

1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Dillingham City Assembly Chambers
10 Dillingham, Alaska
11 October 7, 2005
12 8:30 o'clock a.m.
13
14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Randy Alvarez, Chair
18 Nanci Morris Lyon
19 Dan Dunaway
20 Daniel J. O'Hara
21 Peter Abraham
22 Boris Kosbruk, Sr.
23
24
25 Regional Council Coordinator, Clifford Edenshaw

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Dillingham, Alaska - 10/7/2005)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We'll come back off of
8 recess and the meeting call back to order.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Are we still on 10?
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, we're off of
13 recess. Call the meeting back to order. We're on number
14 10, wildlife special action, North Peninsula caribou.
15 And, Ron, are you done with your report?
16
17 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So now we are
20 on the Department of Fish and Game. Charlotte, are you
21 going to be doing that?
22
23 MS. WESTING: I don't really have very
24 much to present today. There's no subsistence
25 representation here today, but I was asked to speak on
26 the Alagnak River.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We're on.....
29
30 MS. WESTING: Or, I'm sorry, you're just
31 wanting to know if I have comments about the caribou
32 herd?
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The North Peninsula.
35 Yeah, we're on number 10.
36
37 MS. WESTING: No. No. Sorry. Nobody's
38 told me anything to speak about, so, sorry.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Caribou -- now
43 we're on the number 2 on procedures, other Federal, State
44 and tribal agency want to speak on this?
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MR. O'HARA: You don't have to do so.
49 That's only during the proposal.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Do we have
2 any.....
3
4 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Cliff, is
5 this where we do the special action? I mean the seasonal
6 -- this paragraph's been handed out to us on whether
7 we're going to address closing or leave any caribou
8 season open? Is this where we deal with this, or is it
9 someplace else?
10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: No, as part of the
12 Council's actions for the special action, which is
13 already -- we went ahead and closed the first portion of
14 the season, yes, this is the other question the Council
15 will take action on, as well as we have -- the Council
16 can direct me when I get back to Anchorage also to submit
17 a proposal on the Council's behalf, and I would fill that
18 out and send it back to Randy for his signature, if the
19 Council does make such a motion to close the season. But
20 first and foremost, we'd like the Council to take action
21 on the special action.
22
23 MR. O'HARA: Okay. So at this time, Mr.
24 Chairman, we probably should make a motion to take action
25 on the special action. If that's okay with the Chair,
26 I'll make that motion.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. That would be
29 -- what we need to do next then.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We need a second.
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The motion's been made
36 by Dan O'Hara to take action on the special action.
37
38 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. If I could.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seconded by Dan
41 Dunaway.
42
43 MR. O'HARA:address that a little
44 bit. Cliff, what we're doing here is since the State of
45 Alaska has not issued any more permits, their season is
46 still open, is that right? They're just not issuing
47 permits?
48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct.
50

1 MR. O'HARA: There's still a season, so
2 in essence, what we're doing is -- are we closing then
3 the season on caribou?
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: The current special
6 action, if you look on Page 50, in effect, the Council's
7 action this morning, yes, it would extend the closure.
8 So the season on Federal lands would be closed.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: This special action
11 from what I understand from yesterday would only be good
12 for six months?
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, correct, but if the
15 Council when they -- if you guys submit a recommendation
16 in the form of a motion to continue -- to extend the
17 closure through this special action, the Federal
18 Subsistence Board as part of their house cleaning can
19 extend that until the end of the season.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: Okay. So the motion that we
22 made then will take care of that action?
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
25
26 MR. O'HARA: Okay.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: And then as part of the
29 Federal Subsistence Board, as I said, would take care of
30 that until -- I think it goes through February 28th.
31
32 MS. MORRIS LYON: February 28th.
33
34 MR. O'HARA: You know, that kind of
35 wording reminds me of a Norwegian mine detector, and it's
36 just kind of a -- you don't know what direction you're
37 walking. Not that there's anything against Norwegians.
38 It's just kind of a confusing type. You know what a
39 Norwegian mine detector is?
40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: No, I don't.
42
43 MR. O'HARA: (Demonstrates) Don't put
44 that in the minutes.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is there any more
49 comments on this? Dan?
50

1 MR. O'HARA: Do we all understand that
2 now? Okay.
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Now, did you speak
5 all you wanted to about the.....
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I sure did.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. My only concern was
10 -- I'm trying to remember what I heard on the radio, was
11 when the public notice for this meeting, did that include
12 to the public that we would be taking up this special
13 action? I feel a little uncomfortable that we're kind of
14 doing it over here in Dillingham, and, you know, not
15 right in the -- where a lot of the hunters live. Like if
16 we were in Naknek, if there's an individual concern or
17 something, they would have a little more ready
18 opportunity to speak to this, though we do have several
19 folks that live right in that immediate area and should
20 be pretty aware of the concerns. But I just wanted to
21 bring that up to touch on it and see if other Naknek/King
22 Salmon residents, kind of what their concerns are.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think, you know,
25 everybody over there in Naknek/King Salmon area is
26 familiar that knows that there's no caribou hunting this
27 year, because the Department has put notice out all over
28 on bulletin boards and on the TV schedule, on the TV
29 scroller board that there isn't going to be any Tier II
30 permits issued for that. So in fact, you know, everybody
31 that I know knows that it's going to be closed because of
32 the low population, so, you know, I don't -- I haven't
33 heard anybody complaining that they can't do it. They
34 all realize it's so low that we just -- you know, there's
35 no way we can harvest something, you know, out of a
36 population that's that low, so they're not even
37 suggesting that they be able to, from what I've heard.
38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Traveling
42 around the villages and listening to what's being said,
43 all the way from Naknek to the Chigs, they all understand
44 that there just is not a season, and, you know, somebody
45 said that you'd probably have to give up your youngest
46 grandchild if you killed one of those caribou, and they
47 weren't going to do that. So I think they understand
48 pretty well that they're not -- it's not going to happen.
49 So I think we're okay.
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff.
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Also, prior to the Council
6 meeting, we put out public service announcements, PSAs,
7 our public relations person in our office. When we put
8 out the PSAs for the Council meeting as well, we also
9 addressed the special action in terms of, you know, it
10 was part of the agenda for the Council's upcoming
11 meeting. And I think, you know, Dan brings up a good
12 point, and when we get back to Anchorage, I'll certainly
13 talk with Maureen who does the PSAs in terms of the
14 action the Board will take at the future meeting in
15 January, to make sure that we get information out to
16 Naknek, Egegik, those communities up there.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks. I figured
19 it probably was, but I just wanted to reassure myself.
20 And looking around here, I realized, shoot, there's a lot
21 of folks right here on the board from one end to the
22 other of that area. So, thanks.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more comment from
25 the Council? Okay. Kenny.
26
27 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'd like to.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Come up here and state
30 your name and.....
31
32 MR. WILSON: My name is Kenny Wilson from
33 BBNA. I'm the subsistence coordinator out there. And
34 I'd like to hear the report from Andy for the Nushagak
35 Peninsula Caribou Herd. I know that particular herd is
36 down to, if I remember, if I'm correct, I think he'd
37 probably correct me. I think it's down to 650, and they
38 are allowing 50 permits to hunt this coming year. And I
39 don't see -- I'm in opposition to closing any hunting on
40 the North Peninsula herd right now.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You're in opposition
43 to.....
44
45 MR. WILSON: I mean, I wouldn't want to
46 see this hunt closed, you know, being closed when a
47 similar situation is on the Nushagak Peninsula with the
48 low number and they're still allowing 50 permits, you
49 know, this coming season. Am I correct, Andy?
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.
2
3 MR. WILSON: So I know that -- and that
4 herd is, if I remember right, is 1400.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, the numbers that
7 they gave us is it could be from anywhere from 1,000 to
8 1600 from what Ron was saying yesterday, but they gave us
9 numbers of 1200. But, yeah, I -- is that what.....
10
11 MR. WILSON: So, you know, so how do you
12 guys make a decision when you have a herd that's 650 and
13 you're still allowing 50 permits and over there you've
14 got a herd of 1200, and you're not allowing any hunting?
15 I mean, that right there needs to be compared.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You had a comment,
18 Don.
19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think what we heard
21 yesterday is in the North Peninsula herd there was a time
22 when there was 24,000, and we're also talking about an
23 area stretching from essentially Naknek River to.....
24
25 MR. O'HARA: Ivanof Bay.
26
27 MR. DUNAWAY:Ivanof, Stepovak, down
28 that area, a vast area compared to the Nushagak
29 Peninsula. And maybe we ought to -- I think for my mind,
30 let's not mix up the Nushagak Caribou Herd and management
31 with the North Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and
32 management. I think they're far enough separated that
33 the two are pretty much unrelated. And the actions we
34 take with the North Peninsula, I don't see them as having
35 any direct effect on the Nushagak.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm not familiar with
38 the Nushagak. How about the population needs to be over
39 there?
40
41 MR. WILSON: It was as high as I think
42 1500 at one time.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But I know that the
45 North Peninsula is way lower than it needs to be to have
46 a harvest, and their health is so bad, you know, it's
47 hard to say what's going to happen to them, you know. It
48 doesn't look like it's going to be recovering very fast
49 from what the management is saying to us.
50

1 MR. WILSON: And I gave you that handout
2 on Proposal 120, which the State voted it down. And
3 there was around eight proposals that were submitted
4 around the State for predator control, and they were all
5 voted down at the same time. And all this was just a
6 plan, to implement a plan, and that proposal was formed
7 through a committee, through Lem Butler, Jim Wellington,
8 Ralph Anderson, Hasp Nicholson and myself.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. You know, if we
11 were asked -- the area was to ask for a predator control
12 plan, in my opinion, with their being no hunting for
13 caribou allowed, because of the population being so low,
14 we would stand a better change of getting a plan, because
15 of -- since there's no hunting allowed than if we were to
16 still allow some harvest of the North Peninsula caribou
17 and then ask for a predator management plan. That
18 wouldn't go over very well with -- it wouldn't look right
19 in my opinion to the State that we still would harvest
20 and now we're asking for a predator management plan. I
21 think with no hunting allowing, then asking for a
22 predator management plan would be a lot better in my
23 opinion, but it's dropped -- in my opinion, it has
24 dropped too low to allow harvest of caribou, you know. I
25 don't know much about the Nushagak Peninsula caribou,
26 what they are, but it doesn't compare I think to what
27 they're doing there.

28
29 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman. The
30 difference between Nushagak Peninsula and the other herd
31 over there, you mentioned we had about 1500 over there
32 one time. The Peninsula herd start migrating west out of
33 there, because there was less snow, hardly any snow in
34 that area, because they were going over to Hawk (ph) Bay
35 for quite a while and they came back. And then, this is
36 my theory anyway, and we had about 100 animals behind
37 Twin Hills for a long time. So they're -- I think Andy
38 can give us more information, because I know they're
39 migrating, because they're healthy.

40
41 But when you compare these two herds over
42 there, according to the reports over here, they're not
43 healthy over there. You know, calving's down, and
44 they're dying out. So I think we ought to wait, see what
45 happens to the herd over there, because of the health of
46 the animals. We can't control the nature, but the nature
47 can do it for us. So I'm not thinking about tomorrow,
48 I'm thinking about a long ways from here. So I'd like to
49 see the herd over there build up again, or the migration
50 of the other herd to join them.

1 The Peninsula herd over there are, you
2 know, according to Andy, they're about 650, there's no
3 danger of people depleting them over there, because
4 they're migrating back and forth. Some are around Cape
5 Newenham, there were about 200 I think last winter, two
6 or 300 out there. And I know for sure they're from
7 Peninsula area.
8
9 So the health wise, that's what we've got
10 to look at, because those are not healthy over there
11 according to the reports over here.
12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Nanci's got a.....
16
17 MR. WILSON: And the other -- you know,
18 there's other solutions, you know. And there's other
19 problems that probably had to do with the declining of
20 the poor habitat and, you know, next what you've got to
21 do is you've got to find out what is causing the animals
22 to be sick, you know. I've heard stories of them being
23 sick, but how many are sick?
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's what we're
26 trying to work on with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
27 you know, but in the meantime, I'm in the opinion that it
28 needs to be closed.
29
30 And is that BBNA's opinion? Did you guys
31 discuss that among yourselves, or is that how you feel
32 about there should be a hunting season?
33
34 MR. WILSON: Well, I feel that there
35 should be a hunting season. You know, after comparing
36 the population with the Nushagak, you know, herd and the
37 -- but, you know, what I've heard from hunters from this
38 fall is they noticed that the caribou had no calves, and
39 that was, you know, that right there is a big concern.
40 You know, they.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So that just goes to
43 show you that the herd isn't very healthy, you know.
44 There shouldn't be any hunting.
45
46 Cliff.
47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 guess there is a bit -- I think Kenny's concerns with the
50 Nushagak are well taken, and perhaps we can take that up

1 when Andy provides his report on the Togiak Refuge. And
2 just as a footnote, that the Nushagak is managed under a
3 management plan that was signed off by State and Federal
4 agencies, and so Kenny's concern may be that such in the
5 management plan it allows for a hunt until it gets below
6 maybe 400. But I'm not sure. But I do know that there's
7 a management plan in place with the Nushagak.

8

9 And if we can get reeled in here and
10 address Dan's motion on the floor, which was to extend
11 Special Action WSA05-02 in Unit 9C remainder and 9E on
12 Page 50. And then if the Council so wishes, they could
13 add that justification on Page 54 which states that the
14 biological data indicates that the Northern Alaska
15 Peninsula Caribou Herd has declined to the point where
16 any hunting of these animals would be catastrophic. Very
17 low recruitment is insufficient at this time to offset
18 adult mortality. Both the Tier II and Federal
19 registration permit hunts should be closed until the
20 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd reaches management
21 objectives which would allow for a limited harvest.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you for
24 your comments, Kenny.

25

26 MR. O'HARA: Nanci had a comment here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Nanci.

29

30 MS. MORRIS LYON: My comments pretty much
31 included a lot of what everybody else is saying. I feel
32 like -- Kenny, I feel like you're fully justified in your
33 concerns with, you know, comparing the Nushagak Herd to
34 this one, but I feel like the oversight might in the fact
35 that we don't have health in the Northern Peninsula herd,
36 and I think health is a vital ingredient to being able to
37 keep a herd rebuilding, and that's what we're not seeing.
38 We're not seeing it with low, low hunting pressure over
39 there. No rebuilding's taking place. It continues to
40 plummet, and not just drop, but plummet in numbers, and I
41 think, you know, the numbers that I've seen from Andy on
42 the Nushagak, you're seeing good healthy regrowth
43 happening every year over here.

44

45 MR. WILSON: You know, about 8 years ago,
46 or maybe 10 years ago when they took out the area wolf
47 hunt, you know, for predator control, we knew that this
48 would be a problem across the State, and now we are here
49 today, and it's a problem.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, predator control
2 is another issue that we need to bring up. Joe, you want
3 to make a comment?
4
5 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
6 You.....
7
8 MR. O'HARA: Go over there. You've got
9 to go over there and tell us who you are. Social
10 security number and all those fun things.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
15 Yesterday.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Your name.
18
19 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Joe Chythlook. I work
20 for Board of Fish/Board of Game program, advisory
21 committees, Bristol Bay area.
22
23 In one of your questions yesterday, you
24 raised a question about what the Board did on predator
25 control in relation to Unit 9 last year. I did a little
26 research. The proposal submitted by BBNA included not
27 just predator control, but also addressed method and
28 means which encouraged snowmobile travel and whatnot,
29 ability to chase caribou with a snowmobile. And the
30 action the Board took on that was, I guess just a summary
31 from what my notes said, the Board discussed the pros and
32 cons of wolf predation control idea, but the staff after
33 the Board adopted wolf control ideas in other parts of
34 the State convinced the Board that it would be hard to
35 implement several wolf control programs in different
36 parts of the State all at the same time. And so they
37 directed the board to maybe not deal with approving a
38 wolf control plan in this area; however, the Board
39 suggested to the Department that they needed to continue
40 to take a close look at the area and come up with
41 recommendations to address the problem in a couple years.
42 The Board of Game cycle runs every two years, so the next
43 time that this issue will come up before the Board will
44 be spring of 2007. They took up their action in 2005.
45
46 However, an amendment was made to
47 Proposal 120 -- actually it was 106, which addressed a
48 portion of Proposal 126, which was talking about wolf
49 control. And in 106 the Board took affirmative action to
50 allow snowmobile and ATV use for taking wolves in Unit 9B

1 and 17B. Although this doesn't cover all of Unit 9, it
2 did address a portion of Unit 9, which is Subunit 9B, and
3 all of 17, and however, there's also -- there was also
4 kind of a stipulation put on that, and the stipulation
5 was that this would not apply to National Park Service,
6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and national wildlife
7 refuge and other lands not approved by Federal agencies.

8

9

10 So, you know, working with two different
11 boards, sometimes conflicting management scenarios arise,
12 and I recall from the Board meeting that State and
13 Federal agencies couldn't completely agree on how even a
14 snowmobile and ATV issue would apply, so they came up
15 with that language.

16

17 But anyway, this is I guess kind of a
18 short summary of what you asked, Mr. Chair, yesterday
19 about the action the board took last meeting in regards
20 to Unit 9.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

23

24 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Joe,
25 we appreciate you bringing that to us this morning. I
26 think we have an opportunity in this predator control
27 thing to exercise a right, or -- and I don't know exactly
28 -- it would be State of Alaska's law enforcement and the
29 refuge and the park and preserve people and what other
30 entities there are out there that are -- you take the
31 Alaska Peninsula, we have 40 percent State lands and 40
32 percent Federal lands, and you've got all these camps
33 going up and down the peninsula, and law enforcement, you
34 know, in every camp checking out and doing their job, and
35 they do a good job of it.

36

37 One of the things that's happening on a
38 regular basis is that more of these outfitters and guides
39 are using a moose call to bring the bulls in, you know.
40 It's become a common practice. You can buy -- I have one
41 of my own. For \$70 you can get a cow making a call, and
42 the bulls come running. And so do the wolves. And as
43 soon as the call goes off, there comes a wolf, you know.
44 And I would -- and I don't know if the State of Alaska
45 and the peninsula people on the Federal side have any
46 idea of what number of wolves have been taken this fall
47 in a moose camp. And I think we should liberalize that
48 bag limit if you want to start -- I mean that just would
49 be a natural process of getting a wolf without chasing
50 them with snow machine or from the air. At least it

1 would be one method, if you wanted to try to control the
2 number of predators out there. And it's something we
3 should look at, at least keep an eye on, because I know
4 the guys in Becharof Lake -- I heard a number of 10
5 wolves being taken up there this fall, and the guy may
6 have been exaggerating, but if they took five during that
7 hunting season, it would be an incredible number of
8 wolves taken.

9

10 And you take Yon Tarni (ph), and I think
11 it's Bill Martin who's down there? Yeah. He started off
12 down there years ago and there were a few wolves, and now
13 they're up to 25, 30 in the pack, and continue to grow
14 without any -- you know, there's no predators that are
15 going to get the wolves very much, and yet here's an
16 opportunity that we might think about.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I guess -- yeah, we
21 have a motion. I guess we're still on discussion on
22 that. And we'll bring up the predator control later on.
23 I've got an email from Justin Rogers, I'll read out to
24 you guys. But we're on the special action proposal, and
25 we're on -- any more discussion on this before we come to
26 vote?

27

28 MR. O'HARA: Call for the question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Boris.

31

32 MR. O'HARA: Oh, excuse me.

33

34 MR. KOSBRUK: Excuse me. Regarding the
35 proposal, to the Board, is there anybody in our group
36 that attends that meeting when they have it?

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The Board of Game you
39 mean?

40

41 MR. KOSBRUK: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, Joe, he goes.
44 He's our representative for Bristol Bay for the Board of
45 Game and Board of Fish. He's at all those. And then
46 sometimes I attend the Board of Game or Board of Fish,
47 and when it's -- we have issues, but Kenny's attended for
48 BBNA I believe also, so -- and.....

49

50 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah. I mean, the only

1 concern I'm concerned about, I have never heard of the
2 Board being down this way, or, you know, in this area.
3 And do they understand it in their paper?

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think the Board of
6 Fish and the Board of Game, they kind of -- they're short
7 on funds. They don't want to leave Anchorage any more,
8 you know, because it costs more to go out in rural
9 Alaska. Well, they had meetings in Fairbanks also I
10 guess, but they don't want to come out to the Bush any
11 more. It's been quite a few years since they've done
12 that.

13
14 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, it seems to me like
15 they'd try to target a problem area. Or send a
16 representative down there that's on the Board, somebody
17 down there to understand the problem. Because I've never
18 heard any good action taken by them in the last few
19 years.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Maybe we need to -- we
22 have somebody from our area on the Board of Fish. Maybe
23 we need somebody from our area on the Board of Game.

24
25 MR. KOSBRUK: I think it's serious enough
26 to consider that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Any more
29 comment.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Hearing none, all in
34 favor of supporting the special action signify by saying
35 aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carries six-
44 zero.

45
46 Okay. That would bring us to number 11,
47 or would it be appropriate to continue this, Cliff, to
48 this North Peninsula issue and then do a proposal for a
49 closure? Or should we do that later?

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: It's the next item on the
2 agenda.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Number 11 is call for
5 proposals. And I guess that will come up right on that
6 part, on number 11. Okay.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: That's the next agenda
9 item.
10
11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. All right.
12 We'll take it up on number 11, probably down on where
13 it's caribou in 9C and even on 9E here. So we are on
14 number 11, call for subsistence wildlife proposals. And
15 Bill Knauer I guess is going to be reporting on the
16 review of Federal closures, so we will -- Cliff. I had
17 written down Bill.
18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: That was a typo on my
20 part, Mr. Chair and Council members. I tried to weasel
21 out of that one.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. You have the
26 floor.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 Council members. Yesterday I left a packet on your chair
30 or in front of you. And also there's mainly the briefly
31 on Page 56 of your books. And up there on the top of
32 Page 56, we just start off by stating that our office,
33 the Office of Subsistence Management, initiated the
34 process of evaluating existing closures of Federal public
35 lands to hunting, trapping and fishing for the purpose of
36 providing the Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal
37 Subsistence Board with an opportunity to review such
38 closures. There are currently 30 occurrences in Federal
39 subsistence wildlife regulations where Federal public
40 lands are closed to non-Federally qualified subsistence
41 users. And if you look down below, there are four here
42 in this region.
43
44 And on the handouts I provided to you, if
45 you'd just briefly go through that, we have the subunits,
46 or the units of where these closures occur.
47
48 And for the first one here on number 5,
49 if you look on Page 3, OSM recommendation is to maintain
50 the status quo, which is to maintain the closure. And

1 then the next example, number 4 and 6 on the following
2 pages, 1, 2, and 3, they also give you the explanation of
3 the closures as well as OSM, or Office of Subsistence
4 Management recommendation, which is the status quo also
5 on that.

6

7 MR. O'HARA: What page is that on the
8 handout?

9

10 MR. EDENSHAW: That's -- it's on the
11 following page, right after we -- it doesn't continue in,
12 you know, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. It just starts over with
13 Page 1, so it's like the fourth page here.

14

15 And while you're looking at that, I'll
16 just go ahead and read the continuing justification for
17 the actions which were taken. Section 815(3) of ANILCA
18 allows closures when necessary for the conservation of
19 healthy populations of fish and wildlife, and I'm just
20 reading off of Page 56 of your books, and to continue
21 subsistence uses of such populations. The existing
22 closures represent both situations. For example,
23 closures for the hunting of musk ox in Unit 22 were
24 adopted because of the relatively low and recovering musk
25 ox population, and the Unit 2 deer closure was adopted
26 because rural residence provided substantial evidence
27 that they were unable to meet their subsistence needs
28 because of competition from other users of the resource.

29

30 And this Council, for those of you who
31 were not here, but I'm sure Pete and Dan can testify,
32 we've addressed such proposals in the past for moose in
33 Unit 17 where they wanted to close Federal lands to
34 nonsubsistence users, and their proposals that they had
35 submitted in the past were due to potentially --
36 conservation concerns about the moose populations. So
37 this Council has dealt with such proposals, and these
38 here were conducted before I came on board here.

39

40 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. The
41 purpose, one of the main reasons for this advisory to the
42 Federal Board is we've got -- with fish and game, you
43 have to have recruitment stock. You're not going to have
44 subsistence if you don't. And we've done special harvest
45 actions, too, Pete, with moose when they got to a certain
46 number in Togiak area, you know, you make an action to
47 take 10, and you took 10. And now the number's growing.
48 And we hope that, you know -- it may be a difficult thing
49 to say we shut it down, but we've got to that in order to
50 bring the animals back, and bring the fish back.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff, the way I
2 understand this proposal is that currently it's opened
3 south of the Naknek River for a moose season for
4 subsistence only, and this closure dates from December
5 1st to the 31st is only for nonsubsistence use, right?
6 Is that the way I understand it?
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct. Because if you
9 look at our regulations, and for Unit 17, rural
10 residents, there's -- for moose in that subunit, there
11 are customary and traditional use determinations, and
12 only those residents which are stated in the regulations
13 may hunt moose, so this is for non-Federally qualified
14 users.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes. That's closed.
17
18 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I know when I
21 first seen this proposal, I thought they were going to --
22 wanted the proposal to be closed for hunting moose south
23 of the river, but what it's referring to is
24 nonsubsistence users, so it will still be open for
25 subsistence use.
26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes.
30
31 MR. EDENSHAW: And Council members, what
32 we want to do is these closures are already in place.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:
35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: And we just wanted the
37 Council to review those. If they feel that the
38 populations of such, in these closures, are good enough,
39 then they could submit a proposal to open them. But as I
40 mentioned before, if you look after each of these
41 closures that are in place, the staff, OSM, has submitted
42 their recommendation which is status quo, which is to
43 maintain the closures.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I'd like to
46 discuss the antlerless season. It says here the
47 antlerless season will be closed when five antlerless
48 moose have been taken. So it's still a -- we still allow
49 up to five antlerless moose to be harvested in that area.
50 And I'd like to hear from Fish and Wildlife Service the

1 health of the stock, and if it's still adequate that we
2 have a cow season, or an antlerless season there. So can
3 somebody come up and speak to that?

4
5 MR. GOODING: I'm Justin Gooding with
6 Fish and Wildlife Service in King Salmon.

7
8 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, Fish and
9 Wildlife Service in King Salmon.

10
11 Justin did an analysis of that after our
12 last moose hunt last winter, so he's the man to talk to
13 on this issue.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.

16
17 MR. GOODING: I think there's a few basic
18 things about that population that should be considered
19 when we're thinking about a cow hunt. At best, it's a
20 medium density moose area. It's basically low density
21 moose. You're talking about maybe a half moose to three-
22 quarter moose per square mile versus other areas of the
23 State where they've opened cow hunts up around five moose
24 per square mile. So it's a pretty low density area.
25 Since 1992 it's been declining by about five percent per
26 year. And that decline has a lot to do with poor
27 recruitment, and that's the big thing for moose in that
28 area.

29
30 So I guess the question is should we be
31 harvesting cows in a low density moose area that's
32 declining. I don't think -- the average number of cows
33 that are taken annually is two, it's not five. So a lot
34 of years, you know, when the weather is not right, or
35 there's ice on Big Creek, hunters can't get up there, so
36 you end up with no moose harvested, and then some years
37 the creek is open and there's lots of boats up there, and
38 we end up with more than five, because we can't get the
39 season closed fast enough. So on average it's only two
40 cows.

41
42 So with that alone, that's not going to
43 cause the population to crash, but it is a low density,
44 declining moose herd in that area.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I know I was
47 reading back some of the justifications for having an
48 antlerless moose hunt, is one of them has to be more than
49 -- the population has to be high enough, because when you
50 do have a moose hunt, you're going to be decreasing --

1 you're going to be in the future decreasing the
2 population somewhat, because, you know, when you harvest
3 one cow, you're affecting the population quite a bit in
4 the future. So it's -- I know in some areas around in 9C
5 and B moose are, because of predation, especially, you
6 know, along the Alagnak with all the bears and wolves,
7 sometimes it seems like there's oughtn't to be any moose
8 around, but then in the springtime, they'll come out of
9 the woodwork, but, you know, it's hard to get a moose
10 during the hunting season, and people are complaining
11 that there aren't very moose around, but then there seems
12 to be a few around during the springtime, but it's --
13 comment?

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan, go ahead.

18

19 MR. O'HARA: Justin, have you talked with
20 Lem at the State ADF&G Department about this?

21

22 MR. GOODING: Yes.

23

24 MR. O'HARA: What did -- well, his
25 opinion when I talked to him is that he wants a closure
26 on that Big Creek refuge. Is that called the Becharof
27 Lake refuge or.....

28

29 MR. SQUIBB: It's part of Becharof.

30

31 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. The upper waters and
32 drainage of the Big Creek. And if we don't put in a
33 proposal to close that area to the cow hunt, he's going
34 to put one in by the 21st, which is fine, and so the
35 comment I have is what Dan talked about earlier when we
36 talked about caribou and what people on the Peninsula
37 might think. This is one I think where, you know, if you
38 could get the South Naknek, Naknek, King Salmon opinion
39 on those animals, you know, that would be better for me
40 before I would make a proposal, and see what they think,
41 because I know they're not going to want to close it,
42 because the December hunt is when they're going to get
43 meat.

44

45 I think a lot of bulls were taken out of
46 there this fall. A lot of bulls came out, which is good.
47 The local guys got animals.

48

49 And the question I have is what is the
50 calf percentage survival rate?

1 MR. GOODING: Well, we have to make an
2 assumption about how many of them die over the winter.
3 We have recruitment ratios from the fall, but with the
4 assumption of pretty limited over-winter mortality. It's
5 about 15 percent.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Let's go back a year and
8 what kind of a survival rate did you have?
9
10 MR. GOODING: On average it's been about
11 15 percent through the late 90s.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: 15 percent. And what do you
14 like?
15
16 MR. GOODING: Well, you have to make up
17 for adult mortality, so that's something we don't know
18 anything about for that area.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: You're going to want a
21 certain number of calves to make the herd survival.
22
23 MR. GOODING: Right.
24
25 MR. O'HARA: What is that number?
26
27 MR. GOODING: You need around 25 to 35 in
28 order to.....
29
30 MR. O'HARA: So you'd want 35 percent,
31 say, upper number of calf survival rate in order to
32 maintain the herd?
33
34 MR. GOODING: Right.
35
36 MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh. And then at that
37 you could have a bull and a cow harvest if you had that
38 kind of a population stability.
39
40 MR. GOODING: Right.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Okay.
43
44 MR. GOODING: Well, you know, the thing
45 about that is I guess it depends who you talk to about if
46 you can support a bull and a cow harvest when you get
47 those numbers, because you're also talking about the
48 density of animals is something you need to consider with
49 that as well. I mean, harvesting a cow moose because
50 they're kind of low density, solitary animals, and they

1 are -- when there are predators around, they aren't as
2 productive as other species, so you can have a big impact
3 on populations when you start harvesting cows. So a
4 limited cow harvest maybe, but.....

5
6 MR. O'HARA: You've got to take into
7 consideration that the Meshik, Ugashik all the way to
8 Black Lake has a huge amount of browse. And in the
9 browse, you know, a wolf could -- I mean, a moose could
10 get into the brush, and a wolf is not going to get them.
11 We know that. We see that between here and Dillingham in
12 the wintertime. It will be, you know, 10 acres of brush,
13 and a cow and calf is in there, and they've survived all
14 winter, because a wolf couldn't kill them in the brush.
15 And then you get into the -- you know, up the Branch and
16 Egegik and down to the Big Creek, and it's a whole
17 different story as far as being able to maintain a
18 population.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We had a cow season in
21 9B, and I think we lost it, it got taken away about 10
22 years ago, and we tried to get it back, but talking to
23 Dick Sellers, he wasn't in favor of it, because of the
24 calf recruitment had dropped so low, and he was saying --
25 telling us what you had said about we need to be about 25
26 to 30 calves per 100 to have a -- to have that for
27 recruitment, and right -- and the last survey that he
28 told us he did on the Alagnak, it was like down to about
29 10 or 11, and that if -- it was my opinion at the time,
30 and it still is, that if that was to continue, we're
31 going to have a problem with our moose population, you
32 know. And it probably might end up going the same way as
33 the caribou on the North Peninsula, won't be able to hunt
34 them if that's continued. And that was one of the
35 reasons why we wanted to bring up predator management
36 plan. And, you know, the Alagnak is a high density for
37 bears because of the amount of salmon up there. And it
38 is one of the areas where that moose kind of concentrate
39 on in the springtime, but in the -- during the hunting
40 season they're hard to come by up there.

41
42 But anyway I wanted to discuss the
43 antlerless moose season south of the Naknek River, and if
44 it can stand -- or if the population is healthy enough
45 for it, if you think we can still maintain it, and I'll
46 be in support of it. But, you know, I know it's in areas
47 right adjacent to there, not very far away, some areas
48 are having problems, and especially with all our
49 predators we have for bears and wolves now. You know,
50 it's hard to say what's -- how many they're really

1 taking, because, you know, I know a pack of wolves,
2 around 20, will eat a moose a day. And they have to --
3 you know, they're going to have to eat something, and
4 there is not very many caribou around, so -- Ron.

5
6 MR. SQUIBB: I was just going to just get
7 back to -- I appreciate your dilemma on this, because it
8 is a very popular hunt with several families in the
9 Naknek and King Salmon area. And as Justin said, over
10 the years we've gotten, you know, it seems like it's
11 about every other year we get significant harvest, and,
12 you know, the last -- you'll remember the last several
13 winters, you know, they've -- last winter they actually
14 took three bulls and three cows. The previous winter
15 they were shut out because of flow ice, you know, you
16 couldn't get across the river safely, so that shut it
17 down the previous year. Before that, I can't remember
18 the number, but there was a harvest of a few cows. And
19 the year before, you know, went back. And so we kind of
20 -- because of the weather, we've not had a lot of
21 harvest, and that -- because the staff at the refuge has
22 always been, you know, since I've gotten there, worried
23 about this hunt, because, you know, just as you've
24 mentioned, because, you know, cows are what you need to
25 keep the herd going, and, you know, regardless of
26 statistics, it's obvious you can't -- you shouldn't be
27 shooting too many cows. And so we've kind of been on the
28 fence for some time on this issue, and just been
29 monitoring it.

30
31 And I certainly wouldn't be opposed to
32 closing the hunt but I know that several people do enjoy
33 that hunt and do get meat off of that hunt, you know,
34 every other year or so, and it is a popular hunt. We
35 issue perhaps -- we probably don't issue more than 15
36 permits, but you know, it is popular with the local
37 community. So that's the reason I would think -- you
38 know, the reason is to provide the public the
39 opportunity, but then on the other side of the coin,
40 it's, you know, given as you've said, the decline of the
41 caribou herd and the poor recruitment in general of the
42 moose in the area, you know, we just -- the idea of
43 harvesting cows just doesn't seem right either, so it's a
44 real difficult decision to make.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I guess we're going to
47 be revisiting this if Lem, the State biologist submits a
48 proposal to eliminate this, we'll probably be discussing
49 it next spring again. And I know I've got relatives that
50 like that cow, antlerless permit then, too, and they

1 wanted to see it, but, you know, being -- sitting here,
2 trying to figure out what's best is most important, you
3 know, not being able to harvest, but we're -- our job is
4 to manage it, and with your help. So, anybody else?

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: From what I'm hearing here,
11 I don't hear anybody saying that we should eliminate
12 these existing Federal closures, which would liberalize
13 hunting to my understanding, and I'd be inclined to have
14 us consider it, continuing all of these closures in a
15 block maybe, and then kind of hustle the meeting along.
16 We could then talk about proposals for maybe closure. I
17 think maybe the Board should throw out there for public
18 discussion a closure on -- you know, of eliminating that
19 antlerless hunt. We could also talk about a wolf
20 management plan, and what's the other one?

21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you make that
23 motion to.....

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was -- I mean,
26 yeah, I could do that. I'm just kind of testing the
27 waters here to see if there's other discussion that
28 wanted to be had, first, but I think we also need to move
29 the meeting along.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We can discuss it
32 after you -- on the discussion part of the motion.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, I'll move that
35 we adoption adopt these Federal closures, WCR05-04
36 through 07 to maintain the status quo as recommended by
37 this handout. And then we could move on to discussing
38 more.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anybody amendments
41 that somebody wanted to put on those? If there were?

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: If there's friendly
44 amendment, 'though I'm not -- is there room for amendment
45 here or -- it looks like Cliff's trying to get our
46 attention.

47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Council
49 members, if you look on Page 56, at the bottom of the
50 page, it states that following the presentation of such,

1 you know, we were going over these closures, Councils are
2 asked to consider the OSM recommendation and share their
3 views on the issue. So we've done that, so in terms of
4 an amendment, that may, you know, include -- we'd have to
5 do a proposal. Just as Dan said, that if there was ample
6 biological evidence that supports the -- to eliminate the
7 closure and have an open season, then we would go down
8 that path. But Dan's motion for discussion was just the
9 status quo the closures on 4 through 7, so I would say
10 there would be no amendment, and the Council could just
11 take care of each of the closures with a proposal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Is there a
14 second to Dan's proposal?

15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Second the motion.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Pete seconds
19 the proposal for all four of those issues. Is there any
20 discussion on these?

21
22 MR. O'HARA: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
25 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.

30
31 (No opposing votes)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carried six-
34 zero.

35
36 Is there anything anybody wants to say
37 now on these issues? Any proposals or -- I guess it
38 sounds like we might be talking about antlerless moose
39 again at the next spring meeting if the State sends in a
40 proposal to close the antlerless down. So that was -- I
41 just wanted to discuss that, you know, to find out in
42 your opinion how the herd was doing, because, you know,
43 most areas around here, we don't have antlerless, and I
44 just wanted to make sure.

45
46 MR. GOODING: Mr. Chair. I guess one
47 thing that I'd like to add is that just from talking with
48 State troopers and our law enforcement officer at the
49 refuge, it does present a bit of a law enforcement
50 challenge, that hunt, just because moose season is open

1 for a large area during that same time period, but it's
2 bulls only. And that's -- those drainages south of the
3 Naknek are the only areas where you're allowed to take a
4 cow on the Federal lands, and so knowing where the cows
5 are actually taken is a challenge when the troopers are
6 checking camps or checking boats that come back, and
7 there's an antlerless moose in there, and they say they
8 got it on Big Creek. They've come into our office
9 several times saying that they have no way to verify
10 where the animals are coming from, and so it presents
11 them with a law enforcement challenge to make sure that
12 people are following the regulations.

13

MR. O'HARA: Well, that's your problem.

14

15

MR. GOODING: Yeah.

16

17

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MR. O'HARA: Well, Mr. Chairman, what Dan is saying, if you put the proposal out there to close it, then you're going to have public input on it.

MR. DUNAWAY: It will certainly -- it

1 will really promote discussion. It might, you know, as a
2 Board, we might take some flak for proposing it, but it
3 sounds to me like it at least should be investigated and
4 discussed further.

5
6 MR. O'HARA: Well, my opinion is, I
7 wouldn't vote for that, and I'll let Lem make his
8 proposal, and then we're going to have to address it,
9 because it will be on Federal lands and Federal
10 management at that time. Anyone can make a proposal up
11 until the 21st, so I'd leave it as it is.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Joe.

14
15 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Joe
16 Chythlook again from the State Board of Game. Just a
17 reminder that the Board of Game does address antlerless
18 moose every year. They review antlerless regulations all
19 over different parts of the State every year, and so the
20 call for proposals for that is probably out or if it's
21 not out, it will be out shortly for the March meeting
22 again this coming year, so I'm sure that if Lem is
23 concerned with the biology of it, that he will submit a
24 proposal. And once that's in, Naknek/Kvichak advisory
25 committee and probably your committee, the Lake Iliamna
26 advisory committee will be part of the forum to discuss
27 that, along with the RAC. So regardless of what action
28 you guys take today, I'm sure that the issue will be
29 brought forth by the State advisory committee system and
30 the State Board of Game system.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank you,
33 Joe.

34
35 MR. O'HARA: Do we have a motion on the
36 floor?

37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No.

39
40 MR. O'HARA: We voted on it already?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We voted. We passed
43 all four of those in one block.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: Hello.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yesterday I got a copy
48 of this email from Justin Rogers, and he sent it to Pat
49 Walsh, concerning use of snow machines to take wolves.
50 And let me read it.

1 It says, it's to Pat, the last I know was
2 the two regulations, the new one allowing the use of snow
3 goes to take wolves and the outstanding one of can't
4 harass game with motorized vehicles, are in conflict with
5 each other. While I'd dearly love to tell you what we've
6 been doing now is legal, I've specifically told a few
7 members of the public who've asked me, while it now may
8 be legal to use a snow machine to take wolves, it must be
9 done in such a way not to harass them while you're doing
10 it. In essence, nothing has changed. I dearly hope the
11 Board addresses this one in the fall meeting as it is
12 vague and the intent was clearly to liberalize methods
13 and means with snow machines to take wolves. I don't
14 think it has happened yet. It says, I'll get back with
15 my supervisors and folks in Fish and Game to see if
16 someone thinks different since I last spoke to them. I
17 till take a few days for me to do that as I've got some
18 other irons in the fire right now.

19
20 And then he wrote to Justin, hello,
21 Justin, I've been asked for clarification on a new rule
22 in the 05/06 Alaska hunting regulations that states snow
23 machines may be used to take wolves in Units 9B, C, E and
24 17, provided that animals are not shot from a moving show
25 machine. This implies to me that snow machines may be
26 used to chase wolves while hunting them, but the next
27 rule to the regulations seems to contradict this. So
28 what's the answer? Is it okay to chase wolves or not?

29
30 So, you know, apparently they're in
31 conflict. You can chase wolves, but you can't harass
32 them, so they think, you know, that they're -- you know,
33 so it's still pretty vague and, you know, so it's -- you
34 can't harass them. So you could still probably be.....

35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: No name calling.

37
38 MR. O'HARA: No name calling.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:ticketed for
43 that.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: Nancy said you can't call
46 them names while chasing. No name calling.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's about what it

1 says.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know that's kind of
4 the same situation where I see where hunting belugas or
5 whales. You've got to chase them, and you're harassing
6 them until you kill them, then once they're dead, you
7 quit harassing them.
8
9 MR. O'HARA: That's a good definition.
10 Shall we take a break?
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, okay. We'll
13 take a break.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (On record)
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Call back to order.
20
21 (Pause)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anyway we're going to
24 continue on. We've got the issue yet on the North
25 Peninsula Caribou Herd, and we've passed a special
26 action, but I think what we need to do now is close the
27 season altogether until the population rebounds and comes
28 back where we can have a season.
29
30 MR. O'HARA: I so move.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan moves to close --
33 well, just a minute, Dan.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: That's okay. I'll withdraw
36 that motion.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Nanci.
39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I would move to
41 ask that a proposal be written so that it can be
42 submitted before the 21st deadline that mirrors the
43 special action that's on Page 50. Cliff, if you'd take
44 care of that for us, so that we can have this put before
45 us in February after it's gone through all the public
46 hearings and whatnot to take action to close the North
47 Peninsula Caribou Herd. Is that.....
48
49 MR. O'HARA: And I'll second that..
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes, that's what --
2 with talking to Bill and Jerry last night, they said what
3 we should do is use this proposal for the special action
4 and then just mirror the same thing, and submit a
5 proposal based -- that mirrors this one on the special
6 action, and that's what we'd like to do.
7
8 And we have a motion by Nanci to do that,
9 seconded by Dan O'Hara. Is there any discussion on this.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seeing none I.....
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Call the question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All in favor of the
18 proposal signify by saying aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The motion's carried
27 six-zero to close the caribou on the North Peninsula, in
28 the remainder of 9C and 9E.
29
30 Okay. Was there anything that we wanted
31 to do on moose?
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: It sounds like not as a
34 Council.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. We'll wait and
37 see what happens at the next meeting.
38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Uh-huh. I had one other
40 idea, and I'll just bring it up if I may, too, but it
41 sounds like -- we don't really have a very good solution.
42 I thought until we heard that letter from Justin, that
43 maybe we should consider trying to get a proposal to
44 mirror the State one regarding this use of off-road
45 vehicles and snow goes, but it sounds like the State
46 proposal didn't really solve anything, so unless there
47 was somebody within the Federal system that thought they
48 could write a better one that would answer the concerns,
49 I'd be -- in one way I want to encourage people to think
50 about a way to make it better, but at the same time I

1 would -- I bet some of the Federal agencies would be even
2 more reluctant to see that than the State. Anyway, I
3 thought I'd kind of throw it out as an idea.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any comment on that?
6 Apparently, yeah, you know, it's in conflict with
7 harassment law, so I'm not sure how to go about -- what
8 proposal.....

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: It seems like the
11 harassment would.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, what kind of a
14 proposal. Eliminate the harassment proposal?

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think that one
17 seems like a pretty sacred rock that's pretty hard to
18 knock a chip off.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: How do they -- I know
21 it's against the law to harass marine mammals. It's a
22 Federal law. Yet when you hunt belugas and whales, what
23 are you doing? You have to chase them, and so isn't that
24 harassment? So they're letting it get by. Pete.

25
26 MR. ABRAHAM: No matter how you get some
27 different angles, if you take harassment out of it, it's
28 subsisting, hunting. You put the harassment word on it,
29 we're going to have some people looking at us, big game
30 hunters, green people, all kinds of them, you know. How
31 do you hunt them, you know, without harassing them?
32 That's impossible. I mean, when I go seal hunting, I
33 chase the seal until I get it. And if somebody comes by
34 and asks me, what's you doing? Well, I'm seal hunting.
35 Well, you're harassing it. Well, what's the difference
36 between harassing and seal hunting -- I mean, chasing it?
37 Some of these, I mean, if I try to explain this to old
38 folks over there, they'll throw me out. They say, hey,
39 you don't harass them, you hunt them.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You have to sneak up
42 to them.

43
44 MR. ABRAHAM: How do you sneak up to a
45 wolf? He knows you're there already. And in the word of
46 his, don't shoot the wolf while your machine is moving.
47 Have you ever tried that? I mean, chase a caribou and
48 then completely stop the snow machine and try shooting
49 it? I mean, by the time you, you know, kill your
50 machine, that thing's a long ways from you. A wolf is

1 twice as fast if he wants to.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, you know, you
4 kind of have to stop anyway, otherwise you're going to be
5 bouncing around, so you won't be able to aim at them.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: I think we're just about to
8 incriminate ourselves here. On record.
9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: You've got to be a Quick
11 Draw McGraw.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So, yeah, I don't know
14 what to do, you know. I think they let us hunt seals and
15 marine mammals.
16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, the thing is like
18 this here, things like this here, leave them the way they
19 are until somebody approaches us or somebody approach,
20 say, hey, what is this here, especially friends of the
21 animals and things like that. And you could modify it
22 from there. If it's doing a good job, if it's working,
23 don't try to fix it.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We'll move on.
26 12.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Would it be time to pull
29 that other proposal off the table?
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Which one? Is there
32 one on there?
33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, we tabled that
35 proposal yesterday. Could we.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Your.....
38
39 MR. O'HARA: Oh, okay. All right. Let's
40 do that. I'd make a motion that we take up Proposal No.,
41 what was that?
42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: 08.
44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: 8.
46
47 MR. O'HARA: 08.
48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me. WPF06-08.
50

1 MR. O'HARA: Okay. It's on the table.
2 Mr. Chairman. We have new paperwork on that.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What page is that?
5
6 MR. O'HARA: What page is it, Cliff?
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: Page 46 is the executive
9 summary. Mr. Chairman. Council members.
10
11 MR. ABRAHAM: Page what?
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: 46.
14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: 4-6.
16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Page 4 and 6.
18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: 46.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: They gave us some additional
22 information.
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman. Council
25 members. On Page 54 is the Council -- or, not the
26 Council, but the Staff analysis, OSM's justification for
27 supporting the proposal, the language that you guys were
28 discussing yesterday.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We have back on
31 the floor Proposal -- is that.....
32
33 MR. EDENSHAW: FP06-08.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 06-08, okay. Chignik
36 River subsistence. I can't find that language that we
37 got this morning.
38
39 MR. O'HARA: I may have taken your
40 language, I don't know.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: This one here?
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I've got one
45 right here. So is this satisfactory then?
46
47 MR. O'HARA: Maybe we can get a report
48 from the two dignitaries out here.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Jerry.

1 MR. BERG: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Yeah, if you look at the handout that Charlotte provided
3 from the Fish and Game comments, that's just a one-page
4 handout with FP06-08 right at the top in bold. There's
5 really two issues, and I think we were close to having it
6 settled yesterday, but that first paragraph is basically
7 their comment that we should make the change in the
8 actual regulation that would clarify the date from July
9 1st through August 31st instead of to August 31st. And
10 so I think that is a good change that I think we do need
11 to make. And so that would settle the first issue in the
12 first paragraph under their comments.

13
14 Now, the second issue in their second
15 paragraph is actually a comment regarding some wording I
16 put in the justification as to why we should make the
17 changes that we are, and it's the last paragraph on Page
18 49 under the justification. And it's just referring to
19 the closure within 300 feet of any weir. That's a
20 statewide regulation in both Federal and State
21 regulations. And I'm just making the comment there that
22 we may want to consider putting that regulation in the
23 Chignik area of our public book, and I put a couple of
24 public books up there in front of you. On Page 19 we
25 have, and I highlighted it in yellow there, what our
26 statewide regulation is, and so, you know, maybe it would
27 be up to the Council whether you think we ought to put
28 that -- you know, cut and paste that sentence, because
29 it's kind of hard to find. It took me a while to find
30 it, and I work with this stuff every day, so I don't know
31 if you guys think it's necessary to put that sentence in
32 the Chignik area just so people are aware of it. You
33 know, I was talking to Orville this morning and, you
34 know, he thinks that people in the Chignik area are
35 probably pretty much aware of it already, so, you know,
36 whether we need to put it in regulation or not, you know,
37 maybe Boris has some input on that, or just leave it
38 alone, because people already know about it, but, you
39 know, it's just -- it wouldn't change the regulation for
40 any action that's in front of you. It would just be a
41 matter of whether we just put it in our regulation -- in
42 our public booklet in another place or not. We're not
43 suggesting that we change the wording on it at all.

44
45 So that's all I have, Mr. Chair, at this
46 point. Thanks.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Any comment on
49 that?

50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.
4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, like you say, if it's
6 going, you know, why should -- I mean, you don't try to
7 fix something that's not broken. Leave it the way it is.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So the language, the
10 amended language, is that satisfactory to everybody?
11
12 MR. O'HARA: It is with me.
13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Boris, do you think
15 there needs to be anything in there about the weir?
16
17 MR. KOSBRUK: I never had no comments or
18 complaints about that.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: They do it every year. They
21 just do it every year down there.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Where are we on that
24 proposal? Did we ring that up yesterday?
25
26 MR. O'HARA: No, it was tabled, and then
27 now it's.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So we need to
30 move on the amended language now?
31
32 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Uh-huh.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So does anybody
35 want.....
36
37 MR. O'HARA: I don't think we even acted
38 on a proposal. We had some confusion on the wording, and
39 I made a motion that we table it until today, and so now
40 you've got to deal with the proposal.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So now we need --
43 somebody needs to move on the proposal.
44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: I move we adopt
46 Proposal FP06-08 as modified.
47
48 MR. O'HARA: Second.
49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Nanci moves, Dan
2 O'Hara seconds. Any more discussion on this proposal.
3
4 MR. O'HARA: Just that we're real clear
5 on 300 feet either way of that weir, that's perfectly
6 good. Okay.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: And then the language
9 through, what is it, August 31st, not to.
10
11 MR. BERG: Correct.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
14
15 MR. KOSBRUK: Mr. Chair. I've got a
16 question. Have you talked to Chignik group? ^Are you
17 from -l- where are you from?
18
19 MS. WESTING: Are you addressing me or
20 Jerry?
21
22 MR. BERG: I work in the OSM office out
23 of Anchorage, and Charlotte works for Fish and Game.
24
25 MR. KOSBRUK: Where at?
26
27 MR. BERG: Based here in Dillingham, but
28 she's been in contact with the managers down in Chignik.
29
30 MR. KOSBRUK: Okay. That's what I'm
31 asking.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
38 called for. All in favor of the modified proposal,
39 signify by saying aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
44
45 (No opposing votes)
46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Motion's
48 carried six-zero.
49
50 All right. 12. Fisheries Resource

1 Monitoring Program. A. Draft fisheries resource
2 monitoring plan.

3

4 MR. FRIED: Good morning. My name's
5 Steve Fried. I'm a fisheries biologist with U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management in
7 Anchorage, and I'm in the Fisheries Information Services
8 Division. And we administer what is called the Fisheries
9 Resource Monitoring Program.

10

11 If you turn to Page 57 I believe in your
12 books, that's where it begins, there's a picture, and
13 then 58, there's an introduction. And I'm not sure, did
14 you want me to give you any background on the program?
15 Does everybody understand what it basically does? Or do
16 you want me to take a few minutes or?

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Sure, take a few
19 minutes.

20

21 MR. FRIED: Okay. When the Federal
22 Government assumed management responsibility for
23 subsistence fisheries in 1999, it basically meant that we
24 might need some information to be able to manage those
25 fisheries. And so the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
26 Program was set up to both identify the information that
27 would be needed, and also to provide this information for
28 managing subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands.

29

30 And to implement the program, a
31 collaborative approach was utilized, and the five Federal
32 agencies involved in subsistence management were involved
33 with this. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land
34 Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian
35 Affairs, and also the Forest Service worked with the
36 State. And with the State, we primarily work with the
37 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and three divisions
38 within the Department: The Division of Subsistence, the
39 Division of Commercial Fisheries, and Division of Sport
40 Fish. And through this we've set up an interagency
41 technical review committee, and basically what they do is
42 provide technical oversight and evaluate study proposals,
43 not regulatory proposals, but proposals for studies that
44 would collect information that would be used to manage
45 Federal subsistence fisheries.

46

47 And to do this, it's a fairly formal
48 process. They have four major factors that they use to
49 evaluate proposals for studies. One of these is called
50 strategic priority, and the first thing they look at is,

1 you know, does the study really address a need for
2 Federal subsistence fisheries. There has to be a link to
3 Federal subsistence. And if there's not, then it's a
4 pretty easy decision, that we don't fund that study. If
5 there is some sort of a link, whether it's weak or
6 strong, they look at other things. You know, if there a
7 conservation problem. Is there an information need? Do
8 we really need more information? Is it an important
9 resource? Are local residents concerned about the
10 resource? You know, what's the problems here? That's
11 really all, and the strategic priority aspect of it.

12
13 The next thing they look at is basically
14 the technical/ scientific merit. You know, is the
15 proposal written and designed so that it actually looks
16 like it's going to be able to collect information, and
17 that the information that is collected, can it be
18 supported, you know. Is it correct analytical
19 procedures, appropriate sampling design, et cetera, et
20 cetera. And also there's a need for this information to
21 be made available to both the managers and, you know, the
22 general public, anybody else. It's a subsistence use
23 anybody needs. So there's always, you know, a need for
24 reporting and possibly even for oral presentations,
25 posters, things like that.

26
27 Another thing they look at is the
28 performance and administrative ability of the people that
29 are making the proposal, you know. Does the
30 investigator, does he have the training, the education,
31 the knowledge. Has he done this before. Does the agency
32 or organization he works for, can they support this? Can
33 they manage budget? Can they hire people? Can they do
34 the logistics and all that sort of stuff to make sure the
35 study can be done.

36
37 And the fourth thing that they look at is
38 what we call partnership capacity building, and it's
39 everything from making sure that these people consult
40 with the communities and local residents in the area to
41 make sure that it's okay to do the study, and, you know,
42 they can get some support for that. Anywhere to, you
43 know, hiring people in local areas to help with the
44 study, actually having a partner that would actually, you
45 know, help do the study, so it's not maybe just an agency
46 doing a study. You'll see them doing studies with maybe
47 Bristol Bay Native Association or even, you know, a
48 village corporation, or whatever, you know, another
49 agency to make sure that these local communities and
50 rural organizations and the residents actually can

1 participate in collecting information and have more --
2 actively participating in managing these fisheries.

3
4 So these are the four factors that go
5 into the review that this Technical Review Committee
6 does. And they also have some administrative guidelines
7 they have to follow, including most of the funding is
8 supposed to go to non-Federal sources. When they set the
9 program up, Congress wanted to make sure it wasn't just
10 going to be to make a bigger federal bureaucracy. They
11 wanted to make sure that the money was being used for
12 these other purposes.

13
14 There were certain activities that the
15 Federal Subsistence Board decided really weren't
16 appropriate for this program to fund, mostly because they
17 thought the land management agencies should do this.
18 It's a limited amount of money that we have, and they
19 wanted to make sure it was focused on collecting
20 information on Federal subsistence management. So things
21 like habitat protection, restoration, enhancement aren't
22 funded by the program. It doesn't mean we can't do a
23 study to, you know, look at the amount of spawning
24 habitat that's available, or rearing habitat or things
25 like that, but it's -- you know, it's not like we're
26 going to go in there and build a spawning channel or
27 things like that. That should be done by some other
28 agency through other programs that are available.

29
30 The same thing goes for, you know, fish
31 hatcheries, you know, propagation, restoration,
32 enhancement, supplementation. We don't fund things like
33 that through this program. It doesn't the information we
34 collect might not be useful to, you know, help another
35 program design that and actually do some of that stuff,
36 but we don't -- we won't provide money to build a
37 hatchery or to stock fish or to fertilize a lake.

38
39 The third thing was we don't fund
40 contaminant assessment, evaluation and monitoring. So we
41 don't do, you know, water pollution, heavy metals, that
42 sort of thing. There are other programs and other
43 agencies that do cover that.

44
45 The other guideline was we fund proposals
46 or not more than three years. And that's pretty standard
47 in most funding, you know, granting programs is that you
48 might fund a program for three years. That's a good time
49 to maybe step back, evaluate it, and maybe you fund it
50 for another one or two or three years, you know, and not

1 just fund something forever or for a longer term. Three
2 years seems to be a pretty reasonable time period.

3
4 When the program started in 2000, we
5 initially had \$5 million to spend on studies statewide,
6 and beginning in 2001, we had a total of six and a
7 quarter million dollars annually to spend for the
8 program. And fundings come through both Department of
9 Interior and also the Department of Agriculture, which is
10 what the Forest Service is with. All the other agencies
11 are under Interior. And this has been pretty level
12 funding. We've had this 6.25 million, you know, since
13 2001.

14
15 One thing to realize though, since we do
16 find studies for up to three years, that we don't have
17 \$6.25 million every year for new studies, because some of
18 that money's tied up in the second and third year of
19 other studies.

20
21 There's basically two types of studies we
22 identified when we started. One was called stock status
23 and trends, the basic biological studies. Fish
24 assessment, timing of runs, things like that. And the
25 other one is -- the other data type is harvest monitoring
26 and traditional ecological knowledge.

27
28 For 2006, there's a table on Page 60, and
29 you can see that in the last column there's a total of
30 one and a quarter million dollars this year that was --
31 in 2006 that will be available for studies. So out of
32 that 6.25, there's \$5 million already allocated for on-
33 going studies, so there's only 1.25 left for new ones
34 that we can look at. That's a statewide basis.

35
36 There's some other tables on Page 61,
37 tables 2 and tables 3 that show, you know, how many study
38 investigation plans were received, and what it would cost
39 to fund them, where they were in the region, and I'll go
40 into more detail about this region after this. I was
41 going to -- if anybody has any question just in general
42 about the program, I can take those now before I go into
43 details about southwest region.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: So Bristol Bay has 165,000,
46 and 55,000 remaining? On Page 60.

47
48 MR. FRIED: Yeah, if you look at
49 southwest, actually Bristol Bay has -- yeah. Well,
50 that's just -- yeah, because it all comes from Interior,

1 so that's basically what it is, for a total of \$165,000
2 for all studies.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: Okay.

5

6 MR. FRIED: And if you look at the
7 initial guidelines for stock status and trends versus
8 harvest monitoring, TEK, then, you know, the split would
9 be 110 and 55, but that's just a starting point. It
10 doesn't mean that -- depending on what kind of proposals
11 you get, that can change. But there were some concern by
12 the Board that at least when you started, that there was
13 some sort of general allocation by region based on the
14 complexity of the fisheries and the problems in each
15 reason, and also the fact that we should make sure that
16 -- you know, we need to fund a variety of studies, and
17 not just put all our money in one type of study, so it's
18 a guideline. It's not something that has to be met, so
19 that after you fund studies, you have to make sure that
20 there's exactly this percentage every place, but it's
21 just a starting point.

22

23 And Page 62 I guess one other thing to
24 look at is that pie chart. If in fact the Technical
25 Review Committee recommendation for 2006 were followed,
26 you could see that 45 percent of the monies would go to
27 Alaska native organizations, 31 percent would go to the
28 State, and the remaining 24 percent would go to Federal
29 agencies to conduct studies.

30

31 Okay. Well, as far as the southwest
32 region goes, southwest region actually has lands that are
33 within the purview of two Regional Advisory Councils.
34 One is this Council, the Bristol Bay, Chignik Council, or
35 the Bristol Bay, Chignik area, and then there's a Kodiak
36 Aleutians Council. And so that's called the southwest
37 region, and they get one allocation.

38

39 For the 2006 call, there are actually two
40 issues that we indicated we'd particularly like to see
41 proposals address. One was sockeye salmon smolt
42 assessment for Lake Clark, and the other one was changing
43 patterns in subsistence salmon harvest. And that was the
44 two issues for southwest that seemed to rise to the top
45 for 2006.

46

47 We actually got nine proposals, and none
48 of them addressed any harvest monitoring, TEK issues. I
49 mean, we had no proposals that addressed this changing
50 patterns of subsistence salmon harvest. Just nobody sent

1 any in. All we had were stock status and trend
2 proposals.

3
4 And we actually did get proposals for
5 Lake Clark smolt and some other issues. And the
6 Technical Committee reviewed the proposals. They
7 actually forwarded two for further consideration for a
8 more detailed proposal, called an investigation plan.
9 And one of those was a Lake Clark smolt proposal, and the
10 other one had to do with basically Perryville coho
11 salmon.

12
13 There are actually 11 studies that are
14 on-going in this region, so I mean it's not a real total
15 disaster that we didn't get more proposals this year. We
16 didn't have much money to fund proposals anyway, but Page
17 65, there's a list of the on-going proposals. There's 11
18 proposals, and I believe six of these are actually in the
19 Bristol Bay or Chignik area, you know, anything from Lake
20 Clark sockeye salmon run timing. We've got a study on
21 sharing, bartering, trading of fish resources within
22 Bristol Bay. So there's a number of studies that are on-
23 going already. And there's some more detail on that on
24 Pages 66, 67 if somebody wanted to, you know, look at
25 that. There's, you know, the funding that's available
26 each year for those studies. I'm not going to go into
27 that.

28
29 When it came time to get the
30 investigation plans, unfortunately the investigators that
31 were going to do the Lake Clark smolt study pulled
32 theirs, because that study was based on -- the Department
33 of Fish and Game has been conducting a smolt assessment
34 study in the Kvichak River for quite a long time. It's
35 using hydroacoustic, sonar gear. And what happened was
36 they lost their funding to do that, and what we were
37 going to do was provide them additional funding to look
38 at the smolt samples they got, to do genetic mixed-stock
39 analysis. And so what we've have was a total smolt
40 estimate for what was coming out of the entire Kvichak
41 system, which would include both Lake Clark and Iliamna,
42 and then we'd be able to break that up into what was
43 produced within Lake Clark, and what was produced within
44 Iliamna, because based on some information we have on the
45 adult genetics, those two -- the populations spawning in
46 those two lake basins are very easy to differentiate very
47 clearly by, you know, the genetic information they've
48 got. But unfortunately without a Kvichak smolt project,
49 you can't do that, because we don't have a total
50 estimate. So all the Department is doing I think is

1 occasionally going in and maybe taking some smolt samples
2 I think with a fike net, but they're not getting a total
3 estimate of what's going out, so they withdrew it. They
4 didn't even put a proposal in, which was kind of
5 unfortunate, because that was actually a very -- a topic
6 that was of great interest to this Council.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You're talking about
9 Lake Clark smolt?
10
11 MR. FRIED: Right.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: They don't have
14 proper.....
15
16 MR. FRIED: We've never had a Lake Clark
17 smolt project.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. So they've been
20 using a Fike net?
21
22 MR. FRIED:but we did have that one
23 for the total drainage at the -- you know, in the Kvichak
24 River. And now we don't have that either evidently. And
25 that was a problem we kind of were aware of when we asked
26 for this proposal. And talking to the Department of Fish
27 and Game investigators that were doing the Lake Clark --
28 the Kvichak smolt study at that time, they weren't sure.
29 They were kind of hopeful they'd have funding, and I
30 guess now they don't.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm pretty sure that
33 either last year was the last year or the year before
34 that was the last year they did smolt in Egegik, and.....
35
36 MR. O'HARA: The out-migration?
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, the out-
39 migration.
40
41 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I don't know if they
42 did it this last season. I don't think they did.
43
44 MR. O'HARA: Yes, they did. They did.
45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I looks like somebody knows
47 out there. Fish and Game.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Charlotte.
50

1 MS. WESTING: Charlotte Westing with the
2 Department of Fish and Game. This year the smolt project
3 was not using a sonar. It was doing visual estimates and
4 sampling of the smolt, but the sonar techniques there
5 have been abandoned at least temporarily, because of
6 technical difficulties that they've experienced. It's a
7 hugely expensive project and the information that they're
8 getting, basically nobody believes in, because they're
9 just having so many problems with the different sonar
10 technology that they've tried to use there.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. They wanted to
13 change the -- what -- the equipment to do smolt count,
14 because the other, old equipment to my understanding,
15 they don't think they were getting an accurate count,
16 because they thought in recent years that the Kvichak
17 smolt out-migration was so high some years, they thought
18 maybe they were counting bubbles, because what was coming
19 back during our low years didn't really -- didn't look
20 like they were getting a good accurate count of what was
21 going out, because what was coming back as adults wasn't
22 -- was barely enough for escapement, so they were
23 wondering that if their smolt out-migration was accurate
24 with the old equipment. And they thought maybe they
25 might have been counting air bubbles from what
26 information I got.

27
28 So I think they're trying to put in some
29 new equipment, and you're saying that they're having
30 problems with it?

31
32 MS. WESTING: It's not -- the different
33 techniques they've tried aren't really improving the data
34 that they're getting. It's going to be readdressed this
35 year, because their efforts this year were not really
36 productive either, so we're probably going to reassess
37 the sonar situation and just reevaluate what we want to
38 do there, because visual estimates and just sampling of
39 smolt isn't giving us information that people are
40 confident in either, so it's a moving target. They're
41 trying to figure out what we need to do, but at this time
42 we don't know.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know. I live in
45 Egegik. You know, some years the smolt are going out
46 with the ice, and they can't count, so, you know, and
47 then when they do finally start counting, as soon as they
48 get the counting started, they're at their peak, so it's
49 -- or close to the peak, so it's really -- if you don't
50 -- if you start counting sometime in the middle of the

1 out-migration, you're not getting a very good count of
2 what really went out, so it's -- in my opinion, it wasn't
3 doing much good.

4
5 Dan.

6
7 MR. O'HARA: Well, I think that's one of
8 the things, you know, we fly your people up there on a
9 charter usually, and Randy mentioned a key point. One is
10 the ice is flowing and you're not going to get a good
11 count, and then sometimes they're too late when they get
12 there, because they may go a little early. And so I
13 think a better technique coming up would be more
14 favorable somewhere along the line.

15
16 And, you know, the Kvichak come back
17 fairly well this year. We must have got close to 6
18 million.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Total?

21
22 MR. O'HARA: Total. Close to six million
23 I would imagine in the way of -- back into your
24 escapement.

25
26 MS. WESTING: Well, the goal for this
27 year was two million.

28
29 MR. O'HARA: And they were way over that.

30
31 MS. WESTING: I have the information, I
32 can look at exactly what it was.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. I know this
35 year.....

36
37 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. In other words, this
38 is one of the -- this is the first year in six years that
39 they've had a harvest in Bristol Bay, and everyone has
40 been pulled into the place where there wasn't -- not even
41 -- I don't think Area M was even doing much damage,
42 because the fish had a different migration route. And,
43 Steve, we still hadn't come back. But this year, there
44 was a harvest and then there was an escapement.

45
46 MR. FRIED: Yeah. Of course, 2005
47 traditionally was a peak year, so it's still pretty grim.

48
49
50 MS. WESTING: A peak year.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you have a -- what
2 was the total escapement?
3
4 MS. WESTING: Escapement in the Kvichak
5 River was 2.3 million.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 2.3.
8
9 MS. WESTING: Uh-huh. But if it was.....
10
11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And that was.....
12
13 MS. WESTING:I mean that's where
14 the -- some people think it should have been a peak year,
15 in which case the escapement should have been six, in
16 which case we would have fallen short from that. But
17 since it was downgraded to an off-cycle year, the 2.3
18 million is gauged as a.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: When was this.....
21
22 MR. FRIED: We've got no more pre-peak
23 and peak. We've got five off-cycle years.
24
25 MS. WESTING: Right.
26
27 MR. FRIED: Isn't that wonderful.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, we have -- I
30 think we still have the pre-peak, that they've been
31 calling a peak. Last year they wanted six million, and
32 ended up with 5.5 during the pre-peak. Now I talked to
33 Slim over in King Salmon. He says, well, now they're
34 looking at that as a peak year. But the smolt was 2. --
35 or the escapement was 2.3 million escapement. That was
36 -- when did they count 'til?
37
38 MS. WESTING: I'm not sure. They always
39 count to pretty much the same time period. There was
40 nothing abnormal about the counting period that they.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And I know that -- I
43 commercial fish, and I'm mainly a Naknek/Kvichak
44 fisherman, and this was the first year we've had a
45 fishery over in the Kvichak side in about 10 years, and I
46 know it's been about 10 years since the Kvichak run has
47 been more than what the Department had forecasted, so it
48 looks promising, you know. I hope it stays that way.
49 It's been -- you know, as I was saying, it's been about
50 10 years since it's been more, and, you know, in the past

1 it's -- the forecast has always been too high for the
2 Kvichak, so I hope it -- we're on a trend here.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: Nanci had a question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Nanci.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Steve, back to
9 your report, and to Charlotte's report of how things are
10 going with their efforts. Just personally, I would
11 really like to see that proposal that you had ready to go
12 this year at least kept on a back burner so that if they
13 can come up with some sort of a smolt count that people
14 can work with, and they can have some sort of confidence
15 in, I think that that's a heck of a good idea for a
16 study, and I would encourage you to keep it handy at all
17 times so that perhaps when they are able to implement a
18 smolt study that you can join in with them on, we
19 could.....

20

21 MR. FRIED: Oh, yeah, we've encouraged
22 them to consider that.

23

24 MS. MORRIS LYON: Good.

25

26 MS. WESTING: I think the situation that
27 the State was in when this project was abandoned is we're
28 in a climate of a declining budget, and here's a project
29 that is chronically giving us impaired data that nobody
30 believes in anyways. So when you have a project like
31 that, it's the first to go. But recognizing this year
32 that our attempts to still collect some kind of
33 information without a sonar, any kind of sonar smolt
34 project, just didn't work. They will definitely be
35 reassessing that, but I'm not real optimistic in the
36 budget climate that we're working in, but we'll see.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

39

40 MR. O'HARA: I think one of the things
41 that the State of Alaska probably doesn't rely on, and
42 they don't have to, is the local knowledge or what
43 they're seeing in the streams and in their subsistence
44 catching in Newhalen, Iliamna, Pedro Bay, Kakhonak, and
45 Nondalton is a separate escapement. But there's just a
46 huge amount of fish up -- not so much in Pedro Bay, but
47 at Kakhonak gets a tremendous amount of fish come
48 through. And a lot of fish went to Lower Talarik
49 district. We fly almost every day. We talk to those
50 people at least once a week. We know what they're

1 talking about, and when they had to go from Iliamna down
2 to the Newhalen River with their subsistence nets and
3 start getting into someone else's subsistence area, which
4 is not a good thing, and then this year all of a sudden
5 the fish were everywhere.

6
7 And then you take someone like George
8 Riddle and Ryan -- what's the guy's name there at
9 the.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Kraft.

12
13 MR. O'HARA: Kraft, yeah. And the 23rd
14 of July they see this huge amount of reds going through
15 like after the -- your counting is probably out of there
16 on the 13th or 14th. You can look at it, but they
17 weren't counting at that time, so I don't think they have
18 an accurate number on what went up there in the way of
19 escapement, but what we saw, or what we heard, we liked
20 way better than what's ever happened.

21
22 MR. FRIED: Lake Clark's been improving
23 for escapement. It's Iliamna that it's not looking very
24 good.

25
26 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, you did really well
27 this year. In fact, several year you've done well where
28 the Lake hasn't.

29
30 MR. FRIED: Yeah. Right.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think what is it,
33 Lake Clark, 4.5 -- 155,000 or something like that this
34 year?

35
36 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I think it was 400 some
37 odd thousand. I can't remember the exact number, but,
38 yeah, it was somewhere in there.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.

41
42 MR. O'HARA: When did they leave?

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And normally they need
45 about 10 percent of the Iliamna drainage escapement,
46 isn't that -- I think that's how they figure that out.

47
48 MR. FRIED: Long term, yeah, it's
49 somewhere.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It's about 200,000
2 minimum, and the minimum escapement for the Iliamna
3 system is 2 million, so that's about 10 percent, and this
4 year they got 450,000, and they got more than 10 percent
5 there.
6
7 MR. FRIED: Right, the monitoring program
8 has been funding the tower for counting escapement into
9 Lake Clark for several years, and that one -- since we've
10 been funding it, we can see an increase, so that's been
11 nice.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: One of the studies
14 you're doing here is the Lake Clark run timing.
15
16 MR. FRIED: Right.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you have any
19 information on that?
20
21 MR. FRIED: Not yet.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Dan.
24
25 MR. FRIED: That's basically was going --
26 it's similar to what we were going to do with smolt. We
27 started out, we wanted samples from the fishery, and then
28 we moved up to the test fishery, and now we're up at the
29 tower where we're actually getting the samples, and it's
30 basically based on taking -- they have ASL sampling where
31 they sample for age, length, sex, and they're also
32 taking.....
33
34 MR. O'HARA: What's ASL?
35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Age, sex, length.
37
38 MR. FRIED:fin snip, and we're
39 using the genetics to separate the Lake Clark from the
40 Lake Iliamna stocks. And as I said, they're pretty easy
41 to identify, so -- and we're looking at the timing.
42 Hopefully we're -- you know, first we're going to look at
43 the timing in the fishery, and then it was at the test
44 fish site below Levelock, and now we're at the tower.
45 But it's still going to give us an idea of, you know, do
46 Lake Clark stocks come in earlier than Iliamna, or are
47 they -- is there any kind of pattern, which might help
48 management.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. Dan.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Just kind of back to
2 comment on the Kvichak smolt and Lake Clark smolt. I
3 hope that the State will see it as a priority to find a
4 new way to enumerate smolt. I have to agree that the old
5 program was becoming increasingly questionable. I know I
6 was -- when I was working, I was starting to see more and
7 more waffle words around every year's smolt counts, and
8 it just got to be an awful lot of supposition, not to,
9 you know, impugn or discredit the guys working on it. I
10 know they work them as hard as they could, but it was
11 making me more and more uncomfortable.

12
13 But now let's not relax because we had
14 one kind of decent year of escapement, which also I'd
15 like to almost formally request the Department of Fish
16 and Game to lay out their whole rationalization on -- or
17 their whole rationale on declaring 2005 no longer a peak
18 year. I would like to see that rigorously presented and
19 available for rigorous debate on the whole -- in a peer
20 level scientific community discussion. But I don't want
21 to be lulled by one, like I say, half-way decent year of
22 escapement. Or even if we have several years of decent
23 escapement. We've got other issues brewing big time in
24 the Kvichak/Iliamna drainage. We're talking mine
25 development and there's tremendous amount of impacts
26 coming if this happens with roads and mines and all --
27 whatever else comes with it.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Habitat removal.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. There's -- and so
32 I'm wondering if a smolt program that's -- it's going to
33 be hard. You don't -- you've lost apparently that whole
34 historic data base, but I hope the State sees it as a
35 priority to get something -- some replacement program in
36 place to not only address just our concerns about the
37 sockeye run, but might be another means of assessing the
38 impact of future development.

39
40 So, Charlotte, you're one of the few Lone
41 Rangers from the State. I really would like to see more
42 participation from Fish and Game, but thank you for being
43 here.

44
45 But I just kind of had to say that piece,
46 because I think that genetic thing sounded like an
47 exciting way to explore it if we had the background
48 information to make it work. And I don't know if the
49 Feds can help that along. If we can, I sure would like
50 to see it for many reasons.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: In my opinion, the
2 genetics is the future of this -- of predicting what's
3 coming back, especially to individual river systems that
4 are going to be experiencing low -- you know, the low
5 runs, and if we know what's coming back down at Port
6 Moller or for Bristol Bay, if there's going to be certain
7 areas that aren't -- doesn't look good, you could kind of
8 be protecting those fish until they get back to where
9 they belong, and with genetics, it's the only way where
10 you could tell what's going on, and I think that's going
11 to be the future.

12
13 Charlotte.

14
15 MS. WESTING: Well, and I think the
16 Department agrees that genetics are the future and that's
17 part of our funding problem. I mean, this year we've
18 spent a lot more energy and resources investigating
19 genetic stock composition in different areas of Bristol
20 Bay, and that is draining funds that we previously would
21 have had for other things. So, you know, we're in the
22 conundrum that we have if we're looking at tools that we
23 use to actively manage the stocks versus, you know, with
24 the smolt program, it's interesting information.
25 Hopefully we could do something with it eventually, but
26 at the time, we hadn't found a way to manage using that
27 information, so if you're weighing management tools
28 against, you know, tools that could answer questions for
29 us, but don't have immediate management applications, the
30 ones with management applications are going to win out in
31 a hostile budget environment.

32
33 MR. O'HARA: So you were a Lone Ranger.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: So, but if the Federal
36 subsistence can somehow even help develop the new smolt
37 program, I know it gets kind of far afield in the
38 jurisdiction, but I'd sure like to see it.

39
40 MR. FRIED: Well, I had mentioned that to
41 Lowell Fair when we talked about that, that, you know, if
42 they could think of even -- you know, if we could provide
43 some funding, they could provide some -- maybe they could
44 find another source, too, and maybe you know, that way we
45 could get something going.

46
47 MR. O'HARA: If Carl Moses wouldn't take
48 a nap in the afternoon, we'd probably have some
49 additional funding.

50

1 MR. FRIED: But, anyway, that was a
2 proposal, I thought we were going to be getting
3 somewhere, and then unfortunately, you know, that funding
4 happened, so, you know, it didn't get enough funding.
5 And the Department's funding's been declining or a long
6 time, since probably about 1985 from the general fund for
7 commercial fisheries.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Charlotte.

10
11 MS. WESTING: I could also answer a
12 couple questions that have come up in this discussion.
13 I'm not exactly sure how late the Kvichak tower counted
14 this year, but I know that last year it counted through
15 July 22nd, and it will always be pretty close to that
16 time period based on run timing. They'll keep them
17 counting a little bit later if they think it's late run
18 timing. They may pull the project or the project in
19 earlier if they feel that it might be early run timing.

20
21 Additionally, in response to Dan's
22 comment about the change to a peak -- from a peak cycle
23 year to an off-cycle year, I agree, we should definitely
24 apply decisions like that to a rigorous peer review.
25 I've talked with Lowell about it myself, and his
26 justification was basically that based on the return that
27 came back in the parent year for this year, we couldn't
28 expect a return that would reflect a peak year from that,
29 and that was why his forecast was as such, and -- but
30 definitely I think we should put those to rigorous peer
31 review, and hopefully that will happen in the future with
32 changes like that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

35
36 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. One of
37 the things that, you know, we've talked about, and Slim
38 down at King Salmon agrees, that there should be some
39 study at the Levelock area where the smolt start going
40 out, because once they get into the upper Bristol Bay,
41 they're going to mingle with all the other smolt that are
42 going somewhere. And if they could identify some way
43 those smolt going out of the Kvichak, kind of follow them
44 or trail coming back, and a fingerprint or something
45 that's going on. And that would be quite an undertaking.
46 It probably would be a lot more accurate to figure out --
47 I mean, to try to figure out if they're -- why they're
48 coming back or why they're not coming back, but there
49 again it's a big money issue, and how to do it, it's just
50 a huge thing.

1 MR. FRIED: Actually I think National
2 Marine Fisheries Service has been doing some smolt
3 studies out in the marine environment, trying to do just
4 that.
5
6 MR. O'HARA: How do.....
7
8 MR. FRIED: I think Ed Farliegh down at
9 Auke Bay has been working on smolt.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Where are they doing this?
12
13 MR. FRIED: I think it's been along
14 Alaska Peninsula. They've got some cruises from an
15 oceanographic vessel, and they've been collecting samples
16 of -- trying to collect samples of juveniles, and I'm not
17 sure how successful they've been, but I know they've got
18 some, you know, attempts to do just that. And one of the
19 problems is trying to identify the different stocks.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: Well, you'd have.....
22
23 MR. FRIED: And so I think that's where
24 the interest is on making sure you've got a good genetic
25 baseline, because I think that's what they're looking at
26 to eventually use.
27
28 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, you'd have to be doing
29 -- you know, on the Kvichak stock as it comes out, or it
30 mingles immediately and you can't tell one from the
31 other.
32
33 MR. FRIED: Well, unless there's a
34 genetic -- you know, unless you can use genetics to do
35 mixed stock analysis, if they look different enough
36 genetically, then, yeah, you can do that. Unless you
37 mark them, or -- which is a whole different set of
38 problems, but there is some attempts at least to look at
39 that early marine life history.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: One thing, too, that
44 -- you know, there is an issue with the belugas down in
45 the lower end of the Kvichak when the smolt come out, you
46 know. There are people that think that belugas take a
47 big piece of the whole pie of the smolt that come out
48 down there, and there's a program.....
49
50 MR. FRIED: Well, belugas are fish

1 eaters. That's what they do, yeah. They've been there
2 for a long time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm on another board.
5 I'm on -- for BBNA, I'm on the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal
6 Council, and we've been working -- BBNA has been working
7 with the State of Alaska, with Lori Crackenbush (ph),
8 we've been tagging some belugas in the springtime for
9 three -- let's see, last year they took biopsies. They
10 used a harpoon with a little -- it took a little plug out
11 of the hide, and trying to do some genetics or identify
12 them I guess, but before that they'd tag them for two
13 years in a row. And they got funding to do that, and
14 permits, and they were trying to monitor how many --
15 where they were going and how many there were, and they
16 were -- they did a good job of monitoring their movement
17 from -- of those belugas that they did tag, but my main
18 concern yet was I didn't think they were doing a very
19 good population assessment and of counting. And, you
20 know, from going to meetings with the Togiak National
21 Refuge people, you know, and they have a real accurate
22 number of how many seals there are in Bristol Bay,
23 because they haul out, and walruses, but with belugas,
24 they don't haul out.

25

26 And belugas, they're only up or about a
27 second every, you know, 15 -- it all depends what they're
28 doing I guess as to how often they come up, and my
29 argument with their counting, their estimate for how many
30 belugas are in the lower Kvichak when the smolt come out
31 is -- they -- I think they're grossly underestimating how
32 many really are there, and they told me, they told us
33 that the equation for counting is they were doing aerial
34 surveys, pictures, and counting they saw and multiplying
35 it by 2.75. Well, that doesn't sound right to me,
36 because a beluga stays down longer than 2.75 seconds, so
37 if they.....

38

39 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it should at least 2.8,
40 right?

41

42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So if they saw 100,
43 they're only seeing belugas that are on the surface, you
44 know, and in my opinion they stay down a long time. And
45 most -- a majority of the belugas are underwater, so
46 they're multiplying it by 2.75 in my opinion was -- I
47 don't think their population assessment was very
48 accurate, and I told them, we need -- they need -- I
49 didn't think it was, because people flying around in
50 airplanes at low water in the lower Kvichak could see a

1 lot more than what they estimated, around 300 belugas.
2 And some people figured there might even be 1,000 there
3 at some time, because they seem to be all concentrated at
4 the lower end of the Kvichak when the Kvichak smolt come
5 out, because there's so many have been coming out, you
6 know, and you've got the biggest -- the most smolt of any
7 river system coming out a few days. It's the place to be
8 if you're a beluga.

9
10 MR. FRIED: Not for the last five, six
11 years probably.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And a lot of people
14 think they're -- so they think that they're -- that's one
15 of the reasons why the Kvichak was having some down years
16 is because of the belugas. And you know how they feel
17 about harassing the marine mammals. It's hard to do
18 anything with that.

19
20 MR. FRIED: Well, they tried those
21 beluga-spookers, but then, you know, they just -- the
22 belugas finally realized it was just.....

23
24 MR. O'HARA: No, a judge said we couldn't
25 do it, and not to bring it up again.

26
27 MR. FRIED: Yeah, and then they weren't
28 working very well either, so.....

29
30 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yes, they were working.
31 They were working.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes, they were. Don
34 Bill had said they worked fine.

35
36 MR. O'HARA: But the greenies said no.
37 Yesiree.

38
39 MR. FRIED: After a while the belugas
40 acclimated themselves to it.

41
42 MR. O'HARA: We've gone to court on that
43 issue.

44
45 MR. FRIED: What?

46
47 MR. O'HARA: We've gone to court, we've
48 gone to the judge, and he said he would not bring it back
49 up again.

50

1 MR. FRIED: Oh, I know that, but there
2 were some problems with them anyway after a while. The
3 belugas, you know, there weren't any killer whales, and
4 they finally, you know, were smart enough to realize
5 that.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Be careful what you sound
8 like now.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But, yeah, and so I --
13 it is a -- I think most people think that the belugas are
14 one of the major problems with that.
15
16 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Steve, one of
17 the things that happens is when the out-migration of
18 smolt takes place, they're there. And then they go away.
19 They go to Dillingham, and that -- you saw that on the
20 trends that a lady did for us. And then on the 4th of
21 July when the fish starts coming back, they're back at
22 Copenhagen and King Salmon Creek, Graveyard, Diamond J.
23 You can see for miles just nothing but whitecaps of them.
24
25 MR. FRIED: Well, they don't just eat the
26 smolt, they're eating.....
27
28 MR. O'HARA: And they're catching
29 them.....
30
31 MR. FRIED:they eat the adults,
32 too, so.....
33
34 MR. O'HARA:the ones going into the
35 river.
36
37 MR. FRIED: Yeah.
38
39 MR. O'HARA: I mean, they're coming back
40 to the lake there taking your harvest.
41
42 MR. FRIED: And they eat smelt, and they
43 -- yeah, they're just fish eaters. Yeah.
44
45 MR. O'HARA: Jim Brooks did a study on
46 the number of adult salmon in a beluga, and it's
47 horrendous. Anyway, we'd better carry on here, we're
48 getting sidetracked.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, we are.

1 MR. FRIED: Yeah, belugas, beavers,
2 wolves.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Steve, can you
5 continue.
6
7 MR. FRIED: Anyway, so we don't have a
8 smolt project to even consider.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: After all that, you don't
11 have a smolt project.
12
13 MR. FRIED: And Kara Woody had put in a
14 proposal to do a smolt project up at Lake Clark, but we
15 thought, you know, why spend a lot of money buying sonar
16 equipment, trying to do that at Lake Clark, when we
17 already had a program in the water, but it didn't turn out
18 that way, so -- it would still be better off doing it at
19 the bottom of the system than just trying to do it at
20 Lake Clark. Anyway.
21
22 So the one proposal that actually we have
23 an investigation plan for is one for coho salmon stock
24 assessment in the streams around Perryville.
25
26 MR. O'HARA: And what page is that on?
27 Is that 67 or 66?
28
29 MR. FRIED: There's actually a
30 description, the best description of it is on Page 70 and
31 71 and 72. That's kind of the summary for it.
32
33 We're already funding helicopter surveys
34 in all those -- in a lot of these streams that they
35 suggested doing this work in. On top of that we've done
36 a similar study on the Kametolook, the Long Beach, and
37 the Three Star River right around Perryville, where they
38 went in, assessed the habitat for rearing, and spawning
39 and there really weren't enough juveniles to do the
40 juvenile assessment but, you know, trying to get some
41 idea of what they might be capable of producing. And
42 this was to sort of take that and look at these other
43 systems, look at potential production in the Smoky Hollow
44 Creek, and Ivanof River, Red Bluff, Ivan River, another
45 creek that drained into Humpback Bay, and they were going
46 to go in there and again estimate, you know, the types of
47 habitat, and how much was available possibly for, you
48 know, rearing fish, and for spawning fish, and things
49 like that.
50

1 And they had a model based on stream
2 length that was published several years ago that would
3 predict the average coho production per kilometer of
4 stream and things like that. But there's actually --
5 when the Technical Review Committee looked at this, and
6 they had some problems with the original proposal, and
7 they looked at it again, they still thought there was
8 some technical issues involved in this, and that they
9 really didn't know whether or not it was possible with
10 what was being proposed to actually find out if these
11 estimates really were reasonable, and whether or not, you
12 know, these models really work. They took a look at some
13 estimates from Southeast and the length of those streams
14 and looked at that in the model, and thought that the
15 model was really grossly underestimating what those
16 streams were actually producing based on mark/recapture
17 studies. And the bottom line was that the TRC doesn't
18 recommend this one for funding in, you know, 2006.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, Dan.

23

24 MR. O'HARA: Boris and I both know that,
25 you know, if you had eight horses and you took them out
26 to pasture, and you shot seven of them out there, and
27 brought one back to the barn, it doesn't there's anything
28 wrong with the barn. Now, you guys don't look at the
29 Capes. And you didn't even -- you know, the State of
30 Alaska guy didn't even have a fishery in Chigniks for the
31 second run, because somewhere else they caught the fish.

32

33 MR. FRIED: Oh, you mean interception of
34 the Cape fisheries.

35

36 MR. O'HARA: It's called the Cape
37 fishery, Area M. Pretty simple.

38

39 MR. FRIED: For coho.

40

41 MR. O'HARA: Absolutely.

42

43 MR. FRIED: Because I actually called up
44 and spoke to some of the managers down there, and they
45 said that the coho catches on all these Cape fisheries
46 actually has been way down. There's not the effort any
47 more in those areas that there used to be.

48

49 MR. O'HARA: No, I guess when you've
50 killed off the escapement.....

1 MR. FRIED: So that's what I.....
2
3 MR. O'HARA:you know, you don't
4 have any fish left.....
5
6 MR. FRIED: That's the information I've
7 gotten.
8
9 MR. O'HARA:and that kind of works
10 that way, too.
11
12 MR. FRIED: But these other streams seem
13 to be in fairly good condition from the aerial surveys.
14 I mean, they're seeing fair numbers of spawners, and we
15 all know that that's just a minimum. I mean, it's really
16 the three systems right around Perryville that are really
17 in the worse shape. Even Kametolook looked a little bit
18 better. I think last year it has some better escapement.
19 The other two didn't, but what the concern behind this
20 one was is because fishermen have moved away from these
21 other three systems, and now they're going farther afield
22 to harvest, you know, coho for subsistence, that they
23 just want to make sure the same thing that happened to
24 Kametolook, which they think was actually just
25 overharvest for several years, doesn't happen in these
26 other ones. So as long as the effort's spread out, I
27 don't think the managers are too concerned with that
28 level of harvest, but they really, you know, wanted to
29 get a better handle on what those systems could produce,
30 but the TRC technically had some problems with trying to
31 do it this way.
32
33 So they suggested, you know, that maybe
34 they should take a look at this and resubmit it in 2007
35 with an improved design and improved objectives. They
36 really wanted this -- the thing, too, they wanted the
37 objectives more -- focuses much more on the management
38 aspects, too, to make sure that there really was, you
39 know, a more direct link of how this information was
40 going to feed into management. So they -- but they just
41 thought there were too many problems with the particular
42 investigation plan to just say, well, let's fund them
43 with modification. They really wanted the managers to go
44 back and just redo the whole thing.
45
46 But, you know, that was the only
47 investigation plan for this entire southwest region, so I
48 mean I guess the only thing the Council can do at this
49 point would be to either agree with or disagree with the
50 TRC recommendation for not funding, you know, project 06-

1 043 for coho, Perryville.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Would there be any
6 potential at this date to have -- request the
7 investigator, the proposer here work with TRC to address
8 their concerns and try to move it forward? I know Boris
9 has been real concerned down there, and it's the only one
10 out there. I kind of hate to have no projects.
11
12 MR. FRIED: Like I say, what they're
13 doing -- well, there is. There's the helicopter surveys.
14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I guess.....
16
17 MR. FRIED: And there was a U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service representative on the TRC and he kind of
19 agreed that he would -- he kind of apologized he didn't
20 work more closely with these investigators to make this a
21 better one, and he basically agreed with the rest of the
22 TRC that it really needed a big overhaul and probably
23 should be not recommended for funding so that's all I can
24 say. But you can still -- you know, as far as you're --
25 you don't have to agree with that. I mean, you can
26 recommend that this be funded with modification, and then
27 the Board's going to have to untangle whether -- you
28 know, it will be a nonconsent agenda item at the Board
29 meeting.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, if it would be too
32 much of a snarl to try to say ram it through now, it
33 would be one thing, but if it's a matter of some minor
34 modifications.....
35
36 MR. FRIED: Yeah, the TRC did not think
37 it was just minor modifications.
38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. I guess.....
40
41 MR. FRIED: They thought there were some
42 more major problems with it, so that was their opinion.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Boris.
45
46 MR. KOSBRUK: You said a helicopter
47 survey was conducted?
48
49 MR. FRIED: Oh, they've been doing
50 helicopter surveys for several years, yeah. And we're

1 still funding them.
2
3 MR. KOSBRUK: Okay. Because there's --
4 as I left a week ago, they were just starting to come in.
5 The silvers.
6
7 MR. FRIED: Yeah, and they usually -- I
8 think they do them in like October and November. I think
9 there's two windows that they survey. And it's hard
10 because of the weather, too.
11
12 MR. KOSBRUK: And it was the first time
13 we see returns since 10, 12 years. Silvers.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Boris, that was this
16 year they had.....
17
18 MR. KOSBRUK: This year.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:some good return
21 down there did you say?
22
23 MR. KOSBRUK: We see them, yes. They're
24 jumping pretty good out front and they seen them going up
25 river.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know this year there
28 was a pretty good silver return on this side of the coast
29 from -- you know, from Port Heiden and especially Ugashik
30 and Cinder, even Egegik was a lot of silvers this year.
31 They were -- the guys that were fishing I guess did
32 really well. And they ran late, too, from what I
33 understand, so I was just kind of wondering how -- if it
34 was the same over on your side.
35
36 MR. KOSBRUK: I'd like to question the
37 biologist, or have another question. This summer weird
38 things happened out at Chignik, you know. Found rats, we
39 never had before. But we had flies, they were just like
40 blue flies, but they were longer, and when you reach for
41 them, they won't fly away. You can grab them. And they
42 were just all over the creeks there. We never seen them
43 before. And they would drown and drift out. I've never
44 seen blue flies like that. Anybody know that?
45
46 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman. Mike
47 Edwards, King Salmon fisheries office.
48
49 Just to reiterate, yeah, we are doing
50 those flights, and actually the biologist is leaving

1 today to head, weather permitting to do the first survey.
2 And then he'll do the next survey in a couple weeks. The
3 big thing we battle obviously in Perryville in this time
4 of year is weather in trying to fly surveys, and at this
5 time of year on the Pacific side of the Peninsula is a
6 very challenging thing, but we are doing that, and it's
7 going to happen in the next day or two.

8

9 MR. O'HARA: Cool. That's very good.

10 Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you.

13

14 MR. O'HARA: That's good news.

15

16 MR. FRIED: And if you look at Page 72,
17 there's a list of I think four or five issues that the
18 TRC asked the investigators to address in a modification.

19

20 The one thing they thought was really
21 lacking was there's no collection of annual system-
22 specific coho salmon harvest information for those
23 streams, so, you know, they might get a little bit of --
24 if they happen to see somebody fishing when they're
25 flying a survey, they might be able to get an idea of
26 who's using what stream, and they've been talking to
27 people in the village to see where they've been fishing,
28 but we really don't know what's coming out of each
29 stream. So they thought that was something that this
30 study needed to do. They really wanted something to get
31 an unbiased estimate of smolt production in one or more
32 of the streams. And they don't think that what was
33 proposed here would do that.

34

35 And they wanted to use the estimates to
36 validate the model predictions, because, you know, if
37 you're going to use a model estimate instead of going
38 into a stream and actually making an estimate of smolt or
39 adults, then really you want to know that the model is a
40 good model, and that the answers you're getting out of
41 the model make some sense in the real world.

42

43 And then the fourth thing that I
44 mentioned, they wanted to develop a management strategy
45 or a management plan to help ensure that, you know, both
46 the subsistence fishery and the runs are sustainable for
47 a long period of time.

48

49 And then a fifth thing was they thought
50 really they could have a better capacity building

1 component in the study.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: A better what?

4

5 MR. FRIED: A better capacity building
6 component, and that, you know, maybe working with BBNA,
7 who was a co-investigator, but they really didn't have a
8 very strong role in the project. Maybe, you know, having
9 a student intern working on the project or something, you
10 know, would help. I mean, that's not something that
11 killed the project at this point, but since they're going
12 to go through and modify it, then that would really help,
13 too.

14

15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Boris, I'd just -- I'd
16 like to ask you specifically since this has to do with
17 your area, if you would like them -- I mean, would you
18 feel more confident in having them wait to put together a
19 proposal that they have confidence in as well before they
20 start on it, and while they just continue their
21 helicopter surveys?

22

23 MR. KOSBRUK: Oh, yes, by all means.

24

25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay.

26

27 MR. KOSBRUK: But the only concern, I was
28 going to ask them a question. Do we have anybody here
29 from State subsistence?

30

31 MS. WESTING: No.

32

33 MR. FRIED: I didn't see anybody.

34

35 MR. KOSBRUK: The last several years
36 we've been having problems getting reports back of
37 thousands of silvers being caught in Perryville, and it's
38 just.....

39

40 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it's.....

41

42 MR. KOSBRUK: And I brought that up again
43 last time in the Board of Fish meeting, that the reports
44 were just fraudulent. I mean, they're two, 4,000
45 silvers. Come on now, we didn't have any. So I was
46 hoping Lisa Scarborough or the other gentleman would be
47 here, but they're not. You should know the -- what's the
48 guy's name?

49

50 MR. EDENSHAW: Ted Kreig.

1 MR. FRIED: Ted Kreig.
2
3 MR. KOSBRUK: No, no, no. From
4 Anchorage.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: Jim Fall.
7
8 MR. FRIED: Oh, Jim Fall. Jim Fall.
9
10 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Jim Falls.
11
12 MR. FRIED: Jim Falls.
13
14 MR. KOSBRUK: No.
15
16 MR. FRIED: No.
17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Pete Probasco.
19
20 MR. KOSBRUK: He works with Lisa
21 Scarborough. Anyway, thank you.
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Let's see, who haven't we
24 named.
25
26 MR. O'HARA: What are we going to do on
27 this?
28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I think we
30 should.....
31
32 MR. O'HARA: Just keep it?
33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: If, yeah, Boris says to
35 wait, let's wait.
36
37 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chair. If I may. Mike
38 Edwards again with the King Salmon Fisheries Office.
39
40 I'd just like to let the Council know
41 we're by no means abandoning our coho work in the
42 Perryville area. It's definitely very high on our
43 priority list, and as soon as the new call for proposals
44 for '07 funding comes out, this coho stuff down there
45 will definitely be resubmitted in some shape or form. So
46 we're not giving up on doing some coho work in the
47 Perryville area by any means.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is that adequate then,
50 Boris? So that we don't need to move on anything, do we?

1 MR. FRIED: Well, actually I guess all
2 you need to do is -- I guess what you're saying is you
3 would support the TRC recommendation, so that would be
4 the only thing you'd need to do is maybe.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And that
7 recommendation is, okay, is what -- Make, you're going to
8 keep doing what you've been doing?
9
10 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, we still have the
11 aero surveys funded for I believe another year, and then
12 the '07 call is coming out this fall, this early winter,
13 so there will definitely be some more proposals to do
14 some more coho work in the Perryville area. I mean, it's
15 definitely a high concern of our office as it is with the
16 folks in Perryville.
17
18 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Are you doing other
19 work on the Pacific side over like the Yantarni, are you
20 familiar with that work?
21
22 MR. EDWARDS: That was part of -- that
23 was in conjunction with our habitat work in the
24 Kametolook. We did juvenile -- we did both -- habitat
25 works in both systems, and like Steve said, we didn't
26 have the juveniles to count for habit type in the
27 Kametolook, so we took the habitat -- juvenile densities
28 for the habitat types out of the Yantarni system, and
29 compared the two systems.
30
31 MR. O'HARA: You didn't have any in any
32 other streams so you had to go to the Yantarni?
33
34 MR. EDWARDS: Right. It was similar in
35 make up for the Kametolook. It was a good comparison,
36 and we knew it had decent adult returns, so we suspected
37 that the juvenile densities there would give us a good
38 indication if the system was fully seeded. So basically
39 it was something to compare to the Kametolook, because
40 there were no fish to compare with out of the Kametolook.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Well, Bill Martin and
43 I landed there, and he -- you know, you had this federal
44 program up above his camp, and you had set up there, and
45 everybody was working, and he said you had a million fish
46 going in there, and I said, well, I don't think you could
47 get a million fish in there. And he said, well, 500,000.
48 And I said, I don't think you could get 500,000 in. And
49 he said, well, 250,000, and I said, come on now, let's --
50 I can spit across your stream, what are you talking

1 about? Well, maybe 100,000 or something like that.

2 Well, I don't think you're a very good biologist.

3

4 MR. EDWARDS: No, no.

5

6 MR. O'HARA: I'm not talking about you,

7 I'm talking about Bill Martin.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. EDWARDS: No, we never had 100,000

12 coho in upper Yantarni.

13

14 MR. FRIED: When he operated at Tikchik,

15 we used to have interesting discussions about that, too.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We need to move

18 on.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Just my brief comment, I

21 think, too, with what we've explained here, I don't want

22 to push it too hard, but I see some BBNA folks here, and

23 I see some of these criticisms in the justification, and

24 I think there's some prime opportunities for some --

25 possibly a smaller TEK project might address some of that

26 subsistence harvest down there. I don't know. I sure

27 would encourage the co-investigators to get back together

28 and try to address that.

29

30 And also, just generally, I kind of hate

31 to see so few proposals for our area.

32

33 One thing I wonder is I know it was a

34 State worker, the State system for dealing with the

35 funding coming from the Federal Government was such a

36 headache. And this was no criticism of the Federal

37 Government, they were easy to work with. It was the

38 State itself made their own work such a headache that I

39 as a biologist decided I wasn't going to apply for it.

40 The accounting was too much of a headache, and I would

41 hope that the State can come up with a friendlier system

42 for their own employees to use so that they willing to

43 access those funds. I know I talked to several folks

44 that are saying it is such a headache within the State,

45 we don't want to deal with it. And that's just -- they

46 made it miserable. And I guess I'm -- I have to speak

47 out on it. This money's here, and here's the State's

48 getting cut and they're crying and everything, but also

49 they're getting cut to the point where they can't manage

50 it, but I would hope the State system could learn how to

1 absorb this money and use it without it being such a
2 burden on their own employees. Maybe it's changed a
3 little bit, but it sure wasn't a few years ago.

4
5 MR. FRIED: Yeah. I mean, we provide
6 substantial funding to the State, including Subsistence
7 Division, so it's not like the.....

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and the State folks
10 that dealt with -- if there's any sort of wrinkle between
11 the States and the Feds, said, hey, the Feds are great to
12 work with, it's just once we get it in-house, it's a
13 nightmare. So I just had to speak up on that publicly.
14 It was bureaucracy at its worse.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We need to move
17 on. Steve, which one are we on here?

18
19 MR. FRIED: Okay. I mean, are we done
20 with this one on this one proposal?

21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Do we need to do
23 something to say that we support what he submitted?

24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. The proposal to
26 -- okay. Is there any -- anybody want to move on
27 supporting the.....

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: We could move to accept the
30 TRC recommendation on it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Are you going
33 to do that?

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move that.

36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.

38
39 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Dan moves on
42 supporting the recommendation, and Nanci seconds it. Any
43 question on the -- comment on the.....

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
50 called for. All in favor of supporting the

1 recommendation say aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Motion's
10 carried.
11
12 Steve, you're next.
13
14 MR. FRIED: Next. There's one more study
15 proposal. It's under interregional proposals, because
16 they cover more than one region. It starts on Page 73.
17 There was a proposal and an investigation plan submitted
18 to do genetic mixed stock analysis of Dolly Varden in
19 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And basically we funded
20 some of this work in the past in Togiak, and this one
21 would actually expand the genetic baseline by collecting
22 more information.
23
24 And what they wanted to do is make
25 collections of Dolly Varden from Nushagak Bay and then
26 the Yukon Delta. And then they were going to take a look
27 and see, you know, how these different populations broke
28 out by doing simulation studies with the baseline to see
29 whether or not they had good differentiation between
30 different drainages, or maybe group of drainages, however
31 it broke out.
32
33 Page 76 gives some more detailed
34 information on it, through 78. So basically the TRC was
35 going to recommend -- did recommend funding this one. It
36 does identify, you know, one of these things have been
37 medium and high, you know, need by the
38 TRC for a while.
39
40 Let's see, it was actually -- after the
41 proposal was gotten, this plan actually to some of the
42 modifications that the TRC asked for, so the
43 investigation plan did provide -- did answer a lot of the
44 questions the TRC had about the short proposal. And the
45 TRC thought they did a good job.
46
47 They think that -- let's see, I think the
48 original was going to look at Dolly Varden in Togiak,
49 Goodnews, Kanektok and they were actually going to do
50 some actual mixed stock analysis of harvest and over-

1 wintering populations, and that's when the TRC said,
2 well, I don't think we need -- I don't think we can go
3 there yet, we need better baseline. And that's what this
4 investigation plan would do, it would provide better
5 baseline before you did that. And then after that's
6 done, in the future, then you could take a look at the
7 harvest and the over-wintering population and decide what
8 spawning stocks are actually contributing to that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is there -- this Dolly
11 Varden, do they move around that much? Is that.....

12
13 MR. FRIED: Oh, they move around quite a
14 bit, yeah. It's a real complicated -- a very interesting
15 life cycle, but, I mean, they'll -- they spawn -- you
16 know, you'll have a spawning population that actually
17 spawns in the same system where they were basically, you
18 know, born, but then they'll over-winter I mean all over
19 the place. I mean, they don't necessarily go back and
20 over-winter in the same system they were born. And
21 tagging studies have shown -- you know, they've tagged
22 Dollies in Togiak and have gotten them back in Egegik,
23 and they've gotten them back up the coast, you know, in
24 the Yukon Delta and further, and, I mean, they move
25 around quite a bit. So it's pretty complicated.

26
27 MR. O'HARA: They're going to blame
28 Egegik for Dolly Varden interception.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. FRIED: But they didn't recover any
35 in Area M.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: There's been some studies
38 up near Nome where the fish actually went to Russia. And
39 back.

40
41 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yeah. That.....

42
43 MR. FRIED: Oh, yeah, they'll -- yeah,
44 it's pretty -- yeah.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: And they're starting to
47 wonder if there might be interchange from here to Nome
48 possibly. It's amazing.

49
50 MR. FRIED: Yeah, and a lot of the

1 harvest around these fish are the over-wintering
2 aggregations, and these are the mixed stock aggregation
3 of fish, and so it's kind of hard to know whether or not
4 you're -- you know, the harvest level's okay, or maybe
5 it's too high, or, maybe you can take more when you don't
6 know what you're really harvesting, so, you know, this
7 would start to address that question.

8

9 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: Harvesting Dolly Varden at
14 these three rivers over there, it's not that high any
15 more.

16

17 MR. FRIED: Has it been going down?

18

19 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, the harvest is going
20 down. The people in Togiak, even Goodnews and even
21 Quinhagak are concerned about the decline of the Dolly
22 Vardens, so the study we're having is very useful, but
23 old lady that had died a long time ago told me and Johnny
24 Dyasuk who's -- one day we were talking about something,
25 and she told us, the Dolly Vardens don't stay in the same
26 river. I don't know how she knows. Until Mark Baysek
27 (ph) had a study in Togiak River with the tags on it, and
28 when I started seeing these Dolly Vardens in the Yukon,
29 Nunivak Island, Egegik. That old lady was right. I
30 don't know how she knows, but she told us beforehand,
31 because the river -- Dolly Varden don't stay in the same
32 river.

33

34 When I was very young, and I didn't even
35 know anything about fish, an old man was telling a story,
36 or telling us, saying the fish matures in seven years. I
37 don't know how he knows, but we've got some scientists
38 out there, biologists out there, that we don't know, but
39 they know before even -- or nobody that ever studied the
40 fish before.

41

42 Yeah, the people are concerned in these
43 three villages over there, because -- I'd like to see
44 more study of these over here. The Dolly Vardens.

45

46 But there's also argument between the
47 fishery biologist and native people of Dolly Varden. The
48 Federal biologists say this is one Dolly Varden here,
49 when native people just know the other one's not Dolly
50 Varden. The other one's (In Yup'ik) and (In Yup'ik).

1 See, the people over there see different species over
2 there. I don't know. I quit arguing with the people. I
3 go along with my native people over there, because
4 there's two different kind of fish to me, you know.
5

6 MR. FRIED: There could be. I mean, even
7 scientifically they've got Dolly Varden and Arctic char,
8 and it's very possible that not all the Dollies -- maybe
9 some Dollies stay in the same system. I mean, there
10 could be, but this -- originally this -- a genetic study
11 was done in reference to declining catches and some
12 people saying that not only were they declining, the fish
13 seem to be getting smaller, and -- but, you know, not
14 knowing where the fish are spawning, you know, what
15 populations were, and it could be a problem in the
16 Nushagak River, and, you know, you wouldn't know how to
17 solve the problem -- it could -- maybe it wasn't a
18 problem at Togiak, even though the catches are getting
19 smaller, because it's a problem some place else, because
20 they migrate so much. So hopefully this will help
21 eventually, you know, shed some more light on where the
22 fish are coming from.
23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Dan, one more,
25 then we can.....
26

27 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. What -- how do you
28 propose to do this study? Are your going to tag them or
29 do you count them, or.....
30

31 MR. FRIED: Well, for this one it's
32 actually they're just going to go to spawning areas and
33 take fin clips and, you know, work the -- do the genetics
34 work in a laboratory for I think -- I think is like
35 micro-satellite LOSI (ph), but it's a nice procedure,
36 because not only does it give you good separation, you
37 don't have to kill the fish.
38

39 MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh. So you would fin
40 clip, that fish can go anywhere.
41

42 MR. FRIED: They take a clip of the fin,
43 yeah.
44

45 MR. O'HARA: In other words, we catch
46 them in the mouth of the Egegik River all the time, you
47 know. We just throw them overboard.
48

49 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh. What they want to do
50 is get ones they know are going to spawn in a place.

1 They don't -- so they know that that's where they spawn,
2 and that's the population. So they were going to go into
3 the Nushagak and certain places in the Yukon River delta
4 where they're spawning, you know, or right before they
5 spawn. You know, the fish are colored up, and then get
6 samples and bring them back to the lab, do the genetics.

7
8

9 And then once they have all this baseline
10 for these different spawning populations, they're going
11 to do some analysis with -- you know, you might take one
12 population out and then call it an unknown, and then see
13 how it classifies with the model you have based of all
14 the other populations to see, you know, can you identify
15 it, does it get misidentified to 14 other places, or
16 what's going on. So, you know, or take part of that
17 population out, so just to get an idea of whether or not
18 the baseline is going to be useful to do mixed stock
19 analysis.

20

21 Then you take the next step and you can
22 analyze catches.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is the TRC
25 recommendation 49,400?

26

27 MR. FRIED: Yeah. Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So.....

30

31 MR. FRIED: Yeah, about that same price
32 for two years to do that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: For 2006.

35

36 MR. FRIED: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And then on Page 75.
39 So is that it on your recommendation for funds proposals?
40 Have you -- is there may more on this proposal you wanted
41 to.....

42

43 MR. FRIED: No, I just wanted to bring
44 this one up, because it does -- even though it's
45 interregional, because they're looking at baseline from
46 the Yukon River delta, that it really is kind more of a
47 Bristol Bay study, and it is recommended for funding by
48 the TRC, so I thought the council should look at this and
49 decide whether or not they would agree with that
50 recommendation or disagree.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd like to move to support
2 funding. I think Dollies -- you know, we focus so much
3 on salmon, Dollies, especially as I've learned more about
4 what's going on and this -- who knows what this stock is
5 doing. It wanders up and down the coast and off to
6 Russia and back, and it's pretty darn important still
7 when you see some of the subsistence harvest in Goodnews,
8 Togiak and so on. I'd fully support it.

9
10 The one thing I would hope is that if the
11 thing got funded, if there's some way that Fish and Game,
12 State of Alaska Fish and Game might be able to supply
13 some samples from the Wood River drainage, or if the
14 Federal Government wants to try to find so, but I think
15 Fish and Game's doing some weir work in the Wood River
16 system, there may be an opportunity to -- and it's a big
17 system. It's got a lot of char. I don't know how many
18 sea run Dollies, although I do believe it has them, and
19 it's another big part and it might be able to do
20 something along the lines of what we did with some
21 rainbow work some time ago where it was wonderful. There
22 was just not a lot of formality, but samples were shared.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. There's a
25 motion on the floor.

26
27 MR. O'HARA: Is that a motion?

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: That's a motion, yes, to
30 support the funding.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anybody second.

33
34 MR. O'HARA: You made a long motion.
35 I'll second that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The motion's been made
38 and seconded to support the recommendation.

39
40 MR. O'HARA: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
43 called for. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carried, six-
2 zero, of the recommendation. Steve.

3
4 MR. FRIED: Okay. Next is -- well, let's
5 just go to Page 79 on partners. It's just informational.
6 There's two pages, and I'm sure you're all aware of our
7 partners for fisheries monitoring program, and we provide
8 about a million dollars annually. It supports six
9 fishery biologists, two anthropologists, and many more
10 student interns in various Alaska native organizations in
11 various parts of the state.

12
13 And this includes two programs with
14 Bristol Bay Native Association. And one is a position
15 filled by a fishery biologist, and the person that's
16 filling this position right now is Kyle Belleque. And
17 the other position is anthropologist and it's Robbin
18 LeVine. And I think I'm not going to say much more.
19 Under the BBNA organizational reports, I think you'll
20 hear from these two individuals. And I just wanted to
21 bring to your attention that they're here. They're
22 funded. You know, they actually work for BBNA, they're
23 not Federal employees, but, you know, they're -- we
24 provide funding for this through the Partners Program,
25 and, you know, these two people plus the interns I think
26 are -- we're pretty proud of what they've been doing
27 here. They've been doing some -- I think they'll be able
28 to tell you some of that stuff when they come up later.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. They're in the
31 agency reports I guess. We can probably wait until then.

32
33 MR. FRIED: Yeah. And these two pages
34 just sort of, you know, give a little brief overview of
35 what the program is, and it's actually -- the person in
36 our office that oversees this is Beth Spangler. She's
37 not here, but she does a pretty good job.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Is that.....

40
41 MR. FRIED: So information only. And
42 then the last thing I wanted to talk about is the
43 strategic planning that we've been doing for Bristol
44 Bay/Chignik.

45
46 And we've had two minutes, three days
47 each with people we invited from the Federal agencies,
48 State agencies. There are some people from this Council,
49 BBNA.

50

1 And basically what this was in response
2 to was the way we run the monitoring program. In the
3 past we've just had Councils, you know, because they
4 represent the different communities and the users, come
5 identify different information needs and issues, and
6 we've tried to use those to sort of focus our call for
7 proposals and decide which proposals are more important,
8 and, you know, it's kind of like the Lake Clark smolt and
9 things like that that kind of come to the surface that,
10 you know, we might not be aware of.

11
12 But, you know, generally we've got a big
13 laundry list of things for all these different areas, and
14 the problem we face is that there's no priority, so, I
15 mean, it's nice to have a list of 30 different things,
16 but say you've got 30 different proposals. Well, which
17 one's more important? You know, are they all equally
18 important? You know, what are the big issues, and what
19 should we be funding? You know, we have a limited amount
20 of funding, where should we be putting it? Are we
21 putting it in the right place?

22
23 So we decided to try a strategic planning
24 process, and we've done this and finished it for Bristol
25 Bay/Chignik, and came up with a -- we drafted a big
26 report, which I think I sent all -- the Council members
27 all have the report, and executive summary, and the
28 report's pretty large, but a lot of it's appendices with
29 supporting information. The executive summary's a lot
30 shorter.

31
32 And we've been -- what we've been looking
33 for is any additional comments, you know, corrections,
34 you know. Do you think this thing makes sense? You
35 know, because we're going to use -- we intend to use the
36 results of the meetings and this report to try to focus
37 this coming call for 2007, which will come out in
38 November.

39
40 So we're just kind of checking in with
41 the Council again to make sure there's, you know, nothing
42 that maybe got omitted, or, you know, does it look like
43 it makes sense.

44
45 And really the bulk of what was done is
46 in a bunch of bar graphs. I mean, the participants
47 recognized what they call three different fisheries
48 units. Bristol Bay salmon, Chignik salmon, and then just
49 a Unit 4 nonsalmon fishes for Bristol Bay and Chignik.
50 And it was decided that the most important fishery unit

1 was Bristol Bay salmon, followed by Chignik salmon,
2 followed by the nonsalmon species within this area.

3
4 MR. O'HARA: I think we could buy off on
5 that.

6
7 MR. FRIED: And, you know, within those
8 units identifies specific stocks or river drainages that
9 they felt were, you know, either highly important,
10 moderately important, and then there were some that they
11 didn't think were important, and we didn't even include
12 them in the report. And then we went through and
13 prioritized all this stuff based on the feelings of the,
14 you know, and the opinions of the people at the meeting,
15 and boiled it down basically to some tables and a few bar
16 graphs, and there's -- does everybody have a copy of the
17 executive summary with them? I've got copies I can give
18 you, but.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, I don't think I
21 have one.

22
23 MR. FRIED: We didn't put them in the
24 book again, because we mailed them out, but anyway you
25 can just take a quick look at this.

26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: And Mr. Chair and Council
28 members. At the previous meetings, the former Chair, Mr.
29 O'Hara, and Dan Dunaway represented the Council at those
30 meetings, as well as other land managing individuals from
31 the Togiak and the Alaska Peninsula as well as some ADF&G
32 representatives.

33
34 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it was a pretty intense
35 meeting. I mean, it went from -- you know, we came in
36 with a mission statement, and some goals, and everybody
37 else filled in, you know, objectives and information
38 needs. And to get I think it was almost 20 people to
39 agree, I mean, that was pretty interesting. I think
40 people actually enjoyed doing it. They got to work with
41 people they might not normally have worked with before,
42 and I think it was -- you know, you've got a pretty good
43 diverse group of experts from the area.

44
45 Well, like I said, I think it sort of
46 boils down to the fact that if you look -- turn to Page
47 7. There's a bar graph for Bristol Bay salmon fisheries,
48 and it lists all the information needs they identified in
49 the order of the priority. And the larger the bar, the
50 more -- you know, the more important people felt it was.

1 So, for example, the most important thing for Bristol Bay
2 salmon everybody thought was to obtain reliable estimates
3 of spawning escapement over time. I mean, you know --
4 and then the next important, the next more important
5 thing was to annually estimate subsistence harvest effort
6 by location, gear type, species, date. You know, you can
7 go through this and take a look, and you look at the very
8 bottom, and it's build process-based models to predict
9 future use patterns. And that was the least important
10 thing.

11

12 So this is, you know, in priority what
13 information needs are, most important. Next to some of
14 them you'll see, like estimated abundance of total run by
15 specie in a river system, and that was for sockeye, you
16 know.

17

18 If you don't see a species name next to
19 it, then it would be for, you know, all, for sockeye,
20 coho, chinook. Chum salmon and pinks were considered,
21 not unimportant, but of lesser importance. They were low
22 importance species, so we're not even looking at those at
23 this point.

24

25 The bars that have little cross hatches
26 are ones that wouldn't be considered, because people
27 either felt that there was enough information available,
28 or in the case of this last one, build process-based
29 models, you know, the information wasn't available. You
30 had to collect some other information before you could do
31 that, so there's no sense even considering it for the
32 call next year.

33

34 And the same thing was done for Chignik
35 salmon, which is figure 4 on Page 8, and also for the
36 nonsalmon species on Page 11, just to give you an idea.
37 And it does seem like a pretty long list for all these
38 things, but, you know, really it's pretty helpful,
39 because when you get -- for one you can provide this
40 information to the people that are going to submit
41 proposals, and they get an idea of what sort of proposal
42 we want to see, and how important each of these things
43 are, and then when we get these proposals, you know,
44 given the fact that they're all technically well written,
45 and they've -- you know, the investigators are qualified,
46 you know, et cetera, et cetera, you'd know, you know,
47 about where they should stack up, so if you have X amount
48 of dollars, you fund this most important one, and you can
49 go down the line, and you run out of money and that's it.
50 So it will just help focus this program a little bit

1 better.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Nanci.

4

5

MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

6 Steve, I did review this document when I received it, and

7 I must commend all of you guys that worked on it, because

8 I thought it was very well thought out, and that it would

9 give you good direction in the future in where to go with

10 your monies and so, frankly, I support what you did, and

11 I can see good future potential use of it.

12

13

MR. FRIED: Yeah. It's a little

14 overwhelming to look at at first, but -- even the

15 executive summary's kind of long, but there's a lot of

16 information in it. And it was hard to distill it to any

17 simpler way.

18

19

MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. That was a

20 two-day meeting in Anchorage, and I was called away on

21 the second day on an emergency, so I didn't get a chance

22 to finish up, but, Dan, you were there. And the people

23 at the table were a pretty impressive group of people. A

24 lot of them I'd never seen before, and, you know, we've

25 been around these programs a long time, and there was a

26 lot of good input. A lot of really fascinating

27 information that came in. I can't remember the dollar

28 amount now we're talking about. Or is this just an

29 information here?

30

31

MR. FRIED: Oh, as far as this goes?

32

33

MR. O'HARA: Yeah.

34

35

MR. FRIED: Well, I just, you know, like

36 I said, we kind of work with all these people and then we

37 send it out for review to the participants, and then we

38 sent it out to all the Council members so that they

39 could, you know, have a look at it, just to make sure

40 that there was nothing, you know, wrong and there wasn't

41 error in it or there wasn't, you know, maybe somebody

42 would look at some of these priorities and say, well,

43 that doesn't make sense at all, you know. Why should

44 this be last, it should be way up here. And, you know,

45 does it really make sense.

46

47

MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. When is the

48 input -- is there still a possibility of input from

49 others on this plan, on this program?

50

1 MR. FRIED: Well, that's what we're --
2 yeah, that's what we're kind of thinking.
3
4 MR. O'HARA: When does that cut-off time
5 come?
6
7 MR. FRIED: Well, we're going to use it
8 in November, so at this point it's.....
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Not too much longer.
11
12 MR. FRIED: Yeah. But the other thing to
13 realize, too, is it's not -- this thing isn't set in
14 stone for one. And each year we're not going to have all
15 these 20 people come together and look at it necessarily,
16 but we're going to take a look at what information we've
17 collected, you know, whether or not there's some other
18 issues that have come up, so, you know, just reevaluated
19 every year before the call to make sure that, you know,
20 something like this still makes sense, you know. And
21 maybe focus your call on maybe the top so many or just
22 provide the whole list and then say what we'd really, you
23 know, want the top three, seven, six, something. But,
24 you know, I think it will help people develop proposal.
25 And maybe it will give us some more proposals, because we
26 didn't get very many this year.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. I'm not
29 familiar with exactly how much funding you've got to do
30 all that, but, you know, you don't want to divide the
31 funding up so small of chunks that it doesn't adequately
32 make a very -- you know, the study isn't isn't very --
33 you're not spending enough money on the study to do a
34 good job on the study, so don't -- you know, I don't want
35 to see a whole list of things.
36
37 MR. FRIED: Right.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You know, if you've
40 only got so much money, you know.....
41
42 MR. FRIED: Oh, no, that's the thing.
43 Yeah.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:we need to just
46 have, you know, adequately study what the -- a certain
47 amount, whatever the funding will go.
48
49 MR. FRIED: Right. That's actually one
50 of the things that the Technical Review Committee looks

1 at. You look at the budget and you say, well, does it
2 really look like they can do what they say they're going
3 to do with this much money? Is it not enough or is it
4 too much? I mean, why do they need this much money to do
5 this? And then you'd go back to the investigator. Yeah.
6 So what you do, you want to do well, you're right. I
7 think that's a good comment.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. No sense doing
10 it if you can't.....
11
12 MR. FRIED: No.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:if you're not
15 going to do a good job of it.
16
17 MR. FRIED: Exactly.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Just, you know,
20 otherwise you're just throwing money at it and not
21 getting much accomplished.
22
23 MR. FRIED: Right. And that's what we're
24 hoping by having the Technical Review Committee look at
25 it, the Councils look at these proposals, you know,
26 hopefully the public will look at them, you know, the
27 Board looks at them, and hopefully after all that, you
28 know, the proposals that get funded really are able to do
29 what they say they're going to do.
30
31 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. When you do the
36 review again next year, would it be at the call of the
37 Chair for him to represent or have somebody represented,
38 or is that Council?
39
40 MR. FRIED: You mean when we take a look
41 at this again?
42
43 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Or is that just the
44 Council?
45
46 MR. FRIED: Yeah, we'd probably, you
47 know, take a look at it and make some assessment. Or an
48 initial one ourselves, and then maybe send out stuff to
49 all the people that have participated, instead of having
50 another meeting necessarily. I don't know if people want

1 to have, you know, three-day meetings or six-day meetings
2 every year, but, you know, hopefully this thing will be
3 good with minor modifications for the next maybe three to
4 five years before we'd actually have to sit down again as
5 a big group and do it all over again.

6
7 MR. O'HARA: Well, we might want to keep
8 an eye on it, because the Chairman may want to have some
9 input on when you get there.

10
11 MR. FRIED: Oh, yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Is that it then
14 on this, Steve?

15
16 MR. FRIED: Yeah. I mean, the other
17 thing to make people feel a bit better, I mean, we've
18 been using lists developed by the Councils essentially.
19 We went through in the full report and took a look at
20 that, and everything that the Councils have identified
21 would actually fit in here. It's not like we left --
22 something was left out, so that's good I think.

23
24 MR. O'HARA: I think it's pretty good for
25 the bureaucrats.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff.

28
29 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. And Steve as
30 his duties also with the regional team as the biologist
31 for FIS, the Council may also submit proposals when they
32 put out the call for proposals. Because of this new
33 planning document, the Council can go through their
34 priorities, and they can ask that proposal be developed.
35 It just doesn't have to come from a Federal or State
36 agency, or BBNA or other non-Federal.....

37
38 MR. FRIED: Well, it's always been the
39 case. I mean, the Lake Clark smolt, you know, that we
40 put in the proposals, in the call specifically for this
41 year, that came through the Council. Yeah, I mean, the
42 other -- Kodiak-Aleutian's Council, we had a study on --
43 for smolt and for some fresh water limnology study on a
44 system down there, and that came actually late in the
45 game, but it was a request from the Council. But
46 hopefully by doing this, I mean, even though something
47 might jump around a little bit in importance, I think
48 hopefully all the information needs have been identified
49 anyway. Do it might just be that, you know, instead of
50 being number 8 maybe, you know, two years from now maybe

1 it will be number 5.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: The dilemma we have now is
4 do we check back in the hotels, or are we going to finish
5 today?
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, we need to carry
8 on. Is that it then, Steve?
9
10 MR. O'HARA: And that was just
11 informational, right?
12
13 MR. FRIED: Yeah, unless anybody -- you
14 know, if anybody has any comments, they can still contact
15 me or send me an email or call me in Anchorage even, or
16 get ahold of me later today. Yeah.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a real quick question
19 for Steve. What was the date with this executive summary
20 it came out? I've gotten various copies, and I'm trying
21 to sort this stuff.
22
23 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I know. And this one
24 actually has a -- the only changes that were made since
25 you got it was that there were a few more studies that
26 were identified, and so those numbers, you know, might
27 have changed a little bit, but it's essentially the same.
28 The bar graphs and all that should be the same. The
29 priorities.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: So about August 3 or.....
32
33 MR. FRIED: Yeah. And then we're going to
34 -- we'll actually post this up on our web site along --
35 you know, hopefully sometime this month or certainly
36 during -- you know, when we post the call for proposals.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Well, let's
39 see. Next is the agency reports. We'll keep going until
40 noon, and then we'll see how far we get, and decide if we
41 need to take lunch or not, or try to finish it and then
42 leave.
43
44 So next was 13, agency reports. U.S.
45 Fish and Wildlife Service. Rural determinations. I
46 guess Bill will be doing that.
47
48 MR. KNAUER: Good morning Mr. Chairman
49 and Council members. Again my name is Bill Knauer.
50

1 You'll find the information starting on
2 Page 81 of your book. This is an action item for the
3 Council, although most of the area -- all of the areas
4 that are identified on the list are not within your
5 region. The Federal Subsistence Board is seeking
6 comments through October 28th from the Councils and the
7 public on communities and areas that are being proposed
8 for further analysis in the decennial review of rural
9 determinations.

10
11 As you're all aware, Title VIII of ANILCA
12 provides a rural priority. To come up with this, the
13 Board has to determine which communities are rural and
14 nonrural throughout the State. The Federal regulations
15 indicate that a community with a population of below 2500
16 is considered rural, unless it possesses significant
17 characteristics of a nonrural nature or is considered to
18 be socially and economically part of a nonrural area. A
19 community with a population of more than 7,000 is
20 considered nonrural unless it possesses significant
21 characteristics of a rural nature. And communities with
22 populations between 2500 and 7,000 are evaluated to
23 determine their nonrural or rural status using various
24 community characteristics, which might include diversity
25 and development of local economy, use of fish and
26 wildlife resources, community infrastructure,
27 transportation and educational institutions.

28
29 Communities that are socially,
30 economically, and communally integrated will be grouped
31 for evaluation purposes.

32
33 The Federal regulations require a review
34 on a 10-year cycle beginning with the year 2000 census.
35 So right now what we're using is the 2000 census data,
36 which even though the census was conducted in 2000, some
37 of the more complex data is just now coming in. That's
38 part of the reason why we're essentially half-way there
39 to the next census.

40
41 Earlier this year there was an initial
42 review of the communities i Alaska by the Federal
43 Subsistence Management Program to determine what has
44 changed in those communities since 1990. And as a result
45 of that, 10 areas are proposed for further analysis.
46 Now, this is not making any proposal as to what they --
47 whether they should be rural or nonrural. This is just
48 saying these 10 communities, there has been something
49 that has changed and they need to be analyzed further.
50 And those 10 communities are Kodiak, Sitka, Adak, the

1 Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Kenai area, Seward
2 area, Wasilla area, Homer area, Ketchikan area, and
3 lastly the Delta Junction, Big Delta, Deltana and Fort
4 Greely areas.

5
6 And in some of those cases, there has
7 been a significant increase in population. In some of
8 them there have been a significant decrease in
9 population. In other areas there has been questions as
10 to whether or not the grouping is correct, and
11 communities should be maybe separated out. In other
12 cases there's questions as to whether the grouping is
13 correct and there should be other areas added in. And in
14 the final area, whether or not there should be a grouping
15 or not.

16
17 And what will happen next is that after
18 all the Councils and public have commented as to whether
19 or not there should be additional communities that should
20 be examined, or whether these communities, any of these
21 communities should not be examined, then there will be
22 analysis and there will be at the December Board meeting
23 action making a proposal to determine which communities
24 should actually be nonrural. At that time there will be
25 a -- following that, there will be a proposed rule
26 published in the Federal Register, and there will be a
27 formal comment period and opportunity again for Councils
28 and the public to comment on that. And after that, next
29 year, late in the year, there will be Board review of
30 those comments and testimonies, and a final rule
31 published.

32
33 So that is what the situation is.
34 Although this Council -- none of those 10 areas are
35 within this Council's geographic area of responsibility,
36 this Council may certainly make comments and may make
37 recommendations if they believe there are any other areas
38 that should be considered for review, or that should not
39 be considered for review.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any comments on Mr.
42 Knauer's presentation. Pete.

43
44 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, you take
45 Dillingham for instance right here, you know, how many
46 people are here? You know, let's go for like, you know,
47 7,000 here in Dillingham.

48
49 MR. O'HARA: Dillingham has 2400 people.
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Huh?
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Dillingham has 2400 people,
4 so they're.....
5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Well, I'm saying as
7 an example. Yeah. How many of these people are
8 subsistence hunters out of 7,000 and then how many of
9 these people rely on, you know, moose, fish, whatever out
10 there. I think we should -- they ought to look at this
11 more closely, because as you see the cost of living is so
12 high right now, the majority of people, especially rural
13 people, are relying on subsistence. So they can't right
14 now.
15
16 You take for instance over in Togiak. If
17 I don't subsist at least like 75 percent of, you know, my
18 time, I'll be hurting over there, because the majority of
19 what I eat, what we eat come from surrounding areas over
20 there. And 25 percent of that over there, you know, I
21 work, you know, to pay form my light bill, fuel and
22 everything.
23
24 I think we need to look at this more
25 closely, because the rising gas, freight, things. Just
26 in Togiak, since last year, the air freight went six
27 times. It went up six times. And it's hurting a lot of
28 people over there, especially the people with fixed
29 income.
30
31 Us young, energetic people here, not
32 including that deck across there, we definitely rely on
33 our surrounding areas there, and we have to live off the
34 land, a little more than we have to today.
35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Pete,
39 thank you.
40
41 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Bill.
44
45 MR. KNAUER: Just to be clear, what this
46 is is these are the only communities that the Board
47 thinks need to be examined because they might have
48 changed. All of the other areas within the State, they
49 don't believe has changed from the situation they are
50 currently in. In other words, right now all of the

1 communities in the Bristol Bay Regional Council area are
2 considered rural. And what the Board is saying by this
3 is they believe that that designation should remain
4 rural.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I understand
7 that. When Dillingham gets over 2500, they're going to
8 be on the list to probably look at that, too.

9
10 MR. KNAUER: Not necessarily, because
11 there are communities over 2400 that are not being looked
12 at, because they -- the group that has looked at those
13 communities believe that there has not either been (A)
14 significant change, or (B) that they still continue to
15 exhibit a very strong pattern of characteristics that are
16 related to a rural determination. Bethel is a very good
17 example of that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Yeah, I was
20 just thinking about that.

21
22 MR. KNAUER: Bethel is well over 2500,
23 and I think it's actually over 7,000, but it very
24 definitely possesses characteristics of a rural
25 community, a very high dependence on the fish and
26 wildlife resources and so on.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, you're going to have
29 to look at it some day over there, though.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Bill.
32 Let's move on to number 2, marine jurisdiction.

33
34 MR. KNAUER: You'll find this material
35 starting on Page 92. And this is of more pertinence to
36 this region.

37
38 In the Katy John decision the Ninth
39 Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that the Federal
40 subsistence program must be crafted to reach waters in
41 which the United States has an interest by virtue of the
42 reserved water rights doctrine. Subsequently, the
43 regulations were published in 1999 which extended
44 subsistence management jurisdiction to all navigable and
45 nonnavigable waters within the exterior boundaries of
46 Federal reservations of Alaska.

47
48 As a result of that wording, the Federal
49 subsistence regulations now cover hundreds of thousands
50 of acres of saltwater, marine embayments, within refuge

1 boundaries that were not withdrawn prior to statehood.
2 On December 8th, 2004, the Federal Subsistence Board
3 published a proposed rule to revise and clarify the
4 jurisdiction in coastal areas of southwestern Alaska.
5

6 We are reopening the comment period on
7 that until October 21, because of newly available maps
8 that you'll find here on the next few pages, 93 through
9 106, identifying areas that would specifically be
10 excluded from the program. Now, in these areas neither
11 the Federal Subsistence Board nor the Federal agencies
12 have previously exerted management jurisdiction. So this
13 is primarily an item of what we would consider
14 housekeeping to identify those areas.
15

16 You'll notice that, for example, in the
17 Chignik Bay, Castle Bay, Kuiu Bay area, on Page 94,
18 those hatched areas would be -- would not come under the
19 Federal Subsistence Management Program. They would
20 remain as they have been, managed by the State.
21

22 Coming around, you've got Cold Bay, and
23 you'll see all of the various bays and lagoons that are
24 included in this.
25

26 MR. O'HARA: What do you mean, lagoons?

27
28 MR. KNAUER: Pardon?

29
30 MR. O'HARA: What do you mean, lagoons?

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Big Lagoon.

33
34 MR. KNAUER: Herring Lagoon, Chignik
35 Lagoon.

36
37 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, okay. We've got it.

38
39 MR. KNAUER: You'll see the actual list
40 that we have identified is on Page 92.
41

42 Essentially what happened is the folks in
43 Washington took the external refuge boundaries, which
44 were drawn back in 1980, many of which cut across the
45 mouths of some of these bays and lagoons, and said, okay,
46 for the Federal subsistence program, everything within
47 the boundaries for fisheries subsistence. Well, the
48 Federal agencies between 1980 and 1999, even though that
49 was within the external boundaries, never tried to exert
50 authority or managed jurisdiction in there, because

1 generally the written description indicated that waters
2 below mean high tide, and lands below mean high time
3 would not be part of the Federal program, unless -- of
4 any Federal program.
5

6 So when Washington did this to us in
7 1999, we said, hey, wait a minute, you know, that's not
8 part of the Federal Subsistence Management Program. But
9 they said, we don't want to hear it. This is how we're
10 doing it.
11

12 And so this is an attempt to bring things
13 back into the alignment as we believe it was originally
14 intended.
15

16 Are there any questions? Probably not.
17

18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So do we need to move
19 to approve this or just -- is this just informational for
20 us?
21

22 MR. KNAUER: It would be very helpful if
23 this Council put on record their feelings regarding this,
24 whether they support this action or oppose this action,
25 or any specific comments relative to it.
26

27 MR. ABRAHAM: Explain to me on Page 92
28 within Togiak National Wildlife Refuge boundaries,
29 Tvativak Bay, Kulukak Bay, and Metervik Bay? On 92.
30 Where these -- well, I know where they are. I don't have
31 to look at a map.
32

33 MR. KNAUER: Oh, but I do. If you all
34 will look over on Page 101, you'll see the heavier line
35 that goes around the coast line there, and then you'll
36 see it shade to a lighter gray as it goes across the
37 mouths of these bays.
38

39 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
40

41 MR. KNAUER: That's where the refuge
42 boundary line is identified as. Now, what this proposed
43 rule would say is that those bays that are crosshatched,
44 which are now within the Federal Subsistence Management
45 Program, were never really intended to be within the
46 Federal Subsistence Management Program, and that this new
47 rule would say, no, it's just going to follow the line of
48 mean high tide, essentially the shoreline, around those
49 bays rather than cutting across the mouth.
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Now I'm more confused.
2
3 MR. KNAUER: So that doesn't change your
4 use as you've been using them for the past five years
5 under the Federal program, actually for many, many
6 decades before that with the State. It just says that
7 the Federal Subsistence Management Program is not going
8 to be regulating that. You'll still be harvesting your
9 fish resources in those bays as you've always done under
10 the State program.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Does that clear it up
13 for you, Pete? It doesn't change the way that
14 you're.....
15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:your usage, it's
19 just that they're not going to manage it under our
20 program.
21
22 MR. ABRAHAM: Let's see, who's our
23 fishery biologist over there. I think I'm looking at
24 him. Pat, you have answers to these over here, some of
25 them, you know. What kind of control our refuge going to
26 have? I'm -- it's not going to change, that I understand
27 very much. I mean, but the control of the wildlife
28 refuge here on Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, the
29 regulation change, or you align with -- stay aligned with
30 the State?
31
32 MR. KNAUER: Only in those bays that are
33 crosshatched are the Federal regulations not going to
34 cover it. That will be under State regulation. Up in
35 the uplands and on the waters upstream from the mean high
36 tide line, which is across the mouth of the rivers, that
37 will be under -- subsistence will be under the Federal
38 Subsistence Management Program.
39
40 MR. ABRAHAM: Like Gunruk (ph) says, no
41 problem. You know who Gunruk is at? No?
42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Gueem (ph)?
44
45 MR. ABRAHAM: Gueem, yeah. Yeah. We
46 know who he is. I will say no problem.
47
48 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

1 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, this doesn't really
2 make sense, because you don't have any right over
3 navigable waters anyway on Federal lands.
4
5 MR. KNAUER: Well, yes, we do, because
6 like on the Togiak River and a lot of those -- the other
7 -- all waters within the -- all inland waters within the
8 boundary for subsistence purposes, whether they're
9 navigable or nonnavigable, come under the Federal
10 Subsistence Management Program.
11
12 MR. O'HARA: At what time? When the
13 resource drops down to a certain level or what? Because
14 right now the State of Alaska is doing all that.
15
16 MR. KNAUER: You have authority to make
17 management decisions on the subsistence harvest of fish
18 and wildlife on those navigable waters.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: I don't think that's right,
21 because, you know, we have tried to work out a program on
22 the Alakanuk, Branch over there, where you have erosion
23 taking place and subsistence people being run off by
24 sports guys, and you people have done nothing about it.
25 We couldn't even get a proposal through on it. So you
26 don't really have any right to navigable waters, unless
27 your resource drops down, and then, of course, we take
28 control. Right now you're not -- have nothing to say
29 about what happens on the Branch River.
30
31 MR. KNAUER: If it's within the boundary
32 of the refuge where you're talking about.....
33
34 MR. O'HARA: It comes up to the
35 waterline, and after that it's our management.
36
37 MR. KNAUER: It's a wild and scenic
38 river.
39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's a wild river.
41
42 MR. KNAUER: It's a wild river? Then
43 that also applies, so if you were to.....
44
45 MR. O'HARA: If it is, you're not.....
46
47 MR. KNAUER:put a proposal in
48 relative to the harvest of fish on that river, that's
49 within the Federal Subsistence Management Program
50 jurisdiction.

1 MR. ABRAHAM: But not for the anglers.
2
3 MR. KNAUER: If the population is such,
4 just like in wildlife, that the fish population can't
5 support the subsistence opportunity and the
6 nonsubsistence opportunity, you could put in a proposal
7 to close the Branch River, that portion within the wild
8 river, to non-Federally qualified users.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: That's exactly what I said.
11
12 MR. KNAUER: You can do that.
13
14 MR. O'HARA: Until such point, you have
15 nothing to say about it really. Well, there is no need
16 to say anything about it actually, because they can do
17 sports, and we can do commercial, and we can do
18 subsistence and all be satisfied. And I'm happy with
19 that.
20
21 And when you take those bays, Mr.
22 Chairman, you know, it's managed that way by the State,
23 and that's fine with me. The crosshatches, that's fine
24 with me. And at such time as it doesn't work that way,
25 then, of course, you're going to have to continue
26 jurisdiction. So I think we're on the same page. Yeah.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I guess I can move to
29 support these recommendations as presented to us.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. That's what I
32 was waiting to hear. Anybody second that.
33
34 MR. O'HARA: I'll second that, yeah.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan Dunaway makes a
37 motion to support the recommendations, and Dan O'Hara
38 seconds it.
39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
43 called. All in favor of supporting the recommendations
44 say aye.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carries six to
2 zero.
3
4 Let's see, where are we. Number 3, bear
5 handicrafts.
6
7 MR. KNAUER: Mr. Chairman, this is just
8 information provided for you. The new question and
9 answer sheet relative to the use of bear handicrafts.
10 It's not an action item. This is found -- the material
11 is found on Page 106, 107, 108. If there are any
12 questions on this, I'll be glad to answer them.
13
14 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.
17
18 MR. ABRAHAM: There was -- I went through
19 this over here, because somebody had asked me why can an
20 artist or whomever makes these things can't sell to a
21 gift shop. It says over here, as a business shop or a
22 business shop owner in a nonrural area, can I sell a bear
23 handicraft to tourists? Yes. They had some questions,
24 you know. And it's an art or craft when -- well, where
25 did I read it, you know, you can't sell it to the shop or
26 to a gift shop.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It says on the top of
29 Page 7, 07, you cannot -- it allows the sale of
30 handicrafts, but it doesn't say anything about gift
31 shops. Is that different?
32
33 MR. KNAUER: It depends on where they are
34 for one thing. What it says is as a business or shop
35 owner in a nonrural area can I sell handicrafts to
36 tourist. In that case, yes, made with bear fur, because
37 that's under state regulation. We don't regulate the
38 nonrural areas.
39
40 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, there was just, you
41 know, misunderstanding.
42
43 MR. KNAUER: There is an additional
44 proposal that is going to be put forth this year during
45 the wildlife cycle as a result of the actions that the
46 Board took last year. One of the things they did is they
47 deferred a portion of last year's proposal related to
48 sale and purchase by -- or as part of a business entity
49 and as part of a significant commercial enterprise, and
50 the Board directed that that be postponed for one year,

1 and put forth this year. So that proposal will be up
2 before you during your February meeting. February/
3 March meeting.
4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Quyana.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Pete, that
8 answers that?
9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more on that.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Before we go to
17 number 4, I'll ask our coordinator, how much longer do
18 you think we've got?
19
20 MR. O'HARA: We should be done by 2:00
21 o'clock.
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Well, then
26 let's just take a quick break, and then we'll continue
27 and get done.
28
29 One more -- are you going to do number 4,
30 too, then, Bill?
31
32 MR. KNAUER: Yes. I'm doing the talking
33 points on the rural hunt thing, and it's just a real
34 quick thing.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
37
38 MR. KNAUER: The State put out a news
39 release reminding hunters that they had to submit harvest
40 reports following hunts where there were drawing permits,
41 Tier II permits or registration permits. Now, in the
42 Federal program, we don't use the State drawing permits
43 or Tier II permits, but in many cases under the Federal
44 program, to avoid putting additional burden on
45 subsistence users, we have utilized State registration
46 permits in place of Federal permits, because the State
47 registration permit would allow hunting on both State or
48 Federal lands. That way a subsistence user doesn't have
49 to go through the bother of getting two permits.
50

1 So this is just a reminder that Federally
2 qualified rural residents hunting under Federal
3 regulations, but using a State permit will not be
4 eligible to participate in the Federal hunt the following
5 year, if they don't comply with the State harvest report
6 requirements. In other words, if it takes a State
7 permit, registration permit, and you don't send in the
8 report at the end of the period, whether or not you've
9 hunted, whether or not you've taken anything, then you're
10 not eligible for the next year.

11
12 Under the Federal program statewide,
13 we've had very good success with subsistence users
14 turning back in the registration permits. Our success
15 rate in some areas has been as high as 85 and 90 percent,
16 which is outstanding. State reporting is, you know, half
17 of that if they're lucky.

18
19 But we don't want the subsistence users
20 to get in a bind. We want to make sure that they're
21 aware that if it's a hunt that requires a registration
22 permit, and there is reporting after that, we want them
23 -- we want to remind them that they do need to send that
24 in so they'll be eligible to hunt the next year.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you. I
27 know I always at our State advisory committee meetings
28 tell those other members to go home and tell their people
29 in the communities to turn their reports back in, because
30 if they ever have to go on a Tier II for anything, if
31 they don't have any harvest record, they're not going to
32 get any permits. So, you know, I always -- you know, I
33 like to remind them of that all the time. But I know
34 they still -- it still goes in one ear and out the other
35 I guess.

36
37 MR. KNAUER: And many of the decisions
38 that you make here, one of the first things you ask the
39 biologist is what was the harvest last year, or how much
40 harvest has there been over the last three or four years.
41 And that's the way they tell is by the information coming
42 from those harvest reports.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Sand Point nearly lost
45 their C&T for Stepovak area because nobody bothered
46 sending in cards, yet they hunted up there quite a bit.

47
48 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Pat
49 McClanahan did an outstanding job to get Naknek/King
50 Salmon into the program, and had to go back and do some

1 long range search on brown bear. We almost lost that
2 privilege. So that statistical information is very
3 important.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Bill.

6
7 MR. KNAUER: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Let's take a break.
10 Five minutes for coffee.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Back to order. We are
17 on agency reports, down on B. Alaska Department of Fish
18 and Game. Anybody from the Department wish to report.

19
20 MS. WESTING: The Lone Ranger.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. WESTING: The low person on the totem
25 pole apparently.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Tell them you need a
28 raise.

29
30 MS. WESTING: Yeah. Once again my name
31 is Charlotte Westing. I work for Commercial Fisheries
32 here in Dillingham.

33
34 And because I work for Commercial
35 Fisheries and not Subsistence Division, I don't have much
36 of an address for you today, but Dan Dunaway requested
37 some information on the Alagnak River special harvest
38 area, so I thought I would provide that for you and then
39 be available for your questions.

40
41 There was an Alagnak River special
42 harvest area fishery that operated from July 3rd to July
43 15th, every tide. The tides -- or the fishing periods
44 varied in length from two to five hours. There are about
45 30 permit holders, and there were between 225,000 and
46 250,000 sockeye that were harvested during those
47 openings. They had a low king catch, and it was
48 considered to be a very successful fishery. As far as
49 user conflicts, there didn't seem to be very many from
50 the State's perspective. Other people may have a

1 different take on that, but I talked to the area
2 biologist, Slim Morstad, this morning, and he said that
3 as far as he knew, it had run pretty smoothly. And
4 that's about all I have to say about that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Dan.

7
8 MR. O'HARA: It ran pretty smoothly, but
9 the processors didn't carry out their end of the program
10 of being there, and a lot of the setnetters had to run
11 all the way to Naknek with their fish. And the other
12 part of it was Bristol Bay did have a lot of fish.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, that's what I
15 think.

16
17 MR. O'HARA: A lot of people unlimited
18 (ph), it's not a high priority.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think the problem --
21 well, if it was a problem, but one of the reasons why it
22 wasn't such a big fishery like everybody thought it was
23 going to be is because the processors had enough fish
24 every place else, and up at Alagnak where they were
25 catching the fish, it was quite a ways upriver, and it
26 was more -- it took an extra tide to get out of there,
27 because of the way the mud flats are. And then on top of
28 that, by the time they -- right before they closed it,
29 they were starting to get some water marked fish, and the
30 processors didn't want those, so I think they quit
31 buying. So probably why it didn't turn out to be such a
32 lucrative fishing that everybody thought it was going to
33 be, because of those two things right there. Those two,
34 I don't know if you'd call them problems, but issues that
35 happened.

36
37 Dan.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you very much
40 Charlotte. And please pass on my congratulations to Slim
41 for -- I didn't know how or if he could do this without
42 it just being really a nasty, ugly thing partly just from
43 the shallowness and people just getting their nets all
44 messed up. And, well, if you can make it work and people
45 get a few fish, that's good. If there's other problems,
46 and we brought up, I think maybe talking in the hall, was
47 how many Kvichak and Lake Clark fish maybe straying in
48 there during a commercial fishery. Hopefully at that
49 late a date maybe not many, but if the fishery goes on
50 for a while, and we continue to have concerns farther up

1 the drainage, we might require some review. But thank
2 you very much, and good work.

3
4 MS. WESTING: It is worth mentioning that
5 we did collect genetics information on all the openings
6 in the Alagnak River special harvest area, but that
7 information hasn't been analyzed yet. Bristol Bay is
8 trying to assess the priorities with the genetic data
9 that's been collected and what's going to get analyzed
10 first. Limited time and resources to do it. So we'll
11 have information about that at some point. I don't know
12 if they'll have information before -- there is an agenda
13 change request that's been submitted to the Board to
14 carry on the Alagnak River special harvest area fishery
15 for another year, if not for longer than that. It was
16 just a one-year thing this year.

17
18 And as far as it not being as successful
19 as people thought it might be, all the Department really
20 has control of is providing fishing opportunity. And so
21 I know you can't take opportunity to the bank, but that's
22 what we intended to provide, and as far as that went, you
23 know, I think it went pretty smooth.

24
25 MR. O'HARA: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think
26 it was great that they caught a quarter of a million
27 fish, you know, that we wouldn't have. People would get
28 60 cents a pound for that, and I hope it's going to be a
29 success. And we appreciate it a lot.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I'd like to see
32 it, if there's going to be a certain amount over the
33 minimum escapement, you know, they should be able -- if
34 we're going to still continue to be in-river fishing in
35 Naknek, that it should be a fishery that happens. So,
36 you know, it does allow economic gain out of it.

37
38 Dan.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: My last question. Did you
41 give us an escapement estimate for the Alagnak system?
42 And I know the last couple years it was huge, too. There
43 were some concerns.

44
45 MS. WESTING: The final escapement on the
46 Alagnak River was 4.2 million.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: That's still huge.

49
50 MS. WESTING: Yeah. Huge, but I believe

1 that's down what it's been from the previous years by
2 quite a bit, so.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, that's because
5 there was a commercial fishery.....

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:in the mouth at
10 the river, and in the Kvichak after the 12th. So it
11 might have been at least five million if there wasn't,
12 you know.

13

14 Anything else, Charlotte.

15

16 MS. WESTING: I'm just available for any
17 other questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you.
20 Number C. Lake Clark/Katmai National Park and Preserve.
21 Lee Fink.

22

23 MR. FINK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.
24 Council members. My name is Lee Fink. I'm the chief
25 ranger at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. I'm
26 sitting in for Mary McBurney who's generally been here
27 the last couple years.

28

29 As I believe most of you are aware, Mary
30 underwent some surgery earlier this week. I've traded
31 voice mails with her a couple times, and she seems to be
32 doing really well, and, of course, we're all hoping that
33 she has a complete recovery here in the near future.

34

35 We almost had a quorum actually at the
36 SRC. Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission met up
37 in Nondalton on the 27th of September, and we nearly had
38 a quorum from the Regional Advisory Council there. It
39 was really great to see all of you up there, and the
40 community appreciated that also I think. So that was a
41 good meeting.

42

43 It was kind of a two-part meeting from
44 the Subsistence Resource Committee standpoint. They had
45 a workshop in the morning where they were looking some
46 moose research and moose data, and a little bit of
47 discussion on eligibility for Lake Clark National Park.
48 And then in the afternoon was the official meeting where
49 they focused on a Dall sheep proposal that will be coming
50 across this Council's desk in your February meeting, a

1 proposal to provide more subsistence opportunity for
2 harvest of Dall sheep.

3
4 Our meeting up there for those of you
5 that were there, you know it was coordinated by our new
6 employee, Michelle Ravenmoon from Pumpfanai (ph) on Lake
7 Iliamna. She's our new subsistence liaison for the Park.
8 She's doing a really great job. She's been on board
9 several months now, and she's getting into the wildlife
10 aspect of subsistence management. She's working on a lot
11 of other things at the Park, including a Dana'ina place
12 name project with some elders from up in that area. It
13 will produce an interactive map that you see local place
14 names on. She's working with the tribal council in
15 Nondalton to develop a watershed council for the lake
16 area, and coordinating a Dana'ina language workshop in
17 Nondalton early next month.

18
19 So just a few highlights for what's going
20 on from a subsistence standpoint at Lake Clark.

21
22 As far as the Federal permit system that
23 we do a lot of work with the Council on, actually last
24 year's data and little bit of this year's, we don't have
25 all the final data in for this year, but 2004 we issued
26 five brown bear permits. In 2006 (sic) we issued six
27 brown bear permits, that's in the year-round permit
28 Federal registration permit hunt that the Federal Board
29 authorized. Actually we had no harvest reported either
30 year.

31
32 And last year, '04, we issued 15 sheep
33 permits and we had five harvested. This year for the
34 2005, we issued eight permits, and we do not know of any
35 harvest reported to this date.

36
37 And the other Federal permit hunt that we
38 have is potlatch moose, and we didn't issue any potlatch
39 moose permits in '04 or '05.

40
41 From a subsistence fisheries standpoint,
42 there's been a little bit of talk about that today
43 already. The counting tower has been really a good
44 project on the Newhalen River. That operated again this
45 year from June 29th to August 5th, counted 445,000 and
46 about 500 fish up the river. That was 19 percent of the
47 total Kvichak run of 2.3 million. And that was
48 encouraging. That's the second largest run in the last
49 five years, but it's still only about 40 percent of the
50 high runs we had from the early 80s. But most people had

1 no problem at all accessing the necessary fish they
2 needed for their subsistence quotas.

3

4 Got a couple other fish things going on,
5 but I think we've covered some of those in the earlier
6 presentations, so I guess unless there's any questions,
7 I'll leave it at that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Lee,
12 it's hard -- it's probably difficult to answer this
13 question, but one of the things that they've been looking
14 at is the timing of the run into the Lake Clark, and it's
15 usually the earlier fish that come. Did they arrive
16 about the same time? Anything unusual about the coming
17 of the salmon this year, or is that a hard one to tell?

18

19 MR. FINK: I think just hearsay that I
20 heard from some of the folks in Nondalton who usually
21 fish first above the falls there on the Newhalen, a
22 couple people said they caught fish maybe four days
23 earlier than they've ever recorded it, so, you know,
24 pretty close, but it was -- I think it was the end of
25 June, like the 20 -- this is just off the top, but I
26 think from conversations, it was around the 24th that
27 they were actually starting to catch fish. 24th of June,
28 which -- a little earlier, but nothing spectacular.

29

30 MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: How are the -- what's
33 the moose population at Lake Clark?

34

35 MR. FINK: The moose population.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is it healthy, or is
38 it down?

39

40 MR. FINK: It's probably -- let's see, I
41 had some information on that. Our biologist has -- we
42 actually have a couple projects going on regarding moose
43 and sheep also actually. In the next couple of weeks
44 we're going to be tagging 30 additional moose and 10
45 sheep, radio collaring, for a couple of on-going research
46 projects. But I believe the -- our biologist estimates
47 the population around 1,000 park-wide, from -- on the
48 western side of the Alaska Range, basically from Lake
49 Clark up to Telaquana in the Stoney River country. When
50 they do their surveys, they actually break that into

1 three separate units. So they kind of look at it unit by
2 unit.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. Does that go
5 over to Pedro Bay or is that reserve?

6

7 MR. FINK: That does not go over to Pedro
8 Bay, no.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: Okay. That is reserve over
11 there. Okay.

12

13 MR. FINK: They don't -- we don't, the
14 Park doesn't really extend all the way to Pedro Bay. It
15 extends to about the Iliamna -- or the Pile River
16 drainage. We don't do any real active survey work over
17 there for moose.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is that a healthy
20 population?

21

22 MR. FINK: I think the population is
23 probably declining. It's difficult to say overall,
24 because as they look at it in separate -- in units, the
25 unit around Lake Clark seems to be maybe having a slight
26 increase over what has been expected the last three or
27 four years. Last year they did a -- I think last year's
28 survey was in the -- I believe they call that Unit 3,
29 basically right around Lake Clark and Tazimina Lakes, and
30 the recruitment was up a little bit and calf survival
31 seemed to be up a little bit in that area. However, up
32 around the Telaquana in the Stoney River country, we're
33 slated to do a survey there, but it looks like that area
34 may be down a little bit from the last information
35 they've gathered out of that northern unit.

36

37 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

40

41 MR. O'HARA: How many moose are you going
42 to tag?

43

44 MR. FINK: Thirty.

45

46 MR. O'HARA: And male or female?

47

48 MR. FINK: You know what, I'm not exactly
49 sure of that. Shelly Cepanski (ph) from UAF is kind of
50 the lead principal investigator on that survey, and I'm

1 not sure I have that.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: That's okay. When you come
4 back in February, you'll have an idea then.
5
6 MR. FINK: When -- during the February
7 meetings, our wildlife biologist will be here, and, of
8 course, for the sheep discussion, and he can fill you in
9 all the details of survey and actually what happened with
10 some of the.....
11
12 MR. O'HARA: One more question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Go ahead.
15
16 MR. O'HARA: The pressure on moose,
17 Stoney River, up in that area, probably not as far as
18 Twin Hills, but -- I mean, not Twin Hills, I meant the
19 other mountain up there.
20
21 MR. FINK: Half Way?
22
23 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, in that area. Is
24 there -- what's the difference in pressure from the
25 Stoney River people and the Nondalton people as far as
26 them going into Lake Clark and into Tazimina versus the
27 Stoney River people, doing pressure where maybe you have
28 a less animals? Or do you know that?
29
30 MR. FINK: Well, I don't think we get too
31 much pressure from Stoney River, that far up the river.
32 Lime Village, the biggest village kind of down river from
33 the park boundary or preserve boundary, they have their
34 own harvest area where I think they get community
35 harvest. They work under a community harvest profile,
36 and we rarely see many people from Lime Village
37 travelling -- it's almost 40 miles to the park boundary,
38 so.....
39
40 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yeah, it's a long ways.
41 Yeah.
42
43 MR. FINK:a lot of our pressure up
44 in that area is -- it's preserve mostly, and there's a
45 lot of sport.....
46
47 MR. O'HARA: Okay. That answers it.
48 Thank you.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Was this the meeting that
2 some of you attended that also there was some mine
3 discussion? I got the idea.....
4
5 MR. O'HARA: We left before the mine came
6 up, but maybe Lee could fill us in on that.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was before.....
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, that was.....
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It was in the morning
13 I think, wasn't it?
14
15 MR. FINK: Yeah. We didn't have any --
16 you know, there wasn't a lot of discussion at the last
17 SRC meeting about the mine. There's been a lot of mine
18 meetings, but they've been kind of separate. The mine is
19 outside the boundary of the park and preserve, and
20 there's been no formal plan, so there hasn't been a lot
21 of discussion in the Subsistence Resource Committee
22 meetings regarding the mine.
23
24 A little bit maybe they started to get
25 into, and I think we're going to plan a -- they're
26 planning another workshop in February, the SRC is, to
27 look at eligibility if we were to see a big spike in
28 population due to the mine. And that's probably the
29 biggest concern from a subsistence standpoint right now
30 is what would happen from an eligibility standpoint if a
31 thousand or several thousand people move into the area.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So that's in an
34 upcoming meeting. I guess I was appointed to be the --
35 on that committee now, is that right?
36
37 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, we can get to that,
38 Mr. Chair, after Lee's done.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: And we're.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more else.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: We're working on getting
47 your people appointed.
48
49 MR. FINK: Good.
50

1 MR. O'HARA: We started making some calls
2 on that.
3
4 MR. FINK: Thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Lee. Where
7 are we here. Aniakchak. Number D. Aniakchak National
8 Park and Preserve.
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Can we just go back
15 briefly over -- at our March -- if you look over on your
16 minutes from -- on Page I want to say 13. Is it 13.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do we want to?
19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: Not 13, but.....
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: With regards to?
23
24 MR. O'HARA: What's it about? I mean
25 what.....
26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: National Park Service. At
28 our March meeting the Council went ahead and recommended
29 that -- and these were brought to us by the SRCs, and in
30 lieu of Andrew Balluta's chose not to apply, I was
31 speaking with Clarence Summers, who also works with the
32 National Park Service in their office in Anchorage. And
33 at the last meeting the Council recommended that Rick
34 Delkittie be appointed to the Lake Clark SRC as well as
35 Mr. Lind and Takaku are on the Aniakchak SRC. And
36 Clarence asked if the Council -- we -- the Council needs
37 -- well, not needs, but part of the -- I'm not familiar
38 with the SRCs, but I know enough that Randy since he
39 lives -- he claims residency, you know, in Igiugig as
40 well as Naknek, and currently there's nobody on this
41 Council serving on the Lake Clark SRC. And so Clarence
42 suggested that the Council possibly in a motion recommend
43 that Randy be appointed to serve on the Lake Clark SRC.
44
45 MR. O'HARA: In a matter of time, I so
46 move.
47
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Who recommended that

1 again?

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW: Clarence Summers who works
6 with the -- and just as Lee was talking about, in Mary's
7 absence, Mary had handled the SRC appointments. And Lee
8 wants to.....

9

10

CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Lee.

11

12

13 MR. FINK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I could
14 maybe shed a little light on that. And I hadn't really
15 had a chance to speak with Mary about that, so I kind of
16 didn't bring it up, but if Clarence has already brought
17 it up, that's fine.

17

18

19 The Subsistence Resource Committees are
20 made up of nine members, three appointed by this Regional
21 Advisory Council. And the criteria for those individuals
22 that are seated by the Regional Advisory Council is they
23 are supposed to either be on the Regional Advisory
24 Council or on the local fish and game advisory committee.
25 So they're supposed to, you know, be involved in other
26 aspects. And Andrew has always been our representative
27 from the Regional Advisory Council, and I don't believe
28 Andrew now sits on the Regional -- or on the Lake Iliamna
29 ADF&G.

29

30

CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No, he hasn't been for

31

32 quite a while.

32

33

34 MR. FINK: So it doesn't make him -- so
35 therefore he's not eligible is probably what Clarence is
36 getting to, because if he resigns from this Commission,
37 this was the Commission that made him eligible for his
38 appointment to the SERC.

38

39

MR. HAMMOND: He might be eligible for a

40

41 different kind of appointment, but not through us.

41

42

43 MR. FINK: Exactly. He would be eligible
44 for a different appointment. Three members are appointed
45 by the Governor of the State of Alaska. They don't have
46 that criteria associated with the three members appointed
47 by the Governor. And then three members are appointed by
48 the Secretary, and those -- the three appointed by the
49 Secretary are supposed to be local rural residents, so
50 there's some different criteria associated with the
51 appointing authority. So that's probably why somebody

1 put your name forward, because you make a good, excellent
2 candidate now for the Subsistence Resource Commission.
3
4 MR. O'HARA: As close as we're going to
5 get.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: So I'm a little confused.
10 Would these -- what about this Mr. Delkittie that we
11 recommended at the last meeting?
12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Is this a separate chair?
16
17 MR. EDENSHAW: That was in a separate
18 motion when the Park Service when we met in March came to
19 us with the recommendations of these individuals, and Mr.
20 Delkittie does not sit on this Council, was another
21 criteria that Lee Fink just stated. That three are
22 appointed by the Governor, three are.....
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Right.
25
26 MR. EDENSHAW:appointed by -- I'm
27 not sure what the other one he just said, but they came
28 to us, came to the Council asking for them to rubber
29 stamp, and that's what the Council did.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And now.....
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: But Mr. Delkittie wasn't
34 really eligible to fill the seat that they were
35 recommending, is that it? I'm really confused.
36
37 MR. EDENSHAW: No, he's one of -- he
38 resides in the region up at Nondalton I believe.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, he's.....
41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: And he's a rural resident,
43 so that was probably one of the three seats that they
44 were asking him to fill.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, he's also on
47 the.....
48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, there's three empty.
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: And one of the three seats
2 that the Council, that this Council has, we're asking
3 that -- Clarence conveyed to me that we should ask Randy,
4 if he's interested, that he should be recommended for
5 appointed to the SRC.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Because they need a
8 Council member on that SRC.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. So there's more than
11 one seat empty.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, there should be.
14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: Because Andrew Balluta is
16 no longer on the Council effective December 2nd, '05.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, okay. Well, I just
19 knew that we'd recommended Mr. Delkittie to replace
20 somebody who never made it to any of the meetings and
21 all, so -- shoot, yeah. So I don't know who Clarence is
22 and I was having trouble following this whole train.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know. But Mr.
25 Delkittie is now also -- he's the rep for Nondalton on
26 the Iliamna Lake Advisory Committee now.
27
28 In fact, I think he -- when I talked to
29 Andrew, you know, he said he was going to resign from
30 this committee, or not run again, you know, and then I
31 told him, well, they need to consider somebody to appoint
32 -- I mean to nominate for his seat from the -- you know,
33 because he represent that area, and so they should have a
34 say on who gets that. So I said, you know, they need to
35 consider somebody for that -- his spot. and he's
36 recommended Mr. Delkittie, because he's on the SRC, he
37 also on an advisory committee, so he's pretty active in
38 this sort of thing, and informed, so he recommended him.
39 Which is a good choice in my opinion.
40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, what we're
42 talking about here is that Andrew's no longer on the
43 Council, and the time frame to appoint a resident from
44 the Lakes region has already passed. So that's why I'm
45 saying we're going to come through this -- up through '06
46 with one vacant seat, and there won't be a representative
47 from the Lakes area, because we didn't receive any
48 applications from any residents in the region up there.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So when.....

1 MR. EDENSHAW: And so Mr. Delkittie is an
2 entirely different appointment, which is not to this
3 Council. He's on the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource
4 Commission, which the.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I know.
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW:Park oversees and
9 what the Council was just recommend that he be appointed,
10 rubber stamp him with the SR -- what Park Service had
11 already requested.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But I was saying he --
14 I know he's on that, and he's also on the advisory
15 committee for the State.
16
17 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But he would -- I said
20 he would -- somebody needs to replace Andrew on this
21 Council here, and he would make a good -- I think he'd
22 make a good candidate.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I see.
25
26 MR. O'HARA: No, that's up to him. He
27 can apply, but that's not what we're talking about today.
28
29 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
30
31 MR. FINK: Mr. Chairman. One thing is I
32 -- this hasn't been brought up at the local level with
33 the SRC yet I don't believe, because it's a very new
34 development, and the charter reads is whoever is
35 appointed continues to serve until they're replaced, even
36 -- and sometimes appointments expire, and people serve
37 for quite a long time with expired appointments. And so
38 Andrew will continue to serve, and to make it short, if
39 you guys want to postpone this until your winter cycle,
40 we can certainly address it at that point in time.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: Well, we have a motion on
43 the floor. But I guess the legal question is if Andrew's
44 still there, and he's going to be the Council member to
45 your SRC, then we don't need Randy there, but if he
46 doesn't show up, and he's not considered being a part of
47 your SRC, then Randy needs some representation from the
48 Council that's living in that geographical area, and that
49 would be Randy.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I can't be appointed
2 if Andrew's still on the -- he hasn't resigned yet, or
3 he's still.....
4
5 MR. O'HARA: We do the appointment.
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct. The Council does
8 the appointment.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, we do the appointment
11 of our Council member to the SRC. Not anyone else.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. But that's the
14 thing I was asking about, is Andrew still on this
15 Council? His term isn't up.....
16
17 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.
18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: He is until his term
20 expires.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: His term doesn't
23 expire until December?
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: December 2nd is when
26 Andrew's appointment.....
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So he's still on the
29 Council? I mean, this Council here?
30
31 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct. We -- I mean --
32 yes. But he's already conveyed to me, you know, he's
33 just not going to participate. This is the last meeting
34 in.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: There's a.....
37
38 MR. O'HARA: Let's see if we vote it up
39 or down not. Call for the question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: There's a vote -- or
42 there's a nomination?
43
44 MR. O'HARA: Was there a motion?
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: A motion.
47
48 MR. O'HARA: There was a motion. Who
49 seconded it?
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: I did.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: You did. Okay.
4
5 MS. MORRIS LYON: You made it and I did.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. There's a
8 motion on the floor that I be the representative to Lake
9 Clark SRC.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
14 called for.
15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All in favor say aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carried.
27
28 MR. O'HARA: After all that discussion.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, I didn't want to
33 deprive Andrew of his.....
34
35 MR. O'HARA: That's okay. That's good.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:of his duties.
38
39 MR. O'HARA: I like the way Mr. Fink make
40 his presentation. Are you truly a Fed or.....
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. O'HARA: Don't even answer that,
45 because you just went to the point. Okay. Here we get
46 another hot one.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Aniakchak
49 National Park and preserve.
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Poor Troy.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Go ahead. I'll let Troy
4 go and I'll follow in after somewhere.
5
6 MR. HAMMOND: Chairman. And members of
7 the Council. My name is Troy Hammond. I work for the
8 National Park Service in King Salmon.
9
10 And we manage Katmai National Park, which
11 was listed up on C and the Alagnak Wild River and
12 Aniakchak National Monument and preserve. Mary McBurney
13 who's an employee of Lake Clark also represents us in
14 terms of subsistence, so it's hard to keep it all
15 straight sometimes.
16
17 The primary things that have happened on
18 our staff in the last -- since the last meeting, the
19 superintendent, Joe Fowler, retired as of April 1, and is
20 down enjoying the weather in the rest of the world. And
21 the new superintendent, his name is Steve Frye, F-R-Y-E,
22 and he arrived in King Salmon on the 27th of June. And
23 on the 4th of September he went to Mississippi on detail
24 to work on hurricane disaster relief, and he's due back
25 next week. So he was here and then he was gone, and he's
26 coming back soon. And he comes from Glacier National
27 Park where he spent the last 13 years as the chief
28 ranger, and for most of that time, he was also managing
29 their natural resources programs. So he's got a fairly
30 broad background.
31
32 And the Aniakchak SRC meeting was
33 scheduled for i think the 26 of September in Port Heiden,
34 and we were unable to get a quorum, and so Mary canceled
35 that meeting for lack of a quorum. I wasn't clear if we
36 were going to try to have a meeting in November, or if we
37 were going to have -- just wait for our next regular
38 meeting ahead of the spring or late winter RAC meetings,
39 so I'm not sure about that.
40
41 A couple of follow-up comments from the
42 Alagnak fishery people have been asking. We were
43 interested to see how that would go also. We had
44 absolutely no comments on the phone. And usually if
45 something's really bad, you start getting a lot of phone
46 calls. We got no phone calls. We did -- when we
47 encountered business operators in the field, they did
48 make comments about it. The people who run sport fishing
49 operations weren't happy about it. Didn't hear anything
50 from subsistence users. But I also didn't encounter

1 subsistence users in the field this year. I didn't seem
2 like -- well, as Dan Dunaway said, it seemed like it was
3 pretty successful on the user conflict side as far as we
4 can tell. Much better than it could have been.

5
6 The other thing I was wanting to mention,
7 we've been working off of a State protocol to do bear
8 census in all of 9C in cooperation with Department of
9 Fish and Game, and this -- the last year field work ended
10 this last spring. It's a May project, and so we'll
11 actually have a bear density estimate for 9C. That
12 report when it comes out we can make sure is accessible
13 to the Council.

14
15 And the fact that we accomplished that
16 proposal probably means that we can do similar estimates
17 on the Peninsula at lower expense, because a lot of the
18 expense is actually associated with developing some of
19 the -- what they call suitability (ph) models and
20 statistical mumbo-jumbo that you have to do a bunch of
21 work to cover that ahead of time. We've done that.
22 We're hoping to actually get a -- we're hoping to
23 actually get a bear estimate in Aniakchak. And the
24 thing that is -- you know, we've had management of these
25 kind of game populations for a long time, but we very
26 rarely actually have good quantitative numbers, so this
27 is sort of an exciting first start on that for us, and
28 for 9C in general.

29
30 I don't have any other items for the
31 council. I'd be happy to respond to the questions
32 of.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Troy, if you
35 look on Page 14 of minutes from last time, new business,
36 where it says Acting Chairman, me, and then at the end of
37 that, I was discussing there was a guy up in the
38 Sugarloaf area using a four-wheeler to go back from
39 Alagnak where he's got a camp, a sports camp, and then at
40 the end of that one paragraph there, it says, Joe said
41 he'd pass the information along and get back to the
42 Council. And I was questioning, you know, if this guy
43 has permission to use that, to do -- he was making quite
44 a trail back there with a four-wheeler going back so
45 much. And is that -- that area is managed by the Park
46 Service, isn't it?

47
48 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, the individual in
49 question requested a customary and traditional use
50 determination for ATV and then he requested access for

1 ATVs on his site. We actually did an environmental
2 assessment, this was two years ago now, to determine
3 whether or not his request for access to that allotment
4 was legitimate for subsistence purposes, and it was
5 determined that the historic access to those allotments
6 has been on the river, either on the snow machine or
7 boat, and that that was -- then that that satisfied the
8 ANILCA provision of access. So his request for
9 permission to use ATVs from his parcel onto -- across
10 Park Service land was denied. And so any use that's
11 happening, or that's continuing of that nature is not
12 approved, and it is -- it's a violation that we can cite
13 him for.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I know that.
16 The use wasn't for subsistence use. He's an outfitter,
17 and he was having moose hunters in there, because that's
18 why the trail was going back there, because -- back by
19 Sugarloaf there is prime moose habitat. That's
20 where.....

21
22 MR. HAMMOND: Right. We're aware of that
23 as well, but that wasn't the way the application was
24 written, and so we have to deal with things the way they
25 show up. But we were also aware of that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's kind of where
28 they mingle or, you know, that's where they hang out, and
29 it's.....

30
31 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

34
35 MR. O'HARA: Along that same line, we
36 have been working since the inception of this Council to
37 get ATVs into the park and preserve for the purpose of
38 subsistence, and I believe there has been an action that
39 would probably allow this to happen, and I'm not sure
40 which park that they have approved ATVs in for use of
41 subsistence. Are you familiar with that, or should we
42 ask the superintendent?

43
44 MR. HAMMOND: Well, I am familiar. Of
45 course, I'd be happy for you to ask the superintendent,
46 but he's not.....

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. O'HARA: What's that?

1 MR. HAMMOND: I'd be happy if you'd ask
2 the superintendent, but I will answer.....
3
4 MR. O'HARA: Actually you were acting
5 superintendent probably about the time it took place.
6
7 MR. HAMMOND: I was. In fact, I still am
8 until Steve shows back up. But.....
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Oh, okay. Well, sorry about
11 that.
12
13 MR. HAMMOND: Me, too.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. O'HARA: No, I meant, sorry, I did
18 not -- no, that's not the way it came out. I'm sorry I
19 did not identify you properly, that's what I'm saying.
20 We might get something out of you.
21
22 MR. HAMMOND: You never know. Denali
23 National Park and Preserve had an application for ATV
24 access for the purpose of subsistence in part of -- I
25 don't know if it's part of the addition to the park or
26 the preserve. I don't recall that detail. They went
27 through a fairly extensive process, and what they're
28 ended up doing is they have closed the park to ATV
29 access, but they are going to allow it, but what they --
30 they've closed it and they are going to designate trails,
31 and allow it on a permit basis, which is probably going
32 to be the standard.
33
34 The only other thing I know in terms of
35 our -- where we sit, Joe Fowler before he left had
36 requested Don Calloway, who did the customary and
37 traditional use study from Kakhanok, asked him to submit
38 that study to a peer review journal, partly because we
39 want to make sure that the basis for whatever decisions
40 we make on those kind of things are going to be
41 defensible in court. And when Joe left, that hadn't
42 happened, and I haven't heard of it happening yet, and I
43 haven't spoken with Don since Joe left, so I'm not -- I'm
44 sorry, but I'm unable to give you any further information
45 on that.
46
47 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Well, at least
48 that's a start. Mr. Chairman.
49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Troy.
2
3 Okay. Down to E. Togiak National
4 Wildlife Refuge.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Before Andy
7 comes up, and Paul and the rest, also speaking with
8 Clarence Summers in regards to the Aniakchak SRC, he also
9 asked who lived around the area, and I mentioned that
10 Virginia Aleck lives in Chignik Lake, and Boris is in
11 Perryville, and he asked that I pass on to the Council
12 that they -- what's that word.
13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Nominate?
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Nominate. That they would
17 consider appointing Virginia Aleck to the Aniakchak SRC.
18 Currently Alvin Buskofsky had been in the past. To his
19 records of the individuals who serve on the Aniakchak
20 SRC. And Alvin in the past had served on the Council,
21 and I'm not sure of his position, if he had been
22 continuing to serve on the fish and game advisory
23 committee in that area, but irrespective, Clarence asked
24 that we ask that -- that I pass on to the Council, mull
25 over the thought of appointing Virginia to serve on the
26 Aniakchak SRC.
27
28 MR. O'HARA: Whose recommendation was it,
29 Clarence's?
30
31 MR. EDENSHAW: That came through the.....
32
33 MR. O'HARA: Oh, the committee?
34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: When I saw you in
36 Anchorage last week, they were back then and trying to
37 fill the seats from the nominations that this Council had
38 made at this last March meetings, and he was going
39 through the list for Lake Clark and Aniakchak, and wanted
40 those seats that the Council's -- that they were vacant,
41 that those be filled up.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Would it be a good
44 time to do that now?
45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anybody want to move
49 to nominate or appoint Virginia to the.....
50

1 MR. O'HARA: Well, I don't think it's up
2 to -- I mean, you guys can make a recommendation, but we
3 can do whatever we want.
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: We might want Boris to be
8 there.....
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
11
12 MR. O'HARA:you know, too, so
13 that's a consideration.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Well.....
16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Has anybody contacted
18 Virginia to see if she's interested or able to serve, or
19 have any idea?
20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: I had spoken to her
22 previously about that, and so.....
23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: And her response was?
25
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Her response was, you
27 know, she was okay with that.
28
29 MR. O'HARA: Boris, what do you think?
30
31 MR. KOSBRUK: I have no comment.
32
33 MR. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
36
37 MR. HAMMOND: Troy Hammond, National
38 Park Service.
39
40 Just a point of information, I don't know
41 anything about Virginia's interest in being on the Board
42 or not, but I can tell you that the last couple of SRC
43 meetings that I've made it too, she attended. For the
44 Aniakchak SRC.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: She's got a track record.
47 Well, if Boris has no comment, then I'll nominate
48 Virginia to sit on the SRC of -- what's it called down
49 there?
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Aniakchak.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Aniakchak.
4
5 MR. O'HARA: Aniakchak Park and Preserve.
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Motion's been
10 made by Dan O'Hara to appoint Virginia Aleck to the
11 Aniakchak SRC, and seconded by Nanci. Any more comment
12 on that?
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
19 called by Pete. All in favor of the appointment signify
20 by saying aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion's carried six
29 to zero. All right. Now we are on to Andy.
30
31 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Members of the Council. My name's Andy Aderman. I'm a
33 wildlife biologist with Togiak Refuge.
34
35 On Page 110 of your books there's a
36 bulletin that outlines several of the projects that the
37 refuge is involved with. I'd just like to touch on a
38 couple of new project starts this last year.
39
40 One of those is a Dolly Varden life
41 history study in the North Fork of the Goodnews River.
42 We've done a very similar study in the Togiak River, the
43 Middle Fork Goodnews River, and the Kanektok River. This
44 year we put out 60 transmitters in Dolly Varden and are
45 hoping to understand the different habitats, specifically
46 spawning and over-wintering that these fish use within
47 that drainage.
48
49 One other project that involves the same
50 drainage, and it's not listed in this report, is the

1 refuge assisted the Kenai fisheries resource office on a
2 rainbow trout abundance project. And again that's in the
3 North Fork of the Goodnews River.

4

5 We also started a lake trout
6 investigation, looking at genetics and length of fish
7 within lakes within the Togiak Refuge. We got out to
8 seven different lakes this year, and plan to hit about
9 another six I believe next year.

10

11 And I just had one thing to mention on
12 wildlife, and that pertains to Mulchatna caribou. This
13 is a long-term on-going project, but back at the end of
14 March we did put out some collars, and we put collars out
15 over in the Togiak drainage, and then in the area between
16 the Kvichak and Nushagak, a total of 30 collars, of which
17 10 of those were satellite collars. We hadn't previously
18 used satellite collars on this herd, and it's pretty
19 interesting to see the movement patterns and where they
20 went. And I know at least during calving it greatly
21 aided the State when I could tell Jim Woolington that,
22 you know three or four of the satellite collars were
23 west-northwest of Lime Village. That's an area that he
24 typically would not go to to look for Mulchatna caribou
25 at that time of year.

26

27 MR. O'HARA: Interesting.

28

29 MR. ADERMAN: And with that I will
30 conclude and answer any questions.

31

32 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

35

36 MR. O'HARA: What's the population of the
37 Mulchatna herd? Is it dwindling or what?

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: It's been going down. The
40 last photo census occurred July of 2004, and the estimate
41 was 85,000.

42

43 MR. O'HARA: 80? From 200 and some
44 thousand to 85,000?

45

46 MR. ADERMAN: The 200,000 was when the
47 herd peaked I believe in 1996. There was a photo census
48 done I believe in 2002. I think that estimate was around
49 140,00. So it.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So you estimate 85?
2
3 MR. ADERMAN: As of a year ago July.
4
5 MR. O'HARA: What do you think about same
6 day as airborning any more, because that is the Mulchatna
7 herd we're doing. You've got until the 21st.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: That's the first thing that
10 popped into my mind.
11
12 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. I mean, you know, the
13 biggest user of the caribou are the subsistence people.
14 I don't think your sports guys -- your sports guys are
15 killing off your breeding animals, that's understandable.
16 But the guys who catch the biggest amount of animals are
17 the ones of us who eat them, and we're going to get the
18 biggest animal we can get to eat, you know. So what are
19 your thoughts?
20
21 MR. ADERMAN: I guess I would have to
22 look at the harvest information and that, but, you know,
23 that's certainly something along with all -- you know,
24 any of the regulations that, you know, should be looked
25 at, and considered, you know, if we need to make changes.
26
27 MR. O'HARA: I don't know if we could
28 have possibly, Mr. Chairman, saved, you know, the North
29 Peninsula herd. Disease and perhaps habitat and
30 different things, aside from predators, you know, they
31 probably weren't going to survive is my own personal
32 opinion.
33
34 However, on this one, you know, I don't
35 know what -- if you've been looking at the health of the
36 animals, if they're encountering any kind of substantial
37 type loss of animals because of health or what, or.....
38
39 MR. ADERMAN: The State has in the past
40 done some -- looked at animals and physical condition. I
41 don't now how much disease testing that they've done. I
42 think they -- well, I know several years ago there was
43 the hoof rot incident that.....
44
45 MR. O'HARA: They got over that
46 routinely.
47
48 MR. ADERMAN:that occurred, and
49 that probably took out a fair number of animals. But I'm
50 not sure what the plans are, you know, in the near future

1 to look at additional animals and test them for various
2 things.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think
5 in the February meeting, we've got to really look at this
6 carefully. I don't know if you'll have any more
7 statistical information on harvest by then, or counts or
8 what, but we need to watch it carefully.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: How confident of that
11 85,000 are you? I know they're so spread out now, that
12 -- are you confident that you're getting all the
13 Mulchatna?

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: That's a good question,
16 because they do get spread out. When that survey was
17 done in 2002, we had a majority of the radio collared
18 animals located, and they were grouped up such that it
19 actually lent itself very well to a photo census
20 technique. We tried to do that again this last July and
21 they were spread out, you know, all over and they weren't
22 grouping up nice, and it would have been a lot of wasted
23 effort and money to try and photograph all these little
24 individual herds that were, you know, spread out over a
25 huge distance.

26

27 I think that, you know, getting back to
28 your question, I think the 85,000 is a pretty good
29 figure, you know, given the nature of the -- you know,
30 what we know about the decline and, I mean, it's
31 declining as fast as it was increasing you know, back in
32 the 80s. And that's what caribou do.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's the reason for
35 the so fast of a decline? Is it the habitat?

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: They go up, they go down.

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. There's lots of
40 factors, and a lot of which, you know, we don't have real
41 good information on. I mean, one is nutrition, a range.
42 You know, despite using an incredibly large area, and
43 there's a lot of areas that the range appears very good,
44 but traditionally that's sort of been implicated in why
45 caribou go through these cycles. They build up and then
46 they crash, and they build up, and that -- there's a
47 predation issue, you know, certainly there's wolves and
48 bears and that. And then you have the human aspect. You
49 know, this herd get more pressure than probably most
50 other herds combined.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know especially
2 since North Peninsula is not even allowed any hunting any
3 more, but even though -- springtime, a lot of people from
4 Naknek/King Salmon area, or even Dillingham would you
5 know, fly out and shoot -- hunt caribou, you know, after
6 the first of the year for the land and shoot. And that's
7 -- otherwise, if it wasn't for that, I think there would
8 be a lot of people that wouldn't get any caribou. So
9 it's pretty important I think because it, you know -- the
10 last couple years anyway. Nanci.

11
12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I guess I would
13 like to -- along those very same lines that you and Dan
14 are talking about, Mr. Chair, I would -- I'm thinking
15 that maybe we should consider putting together some sort
16 of a proposal, once again even if we vote it down in
17 February, so that it can be looked at that point.
18 Otherwise we will have nothing that we are going to be
19 able to do should we think it needs to be done for
20 another year.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: A proposal on?

23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: On the caribou, whether
25 we want to take away the same day airborne or something
26 like that, if we want to take some pressure off them.
27 I'm just wanting to hear what the Council members might
28 have to say about that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: This is to the State.
31 This is on State land.

32
33 MS. MORRIS LYON: Right.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But that's not for two
36 years.

37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Oh, you're right.
39 Okay. So, yeah, we've got two years on that. You're
40 right.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: I was trying to remember,
43 we did do a vote, and I think we didn't support same-day-
44 airborne on Federal lands in these areas, or maybe
45 somebody can -- I'm trying to remember if same-day-
46 airborne is allowed.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: On Federal land? I
49 don't think so, is it? No.

50

1 MR. ADERMAN: You might talk with -- I
2 know Jeff Denton is here with BLM, and there are some BLM
3 lands within that area that's currently open to same-day-
4 airborne under State regs, but as far as refuges, no.
5
6 MR. O'HARA: One more question, Mr.
7 Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Why a decline in the
12 Mulchatna herd? I mean, the Nushagak Peninsula herd?
13 Has predators moved in or.....
14
15 MR. ADERMAN: Actually it's been
16 relatively stable over the last three to four years.
17
18 MR. O'HARA: I thought it was about 1200
19 or so before?
20
21 MR. ADERMAN: Correct. It actually built
22 up to about 1400 in the 97/98. Subsequent to that, we
23 had a couple of years of pretty heavy harvest during the
24 hunt. And those were years when there were no Mulchatna
25 caribou nearby to Dillingham, Manokotak. Had great
26 travel conditions, so people could, you know, easily run
27 down there in a day.
28
29 And the calf production has dropped off
30 from what it used to be. You know, when that herd was
31 increasing, they were having lots of calves, and most of
32 those calves were surviving. Now that's lowered down
33 some. There's been a little bit more mortality on
34 adults, so it's really, you know, kind of slowed the
35 growth of that herd.
36
37 MR. O'HARA: Predators, are they there?
38
39 MR. ADERMAN: There's brown bears,
40 occasionally wolves get there, and there's a pretty good
41 coyote population.
42
43 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Thanks. Appreciate
44 that.
45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, I think Mr.
47 Denton's going to probably provide more information.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Oh, okay. Jeff.
50

1 MR. DENTON: Yeah, thank you. Mr. Chair.
2 My name is Jeff Denton. I'm a biologist with the BLM.

3
4 And I guess I have the capability -- I
5 deal with a lot of these areas in the BLM in the State
6 outside Bristol Bay as well, the McGrath area, and the
7 predator work that's been going on there, and tremendous
8 moose declines back in that country, as well as on the
9 Seward Peninsula and the Norton Sound areas which we've
10 got -- these are all intensive under the State situation,
11 are intensive management areas for moose right now, and
12 they are -- either have been or are in the process of
13 being approved for predator control.

14
15 And as far as BLM is concerned, predator
16 control and airborne hunting, as long as they meet the
17 criteria of the Airborne Hunting Act, BLM lands are open
18 there. Right now, you know, the airborne hunting is
19 going on on BLM lands wherever it occurs in the State,
20 where it's okay. So as far as BLM's concerned, it's a
21 legitimate activity. And as long as they meet the
22 criteria and the law.

23
24 There are some exceptions to the Airborne
25 Hunting Act. If you meet those exceptions in terms of
26 BLM lands, then it's, you know, authorized with no
27 problem.

28
29 I think the refuges and the parks, you
30 know, they have some different legal mandates that
31 require them to look at it a little bit differently.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: So then those BLM lands,
34 and there are some up there, kind of south of the
35 Mulchatna I believe it is, somewhere. I've seen some
36 maps that -- so the same-day-airborne, land and shoot
37 caribou regulations the State has up in that area apply
38 also on the Federal lands?

39
40 MR. DENTON: Yes. That's correct.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, one thing, my
43 personal thoughts, I've been a real supporter of it when
44 the herd is big enough to allow it, especially back when
45 it was growing way faster than the harvest was. And
46 there's years there they were getting 25 to 40,000 new
47 animals a years, and we were only taking 15,000 at most,
48 maybe 20 if you included unreported harvest. And I've
49 often felt that if we start seeing any sort of decline,
50 the same-day-airborne should be the first thing to go,

1 since it was the last thing to be allowed. And into my
2 mind, only when you had a great surplus of animals that
3 could actually outstrip their range.

4
5 But I do remember -- I wasn't living
6 here, but I remember the reports from the 80s when there
7 was only about 25,000 animals in the Mulchatna, and
8 people from this area were scratching and scraping and
9 going over to the North Peninsula, Jensen Strip and that.
10 And I also know that no matter what we do, it's going to
11 be kind of hard to stop this herd from plummeting, but I
12 would certainly be supportive of reduction of or
13 elimination of airborne hunting.

14
15 I know there's a number of folks around
16 the Lake Iliamna area, there's individuals that are very
17 much against it. I'm thinking of Jim Tilly who doesn't
18 like it at all.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, they are under
21 the impression that most of the hunting was done on the
22 west end of Iliamna Lake, but it's since moved last year.
23 And the last couple of years the caribou hasn't made it
24 up there. They've been right behind Levelock and towards
25 Portage, and behind back in that area. And that's where
26 most of the hunt has been the last couple of years, and
27 the river hasn't been froze, so without being able to fly
28 over there and land and shoot, a lot of people wouldn't
29 have got any caribou, you know. So if you eliminate
30 that, like I said, a lot of people wouldn't get any
31 caribou, so that's a consideration that.....

32
33 You know, I didn't like it at one time
34 either, because I seen how many people were flying --
35 this was four or five years ago, six, seven years ago
36 even, that were flying over to the west side of Iliamna
37 Lake when there, you know, might have been 10,000 caribou
38 over there, but there were so many people going there,
39 that they kept the caribou from moving up towards
40 Iliamna, and people seen that. But since then, the
41 caribou haven't gotten back over there, and now they're
42 over on the west side of the Kvichak, and so it's -- you
43 know, it's something to consider. But then, you know, I
44 guess at some point, if the populations does drop low
45 enough, that might have to go away, but right now I'm not
46 in support of seeing it go away.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. We would be out of
49 step with the State, too, if we try to do anything, but
50 certainly something's going to.....

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, it's on State
2 land, you know, and.....
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.
5
6 MR. O'HARA: We could still make a
7 proposal.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Well.....
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman, Dan do you
12 have more you can say?
13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'll think about it.
15 I don't think given what I'm hearing here that I'm
16 inclined to submit my own proposal, or push the Council
17 to submit one. I will want to talk to Jim Willington and
18 all, and at 85,000 animals, we've got something to work
19 with for a little while, but I've thought -- you know,
20 I'll talk to Jim, and maybe Lem, but maybe there should
21 be a more restrictive winter limit or something here.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, we have two more
24 meetings before -- we could still make proposals, because
25 it's going to be a year and a half before the Board of
26 Game meets on this.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It's the spring of
31 2007.
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: And hopefully we're not in
34 an emergency situation before that.
35
36 MR. O'HARA: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman,
37 something, Randy, to think about is 35 years ago when Jim
38 Ferrell was on the King Salmon office, Alaska Department
39 of Fish and Game, we had a problem with that North
40 Peninsula herd, and the problem was that they were
41 killing off all the huge bulls, and there wasn't a
42 breeding stock to help out, and so I was chair of the
43 Naknek/Kvichak advisory committee, and you people have
44 heard this before, and we made a proposal that you could
45 only shoot from January to April 31st or March 15, 30th,
46 whatever it was, an animal that had horns, which means it
47 was a pregnant cow. Well, that was contrary to anything
48 we'd ever done in life is shoot a pregnant cow. And that
49 population come roaring back, because the bulls came
50 back, because that's what we were killing, the huge

1 animals.

2

3

4 You may have the same problem going on
5 with the sports hunter on the Mulchatna herd, you know,
6 and maybe in other places, too. At least it's something
7 to think about.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair. That is why we
10 went back to one bull during the fall period. There for
11 a while there was no restriction on bulls, and I know
12 Wellington was concerned that the cow/bull ratio was
13 getting out of whack and has gone back to -- and Randy or
14 Andy works closely with Jim, correct me if I'm wrong, but
15 that's my understanding of why we have the current State
16 hunting regulations the way they are right now.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, for a while
19 there when it was up to almost 200, it was nonresidents
20 could shoot two bulls, but then about three, four years
21 ago that they got knocked back down to one, because of
22 that.

23

24 Anything else? Anybody else?

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: I hunted hard this fall,
27 and I haven't found a caribou yet.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Me, too. But, you
30 know, that's why I was saying.....

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: It's sparse.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:this spring, they
35 usually come down in the spring time, and sometimes
36 you've got to fly out and shoot -- find them, so I don't
37 really want to get rid of it, unless it drops low enough
38 where they can't -- we can't support that, you know.

39

40 MR. O'HARA: Is that BLM's report now as
41 well?

42

43 MR. DENTON: No, unfortunately not.

44

45 MR. O'HARA: No. Streaming right along
46 then, let's go.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We're at --
49 Andy, you're done?

50

MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So now we're
2 down to F. Alaska Peninsula. This is where you wanted to
3 talk about Mother Goose, right?
4
5 MS. MORRIS LYON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, he probably will talk
8 about that.
9
10 MR. SQUIBB: For the record, I'm Ron
11 Squibb with the Alaska Peninsula, Becharof National
12 Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
13
14 And I already gave the caribou part of my
15 report, so this is going to be on Page -- again it's sort
16 of the typo of page numbers, but I'll start on Page 117
17 in your book, mid page.
18
19 Okay. We're planning to start a trial
20 wolf project in this coming year, and it's sort of a
21 trial to see what -- you know, how well we'd be able to
22 carrying in the future hopefully a population and food
23 habit study of wolves on the upper Alaska Peninsula.
24
25 Going on to moose, you will recall our
26 habitat study in Ugashik Lakes area. UAF graduate
27 student Shelly Szepanski is analyzing those data and we
28 hope in the not too distant future to get the report on
29 that project.
30
31 Also, as Lee Fink mentioned, we're also
32 going to work with UAF, Shelly Szepanski's project on
33 capturing moose calves in the fall and then recapturing
34 them in the spring to look at growth and weight gain and
35 survival on those animals. And as you may well know,
36 it's a project that's going on not just at Lake Clark and
37 on the Peninsula, but also a few other places in the
38 State.
39
40 Also on moose, catch up on my notes here,
41 as you'll recall, we've been working with the consulting
42 firm of WEST in Wyoming, and they've helped with a moose
43 density estimate, and last year worked from Ugashik
44 Narrows and Bristol Bay drainages all the way to
45 Aniakchak, and combining that with the work we did the
46 previous winter, we've covered moose habitat in the area
47 from about Brooks Lake, and all Bristol Bay drainages to
48 Aniakchak, so we got a big chunk of land covered now.
49 And obviously we're not looking in tundra, we're not
50 looking outside of what we consider reasonable moose

1 habitat. But within that area, combining both years, the
2 estimate is 1600, and, you know, there's a point
3 estimate, so about 1700 moose in that area.

4
5 Also, when we work near Aniakchak and BLM
6 I should say to the south of Lower Ugashik Lake, we were
7 getting into the -- what was the 1983 Gazaway moose
8 survey that was done by Fish and Game in 1983. And the
9 statistician -- you know, we asked the statistician to
10 come up with a comparative estimate for that area,
11 because we had data from 2005, and from '83, take a look
12 at numbers. He didn't have all the information he really
13 wanted, but we kind of twisted his arm, and he came up
14 with a rough estimate for us on that area. And, let's
15 see. So in 198 -- and it wasn't the whole area, so he
16 had to re-analyze part of what they did in '83 to compare
17 with what, you know, the same area we did in 2005. But
18 his estimate was in that area of overlap about 955 moose,
19 and that's a rough estimate. It's got some confidence
20 intervals around it that are rather wide. And the same
21 area of comparison, we had -- the point estimate was 569
22 animals. It's not -- you know, like I said, the
23 statistician wasn't happy with the information he had to
24 work from, but basically there is a downward trend from
25 the '83 moose density to present.

26
27 And for the most part -- oh, yeah, on the
28 cow hunt is the next issue I've got, or topic, and our
29 December cow hunt as we talked about earlier, last year
30 only three cows were harvested, you know, of the limit of
31 five. And also when the hunters are out there, they're
32 also looking -- I think there were three bulls also
33 taken, you know, as to my recollection.

34
35 And that's real quick, but that's all the
36 topics I had left on my report. And I'd be happy to
37 entertain any questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Questions for.....

40
41 MR. O'HARA: I had a question for Daryle
42 Lons. He had a little box up there at King Salmon that
43 we kept putting cards in on the number of wolves seen,
44 the date and location. Did you come up with a little
45 area that you had the more wolves? I was wondering why
46 you were taking Ugashik as an area to do the -- catch the
47 wolves and do a study.

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, I don't know exactly. I
50 don't know the plans for -- I don't think we're

1 specifically going to do the wolf work in Ugashik to my
2 knowledge.

3

4 MR. O'HARA: You haven't decided yet?

5

6 MR. SQUIBB: Ugashik was -- I was --
7 Ugashik, I was kind of -- I'm sorry, I was kind of maybe
8 running through this too fast. When I was talking about
9 Ugashik area, I was just defining the areas where the
10 moose, you know, the density of -- you know, our density
11 survey, our abundance estimate was made. And that we
12 start -- we ended after the first winter at Ugashik
13 Narrows, and we continued from near Ugashik Narrows on.

14

15 But I can ask Justin, do we have specific
16 plans yet on areas we're going to try to do -- the wolf
17 study?

18

19 MR. GOODING: I'm Justin Gooding with the
20 Fish and Wildlife Service in King Salmon.

21

22 And the idea is to capture wolves in the
23 calving areas of the caribou and then winter range of the
24 caribou.

25

26 MR. O'HARA: Well, Daryle, I was just
27 kind of wondering if -- did you put down the statistics
28 of where these wolves were spotted over a period of time,
29 that little box?

30

31 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, that -- I didn't get
32 that put together. That's my error on that.

33

34 MR. O'HARA: Okay. But you will though.
35 Okay. Because those cards came in pretty regular, and
36 some of us saw wolves in the same place almost like on a
37 weekly basis, so it would be interesting to put in a
38 computer.

39

40 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Yeah, Orville
41 mentioned that to me, and I didn't get that put together.
42 My apologies.

43

44 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Thanks a lot.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, seeing nothing
47 else, thank you, guys.

48

49 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 MR. O'HARA: Oh, one more thing. Mother
2 Goose with the -- that was pretty big disaster as far as
3 clear water and nothing in it.
4

5 MR. SQUIBB: I could -- Daryle, did you
6 want to talk about it, or I could. Either is fine.
7

8 MR. LONS: Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman.
9 Council members. For the record my name is Daryle Lons.
10 I'm the refuge manager for the Alaska Peninsula and
11 Becharof Refuges. Social security number 842.....
12

13 (Laughter)
14

15 MR. O'HARA: You've been listening.
16

17 MR. LONS: Yeah, we had a pretty
18 interesting geologic event down on the Alaska Peninsula
19 Refuge in the Ugashik Unit. Probably about Chiganogik
20 (ph), or Mount Chiginagak (ph). How do you want to say
21 it?
22

23 MR. O'HARA: Chiganigik (ph). Chiganigik
24 (ph) I think.
25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: Letting him sweat there.
27

28 MR. LONS: Anyhow, since last year
29 apparently an ice melt lake formed up in the summit
30 crater of Mount Chiginagik, and apparently early in the
31 summer it breached and all the overflow, all the water
32 and debris and stuff came down the mountainside and came
33 into Indecision Creek, and it's very acidic. So the
34 Alaska Volcano Observatory folks when they were down
35 there looking at it this year, they took water samples,
36 and the samples that they took along the shoreline was
37 about a pH of 3.0, which amounts to basically like
38 vinegar or lemon juice.
39

40 So what that did is it acidified that
41 whole system and it prevented the sockeye run and the
42 king salmon run from coming up into Mother Goose and up
43 into the Panic Creek drainage. So it was, you know,
44 pretty disturbing from that end of things.
45

46 But it is a small sockeye run and a
47 pretty small king run and there's not a lot of
48 subsistence use in the King Salmon River and Mother Goose
49 drainage. Most of the folks in Pilot Point and Ugashik
50 depend on the Ugashik River system.

1 But it was a pretty interesting event.
2 Dan flew over it. The lake turned orange.
3
4 And our fisheries folks, Mike Edwards and
5 a crew, is going to go down there next week and try to
6 take pH readings at depth, because all we've got up to
7 this point is surface pH's, so he's going to try to take
8 pH's down at like 50, I think 50 meters. If I'm wrong,
9 correct me, Mike. And also look for invertebrates and
10 find out if there are any living critters left in Mother
11 Goose Lake, because 3.0, fish and most organisms can't
12 survive, you know, that type of a pH situation.
13
14 MR. O'HARA: Daryle, salmon coming up,
15 just a guess, would taste the water and maybe go away I
16 would hope. And then I hope the fish in the lake would
17 flee, go somewhere else.
18
19 MR. LONS: Hopefully, yeah. We don't
20 know. We -- the folks that were down there didn't see
21 any fish kill in the lake itself, but there was a report
22 of fish killed down in the lower King Salmon River in the
23 early part of the summer, so we're not sure what happened
24 really. Some of the fish probably fled, some of the fish
25 might have gone up other tributaries in the lower part of
26 the King Salmon River.
27
28 MR. O'HARA: And then, too, within, I
29 don't know whether it's 150 or 200-foot around the lake
30 when I flew it, everything had just turned brown. It
31 killed all the vegetation.
32
33 MR. LONS: Yeah, there was also, you
34 know, some vegetation impacted, especially in the upper
35 reaches of Indecision Creek. And we had a botanist from
36 Arctic Refuge come down and establish baseline plots in
37 the area so that we can go back in the future and see,
38 you know, see what happens to that vegetation. But all
39 in all, a pretty interesting geological event.
40
41 It isn't I guess unprecedented though.
42 The AVO had pictures that a crater lake -- or an ice melt
43 like that had formed in 1982 also. And then some of the
44 sport -- one of the sport fish guides, when he was a
45 small boy, reported that his father had talked about a
46 similar event happening in that watershed. So I guess --
47 we don't know how long it's going to take to flush out
48 the system, but hopefully it won't be too long.
49
50 MR. O'HARA: We can't do much about it.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Daryle, when that
2 breached, that lake breached up there, did it flood the
3 whole area? It was a big mass of water go down all at
4 once, or did it -- was it slow?

5
6 MR. LONS: We don't know, but it looked
7 like it probably was fairly fast. Some of it went down
8 the Pacific side of the mountain, and then most of it
9 came down onto the Bristol Bay side down into the
10 Indecision Creek and Volcano Creek areas. But it
11 appeared like it happened probably fairly fast, because
12 there's also dead vegetation patches away from the creek
13 itself, which kind of lends itself to maybe there were
14 like clouds of gas that hit the vegetation and killed the
15 vegetation.

16
17 MR. O'HARA: It went in Painter Creek,
18 which is right alongside of Mother Goose Lake, and that's
19 totally stagnant now. It's clear as could be, but
20 nothing in it. No fish in it. Okay. I appreciate that.

21
22 MR. LONS: Actually, if you're
23 interested, too, you can get on the web site at the
24 Alaska Volcano Observatory site and look at pictures, and
25 there's more information there.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you.

28
29 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: G. King Salmon Fish
32 and Wildlife Resource Office.

33
34 MR. EDWARDS: Good afternoon. Mr.
35 Chairman. Council members. Mike Edwards with the King
36 Salmon Fish and Wildlife Resource Office.

37
38 My report to you in the book is on Page
39 122. A couple of the projects we had, this summer we
40 were -- Ugashik Lakes resident study. We had a graduate
41 student from the University of West Virginia down there
42 running hydroacoustic samples in both the upper and lower
43 Ugashik Lakes. And he finished his work. He got all his
44 transects run, and now it's time to analyze it. And
45 hopefully this winter we'll start getting some data back
46 from him. The idea with that is so we can get some
47 abundance estimates of the nonsalmon fish, the whitefish,
48 the lake trout and the Dollies in those big lakes. And
49 we're kind of using the Ugashiks as the learning tool,
50 and once we fine-tune the hydroacoustic techniques, we'll

1 be able to take that and go to other lakes up and down
2 the Peninsula and get abundance estimates hopefully on
3 some of the resident fish that data is really lacking up
4 and down the Peninsula.

5
6 And the other project is the aerial
7 surveys down in Boris' neighborhood. Conducted the two
8 flights last year in October due to weather. The idea
9 was to get one in September and one October, but weather
10 and then scheduling with the availability of the
11 helicopter, both surveys were done in October. And from
12 the aerial surveys, again those are minimum counts of
13 what's in the streams, but it appears that those streams
14 around Perryville have sufficient numbers to support the
15 subsistence harvest for the folks in the Perryville area
16 as long as everything's not concentrated on one stream,
17 which we're not getting any indication that that's
18 happening.

19
20 So things, other than having to go
21 somewhere else, the Kametolook is still down. There's a
22 few fish being reported. Like Boris said, they're seeing
23 some, and the flights are occurring this weekend. But it
24 appears that the streams adjacent to Perryville can
25 support the subsistence needs, the folks just have to
26 travel to get to them, which is unfortunate.

27
28 And then like Daryle said, we're heading
29 down to Mother Goose on Tuesday to collect the water
30 samples, and the concern is there that the AVO folks only
31 sampled on the surface. They didn't have a boat. And
32 we're not really sure if the lake's stratified or if it's
33 mixed top to bottom. The pH was 3 at the inlet and at
34 the outlet, which kind of indicates that it's probably
35 top to bottom as well, but we don't know.

36
37 So if it has stratified and the pH is --
38 there's a refuge down below, the potential that some of
39 the resident fish could have escaped it and are hanging
40 out at the bottom of the lake, which would be a good
41 thing as far as rebuilding the lake. But our guess is
42 it's mixed top to bottom, because the Ugashiks and
43 Becharof lakes, which are larger, mix. So probably the
44 whole system, the pH -- we're probably going to find the
45 pH at 3 at depth, which is not.....

46
47 MR. O'HARA: Well, when I flew it, Mr.
48 Chairman, at the bottom of the -- the lower end of the
49 lake where it comes out the river there was all orange.
50 I mean, so obviously that fish that's hanging out there

1 is going to be an orange fish.
2
3 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. Well, the only hope
4 we have for the -- is at depth. If the lake stratified
5 and there was a temperature barrier and the pH water --
6 the water that -- the acidic water didn't -- wasn't able
7 to penetrate the thermocline, which separates two
8 densities of water, warm water and cold water, that the
9 fish may have gone to the bottom of the lake and they're
10 hanging out. They're probably hungry and hanging out,
11 but at least they're out of 3.0 pH water.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Uh-huh. Okay.
14 Everything is orange now.
15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: I wonder what they eat,
17 besides each other.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anything.....
20
21 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. And with that, I'd
22 be happy to answer any questions.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Anything for Mike.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seeing none, thank
29 you, Mike.
30
31 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you.
32
33 MR. O'HARA: I look forward to February
34 though and see what you find.
35
36 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. I should mention
37 that. As soon as we get back, I'd be more than happy to
38 -- the report I'll compile, I'll be glad to send to
39 Cliff, and he can send it to all the Council members.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: To him. Yeah. Uh-huh. Thanks.
42 Appreciate that.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Now we're on H.
45 BLM.
46
47 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
48 name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the BLM, I'm a biologist,
49 and I'm also the subsistence coordinator for the
50 Anchorage field office, which covers everything I guess

1 basically from Southeast Alaska to Nome. So I can hit
2 lots of high points, and that's about it.

3
4 Of particular interest to you folks is
5 we're working on a land use plan currently that is called
6 the Bay Plan. And it covers basically the drainages
7 flowing into Bristol Bay and then out to the Goodnews Bay
8 area. Pat McClanahan, which some of you know, she's kind
9 of spearheading, she's kind of the lead contact on that
10 particular plan. I believe she has contacted a lot of
11 you, and you should have a scoping report. I know Cliff
12 was given one, and I know, Dan, she's been in
13 communication with you.

14
15 And so that plan is progressing, and as
16 we find out, especially me as a biologist, when we do
17 these plans, we really find out what we don't know, and
18 we actually can focus on things enough to itemize, you
19 know, where we really have big data gaps and big holes in
20 information. And as long as we've been doing work in
21 this country, between all the agencies, we find in places
22 like 9B we really don't know anything about those moose
23 there in terms of movements, critical seasonal ranges,
24 how many animals are migrating out of the upper Iliamna
25 country down in there to winter and back and forth. How
26 many are coming out of the parks for those winter
27 populations. You know, we may see lots of animals, but
28 maybe they're not available to subsistence hunters during
29 the seasons that they hunt them.

30
31 Some things I -- there's a lot of -- when
32 we start looking at this stuff, suddenly we find out we
33 really don't know very much. And so hopefully these
34 plans will point out these deficiencies so we can
35 actually focus on getting that kind of information.

36
37 These are particularly challenging times
38 both budgetwise, mining proposals -- this thing with the
39 diseases and things going on in the Northern Peninsula
40 herd are, to me, because in the other world I used to
41 work in in the Lower 48, I was seeing these disease
42 things manifest themselves in some pretty bizarre losses
43 of wildlife. And the bovine respiratory thing, which is
44 fairly new here, is of particular concern. It spreads
45 easily. It can spread into the Mulchatna herd. That's a
46 pathogen that can be spread through the movement patterns
47 of Mulchatna. They can be a carrier.

48
49 This particular disease complex are
50 particularly lethal to sheep. And they kill healthy

1 sheep. Sheep are extremely vulnerable to these sorts of
2 things. And I've watched many sheep die off in the
3 Lower 48 that totally eliminate populations of sheep.
4 And those wild sheep down there have some natural
5 immunities to them, but dall sheep up here have none.
6 They've never had any exposure to these kinds of diseases
7 every. They have no natural defenses. And so even
8 healthy sheep can be totally eliminated.

9
10 And this is a concern to me, because
11 Mulchatna animals move clear over onto the other side of
12 the Alaska Range where I have other sheep populations
13 that I deal with, as well as potentially the Lake Clark
14 sheep, and also of concern.....

15
16 And a lot of us, we need to educate
17 ourselves on these diseases. Do they -- are they crossed
18 to moose? Are these part of the problems we're having
19 with moose? Maybe not causing serious problems, but they
20 may be dampening moose production, if moose are
21 vulnerable to these things. Moose can also be a carrier.

22
23
24 I think this is kind of a new thing in
25 Alaska, and I've been in contact with the State Fish and
26 Game's veterinarian and actually we've all got a lot to
27 learn about these things. And so these are going to be
28 extremely challenging times.

29
30 I think yesterday some -- before I got
31 here, there were some questions or something about mining
32 in Pebble and so on. I'd like to -- I don't know what
33 the questions were, or what folks were asking, but I can,
34 I guess, explain where BLM's involvement in that is.

35
36 Currently -- I mean, I attend the
37 interagency meetings that we have with Pebble, and
38 there's a lot of preliminary smoke and mirrors sorts of
39 things going on right now, and I think all you guys have
40 seen what Northern Dynasty has presented and so and so
41 forth. There are no applications that we have received
42 yet with any details on transportation routes, so on and
43 so forth.

44
45 BLM lands are a pretty minor player.
46 Where the main mine is is State lands. There are some
47 State selected lands where the transportation corridor
48 probably will go, at least portions of it. And then
49 there's one little section of BLM land that looks like it
50 will be long-term BLM land that may be involved in those

1 things.

2

3 Most of it's State involvement. DNR is
4 doing a lot of behind the scenes preliminary stuff.
5 They're doing a lot of evaluation of potential
6 transportation routes. They're doing a lot of pre-work
7 with State dollars.

8

9 And their intention as I understand it
10 now is to assert what they call an RS2477 State highway
11 right-of-way that is kind of a State highways thing so
12 they can go through native corporation land, private
13 lands, and they feel they can do that on Federal lands,
14 BLM lands, but we don't recognize an RS2477 on BLM lands
15 yet. It's being tested in the courts all the time. But
16 with this, they can essentially -- with the State
17 highways thing, they can put a roadway, an access way and
18 without having to really talk to anybody. I hope they
19 will not do that. But they are progressing quite rapidly
20 with developing transportation corridors to the Pebble
21 Mine area.

22

23 In the last two years, BLM has also
24 permitted several drilling exploration core drilling
25 operation in like Kaskanak Creek, just west of Kaskanak
26 Creek area on BLM lands. There are several other
27 prospects that Cominco has done over the last 10 years as
28 far west as probably 15 miles west of Koliganek, in that
29 country, on BLM lands. There are several other prospects
30 on State lands north and west of Koliganek as well.

31

32 So there's a potential cumulative
33 scenario here for the next few years if access to Pebble
34 Copper occurs, that's kind of the lead into a whole bunch
35 of these other potential prospects, so just, you know,
36 kind of an umbrella view of where the future may or may
37 not go. We don't really know right now.

38

39 And I think -- I've had I guess the
40 privilege sort of working with several of these real
41 intensive management areas outside of the Bay area. The
42 McGrath area, the 19 problems with moose up there. And
43 we're reevaluating many of our strategies up there on
44 moose management on how we go about monitoring, how
45 frequently, how to go about getting better and more
46 consistent data over time.

47

48 I see the same scenario developing for
49 some areas in Bristol Bay. 9B and 9C at least outside
50 the parks, we really lack good information. It's not

1 been consistent over the years. There's never been a
2 census and a density estimate done in those areas on at
3 least the southern half of 9B, which is where most of the
4 BLM lands are there. And in 9C in the next couple of
5 years I want to work very closely with Fish and Game to
6 try to get some of those things done. This is baseline
7 information that's critically needed when we've got
8 mining proposals staring at us. You know, we've got a
9 lot of things where we really need good baseline data and
10 we don't have. We just frankly don't have the
11 information to make good management decisions to be
12 perfectly frank. Even in a land use plan, we don't have
13 the information to make good decisions.

14
15 I'll leave it at that. That's kind of
16 where we're at right now. We do have lots of concerns
17 coming down the road. These are pretty challenging
18 times, and I think we're going to have to get on top of
19 it, and a little bit ahead of the curve here, which BLM
20 is not.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Anybody have
23 any questions. Dan.

24
25 MR. O'HARA: Yep. I didn't see any
26 dollar signs being put into any studies to figure out
27 what you're doing.

28
29 MR. DENTON: That's one of the big
30 concerns. I've done some moderate work here about three
31 years ago when I had some money. Again, these intensive
32 management areas elsewhere in the State are really taking
33 the dollars, because those are big cooperative three and
34 four agency, high priority, you know, disaster areas so
35 to speak in terms of moose management. And I would like
36 to up the priority down here in some of our areas, and at
37 least to get the baseline data. Again, with Katrina and
38 the hurricane things, our budgets are going to be highly
39 in question for the next few years. So that's why we
40 can't do any of this by ourselves as a single agency.
41 We've got to collaborate pretty extensively with other
42 agencies.

43
44 MR. O'HARA: Pat McClanahan came and made
45 a presentation to the Bristol Bay Native Corporation Land
46 Committee, which I chaired. I'm no longer on that
47 committee. And she showed us the plan and sent me the
48 scoping process and everything, and it looks a little
49 green, you know, as far as what we like, but that's just
50 a comment.

1 MR. DENTON: It's got a long ways to go.
2 I mean, that's the scoping report which basically
3 reflects, you know, when she went out and got comments.
4 That's basically what that is. We'll have a draft
5 probably a year from now, and then that will go for real
6 serious public input at that point in time.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you,
9 Jeff.
10
11 MR. DENTON: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Next is I. Bristol Bay
14 Native Association. Make you guys sit here for two days
15 and finally you get to say something.
16
17 MR. BELLEQUE: We're ready. Thank you,
18 Mr. Chair. Council. I'm Kyle Belleque with the Bristol
19 Bay Native Association. And Robbin LaVine's here with
20 me, and Kenny is also over there if you would like to
21 access him after I do this. We will keep it as brief as
22 possible per Ralph's instructions and my stomach.
23
24 There is a little bit of a bio on me, and
25 actually also on Robbin, in the Partners for Fisheries
26 Monitoring Program, if you'd like to read that.
27
28 Currently I am serving as co-investigator
29 on two FRMP studies, the Lake Clark whitefish study and
30 the '06 project that will start up in '06, the Dolly
31 Varden interregional project, getting genetic baseline
32 data.
33
34 And BBNA is also very active in the area
35 of college internships and encouraging our young people
36 and supporting them in gaining natural resources degrees
37 so that hopefully they can come home and take all of
38 these fellows' jobs some day.
39
40 And I'll pass it on.
41
42 MS. LaVINE: Right. My name is Robbin
43 LaVine and I'm the subsistence fisheries social scientist
44 at BBNA. Both Kyle and I are new this year, this spring,
45 but in the short time that we've been here at BBNA, I
46 think we've done quite a lot that we've very proud of.
47
48 Our internships, we both occupied pretty
49 much all of our time this summer. We had six
50 internships, and all o them placed on a lot of the

1 projects that folks here representing the various
2 agencies in the region are conducting, and we continue to
3 do -- look for projects for them for next summer.

4
5 Aside from administering that portion of
6 our program, or co-administering with Kyle, I'm involved
7 on three separate FRMP projects, the first being FIS04-
8 351, that's traditional ecological knowledge in Togiak
9 National Wildlife Refuge. This is kind of a multi-phased
10 project. Actually I've been involved in this for a
11 number of years prior to my work here at BBNA, with Pete
12 Abraham, Ferdinand Sharp, Jon Dyasuk, the RITs, and the
13 folks at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

14
15 As well, kind of as soon as I came on at
16 BBNA I was aware of the customary trade and barter
17 project ongoing in this region. We've been conducting
18 surveys in a number of different communities. That would
19 be Nondalton, Naknek/King Salmon, and Dillingham and
20 Togiak are the four communities involved in that. This
21 is a project that's been kind of conducted in multi-
22 phases here in Southwest Alaska as well as in the
23 Kotzebue Sound area, and I believe there is another
24 similar project going on in the Kuskokwim area. Actually
25 though it's the lower Yukon. YRDFA is involved in that.

26
27 And finally there is an upcoming project,
28 the Togiak non-salmon species project. The field season
29 should be starting this fall, and BBNA and my portion of
30 -- my involvement in this project is as one of the few
31 social scientists actually on-site in the region, I'm
32 assisting collecting data. I'm also assisting in
33 providing local hire for involvement in these projects.

34
35 And I think that's it for now, unless you
36 have any questions.

37
38 MR. BELLEQUE: If you have questions or
39 comments for us or Kenny?

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any questions from the
42 Council. Dan.

43
44 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, you had six interns
45 between the two of you?

46
47 MS. LaVINE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

48
49 MR. O'HARA: Did they conduct any of
50 their studies in the field, or were they in the office

1 doing computer work?
2
3 MR. BELLEQUE: I can go into that in a
4 little bit of detail if you would wish.
5
6 MR. O'HARA: You can make it brief, yeah.
7
8 MR. BELLEQUE: Brief detail. Yeah.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: I mean, I'd like to see some
11 of these people out in the field somewhere doing some of
12 these things.
13
14 MR. BELLEQUE: Yeah. We had six. One
15 intern worked very closely with the Togiak National
16 Wildlife Refuge in the Squaw Creek weir, and counting --
17 I'm trying to think of the term here for it.
18
19 MS. LaVINE: Video monitoring project.
20
21 MR. BELLEQUE: Yeah. The video
22 monitoring, monitoring fish passage using video
23 technology, and so she was in the field, and also in the
24 computer lab. We also had two interns at the Fisheries
25 Research Institute camp there at Lake Aleknagik, and they
26 were heavily in the field. We also had Tim Dyasuk up in
27 the Lake Clark region working at the counting tower there
28 at Newhalen River that was referenced earlier. We also
29 had Violet Apoliak (ph) who worked at the Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game here in the Dillingham
31 office, and she got out to a variety of projects in this
32 area, and she also had an opportunity to assist with an
33 archaeological dig in Aniakchak Bay.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: Very good. Thank you.
36
37 MS. LaVINE: And then there was my
38 Partner's intern, Doreen Anderson-Spear, who spent -- a
39 majority of her time was -- actually two of our interns
40 are Partners. They work directly under our supervision.
41 It's a higher -- they received both college credits as
42 well as, you know, on-site professional experience, work
43 experience. Courtney was his Partner's intern and Doreen
44 Anderson-Spear was mine, and she helped assist -- she
45 assisted me on both of the traditional ecological
46 knowledge in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and the
47 customary trade project. She did a lot of -- she
48 conducted a lot of surveys here in Dillingham, and she
49 was a real asset. I was sorry to see her go.
50

1 The four other interns that we've had
2 were T-CUP. That's a tribal, college and university
3 program internships. And we kind of partner on those
4 four with Work Force Development, which is another branch
5 of Bristol Bay Native Association.
6

7 MR. O'HARA: Well, if you ever get
8 interns that want to go up to Panhandle, Frying Pan Lake
9 where the mine is going to develop and get a real on-
10 hands look at what's going to be going on, I think that
11 would be a huge thing, you know, because that's just
12 massive.
13

14 MS. LaVINE: If there's infrastructure,
15 if there's a project going up there, we would love to put
16 an intern there.
17

18 MR. O'HARA: There's an infrastructure
19 there all right. It's just sticking right out of the
20 ground, and it's a very small valley for everything
21 that's going to be developing in there. It's just like
22 -- you know, fly through it, and I have many times. It's
23 very interesting. Yeah, I think that was about all I had
24 to say.
25

26 MS. LaVINE: That's actually -- one last
27 point. We are interested in -- just letting all the
28 agencies here know that we are identifying upcoming
29 projects where we can place interns. We are also
30 interested in providing a biannual newsletter to the
31 communities that BBNA services on the on-going research,
32 just brief little bits of information on research
33 projects on-going and proposed and whatever agencies are
34 coming up with. So we're both available for contact on
35 those issues.
36

37 MR. O'HARA: There's a big push, Mr.
38 Chairman, in the Bristol Bay Native Corporation for
39 shareholders to be involved in hands-on stuff in the
40 region, subsistence and commercial and everything else,
41 because everybody come filtering in from everywhere else,
42 you know, and we're sitting there watching them do it,
43 when we want the hands-on part of doing it ourselves.
44 And even our native people who work in places like Veco
45 and different ones are drawing in rural Alaska residents
46 into the work force, and that's something we -- I
47 appreciate you mentioning it to the agencies sitting
48 here, and we deal with these agencies one-on-one, and
49 would support that, so we do appreciate that a lot.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Was Iris Bowers an intern
4 through the BBNA program at -- is that -- was she an
5 intern or just a seasonal hire? I see Charlotte nodding
6 her head in the back.
7
8 MS. WESTING: She was a BBABC (ph)
9 intern.
10
11 MR. BELLEQUE: Wrong BB.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, but there's another
14 example of -- and I've kind of watched Iris grow up from
15 a little kid, and what I heard from her parents was she
16 had a fantastic time.
17
18 But I'm pretty excited to see Kyle where
19 he is. I've kind of -- he was, I think, just getting out
20 of high school when I first showed up here, and he's come
21 along. He's been avid, and he's a real effective
22 teacher. Really motivated the volleyball team to go
23 against his dad.
24
25 I'm hoping that along with what you're
26 saying, Dan, that elders and parents in the Bristol Bay
27 area go home and convince their kids that jobs like any
28 one of the other agency folks are holding out here are
29 socially acceptable, the kind of jobs that they want to
30 have, that they're not going to get turned around and be
31 called blankety-blank biologists. That's one problem you
32 have is all I ever hear at home is, you know, that
33 blankety-blank Fish and Game, that blankety-blank Park
34 Service, that blankety-blank whichever agency. Will
35 those kids ever even want to aspire to those positions.
36 So I think I've talked to Robbin about it a little bit.
37 I've talked to other individuals, but I think -- but I
38 know Kyle here, he's one guy that sure should help, and
39 we can all try.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: We like it.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank you,
44 guys.
45
46 Okay. We're down to number 14, new
47 business. And on new business we've got one that was
48 brought up, the number of guides and outfitters in
49 Becharof, so.....
50

1 MR. O'HARA: Daryle Lons I guess needs to
2 address that. I talked to him a little bit about it, I
3 can't remember where, Mr. Chairman. We appreciate you
4 showing up, Daryle, and.....
5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.
9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: Can I be excused so I can
11 make arrangements to get home.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You're home.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Am I?
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: I mean, thought it was
22 Dillingham.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, that's close.
25 Yeah.
26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Don't you have a house
28 here?
29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you need a
31 telephone?
32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: I'll go down there and make
34 arrangements. My wife's down there. I mean, this is a
35 nice meeting. I like it.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We should be done in
38 10 minutes.
39
40 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah, I've got to
41 make -- I've got quite a few things to do before I leave.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: When are you leaving?
44
45 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, that guy still owes
46 me. He got -- I'm trying to collect three more per
47 diems.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What time are you
4 leaving, Pete?
5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Huh?
7
8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: When are you supposed
9 to leave?
10
11 MR. ABRAHAM: Check in at 2:30.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Oh, okay.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, he can go.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. See you
18 next time then.
19
20 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, if I don't make it at
21 2:30, 6:00 o'clock flight.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Daryle.
24
25 MR. ABRAHAM: Good job, Cliff.
26
27 MR. LONS: For the record, Daryle Lons,
28 refuge manager for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
29 Refuges.
30
31 On Becharof Refuge we have six big game
32 guide/outfitter use areas, and on Alaska Peninsula we
33 have 15 big game guide/ outfitter use areas. We
34 authorize 15 guides in those 21 areas. Eleven of them
35 are authorized to hunt moose or actively do hunt moose at
36 the present time. Most of the use areas are sole use,
37 meaning only one guide can be in them, and several of
38 them on Alaska Peninsula are joint use where we allow two
39 big game guides in those areas.
40
41 The last several years the average
42 harvest -- well, first of all, we also allow, authorize
43 three big game guide transporters, Branch River Air, Sea
44 Air and Mike McCrary, Bush Alaska Sports.
45
46 And so between the transporters and the
47 big game guides the last several years, the average
48 harvest of moose has been 40 moose for both, on both
49 refuges.
50

1 Also, we closed the Island Arm area of
2 Becharof Lake to air transport during the moose season,
3 the Severson/Island Arm area, and then limit the lower
4 part of Island Arm to five groups of outside moose
5 hunters.
6
7 And I guess another note that you might
8 be interested in is the use areas on the Pacific side
9 near the villages of Chigniks and Perryville and Ivanof
10 Bay, we do not allow the guides to have moose clients in
11 those areas near the village.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: So you've just done that on
14 your own?
15
16 MR. LONS: What's that?
17
18 MR. O'HARA: You've done that on your
19 own, you just shut off that area and residents only?
20
21 MR. LONS: Yeah, as far as guided moose
22 clients. Yes.
23
24 MR. O'HARA: Well, I was -- go ahead.
25
26 MR. LONS: That's pretty much all I have.
27 I guess I'd open it up to questions.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is that counting
30 outfitters, too, Daryle, or just guides?
31
32 MR. LONS: Which question? As far
33 as.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The numbers.
36
37 MR. LONS: Yeah. 40 includes all the
38 clients of the big game transporters as well as the
39 guides. It typically is pretty well 50/50 split, 20 and
40 20, but some years it's a few more guided clients, so
41 it's more like 25/15. But the last several years it's
42 hovered right around 40 harvested animals.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Dan.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: I'm kind of confused here,
47 Daryle. You have 25 guides? These are.....
48
49 MR. LONS: We have 21 guide use areas.
50

1 MR. O'HARA: And every one of them has a
2 guide?
3
4 MR. LONS: One guide, or possibly two
5 guides.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Oh, and they have.....
8
9 MR. LONS: But each guide is authorized
10 up to three use areas, so that there's a total of 15 big
11 games guides operating on both refuges.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: In Becharof. Okay.
14
15 MR. LONS: And Alaska Peninsula.
16
17 MR. O'HARA: Oh, I see.
18
19 MR. LONS: And out of those 15, only 11
20 of them actually guide for moose clients. The rest are
21 all bear hunting clients.
22
23 MR. O'HARA: How many do you have in
24 Becharof Lake Refuge?
25
26 MR. LONS: Guides?
27
28 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.
29
30 MR. LONS: Three.
31
32 MR. O'HARA: Three? Only three?
33
34 MR. LONS: Joe Klutch, Phil Schumaker and
35 Tracy Brown.
36
37 MR. O'HARA: And this is for moose?
38
39 MR. LONS: Yes.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: Well, who are these guys
42 with skiffs going around and.....
43
44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Transporters.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: Those are transporters?
47
48 MR. LONS: Not in skiffs. There
49 shouldn't be any other folks.
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: So your transporters
2 aren't allowed in Becharof any more?
3
4 MR. LONS: Well, for sport fishing.
5
6 MS. MORRIS LYON: But not the hunting any
7 more, right?
8
9 MR. LONS: (No audible answer)
10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay.
12
13 MR. O'HARA: Well, what about Becharof
14 Lake Lodge, don't they hunt moose?
15
16 MR. LONS: Not to my knowledge.
17
18 MR. O'HARA: Okay. That was one of the
19 questions, yeah.
20
21 MR. LONS: I mean, they're interested in
22 starting a bear viewing program and they guide for sport
23 fishing.
24
25 MR. O'HARA: Uh-huh. But as far as you
26 know, they don't do moose in that region?
27
28 MR. LONS: No, that's not -- well, that's
29 not authorized. If you've got more information you'd
30 like to share with me, Dan.
31
32 MR. O'HARA: The second question -- yeah.
33 The second question, did your law enforcement guy have to
34 go down to New Orleans, or did he stay?
35
36 MR. LONS: Yes.
37
38 MR. O'HARA: He had to go.
39
40 MR. LONS: Yeah, Dave's down in Cajun
41 country now helping out down there with the Katrina
42 disaster.
43
44 MR. O'HARA: We do thank him for -- okay.
45 Well, I sure appreciate you coming up and talking to us.
46
47 MR. LONS: Okay. Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thanks, Daryle. All
50 right.

1 We had also on new business Dan wanted to
2 bring up the mine. Is there anything else you wanted to
3 discuss on that, Dan, besides what Jeff did talk about?

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: That, I guess, and
6 considering the locations of most of these claims at this
7 point, the most active ones, it's probably about all I
8 could expect. I'm glad to hear what Jeff had to say. I
9 really appreciate it. And personally I'm still trying to
10 keep up on this real close, but I'm kind of feeling
11 overwhelmed with the scope of the whole program. It just
12 keeps getting bigger and bigger with more claims and
13 supposedly more discoveries.

14
15 And this RS2477, sometimes personally I'm
16 kind of in favor of it, but this one kind of scares me.
17 But I appreciate that information, and what Lee shared
18 with us before he left.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Bristol Bay, our native
21 corporation, is the first one who did a memorandum of
22 agreement or understanding, and Joe was on the board with
23 me, with the State of Alaska for exploratory oil and gas
24 development in the region. And when we did this, the
25 Governor just turned right around and, you know, I think
26 they had three other lease areas and they all canceled,
27 and he went right to Bristol Bay. And when you take a
28 mining -- or an exploration company that's stayed in
29 Aleknagik for two months and hired Lake and Pen Air,
30 which is Dave Wilder's 206, and his son stayed there for
31 30 days and flew every day in that region looking for
32 more development of, you know, geology type stuff. And
33 then what goes on on Fog Lake on our lands and Kemuk
34 Mountain and Shotgun Hills, there's a huge, huge -- it
35 will make all these guys look small compared to what's
36 going on in this region. It's huge development taking
37 place in Bristol Bay. And right now, you know, we can't
38 even comment on the Pebble Northern Dynasty thing at
39 Frying Pan Lake, because the permit hasn't even been
40 issued. So, you know, we really can't do anything yet.
41 However, some planning should be in place.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: One other thing along that
46 line, I was on the internet last night, and I'm on quite
47 a few servers. I did print up some stuff I got to just
48 kind of help. One of them helps me understand some of
49 the scope of what some of these really big mines are.
50 It's a discussion of the blasting activity at Bingham

1 Canyon copper mine, which is a Utah mine. And I'll be
2 happy to share that with all of you. I've given some
3 out. If you're interested. I think there's one extra
4 copy for the record.
5

6 And then there's another one that's just
7 a copy of the Alaska Journal of Commerce, kind of an
8 editorial from the publisher, kind of his thoughts on the
9 mine that, you know, there's folks that are rabidly for
10 it and rabidly against it, and both of these I hoped were
11 just kind of middle of the road, but brought up a lot of
12 points worth considering, and I'm happy to share them
13 with anybody who's interested. I'm trying to just
14 understand what we're dealing with, and try to make a
15 rational decision of what would be a reasonable course of
16 action, so that's about all I have.
17

18 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Chairman. One of the
19 latest development that has kind of come down for
20 information is that they come across Pile Bay Road
21 already with the equipment, and barge it down to upper
22 Talarek and build a road from there straight into the
23 mine. They don't need anyone else's permission. That's
24 state land, and they don't need to ask anybody what their
25 opinion is. And they have even mentioned that if they
26 want to when they came to our committee, they'll truck
27 that stuff down to the beach and put it on a barge and
28 take it back up to Pile Bay, and you still don't have say
29 about it. So, you know, there you stand, so you might
30 just end up looking at it.
31

32 If they do go across native lands, I
33 would venture to say as long as I'm on the board, there's
34 going to be a shut-down policy that's going to take place
35 if they deal with us. And I don't think BLM and the
36 Federal Government can do an imminent domain over native
37 allotments or native corporation lands. I don't think
38 it's going to be real easy for those guys to build a road
39 without a few dineros passing through somebody's hands.
40

41 That's all I had to say. Mr. Chairman.
42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is that all?
44

45 MR. O'HARA: All I've got to say.
46

47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We're on to 15,
48 Cliff.
49

50 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. On Page 125 is

1 fall '06 calendar, and as long as you avoid September
2 21st and 22nd, we're good to go on any of those dates
3 that the Council selects. The Kodiak/Aleutians meets
4 those dates, and we have staff involved with that
5 Council.
6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: The 21st and 22nd already
8 taken?
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.
11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Kodiak you say.
13
14 MR. O'HARA: This is the fall meeting?
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, this will be the fall
17 '06.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: What dates can we look at?
20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Block out 21st and 22nd,
22 September 21st and 22nd.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: I like about this time of
25 year when you're kind of mostly over your hunting
26 seasons.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's on October 9th?
29
30 MR. EDENSHAW: Columbus Day.
31
32 MR. O'HARA: We'd kind of like -- and
33 it's up to the Chairman here and what he wants to do, but
34 the way we worked it was we'd like to meet on a Thursday
35 or a Tuesday through Wednesday, and so that the agencies
36 don't have to be gone from home on a weekend. You know,
37 if you can work that. It's a working day for you anyway.
38 However, if we have to meet on a weekend, we can meet on
39 a weekend, not a problem.
40
41 MR. DENTON: Yeah, for Cliff's
42 clarification, I just got back from the Western Interior.
43 They have tentatively set their dates October 10th
44 through the 13th, somewhere through that week, just for
45 your information more than anything else.
46
47 MR. O'HARA: 5 and 5 is fine.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. You guys here
50 that? Dan suggested.....

1 MR. EDENSHAW: October 5th and 6th.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: I just made a comment.
4 That's up to the rest of the Council when.....
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: At the normal time?
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: That's in the.....
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair and Councils,
11 1:00 o'clock again starting time?
12
13 MS. MORRIS LYON: It won't be. I'm going
14 to be fishing through all of it, so.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
17
18 MR. KOSBRUK: 5th and 6th.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Where -- this is in
21 Dillingham.
22
23 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And March is in
28 Naknek.
29
30 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. We have restaurants.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 5th and 6th.
33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: It was nice last year. I
35 went and had a nice day of fishing on the upper Naknek
36 after the meeting. Gorgeous day.
37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: We'll try and plan it
39 the same for you again, Dan.
40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think right now
42 aren't we scheduled for the 20th and 21st of February.
43
44 MS. MORRIS LYON: It doesn't mean it
45 ain't going to be open.
46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Pardon?
48
49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Doesn't mean it won't
50 be open.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: That's true.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So that's it
4 then. We are adjourned.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 112 through 262
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING, VOLUME II, taken electronically by Computer
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THAT the transcript is a true and correct
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th day of
October 2005.

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