on it accordingly.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Without any objection, if
7 -- or if we could look at this under new business? Yes,
8 Robert?

9
10 MR. HEYANO: Just a question, Mr. Chairman,
11 I believe that the -- it seems like there's two issues
12 here. One is to extend the number of members from seven to
13 nine, and the other issue is to designate two of those
14 seats for specific communities?

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Now, can we designate seats
19 for specific communities? And I guess a further question
20 to that, can we designate a portion of those seats to
21 specific communities, and leave the rest open to an open
22 type membership?

23
24 MS. EAKON: Legally each member who sits on
25 the regional council represents the whole region, and does
26 not represent certain villages.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, members
29 at large?

30
31 MS. EAKON: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're members at large?
34 Okay.

35
36 MS. EAKON: Yes. So to make it clean, you
37 could just say an increase in membership, and your
38 recommendation would be that the geographic area of the
39 Pacific side be represented geographically. You could say,
40 and it is our desire that those Nushagak villages be
41 represented, too. But legally, you're all -- your
42 representation is at last for this region.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We can all be from
45 Dillingham, or all be from Naknek, legally? The two
46 biggest areas if we wanted to?

47
48 MS. EAKON: Right?

49
50 (Whispered conversation)

00096

1 MS. EAKON: Yes, go ahead, you can talk on
2 it.

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, Taylor
5 Brelsford. Helga's right that the Federal Advisory
6 Committee Act does not permit specific designation of
7 seats. You are at-large members, if you will.

8
9 At the same time, the statute says that we have to
10 have broad representation on a council, and so in the
11 preparation of recommendations to the Secretary, we're
12 responsible to demonstrate that the geographic
13 representation on this council is balanced and appropriate.
14 What I think might be helpful is in your motion to refer to
15 a change in the size of the council, and to go on and talk
16 about your intentions, and that then can be helpful
17 guidance in the staff preparing recommendations to the
18 secretary. I think the council can easily talk about
19 purposes and intentions. The statute doesn't allow us to
20 designate seats individually in that fashion.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,
23 Robert?

24
25 MR. HEYANO: I guess -- and that's my
26 concern, you know, is that if we are going to increase the
27 membership to nine to take care of the requests coming from
28 these communities, and these specific areas, at the next
29 election it could very well be that, for instance, Peter or
30 Andy, somebody actually replace them not from their
31 geographic area, and we could have the request coming in
32 again, so -- and the way we take care of that is increasing
33 board seats. I think, you know, Taylor's recommendation is
34 -- would be the one I would prefer, is first what our
35 intent is.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, it's a little soon
38 just to jump on it and do a motion I think. If we are
39 going to address it, it needs to be later on in the agenda,
40 and we can maybe have some discussion and talk about it,
41 and maybe something will come up as we go along to see what
42 we would do about that. But this is a good place to
43 introduce it. Anything else?

44
45 MR. BERG: That would cover that issue.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are we finished with the
48 charter?

49
50 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. All right.
2 Subsistence resource commission appointments. Aniakchak
3 National Park and Preserve SRC, three members. Donald
4 Mike?

5
6 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike with Katmai National
7 Park and Aniakchak National Monument. Just to bring you up
8 to date, as you all well know that Alvin Boskofsky from
9 Chignik Lake was replaced by John Christianson from Port
10 Heiden. And Alvin Boskofsky is -- was appointed by the
11 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council to sit on the
12 Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission, and since you
13 are the appointing source for Alvin to sit on the Aniakchak
14 Subsistence Resource Commission, he would no longer be able
15 to serve, since you are -- he was appointing -- appointed
16 by your council members. The other alternative for Alvin
17 to maintain his seat is to be a local advisory committee
18 member for the Chignik Lake area. And since Alvin is not a
19 local advisory committee member, there's -- I'd like to
20 have Alvin maintain his seat on the SRC. He brings some
21 good background and some good feedback to the SRC
22 commission. But I've recommended to Alvin Boskofsky to
23 fill out a position with the local advisory committee down
24 in Chignik Lake. I've contacted Joe Chythlook, the LSE
25 coordinator for this area, and asked him how can one get a
26 seat on a local advisory committee, and Joe's response was
27 that Alvin can approach the chairman for a local advisory
28 committee down in Chigniks or apply for an at-large seats,
29 which currently there are two at-large seats down in
30 Chignik Lake Local Advisory Committee.

31
32 Since three seats are appointed by the Bristol Bay
33 Regional Advisory Council, that means that the Alvin
34 Boskofsky seat is currently vacant, and it would be upon
35 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council to appoint
36 another seat for the subsistence resource commission for
37 Aniakchak.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin?

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Do we have any
42 applications?

43
44 MR. MIKE: Well, the Bristol Bay Regional
45 Advisory Council's the appointing source, and we don't have
46 any -- the only member I have right now is for Alvin but he
47 doesn't currently sit on a local advisory committee for the
48 state. We don't have any names to be recommended to the
49 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would think -- go
2 ahead, Robin. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Jerry, do we have any other
5 applications besides Alvin?

6
7 MR. BERG: No, I don't.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is in between
10 appointments really.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. BERG: Right. Yeah.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: January 1 he's done, I
17 guess.

18
19 MR. BERG: And actually there's Johnny Lind
20 and Afonie Takock are also -- their terms expire in
21 February of 2000. The council may want to address all
22 three at the same time. Maybe Alvin's would be the only
23 one that would be in question. But I don't have any names
24 at this time. Like Donald said, they either have to be a
25 member of an advisory committee or a member of this
26 council. I do have a list of who the advisory committee
27 members are. But I don't have a copy of that to give to
28 all the council members at this time.

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Go ahead, Robin.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Has -- have these three
32 positions been advertised in that area?

33
34 MR. MIKE: No, not yet. We're scheduled to
35 have an SRC meeting, I tentatively plan for the last week
36 of October, but that's when the -- that thing is going on,
37 so we've tentatively planned for mid November, and I'd like
38 to bring these up again with the SRC members and see if
39 they've got any names that they'd like to submit.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robin.

42
43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Would it be in order,
44 Jerry, to postpone the appointments then until our spring
45 meeting, our winter meeting?

46
47 MR. BERG: Yes, I think that sounds like
48 the appropriate way -- action to take at this time.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think we'd be --

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1 and I was going to recommend that we just leave this like
2 it is. It's not going to be addressed until February 2000.
3 If Alvin is -- if the Federal Board decides he can't be
4 there for -- well, we'll be back and making appointments in
5 our winter and spring meeting, whenever it's going to be,
6 so.....

7
8 MR. MIKE: Well, I guess that Alvin can
9 still serve on the SRC just as long as the Bristol Bay
10 Regional Advisory Council make a new appointment, so.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we're just going to
13 leave him on there until his term expires.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Okay. That sounds good.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, what else is
18 there to do? We don't have anybody before us today, and
19 then if their council calls -- I mean, if their counselor
20 calls up, their lawyer calls and says, hey, you guys, this
21 can't be that way, then the Federal Board can say, go ahead
22 and take him off if they want to, but.....

23
24 MR. MIKE: Oh, the SRC members can serve
25 until the appointing sources say otherwise.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, go ahead.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think
30 that would be the preferred option. I -- in the past we've
31 always -- our three people were responsible for
32 appointments or making recommendations, it has always come
33 from -- through the recommendations of those councils.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think to do it
36 otherwise is political, and I think we just ought to let me
37 -- and let his term expire, and if really they can't handle
38 it, let's let the Federal Board handle it. We're just
39 advisors, and we're going to advise that he stay there
40 until done. I think he'll serve you well, and maybe he'll
41 be on a -- maybe that will be able to help us out further.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Okay. So it's the council is
44 recommending that he serve out his term?

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think that would
47 be -- I think if you want a -- if you want a motion, we can
48 certainly address it in the form of a motion. Or we don't
49 have to address it at all, just leave him on there.

50

00100

1 MR. MIKE: Okay. That -- we can just leave
2 him on until we get some more names for your selection to
3 reappoint the seat.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that okay with
6 everybody? Okay. You've got the nod. Thank you. Okay.
7 What about the -- oh, Lee Fink is going to be addressing
8 the other issue.

9
10 MR. FINK: Mr. Chairman, council members,
11 Lee Fink, Lake Clark National Park. I guess we have a
12 similar issue here. Three SRC members. We discussed this
13 at the last SRC meeting in Iliamna -- or in Pedro Bay, and at
14 that time one of the members was going to counsel -- or query
15 the Iliamna Lake Advisory Committee to see if there were
16 any other interested prospective SRC members. We did not
17 receive any notification that anybody else was interested,
18 and Carl Jensen from Pedro Bay, Andrew Balluta, who sits on
19 this commission, from Iliamna, and Tim LaPorte were all
20 interested in continuing to serve.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to
23 entertain a motion for that at this time? What's the
24 wishes of the council? Yes? Go ahead.

25
26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just a question. The
27 person that was inquiring whether there was anybody else
28 interested, you just didn't receive word back from them, or
29 you received word back that nobody was interested?

30
31 MR. FINK: Well, we just didn't receive any
32 word, whether -- I mean, nobody said they were interested
33 or were not interested. We just -- I didn't attend the
34 Iliamna Advisory Committee meeting, and I could check the
35 minutes, but I believe Tim LaPorte was going to, you know,
36 put the question, anybody interested in coming to the SRC,
37 serving on the SRC, would contact the park, or that he
38 would get word back to us, and we never got any word since
39 their last meeting that there were any other interested
40 individuals.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, you had your hand
43 up?

44
45 MR. HEYANO: Oh, I was going to make a
46 motion, Mr. Chairman, but I'll hold off if there's further
47 discussion?

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The only thing I would
50 say is that your chairman of that committee is Randy

00101

1 Alvarez, and he's over at Dillingham at a BBNA, Bristol Bay
2 Native Association meeting right now. He'll be here
3 tomorrow, but I think this is all we're going to get. If
4 this is all they're offered to us. It looks good to me, so
5 I'd entertain a motion.

6
7 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, I would move
8 that we reappoint the same three members to the Lake
9 Clark.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: SRC?

12
13 MR. HEYANO: SRC.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second?

16
17 MR. ENRIGHT: I'll second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any discussion?

20
21 MR. HEYANO: Speaking to motion, Mr.
22 Chairman, I believe these people have done a very good job.
23 They're very knowledgeable in that region, and according to
24 the report that we got back from Lee is that they're both
25 interested, and at this time there's no other individuals
26 who have expressed any interest.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Call for the
29 question?

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say
34 aye?

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

39
40 (No opposing votes.)

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The motion passes.
43 Thank you, Lee. All right. Let's do agency reports,
44 Jerry. And Taylor has the first report, Federal Office of
45 Subsistence Management.

46
47 MR. BERG: Yeah, actually we just put that
48 on there by default. I don't think there's any other
49 issues that Taylor needs to cover at this time, so I guess
50 that will move us right into national wildlife refuge

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1 reports.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. And we'll
4 have the Togiak.

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Andy
7 Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm looking
8 under Tab M in your books, the refuge update for Togiak
9 National Wildlife refuge. And I just wanted to highlight a
10 few things within this report.

11

12 Under the public use management plan, the third
13 paragraph, the refuge is beginning a revision of its
14 comprehensive conservation plan, also known as CCP, and be
15 looking for some public meetings coming out this fall and
16 winter in relation to that. And that plan also, or CCP, is
17 -- let me back up. A part of that plan is the public use
18 management plan that is underneath the comprehensive
19 conservation plan.

20

21 Moving on to fisheries, we're involved in a number
22 of projects both with salmon and resident fish. I might
23 mention on page two, the Togiak dolly varden life history
24 study, Mark Lisac, our fisheries biologist has been finding
25 out some pretty interesting information about dolly varden
26 that he's tagged in the Togiak drainage. He's getting some
27 returns from outside that drainage.

28

29 Continuing on to wildlife, I have a couple of
30 updates under Mulchatna and Kilbuck Caribou. Both the
31 Yukon Delta Refuge, the Togiak Refuge and Fish and Game in
32 Bethel and Dillingham opened caribou hunting season in
33 southern Unit 18 and also in the western portion of Unit
34 17(A) west of the Togiak River and north of Panukput Creek.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was in July?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: That was September 17th.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: September 17th? That's
41 when the permits were sent out. Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: Moving down to Nushagak
44 Peninsula caribou, the last sentence in the first paragraph
45 reported 1998/99 harvest now stands at 51 caribou with 21
46 hunt reports not returned yet. Also calf production this
47 year for the radio collared cows that we monitor was 75
48 calves per 100 cows on the Nushagak Peninsula.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's not bad.

00103

1 MR. ADERMAN: It's within the range that
2 we've seen in the past. We've actually had 100 percent
3 calving in past years.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Predators haven't found
6 them yet or what?

7
8 MR. ADERMAN: No, there's some bears down
9 there, and I'm sure they're getting a few.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Calves pretty healthy?

12
13 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. In cooperation with Pat
14 Falkenberg, who's the state caribou biologist in Fairbanks,
15 we've done some work on calf condition, and they are some
16 of the fattest caribou calves he's seen anywhere in the
17 state.

18
19 Moving down to moose, I guess not a lot to mention
20 except the calf production that we've seen this spring was
21 I think quite exceptional, 139 calves per 100 cows. And
22 the twinning rate was 92, or just a little bit over 92
23 percent. And we'll be looking at them later this month and
24 November to see how many survived.

25
26 We're involved with a number of other wildlife
27 projects I won't go into. If you have questions, please
28 ask.

29
30 I guess the last thing is our education and
31 outreach. We held two environmental education camps this
32 year, one out at Camp Peirce and one down on the Nushagak
33 Peninsula involving students from Togiak and Goodnews out
34 at Cape Peirce, and from Dillingham and Manokotak down on
35 the Nushagak Peninsula. And we also involved elders in
36 both of those camps. And we also do a number of
37 presentations, especially the RITs that work for the
38 refuge.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What is an RIT?

41
42 MR. ADERMAN: Refuge information
43 technician. They do quite a number of presentations within
44 the local schools. That's all I had, Mr Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, council
47 members on this.....

48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman?

50

00104

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:report by.....

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, question. Did you get
4 a report back from this fall's hunt from ADF&G?

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: I have an update on the
7 Togiak moose hunt. That's a state registration hunt.
8 There were 50.....

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 MR. ADERMAN:32 reported hunting, and
15 there was eight moose reported taken. And I take that to
16 mean that there's still 25 permits outstanding.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long are they good
19 for?

20

21 MR. ADERMAN: They're just for that period
22 when the season's open, and.....

23

24 MR. ABRAHAM: (Indiscernible) August
25 15/September 20.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

28 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any ques- -- other --
31 Andy -- Robert?

32

33 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Andy, on this -- on the
34 caribou, (indiscernible, microphone cutting out), currently
35 it's managed by EO. Is -- what's your thoughts of actually
36 establishing a season?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: Before we get to my thoughts,
39 I know there are some proposals in Unit 18 to have a set
40 season, and what we've tried to do in the past, we being
41 Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife in Dillingham and
42 Bethel, is treat that southern part of Unit 18 and the
43 western part of 17(A) as one area. Certainly a set season
44 would be desirable as far as not having to go through the
45 process of doing an EO and like. The possible danger in
46 that is when you have a starting date, I guess it depends
47 on how early you would -- you have a set season, say
48 starting September 1st, you know, when caribou come in
49 before that. In Unit 18 there is still this resident
50 Kilbuck herd that we have to recognize, that if those

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1 caribou -- the Mulchatnas don't come in, and there is a set
2 season, you know, what an open season's going to mean on
3 that herd. So, I don't know, I guess my thoughts are it
4 could go either way.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and, you
9 know, I know we still have some concerns for those
10 Peninsula caribou that are up off of Twin Hills and what
11 not. But it's interesting to hear you -- you know, you
12 still could have some concerns with the Kilbuck herd. I
13 wasn't quite sure if there was such a thing any more.

14
15 The other question I have is on the whale
16 carcasses, the grey whales. Did you reach any conclusion
17 from the 20 carcasses? I know it seemed like during the
18 herring season there was an exceptional large amount of
19 grey whales throughout the whole month -- or during the
20 whole herring season, which I was over there, more than
21 I've ever seen.

22
23 MR. ADERMAN: Other than reporting, you
24 know, the whale carcasses to the National Marine Fisheries
25 Service, we don't have any conclusions. I understand that
26 other places within the migration of grey whales, they've
27 noticed a higher number of carcasses, and other than that I
28 really couldn't say much more about it, why it's happening.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin?

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Andy, on the daily counts
33 of walrus, both at Cape Peirce and at Walrus Island, has
34 there been any noticeable increase or decrease, or is it
35 staying pretty static, the counts in both places?

36
37 MR. ADERMAN: Well, I can really only speak
38 to Cape Peirce. I don't have the information at -- for
39 Round Island. We had a peak of just over 2300 out at Cape
40 Peirce, and that's kind of on the low end. We've been
41 monitoring walrus numbers out at Cape Peirce since 1984,
42 and that peak has ranged from 1500, a low of 1500 to up
43 over 12,000, so it's within that range. I understood that,
44 you know, Round Island had a higher peak than that, and if
45 you'll remember, their numbers were considerably lower last
46 year. I also have heard that Cape Siniavin had quite a few
47 walrus, more than usual this summer. Cape Newenham, we
48 monitored from the end of June to -- or towards the end of
49 June, towards the end of July, and walrus were virtually
50 nonexistent. We saw a few swimming in the water, a couple

00106

1 hauled out. Now we're talking hardly any.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: And by our spring meeting
4 can you get the information from the State of Alaska and
5 give us a report on Walrus Island, Cape Peirce and also
6 Siniavin?

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: Sure.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Seabirds or
11 shorebirds, did you -- you know, the last couple of years
12 we've been having massive die-offs of birds. Did you
13 notice any massive die-off this year along the coast line
14 over.....

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: I haven't heard of any, you
17 know, major die-offs like we had in past years, at least,
18 you know, in the refuge coast line, or shorebirds for that
19 matter. I guess I'm not aware of, you know, large die-offs
20 of shorebirds. Most of our work with seabirds is
21 monitoring productivity, you know, how many eggs, chicks
22 ultimately leave the nest. And that's primarily done out
23 at Cape Peirce.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess my last question or
26 comment would be -- I don't why you keep drawing the short
27 end of the straw coming up here. I think that Aaron is
28 cheating back there a little bit.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was the comment,
31 huh?

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: That was the comment.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had about 100,000
36 animals in July walk from the Mulchatna area of caribou to
37 the west side. They went from Copenhagen Creek all the way
38 to -- almost to Ekwok. And I mean, there was massive
39 animals just as far as you could see, and I flew it almost
40 every day. And they -- last year they came down and they
41 swung up by Levelock, and they went north, and this year
42 they came down, they swung right toward Ekwok and then they
43 went right back up to the Nushagak again, and right by the
44 villages (ph) and I guess straight to Aniak. It was just
45 an incredible amount of animals. I mean just like -- I
46 could not believe the number of animals there, and they
47 were just moving. When they got to the open area between
48 Copenhagen and Ekwok, the cannery over there by Clark's, a
49 nice little southwest and east wind, they stayed around
50 there for several days, ten days or so. And I guess they

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1 were out of the bugs or something. But when they move,
2 they just -- like, you know, they never stop walking, kind
3 of almost at a trot, and they were out of the area. And
4 then you didn't send them back quick enough for these
5 sports guys again, so they didn't do too good there either.
6 So you guys get on the stick and get them to
7 (indiscernible) a little earlier, we'd -- I guess we'd
8 appreciate that.

9
10 All right. Is that is?

11
12 MR. ADERMAN: That's.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

15
16 MR. ADERMAN:all I had. I guess
17 Mike.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mike?

20
21 MR. HINKES: Yeah, I drew the other short
22 straw.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: He's good. He's good.

25
26 MR. HINKES: Just two other items is -- one
27 thing that we did notice this year around the refuge was
28 newborn calves. It looks like there's a little more
29 widespread of calves on the refuge. Whether they're
30 Mulchatna caribou or Kilbuck caribou, we're not really
31 sure, but we did -- that's one thing that we noticed this
32 year. I just wanted to note that. I don't think it's in
33 the narrative there.

34
35 And then also we had an interesting item where we
36 had two radio collared moose that locked antlers and died
37 as a result of that. Kind of an interesting note, so we're
38 going to try and recover those and put them up as sort of a
39 display. But we only have nine radio-collared bulls and it
40 was interesting that two of them ended up together.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That'll teach 'oem.

43
44 MR. HINKES: It makes the tracking time
45 shorter that way, but.....

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've got one -- I've got
48 one for these guys, either one of these guys I guess.

49
50 MR. HINKES: All right.

00108

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: On Togiak River, you limit
2 the amount of commercial operators on the Togiak River,
3 right?

4
5 MR. ADERMAN: Operating within refuge.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, there's.....

8
9 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN:a maximum, a ceiling
12 that you set. Is that based on man days or just on
13 operations?

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: Maybe we could get Aaron up
16 here.

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: I knew I'd get him.

19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) the
21 short end.

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Now we've got some
24 questions coming.

25
26 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, Togiak
27 Refuge. Yes, it's based on -- when we went through the
28 public use management plan, we looked at each unit within
29 the refuge. It was split into different management units,
30 the Togiak River being one. And it was based on the
31 historical level of use that was occurring out there for
32 guided use, and it is limited based on the number of man
33 days or user days out there, and it's split. The Togiak
34 River within the wilderness boundary is split into three
35 different distinct zones. And guides are authorized to
36 guide within those three different, you know, zones. So
37 there's three different operators in there. There's
38 actually three base camps and then one fly-in permit.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: And they're limited to how
41 many days they can use that (indiscernible, coughing).

42
43 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: It's based on the number
48 of days of people out there. It's not -- you know, if they
49 want to have one guide and four clients, they can do that,
50 or two guides and two clients, but it's based on the number

00109

1 of individuals there at any time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good question.

4 All right.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, that was just my point
7 is a clarification. Man use days. We got an education
8 with Choggiung Land Committee is that they're actually set
9 on a number of people that could be there in a given year.
10 So, you know, you not only limit the number of operations,
11 you also limit those operators as to how many people.....

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

14

15 MR. HEYANO:can be there in a season.

16

17 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that set a precedent
20 for the whole drainage of Bristol Bay?

21

22 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Well, crowding was one of
23 the bigger issues that came out in the public use
24 management plan,.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Really?

27

28 MR. ARCHIBEQUE:and that was one way
29 to address it was the number of people out there at given
30 time, not the number of clients that were out there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, also on the
35 tributaries of Togiak, you know, there's a limited use of
36 the lakes. Can you explain some of that, because, you
37 know, we had a -- there was a question one time or another
38 for more use on the tributary lakes.

39

40 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Yeah, I think what Pete's
41 describing is one of the units within the wilderness area
42 was the wilderness lakes units, and those were just the
43 lakes within the wilderness area that were one distinct
44 unit, or an offering that was made available to the public
45 to compete for those offerings and there's been proposals
46 to increase the level of use out there, and this point we
47 haven't done that. We're in the process of revising the
48 public use management plan, but also in the process of
49 revising the over-all comprehensive conservation plan for
50 the refuge. And rather than go out and do these two

00110

1 separate planning efforts, we decided to roll them into
2 one, so it's not quite as burdensome for the public and us
3 as well.

4
5 One of the things I want to point out on the CCP or
6 the comprehensive conservation plan for the refuge, we're
7 kind of taking a little different approach than a couple of
8 the other planning efforts under way with Fish and Wildlife
9 Service. Part of our planning team is going to be to
10 invite tribal members from each of the different villages
11 within the refuge to be an active member on the planning
12 team, and the State, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
13 Department of Natural Resources have also been invited to
14 participate in that planning team, so -- and we're hoping
15 to really get buy-in from folks, because it's going to be
16 everybody's plan.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further questions,
19 council members?

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: I've got one more question
22 for Andy. The question I've got is, you know, remember we
23 have some caribous around Osviak, across from Woodens (ph)
24 Bay. Are those residents now, or -- yeah, because there's
25 quite a bit of activity down there the last -- a couple
26 weeks ago by Asigyukpak area of caribou coming down the
27 beach. I mean I'd like to know a close number of those
28 animals in that area, because I think last winter when I
29 went to -- when I stopped -- when I went through Woodens
30 Bay, I asked some questions over there about those
31 particular animals right there, and the local estimated
32 about 60 to 80 animals in that area. Do we have an
33 accurate number on those? And if they are residents?

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: That's the same thing I've
36 heard, Pete, and I've seen caribou in that area any time of
37 the year. In addition this year I did see a couple of
38 newborn calves out in that area. And talking with people
39 in Goodnews Bay, yeah, they have seen those caribou, they
40 were hanging out all summer, so it's very likely they are
41 resident, or semiresident animals. We don't have any radio
42 collars on those animals to know for sure. But again,
43 we've seen caribou in the last few years just about every
44 place on the refuge. And in fact I've seen caribou west of
45 the Air Force base out at Cape Newenham this summer.

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: They might be well the
48 residents then. Qu yana.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, council

00111

1 members? Thanks. Appreciate it a lot. Okay. Alaska
2 Peninsula/Becharof. Orville Lind.

3

4 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, council
5 members. Orville Lind, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge.
6 In my case, for your information, there was only one straw,
7 and I was handed the straw. Kind of a unique situation.

8

9 I'm going to go over the information on Tab M, just
10 a page beyond Togiak information, touch on some of the
11 highlights and acknowledgements of the other agencies and
12 the cooperative effort. National Park Service pilot Tom
13 O'Hara, Tetlin Refuge pilot Bill Smoke, who is a former
14 pilot for our refuge, along with technicians, did a real
15 super job surveying the caribou. And again the number,
16 along with Sellers and Ron Squibb, estimated numbers of
17 8600 caribou on the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd.

18

19 The next item down is plant communities of Alaska
20 Peninsula and Becharof Refuge in relation to caribou
21 utilization. Of course, this is the second season in this
22 program -- or this project. Again Steve Talbot out of our
23 Division of Refuges in Anchorage, and again Professor
24 Wilfred Skofield, along with assistance from our manager,
25 Daryle Lons, and myself, and information technician Charles
26 O'Dimond from Chignik, were along at different times doing
27 habitat studies over on the Ivanof Bay area, Stepovak,
28 Natchamak Island and Wide Bay. Those two botanists to me
29 really impressed -- impressed me, the work they'd done out
30 there. They were certainly dedicated. I was amazed at the
31 plants that they knew out there. Everywhere you went they
32 had an answer what plant was there. So they're the top of
33 the line people to do that job. Also we had Professor
34 Wilfred Skofield had his 72nd birthday out on Natchamak
35 Island, which was pretty neat.

36

37 To move along, I'm going to go on to spring moose
38 surveys. Again, in a cooperative effort between the Park
39 Service, and also Igly (ph) Air Haul, Sam Igly, with
40 assistance of again our manager Lons, and our own pilot
41 Cox, surveys were done in the areas of Wildman Lake, Sandy
42 and Bear River drainages. Pacific side, the Portage,
43 Mitrafania and Anchor Bay drainages, Kametolook River
44 drainage, and Stepovak Bay drainages, places that weren't
45 surveyed before. And again the total moose count, there
46 was 245 moose estimated. In our fall moose season in Game
47 Management Units 9(C) and (E), an early season moose hunt
48 was again offered for subsistence use in Game Management
49 Unit 9(C) on federal lands. And bearing (ph) into the
50 Naknek River from the south, Big Creek, and through August

00112

1 20th through 31st, one bull could be taken by federal
2 registration permit only. And only one permit was issued
3 at that time, and no moose were harvested. An early moose
4 season hunt was also offered for subsistence users in Game
5 Management Unit 9(E) during September 1st through the 20th
6 with a limit of one bull, and the state season, of course,
7 ran September 10th to 20th, with a limit of one bull with
8 the spike fork 50 inch antlers, or antlers with three or
9 more brow tines on at least one side.

10
11 Again Becharof Lake, Island Arm area of Unit 9(E),
12 the closure of the Island Arm area to transport, air taxi
13 permittees during subsistence moose season was continued
14 again this year. And the refuge complex, special use
15 permits allowed no air taxi drop-offs in the Island Arm
16 north of Berl's Creek and Bear Creek during September 1st
17 through the 20th. And drop-offs for five sport hunting
18 camps, a maximum of four hunters each were allowed south of
19 Berl's Creek and Bear Creek to the end of the arm, and air
20 taxi transportation to Island Arm was allowed for qualified
21 local subsistence users. The Becharof Lake was also
22 patrolled during September.

23
24 This year on the public use surveys, from late July
25 through mid September, a crew including seasonal ranger
26 Laura Bundy, refuge information technician again Charles
27 O'Dimond, Region 7 public use planner Helen Clowe, and
28 retired Fish and Wildlife protection officer Roland Young
29 -- or Rolland Young, excuse me, monitored public use below
30 the outlet of Becharof Lake. And objectives included
31 documenting the level and distribution of public use in the
32 area. And it is believed that because of the low coho
33 salmon run returns, it may have resulted in lower normal --
34 lower than normal public use.

35
36 In Big Creek, the end of September moose hunt,
37 refuge staff monitored hunter activity on refuge lands up
38 big creek in Unit 9(C). Also from the air and on the
39 ground in order to document the number and distribution of
40 hunters.

41
42 The spring waterfowl surveys, ground surveys on
43 staging waterfowl on the Naknek River were conducted this
44 year in mid March through the end of May by one of our
45 refuge volunteers. Aerial surveys were also conducted on
46 the Naknek River, as well as the Kvichak, Igiugig, and
47 Ugashik Rivers. Again our refuge biologist, Susan, Dave --
48 our pilot Dave Cox, along with Katmai pilot Tom O'Hara did
49 the surveys, and it was believed because the late spring
50 provided little open water elsewhere, and it -- as a

00113

1 result, they believe the highest number of waterfowl in the
2 area.

3
4 The refuge planning, again our refuge is revising
5 our comprehensive conservation plans, and public meetings
6 in the local communities during March and April addressed
7 comments from the previous year, and issue -- comment and
8 issues that the plan should address. And again meetings
9 are planned for this coming November and December.

10
11 And, Mr. Chairman, I believe that's all I have.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, council
14 members? I have a question, Orville. The refuge planning
15 down there, your last page -- paragraph on page four?

16
17 MR. LIND: Yes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did you continue this
20 summer or fall to have young people going down to Becharof
21 Lake at the old Bible camp for any educational training?

22
23 MR. LIND: For our outreach programs?

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26
27 MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we did have a
28 science camp.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

31
32 MR. LIND:the first part of
33 September, and -- where we had five students, junior and
34 high school students, from the Lake and Pen School
35 District, and also five from the Naknek Borough School come
36 down to our science camp down at Becharof Lake.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Were they the older teens
39 like juniors and seniors in high school?

40
41 MR. LIND: Correct.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's the age
44 group that yo had. Did you have anything this spring or
45 this summer at all at Becharof Lake for any of the
46 students? Any kind of.....

47
48 MR. LIND: That was the only thing we had.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was the only one you

00114

1 had going on. Yeah. Okay. Good. I heard a lot of good
2 remarks about the last one you had with the seniors and
3 junior, or seniors, and I thought it was an excellent idea.
4 Yeah. Great. Okay. I think that's about all I have.

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robert had.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, Robert, I'm sorry.

9 Go ahead.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
12 early moose hunt in Unit 9(E), how many permits were -- I
13 guess there was no permits. Any idea on how many moose
14 were taken?

15

16 MR. LIND: On the early season, there was
17 only one permit issued, but there was no moose harvested.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: In 9(E)?

20

21 MR. LIND: That was in 9(C).

22

23 MR. HEYANO: How about 9(E)?

24

25 MR. LIND: I don't have that information.

26

27 MR. SQUIBB: No, we don't. Mr. Chairman,
28 Ron Squibb, Alaska Peninsula Refuge. There's no federal
29 permit issued on that hunt, so it would be a state harvest
30 ticket, and it would a matter of, you know, their estimates
31 from their harvest ticket reports, which aren't in yet, I
32 wouldn't think. You know, the short answer, no, we don't
33 know.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Okay. Thank you. One other
36 question I guess is that this early moose hunt for
37 subsistence users, were they also -- the antler restriction
38 also apply to them?

39

40 MR. SQUIBB: I'd have to look at.....

41

42 MR. ENRIGHT: No.

43

44 MR. SQUIBB:the regs. Right. I
45 think it's one bull.

46

47 MR. ENRIGHT: It says one bull.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

50

00115

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, just one bull? No?
2 Correct? Okay.

3
4 MR. SQUIBB: That's my recollection.
5 (Indiscernible, coughing) looking at the regs. Do you have
6 a reg book?

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions of
9 the council -- council member have any questions?

10
11 MR. BERG: Yeah, it's one bull.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One bull, okay. Thank
14 you very much, guys, appreciate your report, and nice and
15 precise, and right to the point.

16
17 MR. LIND: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Migratory
20 bird management, and after this we'll take a break, treaty
21 update. Any -- are you going to handle that?

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: I will.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

26 Taylor.

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
29 Taylor Brelsford. In light of the time, and we've got some
30 important upcoming reports from the Park Service, I'll try
31 and be very brief. I hope this is information that you all
32 have seen before and followed.

33
34 Most of you are aware that the Migratory Bird
35 Treaty Act was amended in consultation with Canada.
36 Implementing legislation was adopted. It was ratified by
37 the Senate, so these are -- this is good law. This is a
38 change. It's affective.

39
40 One of the first steps in that is to establish
41 these management bodies in which local residents will work
42 with the managers to make the regulations, the spring and
43 summer legal regulated hunting opportunity for migratory
44 birds in Alaska. There's a bit more information about the
45 roles and responsibilities of these management bodies, but
46 I want to really focus on where we are in making a decision
47 about that, so there have been several steps of public
48 outreach to date. Public meetings were held over the --
49 about a year and a half ago in nine parts of the state.
50 And earlier this summer a flyer was actually mailed out to

00116

1 households with four models that -- of possible
2 organizational structures for these migratory bodies --
3 migratory bird management bodies.

4
5 The critical issue before you has to do with model
6 number 2 that would rely on the ten regional advisory
7 councils to serve as the management bodies for migratory
8 bird management regulations, for the spring and summer
9 regulations. The comment deadline on these models has been
10 extended so that each of the regional councils can review
11 this and make a recommendation by motion if you wish to on
12 whether that model is a good one, or whether a different
13 model would be a better one, so you'd -- although the text
14 says that the closure date already came, in fact we got an
15 extension so that each of the ten councils can act on this
16 as a council if you wish. Comments can be submitted in
17 writing, you're not limited. There are actually places to
18 make notes on these and the addresses to send them in. But
19 if the council would like to act as a body on -- and make a
20 recommendation about which management body would be best,
21 this would be an opportunity to do that.

22
23 Very quickly, management body number 1 would be a
24 single statewide organization made up of the regional
25 tribal associations, so the membership would be one
26 representative per region, but they would sit as a single
27 statewide body.

28 I want to emphasize that these bodies are
29 multijurisdiction so that the federal managers would be
30 represented, local users would be represented and the
31 Alaska Department of Fish and Game would be represented.
32 You'll see that in a box about midway down on the diagram.

33
34 Turning to model two, this is the one you would
35 recognize. It's a single statewide body, but it's made up
36 of representatives from each of the ten regional advisory
37 councils.

38
39 Model three is a bit more -- it recognizes the
40 diversity. It tries to structure around some of the
41 differences around Alaska, so seven separate bodies would
42 be made up. They are clusters of some of the regional
43 associations, but there would be seven separate bodies, and
44 some of the differences in funding costs and so on would
45 follow from that.

46
47 The last one, model four, would have three separate
48 bodies across the state. And the critical difference here
49 is that these roughly correspond to flyways, so that the
50 Arctic, Southeast, and Western Alaska, it parallels some of

00117

1 the basic biology of the migratory bird pathways.

2

3 So with that very quick sketch of this issue, I'd
4 like to stop and either entertain questions or if I've --
5 if I don't know the answers, there's another bunch from the
6 refuges that have the longer straws, and they will help us
7 get the right information on the table.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's take the spring and
10 summer hunt, if you have any questions on that, and then
11 we'll go to the one through four recommendations. Yes.

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chair. Did you
14 know, or did anybody know that BBNA had turned down all of
15 these bodies, models, because of the voting -- how the
16 voting was situated? I think BBNA is working with the
17 villages now to form another working party, working group
18 for these particular migratory bird hunting in spring.
19 There were some complaints about it, I can't quite
20 remember, but the voting part of it was -- the voting part
21 of that, they didn't like how it -- so I guess you'll get
22 something back from BBNA, Rob Anderson.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
25 questions on either the spring and fall hunt or the one
26 through four proposals? Yes?

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Taylor, is it my
29 understanding under the spring hunt that only Alaska
30 natives can hunt in the spring? It isn't a rural
31 designation?

32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: I understand it
34 differently, but let me see if.....

35

36 MR. LONS: It's rural, yeah.

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, it is rural?

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: There's a definition in the
41 Senate language as I recall. Daryle Lons -- that's what
42 he's coming up to the microphone for.

43

44 MR. LONS: Daryle Lons, Alaska
45 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge manager. Yeah, I haven't
46 reviewed the stuff here recently, but my understanding is
47 it will be based on rural/ nonrural. It's not
48 native/nonnative issue.

49

50 MR. SAMUELSEN: But right now it's a

00118

1 native/nonnative issue until the Senate comes through and
2 makes it a rural issue?

3

4 MR. BRELSFORD: No. Mr. Chairman, I
5 believe the treaty language itself used the term indigenous
6 residents, and in clarification the American side said that
7 they would understand that term to refer to rural residents
8 without regard to ethnicity. So I'm quite sure this comes
9 back to me. It was one of our major talking points in the
10 earlier years, that the spring and summer hunts, the legal,
11 the now legal hunts would be available to rural residents,
12 native and nonnative in those communities.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. That needs to be
15 real clear when it comes out to us public.

16

17 MR. BRELSFORD: Good point.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yes, Robert?

20

21 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, then before the
22 treaty, and maybe this is where some of the confusion came,
23 when the Federal Government, I don't know what agency it
24 was, that allowed a spring hunt, that was only for native
25 people, correct?

26

27 MR. LONS: No, it wasn't legal. The Fish
28 and Wildlife Service came up with a discretionary law
29 enforcement policy which allowed migratory bird take in the
30 spring, but it wasn't legal. It was a discretionary law
31 enforcement policy, but again that was based on rural
32 basis, not on a native basis.

33

34 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, because my
35 understanding of it was that it was just the opposite, and
36 I think a lot of other folks, maybe they were told for some
37 reason in the area we're familiar with. I always thought
38 it was a race-based opportunity.

39

40 MR. LONS: No.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you. Any
45 other questions? Taylor, are we supposed to make a
46 decision or a recommendation on these steps, one through
47 four?

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: It's at your discretion on
50 the part of the council. There's no obligation for you to

00119

1 make a specific recommendation. I think what the folks
2 working on this issue are most interested in, is if model
3 two has a lot of support out there, they want to be sure
4 that the regional councils are willing to take on that new
5 responsibility. So that -- it's.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD:optional for you to
10 take formal action. But I know that Mimi Hogan and Bob
11 Stevens are actually real concerned that model two might go
12 somewhere, and they want to be sure how each of the
13 councils feel about it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin?

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess when it comes to
18 migratory birds, I look to the Kuskokwim group, because
19 they've been the leader in this. And the working group
20 that they put together over there, they interact not only
21 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but with other
22 governments, and attended their meetings. And I'd like to
23 see -- myself, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to see something like
24 that put in place in each region, instead of us getting
25 involved in it. And then you'd have like a Bristol Bay
26 Flyway Commission, I guess you'd call it, something like
27 that, to sit down and work the details out.

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the time frame on
29 having to address this, Taylor?

30
31 MR. BRELSFORD: I believe that the deadline
32 for comments is essentially the end of October at this
33 point. And as noted in the text, the regional director of
34 the Fish and Wildlife Service has the legal responsibility
35 to make a decision about the management bodies. It could
36 be one of these models, or it could be a modification of
37 these. There are other ideas coming in at this point. But
38 the hope is to have a final decision, and to start those
39 bodies early in the year 2000, so the time is really now to
40 get a voice in on the matter. The regulations can't go
41 into effect until these management bodies are in place, and
42 they don't want to wait too long, don't want to delay, you
43 know, the real implementation on the ground of those treaty
44 amendments, so getting the bodies in place is important,
45 and then that allows them to move forward with the
46 management program.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What are the wishes --
49 what's the wishes of the council? Hearing none?

50

00120

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah?

4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Is it possible where we can
6 check with BBNA what Ralph Anderson's ideas are? Because
7 -- yeah, because he's involving even AVCP in that program.
8 Maybe Ted can ask.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to ask Ted
11 maybe if he could -- thank you.

12
13 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Bristol Bay Native
14 Association, Natural Resources Department. I'll try to
15 fill you in as best I can.

16
17 Ralph Anderson sits on the Native Migratory Bird
18 Working Group, and Ralph is the natural resources manager.
19 He's my boss. So he's gotten a more intimate knowledge of
20 all of this, but the other model that Pete alluded to is a
21 model that's been put together by the Native Migratory Bird
22 Working Group, and actually they're going to have a meeting
23 tomorrow, a teleconference meeting to try to decide to
24 finalize, you know, this work -- their -- the working group
25 plan as they're calling it, or their model. And so it's
26 not really finalized yet, but I think it -- you know, it
27 kind of follows along the lines of what Robin was
28 describing where more of -- more regional representation,
29 and actually the model that they're working with right now
30 would have a representative from each village, there would
31 be subregional boards. It's set up, you know, similar to
32 the BBNA, you know, system, the way I look at it. I mean,
33 each village has a representative. There's subregional
34 groups, and then there's a B- -- you know, Bristol Bay
35 regional group, and there would be representatives from
36 Bristol Bay region that would go to the statewide body.

37
38 But it -- this isn't all -- you know, it -- I think
39 they're looking to finalize it tomorrow, and, you know, as
40 I understand it, too, it has to go by Fish and Wildlife
41 Service yet also. And BBNA, we -- it was one of the things
42 I was going to touch on, we did receive some funding to
43 make the villages aware of the four options, plus what we
44 knew about the Migratory Bird Working Group option. You
45 know, that's part of where it's at right now.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would prefer to leave
48 it in their hands, and if they're actively working on it, I
49 don't really know enough about it to address it
50 intelligently. Okay?

00121

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, because (indiscernible
2 - simultaneous speech).....

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's okay with me, Mr.
5 Chairman. You know, there's -- a big component of this is
6 educating the people when you've got a species that you're
7 having problems with, and BBNA's done a fine job in putting
8 posters up and bringing the word out to the villages. And
9 if they could work it out that they're going to model it
10 like -- somewhat like the Kuskokwim did on the Kuskokwim
11 Goose Management Plan I guess you'd call it, I can't
12 remember the exact name, but I'd be in favor of that,
13 because that system seems to be working.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do we have consensus on
16 that, to go ahead and do that then?

17
18 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead.

21
22 MR. ABRAHAM: And, yeah, not only that, I
23 think Rob Anderson's working with the AVCP people up there,
24 the working group up there, and AVCP people up there have
25 better knowledge about emperor geese that's, you know,
26 endangered right now, and on education part of it, they
27 will have some information, you know, educating the people
28 why we shouldn't, you know, hunt emperor geese like that,
29 something like that. Like, you know, Robin said, and I
30 think we leave that in their hands, because, you know, they
31 have -- they're more flexible than us.....

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yep.

34
35 MR. ABRAHAM:as of right now.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman?

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: I guess along those comments
44 is, you know, I don't mind if BBNA's going to be taking the
45 lead on it. I guess my concern is to make sure that
46 everybody in those regions has an opportunity to
47 participate and comment on what they're proposing to do as
48 a management group, you know, and I guess it's news to me,
49 because I wasn't even aware that they were formalizing a
50 position and going through a model to manage. So, you

00122

1 know, if you're asking me to bless whatever they came up,
2 you know, I can't do it at this time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we don't have very
5 much time to bless anything on this issue. It's going by
6 pretty fast, unless you want to jump into the management of
7 it, no problem. That's the only activity taking place --
8 yeah, Ted?

9

10 MR. KRIEG: I guess I just can't stress
11 enough that it's not a BBNA model. It's from the Migratory
12 Bird Working Group, and they're a statewide body. And they
13 like, you know, Fish and Wildlife Service came to BBNA and
14 said, you know, let's present this, and right now -- I
15 mean, BBNA's name is in there, but what we've been telling
16 the villages and advocating for is that once it's all set
17 up, you know, there's -- Ralph Anderson's position is going
18 to go away and the bird working group for Bristol Bay will
19 make, you know, their recommendation as to who is going to
20 sit on those -- go to the statewide body meeting, or
21 however, you know, it pans out. So -- I mean, to answer
22 Robert's question, I mean, I said the BBNA, you know, kind
23 of management model where each village is represented, but
24 this is going to be separate, you know. We'd work with
25 everybody as much as needed to be, but, you know, it's not
26 a BBNA model.

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, what is the wishes
28 of this council? Nothing? Okay.

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I can sum
31 up just to be sure I've got it explicitly, it seems.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

34

35 MR. BRELSFORD:there are two points.
36 One that the council is not prepared to support model two
37 that would rely on the councils, and instead.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

40

41 MR. BRELSFORD:you're looking at some
42 way of building on specialized groups like the WCC, the
43 Waterfowl Conservation Committees, in the AVCP region. And
44 secondly you have general support for the approach of BBNA
45 and the Native Migratory Working Group on a more village-
46 based approach. Is that a fair summary of the
47 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech)?

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that okay?

50

00123

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Fine.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.

4 We are going to take a ten-minute break. When we come

5 back, we'll go to the National Park Service.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. The meeting's back
12 in order. We started this morning, we operated under the
13 rules of Roberts, then we went to O'Hara, and now we're
14 operating under the Rules of Samuelsen. So with that,
15 we'll jump down the agenda. We've got a request, the Com
16 Fish Division people are leaving this evening, so I'd like
17 to take Slim and Jim Browning's comments at this time. Jim
18 is not here. He just be out.....

19 MR. MORESTAD: He flies all the way over
20 here, and he disappears.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Yep.

23

24 MR. MORESTAD: I don't know. I'm Slim
25 Morestad. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
26 Division of Commercial Fisheries, and good afternoon, Mr.
27 Chair and members of the board.

28

29 I was asked to give a quick overview of the 1999
30 season here in Bristol Bay. I almost said Prince William
31 Sound.

32

33 MR. HEYANO: The numbers are too high for
34 Prince William Sound.

35

36 MR. MORESTAD: Well, unless you go pinks,
37 but we don't even count those. The table I handed out
38 prior to the meeting, table one, if everybody has that, it
39 has listed under there the inshore run, what the forecast
40 was, what it actually turned out to be. As you can see,
41 all systems were slightly above or greatly above what the
42 projected return was prior to the season. The escapement
43 goals, as you can see, is the first column there for
44 escapement, what the goals were and the ranges, and what
45 actually occurred. And all systems were met or exceeded in
46 escapement. And if you look at inshore catch, and this is
47 excluding -- all of this is excluding the Shumagan Island
48 and False Pass breakdowns of the fish. If you look at the
49 projected harvest, and then the actually harvests, all
50 systems' districts were exceeded than what was forecasted.

00124

1 And we ended up with a forecast of 25.4 million, and we
2 actually ended up with just slightly under 40 million.
3 Escapement goals are about 11 million, and we ended up 14,
4 and a projected harvest of 14 million, we ended up with 25
5 million. And if you had any questions, but that was all
6 the breakdown that I was going to present here.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Questions, anyone?

9
10 MR. MORESTAD: Okay. Jim was going to do
11 herring, but I don't know where he's at, so.....

12
13 MR. BERG: He was just here. I don't know
14 where he went to, but I guess we'll have to wait until he
15 gets back before he gives his report.

16
17 MR. MORESTAD: Okay.

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Dan, are you going back
20 tonight?

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible - away from
23 microphone)

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: It doesn't matter if Jim's
26 going back. Do you want to give your testimony now, you're
27 sure welcome to it, or wait 'til.....

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible - away from
30 microphone)

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Item D. Sport Fish
33 Division. While he's coming up, Molly, were you leaving
34 tonight?

35
36 MS. CHYTHLOOK: No, I'm not leaving, but I
37 wouldn't giving my report (indiscernible - away from
38 microphone).

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Nah. Misery loves company.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm
43 Dan Dunaway, area sport fish biologist with the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game for Bristol Bay and Lower
45 Kuskokwim. I don't have a handout. If you would like
46 something, I can give something to the council in the next
47 week or so. I've got a very rough summary that I was
48 waiting for some final numbers on. But I was going to
49 briefly go through the '99 sport fishery in Bristol Bay,
50 and kind of cover a couple other items. And I would kind

00125

1 of go through the season.

2

3 The first big fishery of the year -- some of you
4 guys have heard this twice already -- was king salmon runs.
5 And across Bristol Bay we generally had a mediocre to poor
6 king run. We had creel surveys in the Naknek River, also
7 on the Kanektok River, which is out of this area, and we
8 had the Nushagak sonar count, are of our main pieces of
9 information coming in. Most of my time was tied up on the
10 Nushagak kings where the -- we have a management plan,
11 which spells out the actions we're supposed to take when we
12 get different levels of escapement. On June 30th I
13 restricted it down to a two season -- two per season limit
14 because of poor escapement. On July 2nd I closed the
15 Nushagak sport fishery, because we were projecting 37,000
16 king salmon total escapement in the river, which is really
17 bad, and because reports from the upriver villages
18 indicated we didn't have much in the subsistence nets, and
19 this confirmed a poor run. By July 6th, things had turned
20 around and we relaxed our restrictions to -- back to the
21 seasonal limit of two kings, again according to the plan.
22 By the end of the sonar project at Portage Creek, we have a
23 estimated 62,300 kings past the sonar counter, which is
24 quite a bit of a relief. That's back up in the range that
25 the run should be able to restore itself fairly well,
26 although 75,000 is the in-river goal.

27 I'll let Jim Browning touch on the commercial
28 harvest and all.

29

30 I don't have any estimate of sport harvest this --
31 for this year on the Nushagak. Have to depend on the
32 statewide harvest survey, which is a mail-out survey. It
33 will go out this winter. About this time next year, I'll
34 have some sort of an estimate.

35

36 I do have an estimate for the 1998 sport harvest
37 that just became available from last year's mail-out
38 survey, and I believe it's about 5,600 kings for the
39 Nushagak. There's a sport cap in the plan that when we get
40 75,000 fish in the -- if we have the 75,000-fish in-river
41 goal, there's 5,000 kings allocated to sport fishery. Last
42 year was the first season that we'd had under the new plan,
43 and the new regulations that established a seasonal limit
44 of four in the Nushagak. It changed the daily bag limit
45 from three, two over 28, to two, one over 28, and it also
46 prohibited guides from retaining king salmon during --
47 while they're acting as guides. And we'd hoped that it
48 would cut the sport harvest potential by 50 percent, and it
49 would seemed to have done that. We've harvested as many as
50 ten -- between ten and 11,000 kings in some years, and last

00126

1 year, '98, was a good escapement. We had I think a total
2 of about 108,000 in the river, and yet the sport fishery
3 stayed at right around the 5,000 mark.

4
5 I don't have a whole lot of information on any of
6 the sport fisheries. On the Naknek River, where we had
7 creel survey, we interviewed 1500 anglers. Anglers
8 reported a total of 873 kings caught. That's both the ones
9 they killed and the ones they released. The catch per unit
10 effort was about .15 kings per hour. It's about half the
11 normal rate. But it fluctuated enough through the season
12 that we talked about reducing the bag limit in season, but
13 our data was just not clear enough. Looking back, it might
14 not have hurt to reduce the bag limit a little.

15
16 Biological samples, we collected 256. Slim flew an
17 aerial escapement index for me. Under some parts of it, he
18 didn't have real good conditions, but about -- we estimate
19 about 4,400 kings on the spawning grounds, which is
20 somewhat less than the 5,000 fish count that we target.
21 Very low commercial harvest on the kings there, so we can't
22 really blame the commercial fishery for hurting the in-
23 river run there.

24
25 I got reports. I didn't have any program on the
26 Alagnak this year, and regrettably I don't even have a
27 report on the creek project we did on the Alagnak last
28 year. I've been short-staffed all winter. We're currently
29 working on that data, and I hope by mid November to have a
30 rough draft. Reports are that the run was pretty poor from
31 the guides and lodges and other folks I talked to over
32 there. Aerial surveys for over there is about 2,000, an
33 escapement of about 2,000 kings, which is about half the
34 long-term average, and the lowest since 1990. Of course,
35 most recently we've enjoyed some unusually good returns
36 because of the extreme restrictions to the commercial
37 fishery right when the kings seem to be coming through.
38 We've have some ten and I think 15,000 fish escapements
39 which is way above the normal, which is about 4,000 to
40 5,000.

41
42 One thing, I just looked -- I just got this
43 statewide harvest data. Effort, sport effort in 1998 on
44 the Alagnak River dropped substantially from previous
45 years. From -- since about 1992 through 1997, our
46 estimates have been, oh, about 11,000 to a little over
47 13,000 angler days on the Alagnak, which was a substantial
48 jump from the early 90s and late 80s when it was about
49 6,000. In 1998 though, it's 8,000. I don't now if this is
50 in response -- I've heard a number of complaints about the

00127

1 level of use over there. And I don't know if this is a
2 response, voluntary, or what. I do also know that there's
3 been some reanalysis of parts of our statewide survey, that
4 somewhere, as they're examining our whole data analysis, I
5 don't know what the problem was, but that's why it's so
6 late getting out this year, and I understand we may be
7 going back and re-analyzing previous years' data. But it
8 appears to me, if anything, we'll be dropping our estimates
9 of effort, but I haven't had a chance to talk to any
10 authori -- anybody with authority in Anchorage to know
11 exactly what's going on, but normally I'd have had this
12 data in mid August. I didn't get it until about a week
13 ago. I haven't even looked at what we estimated for king
14 harvest on the Alagnak. For '98 it was about 1500, and
15 over the last five years it's averaged about 1,000, but a
16 rather wide range from 673 to as high as 1593. That's a
17 little bit of a surprise considering the additional
18 restrictions over there, too, on guides and seasonal bag
19 limits, and spawning season closures. But anyway, it seems
20 like there's a lot of interest in Alagnak, and I'm dredging
21 this up right now. I haven't had much time to look at it.

22
23 Going on to Togiak River, there -- the king run
24 there was below average but we came quite close to the
25 escapement goal. We estimate about 9500 kings escaped to
26 spawn. The goal is 10,000. There again we had a creel
27 survey on that fishery last year. That data is currently
28 being analyzed. I'm way behind on my reports. Hopefully
29 this winter sometime, that one we'll have more data to go
30 on on the Togiak River.

31
32 I understand it wasn't that great in the other
33 rivers that are smaller that we don't follow quite as
34 closely.

35
36 Moving on to coho salmon, that was worse than kings
37 throughout the Bay, and it became pretty obvious early on
38 from commercial catches and subsistence catches, or lack of
39 them, and other sources of information. And after some
40 poor years in '95 and '97, I was pretty determined that we
41 wouldn't go through another season not restricting the
42 sport fishery if it looked like that was necessary.

43
44 Again, the Nushagak River dominated my attention.
45 We have a management plan, we have an in-river real time
46 escapement assessment program there with the sonar, and by
47 August 12th, 17th, somewhere in there, things were looking
48 really grim, and when you look at the numbers we had, and
49 look at our plan, it said close the sport fishery, and we
50 did. I believe even the subsistence fishery was

00128

1 restricted. The commercial fishery was never allowed to
2 start. Given that information, and also the concerns of
3 pushing quite a bit of guided effort from the Nushagak onto
4 nearby Wood River, at the same time that I closed the
5 Nushagak, we restricted the Wood River drainage to a bag
6 limit of two. And that was somewhat arbitrarily, but my
7 concern was that for those that could just shift over a
8 real short distance, the runs in the Wood River aren't that
9 big, and I didn't really want to hammer away on them.

10
11 Soon after that, the whole Kuskokwim drainage was
12 really grim, and we went to a one fish bag limit over
13 there. That kind of set off a domino back here in Bristol
14 Bay. We looked at the rest of the rivers. At this time we
15 did have a creel survey for the first time since 1989 on
16 the Togiak River, and what little information we have to
17 compare in previous years, it looked like a pretty grim
18 season there. The same again on the Naknek River. So I
19 decided to go bay-wide with the restriction to a one-fish
20 bag limit. I talked to people from Togiak to Tim down here
21 in.....

22
23 MR. ENRIGHT: Ugashik.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY:Pilot Point, and Ugashik
26 area, as the number of guides not surprisingly throughout
27 the whole area were hardly supportive of going to catch and
28 release. And just as we were going to take the action, we
29 had a little up-tick in some of the runs around the bay
30 where we were watching. I was hesitant to go that drastic,
31 so we went to a one-fish bag limit except in the Kvichak
32 where we went to catch and release, because I'm real
33 familiar with all the concerns on the coho run in the
34 Kvichak that were brought to the Board in '97, where they
35 managed to reduce the bag limit from five a day to two per
36 day on the normal fishery. And I thought, if we've got a
37 bad run -- in fact, we had a researcher over there looking
38 for six fish for tissue samples. The lodges at Igiugig all
39 got together one evening, and I don't know how many folks
40 they had out on the water, but it took four lodges worth of
41 folks to find six fish for tissue samples, and that told me
42 it was time to go -- we didn't have -- it's really hard to
43 totally close it, but we went catch and release, which
44 essentially closed it. I got reports later that there was
45 some improvement. At Talarik Creek we began to see some
46 cohos, some of the folks around Igiugig saw some cohos, but
47 certainly not anything to warrant a harvest, and hopefully
48 we afforded protection throughout the bay for the coho run.
49 Whether that turns into more cohos in the future, I don't
50 know. Cohos are really frustrating. But if we at least

00129

1 give them a chance to spawn, we've got some way of having
2 them come back.

3
4 Those two fisheries pretty much occupied my
5 attention through the summer. We also have other fisheries
6 though. Rainbow trout's probably the next most popular
7 draw to this area. Actually probably the second most after
8 kings. There's been a lot of concern about rainbow trout
9 on the Naknek River, and especially in the early spring
10 fishery, and the Board of Fisheries had encouraged the
11 Naknek Kvichak Advisory Committee to develop a
12 management plan. Well, I'm trying to supply data for that.
13 We had a creek survey and a sampling survey in the spring
14 fishery on the Naknek from mid March 'til the April 9th
15 closure. We did some experiments with a voluntary
16 reporting by the guides and unguided fishermen, and we had
17 really good success. We only had about 273 anglers out
18 there. We had a lot of personal contact. We really
19 appreciate anybody that might have been here that
20 participated and helped with that. But we also got samples
21 of somewhere over 500 rainbow trout, and the average length
22 was well about 20 inches. So from a biological standpoint
23 at this time, I don't think we have a biological worry on
24 the Naknek rainbow trout. But today's our last day of
25 sampling for a fall program similar to this in the same
26 location, and I don't have any information on that except
27 that fishing was very slow up until about a week and a half
28 ago. We were having trouble getting our samples, and then
29 a short time ago we succeeded in getting at least 150 fish
30 sampled, some of them quite large again. We'll have to see
31 what that data looks like. I plan to go back in next
32 spring to the upper Naknek. This past spring as you well
33 know was mighty cold, and it may have -- the sport fishery
34 might look different on a more normal spring fishery, so
35 we're going to be there and see what it looks like to have
36 good data for the board or anybody else.

37
38 I still pretty firmly believe though rainbow are
39 not in any sort of biological crisis in the Naknek. Across
40 the whole Bristol Bay, the general reports were that
41 rainbow trout were very good in most place. Yesterday I
42 heard some concerns around the Lake Iliamna area, and it
43 matches up with at least what observations we had at lower
44 Talarik Creek, one of our other projects this year, where
45 rainbow trout fishing in late August and through much of
46 September wasn't as good as it's been in the past.
47 Recently I got reports that lower Talarik Creek rainbow
48 trout fishing was quite a bit better. What's his name,
49 Gary, and I need to find out where he's from and full name,
50 but apparently Gibraltar is still poor fishing. And Randy

00130

1 Alvarez told me that it was pretty mediocre on the Kvichak.

2

3 Based on our recent work over there that show a
4 pretty good rainbow trout populations, I hesitate to think
5 that we're in any sort of biological crisis. Certainly
6 something's different is going on. What I offered to some
7 folks yesterday was that we've had a couple years of pretty
8 poor escapements in the Kvichak system for sockeye salmon,
9 and there may be a relationship here. Certainly the
10 sockeye salmon provide a lot of protein and food to the
11 rainbow trout, and if there's diminished numbers of reds,
12 it may be affecting either reproductive rate or condition
13 factor of rainbow trout. We've done some, say, back of the
14 envelope type science that would suggest that comparing
15 Talarik creek fish with rainbow trout condition factor with
16 the number of fish, sockeye salmon escaping, at -- past the
17 Igiugig tower.

18

19 But reports were good in the Wood River lake
20 system. Upper Nushagak, I don't have a lot of reports, it
21 seemed to be fairly good fishing. We were up there last
22 year briefly with disease sampling, and just a size
23 composition project, but we haven't been back. And this
24 was just pretty much exploratory, so I don't even know what
25 it means when I have the data.

26

27 Grayling is apparently okay throughout the area. I
28 just gave Ron Squibb a draft report that we -- a project we
29 conducted last year on Ugashik Narrows. It was a joint
30 project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and documented
31 a slight decline in the effort there, probably based on the
32 fact that apparently one lodge is no longer operating or
33 has really reduced operations in the area. We didn't
34 really -- couldn't come up with anything definitive to say
35 about the grayling population from the data we collected,
36 and it was a recommendation of the guy I had doing the
37 analysis and kind of leading the design and training the
38 folks on the project, that we'd have to do a very focused,
39 rather expensive three-year abundance study to really get a
40 handle on what's going on with Ugashik grayling. My
41 impressions are, and, Ron, correct me if I'm wrong, because
42 I haven't followed this study real close, it did not appear
43 that the population is getting worse. I can't say it was
44 getting better either.

45

46 Generally, in the rest of the area, we started out
47 last year was the first year we had a two-fish bag limit on
48 grayling, and I'm real hopeful that by going more
49 conservative bag limit, we've afforded more protection
50 throughout the area.

00131

1 I hope to embark on a grayling management planning
2 exercise with my crew in the next couple of years, and it
3 will be accumulation of data, review of what good grayling
4 management looks like, and then try to evaluate our rivers
5 and our management program. I don't know where that's
6 going to lead us. We've got a lot of grayling expertise in
7 our -- in the Fish and Game up in the Fairbanks area, and
8 I'll be leaning pretty heavily on them for advice, though
9 those grayling are a little bit different in the Interior
10 than out here. There -- I hear concerns about grayling
11 more and more on the Kuskokwim, and we'll probably have
12 some kind of project over there this coming summer.

13
14 Char was another one where we reduced the bag
15 limits from ten to three in most places. There's a few
16 places that had more restrictions already, other ones that
17 went from emergency closures to -- just like Iliamna
18 River's now closed to grayling -- or char fishing by
19 regulation until we can figure out what's going on. We
20 tried two years of studies there, it didn't really give us
21 a lot of information, except it confirmed that there
22 weren't very many char there. In a number of other places,
23 it seems like char populations are doing reasonably well.
24 I try to stay in close contact with Mark Lisac on his
25 project, it's looking really interesting with how the char
26 and dollies behave over there in the Togiak Refuge.

27
28 But other than that, I don't have a whole lot of
29 information on any other species. I've kind of wished that
30 in the future we could get back to lake trout. There's --
31 some years ago we started -- we did a lake trout project.
32 Our results were -- didn't really tell us a whole lot. A
33 model that works in the Interior of assessing abundance or
34 harvest capacity didn't seem to work out here where our --
35 some of our waters are warmer, our lakes may be bigger, and
36 just different. And lake trout's a species that could be
37 easily knocked down and I'm discussing what good management
38 of lake trout means with again our Fairbanks office where
39 they're more involved with it.

40
41 With that I'll stop and if you have more questions
42 -- oh, I'm sorry, there's a couple of other things I did
43 want to mention. I'm sorry.

44
45 One thing is, Robin, you asked Aaron Archibeque
46 about managing guides or -- on the Togiak Refuge, and
47 certainly they do manage guides. Back when I was involved,
48 or when the Togiak Refuge PUMP review was more active,
49 there was one question we kind of stalled out on. We got
50 into a discussion of whether the Refuge has the authority

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1 to manage use on a navigable water, and we tried to push
2 this upstairs. I've never felt like I've got a real clear
3 answer from my shop except that we do view a lot of those
4 rivers as navigable and state waters, and that the fish in
5 them are under the authority of the state to manage. Now,
6 with October 1, there -- some of this may be changing, but
7 I know my understanding of what the Refuge is managing is
8 guided use on the refuge uplands. I understand there's
9 some federal processes, they may be able to extend
10 jurisdiction through legal means or otherwise, but -- and
11 we worked on trying to clarify whose authority was where,
12 and kind of wrote a letter and sent back up to the head
13 shop, and it's -- it seems to have -- I think it created a
14 fair amount of interest up there, but I haven't gotten an
15 answer back. I don't know if -- I asked Aaron, I don't
16 know if he's got a clear answer back yet either.

17
18 But just to clarify it, my understanding, if a
19 guide wants to go fish on that river, he can go do it. He
20 just probably can't camp on the uplands or spend time on
21 the uplands. And there are some guides that are starting
22 to figure this out and look into it on their own, and
23 pushing on up there. One of the concerns we used in this
24 letter to ask for guidance was that we need a firm -- if
25 such -- this type of regulation occurs, it better be done
26 on a very firm legal footing, because it's typically a very
27 aggressive type operator that will -- if it's just built on
28 sand or sticks there, they kick that foundation out from
29 under you, and everybody looks rather sheepish, so I think
30 the State is eager to see that any sort of regulations are
31 built firmly on legal standing, and with respect,
32 respecting the missions of the various agencies involved
33 with managing the resources. That's about it.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Dan. Any
36 questions? Pete?

37
38 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, on that
39 -- on managing the state waters, navigable waters, the
40 refuge doesn't have any jurisdiction on navigable wa- --
41 state waters, but on the refuge land, we have authority of
42 those lands right there. For instance, unguided people
43 cannot camp more than three days in certain area, or leave
44 garbage behind, you know, those things like that. Other
45 than that, I have not seen any written anything that the
46 refuge has authority on on navigable waters, but for safety
47 wise, we have people in airport in Dillingham telling them
48 these things over there. But we cannot tell them how to
49 fish and what to fish, and in those -- or limit whatever,
50 because that's under the state regulation.

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. And in fact you
2 brought up that three-day camping limit. The State DNR has
3 designated those lands as a special use area, and have
4 three-day camping to be coordinated with the Refuge so you
5 have a uniform set of rules. Now, there's been some
6 activity by a number of folks to request that the state
7 change their regulations on some rivers or some lands on
8 some rivers. At this time, I don't -- my impression is
9 that DNR's not interested in changing them. But, yeah.
10 And that's why I wanted to clarify though that it's not --
11 my understanding is that when those guides camp, or
12 whatever they do on those uplands, then they fall under
13 Refuge authority, but as far as really regulating now many
14 or where or who is on the river, in the water, that's
15 really a state authority,.....

16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY:and so it kind of de
20 facto ends up regulating it, and my understanding is a
21 number of the guides are fairly happy with it. I do hear
22 occasionally from some that aren't happy with it and are
23 looking for the chink, looking for the weak link to tackle
24 the system.

25 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, maybe Aaron can
26 clarify something, maybe something I missed on -- you know,
27 on managing the Refuge, our refuge lands.

28
29 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, Togiak
30 Refuge. I think what Dan's saying is correct. I mean,
31 right now when we developed the public use management plan,
32 it was done in cooperation with the State, ADF&G, DNR, and
33 local villages, the guides, the general public. The plan
34 basically was done on the assumption that the commercial
35 operators would be using refuge uplands, and that's where
36 the limiting -- that level of use came from. At this
37 point, Dan's right, there are now operators out there that
38 are saying, so long as I stay on state waters, navigable
39 waters, and I'm not using refuge uplands, I don't need to
40 abide by refuge permits or regulations or limits. The
41 plan's worked because it's been a cooperative effort by
42 everybody involved. There are now folks that are starting
43 to tug away at it, and there's a real possibility that that
44 could fall apart. We're hoping we can still work with Fish
45 and Game and DNR to come to some agreement that we can all
46 live with to manage that jointly. If not, they may -- that
47 may force us into reaching out and it may result in us
48 asserting jurisdiction onto those navigable waters or not.
49 We're close to being at that point, but at this point we'd
50 like to work jointly with everybody to try to see that

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1 those limits or those activities are regulated, but.....

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Aaron, and thank
4 you, Dan. That's all I've got.

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Any other questions?

7 Robert?

8

9 MR. HEYANO: A question for Dan. What's
10 the trout population doing on the Iliamna River?

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Boy, I didn't review the
13 report that we had. Rainbow trout, what I can recall of
14 anecdotal comments seem to be increasing over there, or
15 certainly relatively healthy. Char or dolly populations
16 seem to be below what people recall as their historical
17 numbers. One of our best estimators still is that one of
18 the guides that fished it pretty steadily used to record
19 the fish size caught, or at least the number of fish over a
20 certain size. And he didn't do it with any thought I don't
21 think in the future coming to us about it. It's a little
22 habit he had, but when we looked at it, there was this kind
23 of striking decline in the last few years, and I think it
24 was about '95 that this concern came up, and based a lot on
25 his information and looking on the river, we, to be safe --
26 I can't recall if we closed it and went to catch and
27 release on that river for several years. And in the
28 meantime put a program over there trying to get a handle on
29 how much sport activity is there, how much sport catch and
30 harvest goes on. We also, by the way, funded a study that
31 was conducted by subsistence to -- because there was a few
32 folks, you know, blaming the other guy for taking them.
33 Oh, it's all the sport guys. Oh, it's all subsistence.
34 But when the subsistence work was done at Pedro Bay, it
35 didn't -- the finger didn't end up pointing that direction
36 A lot of folks said, well, there's not many dollies, we
37 don't go over there any more. But we didn't get a real
38 handle on that they're a major impact. But it's a little
39 inconclusive, other than that there are not a lot of
40 dollies there.

41

42 We can't really blame it entirely on poor sock
43 escapement. Talking to Jeff Regnard, that's one of the
44 more consistent rivers -- or rivers that gets a more
45 consistent escapement, whether the rest of the Kvichak's up
46 or down. It's been a pretty steady producer, and nothing
47 dramatic enough that we thought could inflow char
48 population.

49

50 So frankly I don't know what the population is, or

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1 what might be causing it. But the Board, to be safe, I
2 believe they closed it for char fishing.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Andrew?

5
6 MR. BALLUTA: Have you got any reports on
7 Tazimina River?

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: We haven't done any work on
10 the Tazimina since about '87 or '88. I've had a number of
11 comments, and for a while it was really good when I first
12 came. I came into this area around 1990, and it was a good
13 fishery. And then '96, '95, somewhere in there, we started
14 getting reports that fishing wasn't so good for rainbow
15 trout. We also there for a while the guides were all
16 getting along, and seemed to work out a system where they
17 could all fish the river without fighting with each other.
18 Apparently that's broke down somewhat, too. I have thought
19 as -- I have a long laundry list of projects that we should
20 do, and one of them would be to go back into the Tazimina
21 River, like we did jointly with the Park Service in I think
22 it was '89, and again look at that rainbow trout abundance
23 and that fishery, especially with the hydroelectric
24 development as well. But I doubt I'll be getting there
25 this next summer. It's kind of on the maybe. Maybe I
26 should be calling and talking the Park Service. It might
27 be something we could coordinate again. It would be a good
28 one to look at.

29
30 MR. BALLUTA: Thank you.

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess, Dan, you know,
33 what happened October 1st happened, and the area managers
34 out here in the field, both federal and the state, we've
35 got to -- and us and the state advisory councils, we've got
36 to make the best of a bad situation. Number one is to
37 protect the resource, and afford the users of that resource
38 a reasonable opportunity to harvest them, and, you know, we
39 -- I think this regional council has always worked to
40 minimize the confusion to the public out there in
41 regulations, adopted regulations that mirrored the state,
42 and quite frankly we've advocated to the state to adopt
43 some of our regulations that we've adopted, and the Federal
44 Subsistence Board adopted on our recommendations. And I
45 think at this juncture in time and resource management
46 throughout the State of Alaska, that the state and the
47 Federal Government are now level in resource management,
48 need to clearly define their roles, minimize the impact to
49 the resource, and to the public.

50

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1 Right now I don't think there's an MOU with the
2 State of Alaska on any of this stuff, it needs to be worked
3 out, and -- because you're one division of the state that's
4 coming up here, you know, and your boss, Kevin Delaney was
5 out, your director was out in Dillingham yesterday. I
6 would urge Kevin along with the other grownups in Fish and
7 Game to put the best foot forward and sit down with the
8 federal managers and come up with an MOU that you guys
9 could both operate under. I think we'd all be better off,
10 and the resource would be better off. It isn't who's going
11 to be managing what, it's, you know, we're all stuck in a
12 bad situation, and is there anything we could do about it?
13 Some people would say, no, but I'd say, yes, you know.
14 Work together and try to understand and respect each
15 other's roles that we have to play, and hopefully this
16 interim time until things change in the Legislature. Thank
17 you for your representation.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. I agree,
20 and that's my understanding from when Kevin left yesterday,
21 is that he encouraged me to work with folks, and that's why
22 I'm here today, and I'll be in Quinhagak next week, so I
23 agree -- I don't know if the MOU that the Interior and the
24 State signed back in the 80s still holds, or if that --
25 that's what -- when I worked with other federal agencies,
26 we kind of refer to that document to guide us at times.

27
28 One other thing, I think like you say, though,
29 maybe a fresher one, or one more specific to the issues, I
30 would guess would probably be helpful. Sport fish is
31 slightly reorganizing, and they have an assistant director
32 now, who's running what used to be called a research and
33 technical services, is now going to be the policy, research
34 and technical services, and this is the place I hope we get
35 the answers, like this little confusion Aaron and I had,
36 'cause when we were working on it, there wasn't a place to
37 go to address these policy issues, so Kevin's trying to
38 steer it, and we'll have maybe a group to really address
39 policy to help guide us all, so -- but I'll try to
40 cooperate as much as I can.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you. Jim Browning,
43 do you want to go home this evening? There's the chair and
44 a mike.

45
46 MR. BROWNING: Thank you, and I apologize
47 if I missed the call.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: You'll owe me one for
50 taking you out of order.

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1 MR. BROWNING: Well, council, I'd like to
2 give the Advisory Council a synopsis of the '99 Togiak
3 herring fishery.

4
5 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe before you start,
6 Jim, we are going to continue in the morning, and I don't
7 know for how long in the morning, but we will convene
8 tomorrow morning for a short time and finish our agenda.

9
10 MR. BROWNING: Okay.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Continue.

13
14 MR. BROWNING: You didn't want to table
15 this until the morning, I didn't hear that.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, somebody came up here
18 and said, boy, Jim's really whining, he wants to go home
19 tonight. Can he move up on the agenda. Are you leaving
20 tonight?

21
22 MR. BROWNING: Yes, sir, I am.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Continue then.

25
26 MR. BROWNING: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. For the record, my name is Jim Browning, with
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial
29 Fisheries, and I'm here to give you a quick synopsis of the
30 Togiak herring fishery for 1999.

31
32 We went over there with -- started preseason with a
33 rather conservative forecast of 90,000 tons of herring
34 biomass to show up on -- in the Togiak district. We have a
35 Bristol Bay Herring Management Plan that specifies a 20
36 percent exploitation rate in the commercial fishery for
37 that stock, and that's an overall 20 percent exploitation
38 rate. That exploitation counts several fisheries in
39 addition to the commercial sac roe fishery, one being the
40 spawn on kelp fishery, which is limited to 350,000 pounds
41 of spawn on kelp product. That's the equivalent of 1500
42 tons of herring, so that 1500 tons is removed from the 20
43 percent. And then seven percent of the remainder is
44 allocated to the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery, so
45 that tonnage is removed, and what's left then is available
46 to the commercial sac roe harvest and that's divided 75
47 percent to purse seines, and 25 percent to gillnets. So
48 the preseason forecast of 90,000 tons then prescribed a sac
49 roe purse seine harvest of 11,500 tons, a sac roe gillnet
50 harvest of about 3800 tons, and a Dutch Harbor food and

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1 bait fishery of about 1150 tons. They said we -- the
2 season was relatively late.

3
4 We knew at the time because of delayed run timing
5 and compression there, we told the industry -- we were
6 worried about being able to harvest the guidelines
7 associated with the th 90,000 ton preseason forecast. When
8 we documented the 157,000 tons on the 17th we were quite
9 sure that we would not be able to harvest the full quotas
10 for both gear types in the length of time that we had fish
11 on the grounds at that point. Pass that along to both the
12 fleet and the industry when we announced that big biomass
13 survey.

14
15 We had 12 companies registered herring and spawn on
16 kelp on grounds. Another major factor in the fishery this
17 year was a very low processing capacity. The total of 12
18 companies had a combined total of 24,000 tons of freezing
19 capacity on grounds. This is the lowest processing
20 capacity we've seen in Togiak since we started keeping
21 track in 1990. So because of -- partially because of low
22 preseason forecast, partially because the market situation
23 with herring the last couple of years, processors brought
24 less equipment and capacity to Togiak in 1999.

25
26 We had, effort-wise, 96 purse seine vessels, that
27 was the fleet size for this year. We had a total of nine
28 purse seine period, totally five hours and 10 minutes of
29 fishing time. We harvested 14,300 tons of purse seine
30 fish. We had five gillnet openings, at total of 28 hours
31 of fishing time and harvested 4,600 tons. The average roe
32 percentage for purse seine was nine -- let's see average
33 9.2 percent and the gillnet fish averaged 11.4 percent. A
34 major, I guess, factor in the fishery this year was the
35 early period were very productive for the gillnet fleet, we
36 started fishing both gear types earlier on, after three
37 days of fishing we were -- we had a large gillnet harvest
38 and a not very large purse seine harvest. As I said, the
39 management plan calls for 75 percent of the removal to be
40 taken by purse seines, 25 percent of the removal to be
41 taken by gillnets, so after the first three days of fishing
42 we had to put the brakes on, stop gillnet fishing, continue
43 fishing the purse seines to bring them up to the 75
44 percent.

45
46 This combined with the reduced processing capacity,
47 we would have to take long breaks after a large period and
48 this delayed getting back in the water with gillnets for
49 about five days and by that time there were no fish left on
50 the grounds, so we did have a couple more gillnet periods

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1 on the 25th and 26th, but took only 200 tons of gillnet
2 fish left and the show was over. So that was certainly an
3 issue in the fishery this year and one that will likely be
4 discussed by the Board of Fisheries.

5
6 The other important point is that we did have a
7 successful spawn on kelp fishery this year. Harvested --
8 one company expressed an interest in purchasing spawn on
9 kelp. Did - we had two openings, took a total of 445,000
10 pounds of product. That put about \$300,000 into the local,
11 particularly the Togiak economy since they have the lion's
12 share of permits there. And a successful fishery, good
13 product, good show of kelp on grounds at the time.

14
15 I think that's about it. I'd entertain any
16 questions at this time, Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The roe on kelp is a
19 permitted fishery, huh?

20
21 MR. BROWNING: Yes, sir, it's a limited
22 entry.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But not the regular seine
25 and gillnet?

26
27 MR. BROWNING: No, sir.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, I find that
30 very interesting.

31
32 MR. BROWNING: There are approximately 300,
33 about 301, 302 spawn on kelp permits issued.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
36 Robert.

37
38 MR. HEYANO: Are you aware of any
39 discussion taking place on lowering the exploitation of the
40 Togiak herring stocks or concerns with the sea lion?

41
42 MR. BROWNING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Heyano,
43 I'm certainly aware of the discussions. I've been made
44 aware of that by Mr. Samuelson in discussions at the North
45 Pacific Management Council level. I have not entertained
46 or been made aware of any discussions in the ADF&G staff
47 relative to this. And it's my understanding that the 20
48 percent exploitation rate prescribed in the Bristol Bay
49 Management Plan is considered a conservative level of
50 exploitation, as indicated in all the literature that I've

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1 been able to review on the topic.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

4

5 MR. BROWNING: Sure.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just a follow-up to
8 Robert's question, I guess. Prior to this year, Jim, the
9 biomass of herring in the Togiak fishery was on a downhill
10 decline, that showed a steady downhill. Now, we got this
11 big spike; is that a fair assumption to make?

12

13 MR. BROWNING: Well, I -- Mr. Chairman.
14 Robin, I think you have to kind of look at the fact that in
15 the last five years we've had some really nasty weather
16 over there and when we can't survey the biomass and get an
17 adequate biomass survey in, we prosecute the fishing on the
18 preseason forecast. If we were able to count the biomass
19 every year for the last five years, chances are that our
20 forecasts and the biomass visible over there wouldn't have
21 been declining. Part of the decline in our preseason
22 forecast have been because we haven't been able to document
23 the amount of fish on the grounds. So you tend to be more
24 conservative when you haven't been able to see them. I
25 wouldn't, especially in light of the 156,000 ton biomass
26 estimate, I certainly wouldn't characterize the stock as
27 being in decline at this point. Our preseason forecasts
28 were declining because we were concerned about not being
29 able to see the fish.

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think to clear up
32 Mr. Heyano's question, Mr. Chairman, the Council was in
33 consultation with the Board of Fisheries on that forage
34 fish for Steller sea lions and a very important forage fish
35 species is capling and herring. And the Board had just
36 come through Kodiak and was astonished that the Kodiak
37 staff didn't bring it to their attention. They didn't
38 realize the importance because there's sea lion rookeries
39 around Kodiak and in Shellikof Straits there. If the Board
40 would have took a real hard look at their herring fisheries
41 as well as other herring fisheries to provide more forage
42 fish for Steller sea lions.

43

44 And as they went around the state some of the Board
45 members felt that should look at exploitation rates in all
46 the fisheries, you know, and when I seen 156,000 return to
47 Togiak I was satisfied. Prior to that, in prior years, the
48 State showed us a decline, a noticeable decline, in the
49 stock and they -- you know, we can all guess what's out
50 there in the fog, but it's only guess work.

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1 MR. BROWNING: Right.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. This Dutch
6 Harbor bait fishery, how many tons do they take down there?

7

8 MR. BROWNING: They took -- the new
9 allocation was something on the order of 2,050 tons, they
10 took it all.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

13

14 MR. BROWNING: Two thousands, twenty-one
15 hundred tons, I believe.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are those the Togiak
18 herring or do you know?

19

20 MR. BROWNING: They are -- indications are
21 that they are, that's why the allocation is removed from
22 the -- or the exploitation on that stock is allocated out
23 of the 20 percent exploitation on the Togiak stock.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So, I assume that, as a
26 manager, you would recommend that that be taken away prior
27 to taking away Togiak's, if there was a problem with the
28 Steller sea lion not getting food, I assume?

29

30 MR. BROWNING: I think from an economic
31 perspective, you know, if -- part of Board policy, part of
32 our mandate is to maximize economic gain from a fisheries
33 resource. From that perspective, certainly a sac roe
34 fishery is the -- a more economic benefit to the State than
35 a bait fishery. In that light I would agree with you, but
36 I have a really -- I'm not out there to cancel that
37 fishery.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He just wanted a yes or
40 no answer, but.....

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: I got a long-winded around
43 the road type.

44

45 MR. BROWNING: I guess in a short answer,
46 Mr. Chairman.....

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No comment.

49

50 (Laughter)

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1 MR. BROWNING:in cooperation with
2 input from the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,
3 our exploitation rate this year was 14.7 percent on the
4 Togiak herring overall, so we've reduced it voluntarily.
5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Any other questions for
7 Jim?
8

9 (No audible responses)
10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Jim.
12

13 MR. BROWNING: Thank you.
14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll turn the Chair back
16 over to you, Mr. Chairman.
17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Well, you're
19 booking right along here. Where you at?
20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: We are on three -- my notes
22 show 3a, right, Jerry?
23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aniakchak?
25

26 MR. BERG: Yeah, that's correct, we're at
27 3a now.
28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Donald Mike. Is
30 that Alaska Department of Fish and Game?
31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, it would be
33 (indiscernible - coughing).....
34

35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Donald
36 Mike with Katmai National Park, Aniakchak National
37 Monument.
38

39 We tentatively have plans for a SRC meeting in
40 Chignik Lake for the last week of October, but since it so
41 busy a month we need to postpone it until November, so
42 that's our next plan to have SRC in Chignik Lake.
43

44 The Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission
45 membership we already went over. Mr. Boskofsky's position,
46 we've already discussed that, but the -- there were three
47 seats that were expired, appointed by the Secretary and our
48 last SRC we held last fall, the SRC members endorsed the
49 reappointment of John Christensen and the Freddy Orlof,
50 both from Port Heiden to serve another three year term and

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1 we got an oral approval from the Secretary's office and
2 we're expecting a written confirmation that they have been
3 reappointed. And we currently have on seat vacant, that is
4 appointed by the Secretary's office. And I've been trying
5 to recruit some new members from Ivanof Bay and Perryville,
6 and that's an ongoing process and I've made contact with
7 the Village Council of Perryville and I've been trying to
8 contact Ivanof Bay and I've sent off some recruitment
9 announcements to those two communities and we still haven't
10 had a response yet, so I -- we would like to have
11 representation from the communities of Perryville and
12 Ivanof Bay, so we're still trying to fill a seat by the
13 Secretary appointing.

14
15 Going on to the next item, the Aniakchak
16 Subsistence Plan, we're at a stage where we are close to a
17 draft plan and the draft plan will -- the draft plan is
18 planned to have a internal review by Park Service staff and
19 then from then on we hope to have some agency review
20 completed by next fall.

21
22 On to the next item, it's Unit 9(E) and 9(G) on the
23 Federal distribution of permits for the 60 permits. The
24 Katmai National Park was able to assist Bristol Bay Native
25 Corporation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as to
26 issuing those permits. And the folks at the Becharof
27 National Wildlife Refuge and Bristol Bay Native Corporation
28 did an outstanding job on allocating those permits and our
29 hats off to them.

30
31 The next item is the Federal subsistence regulatory
32 proposal, that's just a minor oversight on my part. It was
33 just a matter of a season and bag limit alignment, and it
34 was for brown bear in Unit 9(E), but that's all been
35 resolved so that just an item that we can ignore.

36
37 We are continuing the resident zone community for
38 Perryville and Ivanof Bay. At our last meeting or the
39 prior meeting before our last meeting, the members of the
40 SRC wanted to include the communities of Ivanof Bay and
41 Perryville to be part of resident community for Aniakchak
42 National Monument. And we're -- the Park Service is
43 progressing with that and we've had some -- we currently
44 have on response from Perryville and they have written a
45 letter to the SRC expressing their interest in being a part
46 of a resident zone community for Aniakchak National
47 Monument.

48
49 And the next step, I have it on the notes here, is
50 on the rulemaking process, and I'm getting ahead of myself,

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1 but the next step is we'll be gathering some data, as far
2 as subsistence uses is concerned in the monument by those
3 two communities. We will be requesting technical
4 assistance from our Park Service staff in Anchorage and the
5 person will assist Katmai/Aniakchak in gathering data on
6 subsistence uses in Aniakchak National Monument, so that's
7 the next step. And once that literature review is
8 completed we hope to present it to the SRC and to the
9 Council as far as what our findings are for including
10 Perryville and Ivanof Bay as resident zone communities.

11
12 Of note, I've been trying to get a hold of Ivanof
13 Bay and that community is a hard community to try and get
14 ahold of. I talked with our SRC chairman in Chignik Lake,
15 asking for assistance to get one of the council members
16 down in Ivanof Bay to contact the park or try to set up a
17 meeting with their community, so it's an ongoing process
18 and we will continue to try to make contact with Ivanof
19 Bay.

20
21 That's all the report that I got for Aniakchak, if
22 you got any questions I'll be happy to answer them.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
25 members?

26
27 (No audible responses)

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Okay, the next two items for
32 Aniakchak or Katmai is the ORV and the Alagnak Wild River
33 Report which will be presented by Deb Liggett, our
34 Superintendent.

35
36 MS. LIGGETT: Helga's getting me trained
37 here. Good afternoon and thanks for staying late to hear
38 about Katmai. I'm Deb Liggett, Superintendent of Katmai,
39 Lake Clark, Aniakchak and the Alagnak. I think that I've
40 been one-uped today because I am a back-pewer by nature and
41 when I came in this morning I sat in the back row, but hen
42 I noticed that Daryle and Aaron came in and made their new
43 back row.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. LIGGETT: Mr. Chair, Council members, I
48 have four things that I would like to report on to you
49 today and then try to respond to questions. The first is
50 the Alagnak or the Branch River and that planning effort.

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1 The second item is the Kokhanok request for an ATV access
2 study. The third is I'd like to take, just briefly,
3 because the Chair brought it up earlier, about some joint
4 efforts with Bristol Bay Native Association that we have
5 ongoing and then at the end I'd like to make note of an
6 outreach effort.

7
8 To talk about the Alagnak River, I'd like to invite
9 to members of my staff to come forward and that's Rick
10 Clark, Chief of Resources for the park and Troy Hammond,
11 whose the fisheries biologist for the park who has been at
12 board at Katmai for about a year. And I wasn't sure if the
13 Council knew that we even had Troy and his expertise
14 available to us.

15
16 As part of our efforts on the Alagnak or the Branch
17 River we have several things ongoing. This was the third
18 year, 1999 was the third year, of a five year cooperative
19 study on rainbow river trout with USGS, our biological --
20 the Biological Resource Division in Anchorage. The intent
21 of that study is to do three things, improve our basic
22 understanding of the biology of the trout in that river, to
23 determine the population structure and seasonal movements,
24 to identify whether the rainbow trout population on the
25 Alagnak River is in further need of management intervention
26 and/or to prevent the continuation of a perceived
27 population decline.

28
29 And Rick and Troy will be able to respond to any
30 individual questions you may have on the results of that
31 research to date, we're three years into a five year
32 project.

33
34 The other major on the Alagnak is a stream bank
35 erosion and baseline water quality assessment study. This
36 is a three year cooperative study with the United State
37 Geological Survey Biological Resources Division that began
38 this summer in 1999. And that study will coordinate with
39 ongoing cultural and social science investigation to
40 document the number of human uses on the river and it will
41 provide information about the type, timing, location,
42 quantity of human use on the river and the resulting issues
43 stemming from this use.

44
45 The project will also evaluate and measure the
46 amount of bank erosion and degradation of important aquatic
47 habitat, such as overhanging vegetation and undercut banks
48 at 10 index sites. It will document the number of boat
49 passes along three segments of the river to provide
50 information about the timing, location and quantity of boat

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1 use on the river. And, too, it will relate the amount of -
2 - or, in addition, it will relate the amount of human use,
3 boat activity and bank geometry to see if they are
4 correlated in time and to determine what magnitude of human
5 use, boat traffic and channel geometry changes are taking
6 place during various time periods. And we will have
7 preliminary data.

8
9 The reason I mentioned the two research projects
10 first is the basic information that we need on that river,
11 we need to have to begin a public planning process. We
12 have funding that starts this year, it was delayed a year
13 when I was here in March. We thought we had the funding to
14 begin this year, we have the funding as of the 1st of
15 October to begin a three year comprehensive river
16 management study and planning effort. And so this really
17 signals the beginning of the public planning process.

18
19 Rick has advertised an Alagnak River Planner
20 position. In fact, I think we shared that vacancy
21 announcement with members of the Board in case you knew of
22 someone who would be a likely candidate for the position.
23 That person is scheduled to come on in January, we hope.
24 And we will begin the public process part, where we sit
25 down with all the various user groups and first off and
26 foremost identify the issues. I think I could sit down
27 with any different user group and identify the issues, I
28 think it's important to sit down with the user groups
29 together and identify and define the issues and see where
30 there's common ground and see if we're, at least, in
31 agreement on what the issues are.

32
33 So of the information that the Board may be
34 interested in is just an update on what our activities have
35 been this past summer on the river. We had park rangers
36 and biological technicians present along the river 65
37 percent of the time, from May 31st through September 14th.
38 We had a back country patrol cabin at the Nonvianuk outlet,
39 it was staffed during the period June 4th through August
40 6th.

41
42 Our information indicates that the majority of
43 parties arrive between -- these are day users, between 6:00
44 and 10:00 a.m. and stay from six to ten hours before
45 leaving by air taxi or boat. Most of the rafting trips,
46 according to our statistics on the Alagnak last an average
47 of seven days and six nights. Approximately half of all
48 the river trips on the river are guided, which means half
49 of the river trips are private, which is a wildly different
50 statistics than we would find anywhere elsewhere in the

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1 park, you know, most of our visitors are coming in with
2 commercial operators. In this case they may be coming in
3 with commercial operators, but they're actually private
4 river trips. Eight-nine percent of all rafting groups on
5 the Alagnak River are provided by eight different
6 commercial operators, and the majority of the rafting use
7 along the Alagnak occurs during the month of July.

8
9 We had a park newspaper, an Alagnak Park newspaper
10 that we published this summer that I think we forgot to
11 bring copies of. Rangers at Nonvianuk handed out maps to
12 all the parties that they contacted showing where private
13 land was and where public land was to try and steer them in
14 the right place and talk about proper use of the river
15 corridor. We had cooperative efforts with trespass
16 officers from Levelock, and Tony and I have just talked
17 about doing more, that we think has resulted in a
18 significant reduction in trespass complaints that we
19 fielded the last couple of years.

20
21 So that's our update on the Alagnak, if Council
22 members have any questions, let's pause here and you can
23 ask Troy or Rick or me and we'll do our best to answer them
24 or to respond to your concerns. I do want to say that we
25 are grateful for your interest and concern in the river,
26 that's a very useful tool to me as a park manager.

27
28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin.

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Deb, Sportfish Division just got up and gave a presentation
34 that preliminary data, I think it was from '98, showed a
35 decreased in man-use days in Alagnak. I think Dan Dunaway
36 said 8,000 where a high used to be 12,000 man-use days.
37 And then I look at the amount of permits issued in Katmai
38 National Park, 217, and I take that 217 and equate it to
39 the 8,000, 217 operators, you know, I don't have a
40 calculator, I would have figured it out how many man-use
41 days are in there, but this doesn't seem to jive, I mean,
42 these guys -- these 217 operators don't have two clients
43 per year in there.

44
45 MS. LIGGETT: Well, and I -- Dan was
46 talking about catch numbers, wasn't he?

47
48 (Inaudible response)

49
50 MS. LIGGETT: Okay, visitor days. But I

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1 think I inadvertently confused the Council by my remarks in
2 March, and I've tried to square it away in the record, as
3 much as possible. Katmai National Park and Preserve, the
4 Alagnak and Aniakchak, when I spoke to you in March, has
5 217 incidental business permit operators for all of those
6 areas. I actually thing that number is up in excess of 230
7 some now. But I went back after my meeting, we have some
8 40 some operators, 44 was the last number I had, that
9 actually operate on the Alagnak with permits from us. And
10 those are commercial operators for guided rafting, guided
11 fishing, air taxi operators.

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

14

15 MS. LIGGETT: So I apologize if I spoke
16 bureaucratese and was not clear.

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, but I do know that
19 some of the operators on that river system operate, what,
20 40 boats? Is there -- you know, these are the rumors that
21 I've -- you know, one operator is operating 40 boats and
22 every boat is out there in the river.

23

24 MR. CLARK: I'll take a stab at that. Rick
25 Clark, Chief of Resource Management, Katmai National Park.
26 Generally we've identified one primary operator where
27 virtually all the complaints originate. I'm not pointing a
28 finger at that particular operator because we do want to
29 enter a collaborative planning process and they will be an
30 important part, but that, for the most part, is the main
31 source from which the majority of the use is not only
32 occurring on the river, but also from which most of the
33 complaints are derived. We don't have verifiable
34 information as to the total number of boats or the
35 horsepower capacity of these boats, but we know there are
36 several and we know the capacity is large, so probably in
37 the last two and a half years that I've been involved in
38 this project and looking at the Alagnak specifically, I
39 think that's probably chief among our major issues to
40 address, and I think it's doable.

41

42 The important thing to realize is -- well, the Park
43 Service has a management obligation and has assumed that
44 through the designation of that Alagnak as a wild river,
45 it's a multi-jurisdictional situation, so we are very
46 dependent upon cooperation from the State and from other
47 Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard that also
48 has some navigational jurisdiction responsibility. So the
49 bottom line is we can't do it alone, but we're hoping to
50 facilitate that process and by getting everybody to the

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1 same table or, at least getting representatives of those
2 interests and be able to address a lot of those issues.
3 Yes, there are boats on that river, there are several and,
4 hopefully, that's something we can tackle as part of this
5 planning process.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Part of the consideration,
10 based on the quality experience, and I ask this because the
11 Nushagak Advisory Committee doesn't want to create a -- in
12 their jurisdiction, doesn't want to create every river to
13 be a Kenai River system. I also sit on the -- used to sit
14 on the Wood-Tikchik State Park Board, where we did creel
15 surveys of the guests, and the quality of experience ranked
16 right up there with coming to Alaska. And this -- the
17 quality of experience going to be spelled out in the new
18 plan and highlighted in the new plan?

19
20 MS. LIGGETT: I'm almost sure that that
21 issues, quality of visitor experience will come up as an
22 issue to be identified. And the Park Service, of course,
23 has an agency bias towards that, we think that that's high
24 on the list. We need to have that discussion with
25 commercial operators and with Native land owners to be sure
26 that, you know, we target a visitor experience. I'd be
27 very interested to see some of the survey stuff that was
28 done at Wood-Tikchik and other places because I feel
29 confident that that will be high on the list of issues. Of
30 course, if it wasn't the Council could raise that issue.

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Would then -- just to
33 expand that question, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Would the quality of
38 experience be expanded to the subsistence -- be afforded to
39 the subsistence experience as well? And I use the phrase
40 subsistence people go out and harvest their subsistence
41 needs and want to enjoy a subsistence atmosphere, not hooks
42 flying from strange fishermen around them and they want to
43 see beavers swimming, not flying overhead.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. LIGGETT: I think that that's also a
48 valid issue which will be raised. When I was at Kokhanok
49 yesterday, and met with the Village Council, that was
50 certainly a comment by them, is that there is a certain --

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1 there's an expectation of a certain experience for the
2 subsistence user also, which may be different from a park
3 visitor.

4
5 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Other questions, Council
8 members? Yes, Robert.

9
10 MR. HEYANO: The operators on private in-
11 holdings, are they required to get a permit from you also?

12
13 MS. LIGGETT: No one is required to get a
14 permit from us at this point in time. And, as you know, in
15 Alaska, Federal agencies are somewhat restricted in our
16 ability to implement, but that may, in fact, be the
17 recommendation at the end of this comprehensive planning
18 process. But it's very true that we have much less
19 jurisdictional authority over lodges operating off other
20 jurisdictions than we do off commercial operators operating
21 off areas where we have free and clear jurisdiction.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe you better explain
24 that a little bit more.

25
26 MS. LIGGETT: There are -- there's a lodge,
27 maybe others, on the river -- major lodges, that are off --
28 that are on leases, I believe, from private land owners and
29 from villages.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

32
33 MS. LIGGETT: And those are the folks who
34 can exercise the most control over those leases. And so we
35 hope that those -- that the villages that have an interest
36 in the Alagnak and the businesses along the Alagnak will --
37 you know, are just a couple of the groups that will come to
38 the table and help us carve out a solution.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You still have the floor.

41
42 MR. HEYANO: I guess -- I heard you mention
43 that there's 44 commercial operators on the river, this
44 includes those operators that are up (inaudible - away from
45 microphone)

46
47 MS. LIGGETT: Yes. What we currently call
48 incidental business permit holders is a type of commercial
49 use permit where the operator begins their operation
50 outside the park or our jurisdiction comes into the park

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1 and goes back outside. That all their business transaction
2 and any money exchanged takes place outside the park, or in
3 this case, the river corridor, and that there's no land
4 assignment for their business inside the park. And so
5 those lodges along the river have incidental business
6 permits with us, they come into the park and then they go
7 back out of the park.

8
9 Now, I spoke to you in March about regulations, new
10 regulations with the Thomas bill, which I was hopeful that
11 we would see sometime during the course for the summer,
12 that would for the first time allow park managers to limit
13 the number of those commercial use permits. And those
14 regulations are not out on the street yet. And I assured
15 you at that time, and I assure you again, that when they
16 come out I will be sure that the Council receives those and
17 anyone who following with us on the Alagnak planning
18 process to comment on that opportunity. We give park
19 managers the opportunity to limit the number of commercial
20 operators, based on resource impacts, and those might be
21 visitor experience impacts.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert, any more
24 questions?

25
26 MR. HEYANO: That's it, thank you,
27 Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
30 questions, Council members?

31
32 (No audible responses)

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Deb, really you don't
35 have any say so over that river system is basically the
36 bottom line on what happens in the waters.

37
38 MS. LIGGETT: We have limited jurisdiction
39 because it's a multi-jurisdictional issue, as Rick said.
40 And earlier today you raised the specter of restrictions
41 and limited permits, and that may be some place that we get
42 as -- you know, two and a half or three years down the line
43 as a part of this process. But you know better than I do
44 that we'll have to go through a special rule-making process
45 which will be long and painful. But we may get there. But
46 if we do get there I hope that it's with a group of users
47 who have sat down at the table who common ground is the
48 reference for the river, and that we say this is something
49 that we just have to do and we have lots of folks,
50 subsistence users, commercial operators, support us in

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1 those efforts to preserve the river corridor and the
2 experiences along the river. You know, if we have to go to
3 special rule-making it will be much more successful if
4 everyone has had an opportunity to come to the table and
5 feel like their view have been heard respectfully. You
6 know, we may not find consensus or common ground, but if
7 everyone feels like their views have been -- they had an
8 opportunity to be heard, I think we'll be better off in the
9 long run.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You mean nice guys coming
12 to the table saying we're going to work this out?

13
14 MS. LIGGETT: Well, I'd like to think that
15 everyone would be nice guys.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MS. LIGGETT: Maybe that's why Aaron and
20 Daryle are sitting in the back of the room.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They're sitting way in
23 the back of the room, yeah.

24
25 MS. LIGGETT: I think, Dan, that in all
26 those user groups it's our hope that there will be people
27 that will track with us that are reasonable people who will
28 work for a reasonable solution. Any issue we pick there
29 are people and viewpoints on either side of the spectrum.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would really encourage
32 you to visit north marker of Egegik on the 4th of July and
33 see cooperative effort by people who live by greed, and
34 it's not going to work that way, you're living in a dream
35 world if you think it is. It's not going to work that way.

36
37 MS. LIGGETT: Right, we may get down to the
38 fact where we just don't agree and we go into a special reg
39 process.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you have a plan
42 that you talked about, Rick. Is that plan that's going to
43 go into the Branch going to, in any way, reduce the effort
44 by the guides and the use on the river or what does the
45 plan involved?

46
47 MS. LIGGETT: We don't have a plan, yet,
48 Dan.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you don't have a

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1 plan.

2

3 MS. LIGGETT: That's what we hope to
4 develop with public input, you know.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So you're working on a
7 plan?

8

9 MS. LIGGETT:and we think that the
10 Council will have comments on how they think that that plan
11 might work.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, the bottom line is,
14 if I said, let's take each one of these 44 businesses
15 that's on the Branch and, what, about two-thirds of it is
16 Federal water and a third of it is State? I mean, two-
17 thirds of it Federal land and a third of it is State,
18 maybe, or do you know the numbers?

19

20 MR. CLARK: The Park Service actually has
21 land ownership for 83 percent of the adjacent riparian
22 land, 17 percent are in private ownership, representing 24
23 different allotments on the Alagnak and another five on the
24 Nonvianuk portion, so.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So if we were to wish
27 each one of these 44 businesses that have boats or lodges
28 or whatever they are on the river system?

29

30 MR. CLARK: Remember there's 44 different
31 commercial operators that have been identified by virtue of
32 receiving a permit, it does.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But that business, what
35 do you mean all of them operators?

36

37 MR. CLARK:not necessarily mean
38 they're all operating.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, yeah.

41

42 MR. CLARK: Of the rafting groups only
43 eight seem to be using the river to any extent, that's 89
44 percent.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

47

48 MR. CLARK:are going through just
49 eight operators. There's an additional about 20 that are
50 operating, to some degree, and some of them are simply

00154

1 inactive, they've got a permit but they're not exercising
2 that option.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's talk about the
5 lodge that has 50 boats, three guys per boat in the river
6 system everyday, you know. I happen to be an air charter
7 pilot who flies into Katmai National Park almost on a daily
8 basis and take these people in there and then the Flight
9 International drops in there with 23 people getting off and
10 23 people getting on and we'll bring in a dozen on a daily
11 basis. Now, let's just -- and I guess the bottom line is
12 there really is no control for how many people are going to
13 go in there and how many people are going to fish in that
14 river, so we're just really -- if this Council were to say,
15 let's take 10 boats with three clients per day from these
16 44 users, it's not going to happen. That's the bottom
17 line.

18
19 MS. LIGGETT: Right. The first thing, I
20 think, is to target what is the experience we want people
21 to have on the Branch. And then there may be different
22 ways to get there. There may be voluntary agreements, you
23 know, because some of those folks are coming in onto
24 private land, and I have no control over them. The other
25 might be to set, and they've done this on other river
26 systems, is where commercial operators are allocated a
27 certain number of user days, you know, up to a maximum
28 amount.

29
30 MS. LIGGETT: But you can't do that on that
31 river.

32
33 MS. LIGGETT: I can't do it -- right now I
34 can't do it on property that I don't manage. On the other
35 hand, with the Thomas bill and if those regulations come
36 out, then I do have control over commercial users.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

39
40 MS. LIGGETT:that come in, you know.
41 So I'm hoping that in the interim while we're identifying
42 the issues and identify the experience that we think those
43 different user groups should have, that there will be a
44 couple of more tools that come into play, and special rule-
45 making maybe the final tool. But just as I heard some of
46 the refuge folks talk about jurisdictional difficulties,
47 you know, we certainly have those on the Alagnak. Life
48 would be much easier if, you know, that entire river
49 corridor was under on jurisdiction. It would be easier for
50 people to manage, but that's we've got money to do a

00155

1 comprehensive river management plan in cooperation with the
2 State, with -- in cooperation with the Native.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, actually the
5 navigable waters are regulated by the State of Alaska
6 currently.

7

8 MS. LIGGETT: Currently.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All the way up to the
11 lakes.

12

13 MS. LIGGETT: And, of course, the Coast
14 Guard has some jurisdiction.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Coast Guard is just a --
17 we know the Coast Guard. They're not going to help us very
18 much, I guarantee.

19

20 MS. LIGGETT: I promised when I came up
21 today, Dan, I was going to promise to you that, based on
22 previous comments by the Chair that I vowed that I would
23 not use the word "unique" or "parasites."

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Doing good.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay.

30

31 (Taped switched to Side B)

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:actually, because if
34 we were to say, this Council say, we would make a proposal
35 that we would do this on that river system, it's just not
36 going to work, but we're not going to.

37

38 MS. LIGGETT: We would really like for you
39 to track with us, we would like you to encourage people you
40 know in the communities and different user groups to
41 participate with us, and make their views known.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

44

45 MR. HEYANO: I think what would be helpful
46 to me, Mr. Chairman, this is an issue we're going to be
47 dealing with, and not being that familiar with the area, if
48 we could be provided a map that shows what part this park -
49 - where the private in-holdings are and maybe where the
50 structures are on those private in-holdings.

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1 MS. LIGGETT: We've been trying to fly for
2 the last month to get new maps of that structure, but I'd
3 like to go you one better. Tony and I talked here at one
4 of the breaks, we would like to invite you and others, our
5 solicitors and some other members and user groups to do a
6 river trip with us next summer, so that we can walk and
7 talk.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

10
11 MS. LIGGETT:maybe catch a fish, but
12 I think we need to do some of those to get the users out on
13 the river together talking about the river and experiencing
14 what the different user groups experience. So -- but we
15 can certainly get you a map in the short term.

16
17 MR. CLARK: As the planning process
18 continues, too, we'll have an opportunity to come before
19 the Council with a formal presentation and we expect to do
20 that during the regular progress updates to give you a
21 sense as to how we're progressing, to get your input and
22 give you a better appreciation for the character of that
23 river.

24 MS. LIGGETT: And I don't know how far
25 afield that you guys want to go, but at the spring meeting,
26 you know, we have a 15 or 20 minute presentation on some of
27 the archaeological work that we haven't mentioned here that
28 we did on the river this summer and if that's something
29 that the Council would like to see a presentation on in the
30 spring we could certainly do that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.

33
34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I think, you know,
35 going back 20 years when there was 25 lodges in Bristol Bay
36 it wasn't a problem, but we're seeing an explosion of
37 lodges, we're seeing an explosion of transporters,
38 explosion of the recreational fisheries, and not only
39 fisheries, but hunting activity. At the same time we're
40 seeing or villages grow and expand, so, you know, inherent
41 in this is a conflict. We've seen the Bristol Bay market -
42 - area-wide marketed as the oasis of the sport fisherman
43 and sport hunting. In the last 10 years we've seen that
44 price dropping, and it's becoming the Ronny McDonald of the
45 sport fishing industry, you know, the low end price because
46 there's so many users competing for a certain amount of
47 clients. And I think what we got to realize is we don't
48 want our river turning into a Kenai, we want to -- we're
49 never going to get rid of the sport hunting and the sport
50 fishing in our area, but we want the quality of experience

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1 to be up there where we're not going to attract every Tom,
2 Dick and Harry from all over the world to come here and
3 fish, nor do we want every Tom, Dick and Harry, you know,
4 and I think both can be compatible, but, you know, I look
5 at the Kenai River and I look in Southeast Alaska and some
6 of these spots that there's just uncontrolled growth and
7 it's just floors me.

8
9 And we're seeing the tour ships now come in. I
10 don't know if you've ever been down in Southeast Alaska or
11 Sitka when that invasion happens, but the locals can't even
12 walk on the sidewalk, they abandon their downtown area and,
13 you know, that's what we're seeing up here, people are
14 abandoning their subsistence areas because there's so many
15 -- because of the big influx of sport fishermen, and a lot
16 of people, subsistence users, are non-confrontational
17 people and they just as soon go away and grumble about it
18 in the steam bath and hopefully come back in October when
19 they're all gone. And I think it's a numbers game that we
20 need to be concerned with and a limiting factor, you know,
21 and the State needs to realize, as well as the Federal
22 government that we need to start limiting use on some of
23 these river systems, not only to preserve the river system
24 and the resource, but also to provide a quality experience
25 for the subsistence users.

26
27 That's my statement, I guess. Thank you,
28 Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, I went up to
31 Katmai Lodge and there was four people to pick up and the
32 guy in -- the older gentleman got in with me in front and
33 his wife was the nicest of the bunch, she sat way in the
34 back, she had a smile on her face and she was sitting way
35 in the back and his son sat along side of him and his wife
36 was drugged because she was afraid to fly, and I don't
37 blame her, I'd like to be drugged sometimes, too, for
38 flying.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So she was in there like
43 this, the other guy was hanging on to her.

44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She just looked at the
46 pilot.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The guy in the back --
49 the lady in the back was smiling and the guy with all the
50 money was sitting in front with me. So we go from the

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1 Branch to King Salmon and we get into about legal 500 foot
2 ceiling and two miles, and you can legally fly that on
3 record.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So he was looking around
8 at the weather and he said, what if you -- what if the
9 weather got back, would you come get me? I said, no, I'm
10 not going to come and get you. He said, you would leave me
11 there at Katmai Lodge if the weather got bad? I said, I
12 sure would leave you there. He said, well, how would I get
13 out of there if the weather was bad? I said, you'd stay
14 there, either that or I'd kill you taking you out, now,
15 which would you prefer? These are the kind of people you
16 deal with and you think, you know, I used to have two days
17 in my life that were really nice, one was when they all
18 came to town and the other day was when they all left.
19 Now, I only have one day in my life that's really nice.
20 You know what that day is?

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We probably should take a
25 break or go home or something, huh?

26

27 MS. LIGGETT: I don't even want to tell you
28 the tales about that O'Hara guy, I have to fly with you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We won't go on record
35 with that.

36

37 Deb, you got another part of your deal that's.....

38

39 MS. LIGGETT: I can finish up on Kokhanok
40 and a couple of short issues tonight or you can defer me to
41 the morning, it's your choice.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we can do it tonight,
44 that's fine.

45

46 MS. LIGGETT: Okay. We've -- at the
47 request -- you probably don't have to sit, Troy, Rick, you
48 might have to stay for it. Everybody else just send their
49 staff up here as the first line of defense.

50

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1 As you know, Kokhanok asked the National Park
2 Service to do an ATV access study on Katmai Preserve and
3 the park and the regional office put together an action
4 plan that was quite aggressive and then Kokhanok asked us
5 to slow down a little bit and we did. We went to Kokhanok
6 in May, just before the ice went out, and met with the
7 Village Council, and at that point we reconstructed a time
8 line and agreed that we would do a literature search over
9 the course of the summer and get that to them mid-summer,
10 which we did. We told them we would come back in September
11 and we came back the first week in October and visited with
12 them.

13
14 I have copies, the draft copies of the literature
15 review, which I will share with you now that I shared them
16 with the Village Council. And when we went, earlier this
17 week, to Kokhanok and met both with Council members and
18 members from the community we did an overview of this
19 information and we committed that John Branson and Don
20 Calaway from our regional office will be back in November
21 to do individual interview.

22
23 I was amazed at the amount of information
24 available, I just wouldn't have thought it would have been
25 available on ATV use in Kokhanok but, in fact, there were
26 three studies, a study in '73, a study in '83 and a study
27 again in '94, so there's very, very good information. And
28 now it's in the hands of the Village Council and elders in
29 the village to king of ground truth that for accuracy. And
30 we will go back and get oral interviews. The study -- the
31 draft results to date show a study that only hit about 60
32 or 70 percent of the households in '73-74, showed that
33 there were no ATVs in Kokhanok at that time. Council
34 members have told us the first ATV arrived in Kokhanok in
35 '75, they were here in Naknek sooner.

36
37 By 1983 80 percent of the households in Kokhanok
38 had 3-4-wheelers. And in '94 120 percent of the households
39 had ATVs, which meant some people owned more than one. And
40 that there are some -- you know, there are all the elements
41 of subsistence there, you know, there are some single
42 female family heads who don't own them but who borrow them
43 from other people, and who share. And so we're going to go
44 back and we're going to be sure that we have adequate
45 feedback from village members before we would draft a
46 position paper and before we would make a C&T
47 determination.

48
49 This is another one of those issues, like the
50 Alagnak. Kokhanok deserves a lot of credit because they've

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1 raised their hand to go first. I know Igiugig is
2 interested and I know that some of the villages surrounding
3 Aniakchak are interested. It's a very difficult issue in
4 the state, which makes it very difficult for me as a
5 manager to craft a local decision because it won't be
6 local, it'll be viewed as precedent setting. So we're
7 still in the information gathering stage, I want to be sure
8 that I have the best information. We'll sit down with
9 folks in the villages, we already have some interesting
10 maps, which I don't have with me today, that show
11 subsistence footprint of use.

12
13 There's another name for it, Rick, I can't think.

14
15 MR. CLARK: Historical use of the area.

16
17 MS. LIGGETT: Historical use, you know,
18 because, of course, you know, the use pattern in '74 was
19 different than the use pattern in '83, which was different
20 because wildlife moves. That's really only the
21 generational footprint of use, not a lifetime footprint of
22 use. So we'll be sitting down with maps with people and
23 saying, you took what animal where, using what technology,
24 when.

25
26 So that's where we are.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members any
29 questions? Yeah, Robert.

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Your study, and the
32 determination at the conclusion of your study, is only for
33 C&T findings of ORV for Kokhanok, correct?

34
35 MS. LIGGETT: That's essentially what the
36 question is that they've posed to us.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And who are they?

39
40 MS. LIGGETT: The Village Council.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, all right.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Maybe you could -- after that
45 determination is made, and I understand what happens if
46 it's positive, maybe there's an appeal process they can go
47 through, but in the event that it is positive, then is
48 there going to be opportunity and discussion on the -- out
49 in the preserve or is that an automatic conclusion, once
50 they're found positive to be C&T that they're automatically

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1 in?

2

3 MS. LIGGETT: If there was a positive C&T
4 determination, then there would be work to see how that use
5 might be managed.

6

7 MR. HEYANO: And, I guess, it's at that
8 point the discussion would lead to the impact of (inaudible
9 - away from microphone) on the preserve.

10

11 MS. LIGGETT: Correct.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

16

17 (No audible responses)

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, thank you very
20 much, Deb, we appreciate you coming to us.....

21

22 MS. LIGGETT: I have two short
23 advertisements.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, go ahead.

26

27 MS. LIGGETT:that won't take much of
28 your time.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No problem.

31

32 MS. LIGGETT: But you brought it up
33 earlier. I think that you know that Terry Hoefflerle and
34 his staff and my staff have met on a couple of occasions
35 and have two or three task forces going. BBNA has taken
36 on the task for us of helping us recruit for 8-12, both
37 paid and unpaid positions. Rose Heyano and Pearl Struve
38 from BBNA and some members of my staff, so we're working
39 together because BBNA is the experts on where the skills
40 are in the community and we're trying to cross reference
41 those with some jobs. And also target some jobs that would
42 eventually turn into permanent employment with the National
43 Park Service, if that was the desire.

44

45 So we're working -- we're also in the process of
46 negotiating with BBNC on construction of a boardwalk at
47 Brooks Camp. And then, finally, last -- my first meeting
48 here with the Council and I met Randy Alvarez for the first
49 time and I was embarrassed to discover that the kids for
50 Igiugig had never been to Brooks Camp and so a few -- a

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1 couple of weeks ago I think the entire school and eight
2 chaperons came to Brooks Camp to spend a couple of days,
3 Katmai Air helped with the air fair. We go them on the bus
4 tour up to the Valley of the 10,000 Smokes. It sounded to
5 me like the rangers and the kids swapped hats and radios
6 and a good time was had by all. It's my hope that that
7 program will expand so that all the kids in the villages
8 surrounding the park have an opportunity to do things in
9 the park through their educational process. So -- Randy is
10 not here, but.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He is here.

13
14 MS. LIGGETT: Oh, he is? Great.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep, he's here.

17
18 MS. LIGGETT: I think it was a good day.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think he's here.

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He's sitting back there,
25 he's in the back row, he's a back slider.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. LIGGETT: Yeah, he's another one of
30 those back pew guys.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

33
34 MS. LIGGETT: And that's all I have.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

37
38 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you very much,
39 Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we appreciate those
42 comments and I talked to the students who went down to
43 Becharof Lake with the science.....

44
45 MS. LIGGETT: Fish and Wildlife Service.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. They had a great
48 time. I talk to some of the students who went from Igiugig
49 over there, so I made sure I talked to them before I heard
50 your report, so I wanted to see if what you were saying is

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1 right and you were right, they had a great time.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. LIGGETT: There may be some rangers
6 missing hats and radios.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We appreciate
9 your presence in the region. I think it's really difficult
10 to understand what goes on if you manage by proxy and we've
11 had that happen in the past, so we want to thank you for
12 being here, reporting to us and having hands-on in
13 Kokhanok. And there's nothing better than to sit across
14 the table from negotiators and find out what's really going
15 on in that area, so we want to say how much we appreciate
16 you doing that.

17

18 Any other comments?

19

20 (No audible responses)

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, we will recess this
23 meeting until, what time tomorrow morning, 8:30 or 8:00
24 o'clock?

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: 8:00 o'clock.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 8:00 o'clock? Okay, we
29 will recess until 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning and.....

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Better make it 8:30.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 8:00 o'clock, 8:00
34 o'clock.

35

36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good enough.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (MEETING RECESSED)

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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 Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 163
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME I,
BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 6th
day of October, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock
a.m. at the Borough Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct
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knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
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October, 1999.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00