

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING
CITY HALL CHAMBERS, DILLINGHAM, ALASKA
OCTOBER 10, 1995, 7:35 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS:

DANIEL O'HARA, CHAIR
SAM STEPANOFF
ROBIN SAMUELSEN
ROBERT HEYANO
TIM LaPORTE
HELGA EAKON

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

MR. O'HARA: Well, I have about 7:35, I think that's fairly close time wise, 7:38, and we'd like to welcome you today to the Federal Subsistence Advisory Board Council meeting here in Dillingham. We advise to the main board, and we're glad to see you people out tonight, and we're glad we have a quorum. And we'll ask our secretary if we can have a roll call, and Helga, do you want to do that?

MS. EAKON: Yes. Robin Samuelson.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robert Heyano.

MR. HEYANO: Here.

MS. EAKON: Pete Abraham? Dan O'Hara.

MR. O'HARA: Here.

MS. EAKON: Sam Stepanoff.

MR. STEPANOFF: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robert Christensen? Tim LaPorte? A quorum is present.

MR. O'HARA: Started off with a welcome, and I think it would be a good idea, perhaps since you all know us, you have our names in front of you, but we don't know all of you in the audience, so it might be a good idea to go around this evening and have you introduce yourself. If you'll give us a little bit of an idea what department you're with, or just a member of the public or subsistence user, we'd appreciate a little comment from you, too. And you with the fast fingers up here in front, we'll start with you.

THE REPORTER: Lenny DiPaolo. I'm the court reporter here to take the minutes of this meeting.

MR. O'HARA: Lenny, nice to have you with us today.

MS. DETWILER: Sue Detwiler, I work with Helga in the Fish & Wildlife subsistence office, and I work on inter-agency coordination among the federal agencies with subsistence responsibilities and also policy analysis.

MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce Greenwood, I work for the National Park Service out of Anchorage and I'm stationed with the Fish & Wildlife Service office as a liaison.

MR. O'HARA: What's the first name?

MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce.

MR. O'HARA: With the Park Service.

MR. SHARP: Ferdinand Sharp from Manokotak newly hired by Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm an RIT for Manokotak.

MR. DYASUK: John Dyasuk from Togiak Refuge.

MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, refuge manager, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

MS. STOWALL: Donna Stowall, I'm the assistant manager at Togiak Refuge.

MR. VAN DAELE: Larry Van Daele, I'm the game biologist in Dillingham and along with Mac Minard, the token State people here.

MR. AKELKOK: Phil Akelkok.

MR. PIERCE: Bill Pierce, superintendent Katmai and Aniakchak.

MS. SAVAGE: Susan Savage, subsistence and resource specialist for Katmai and Aniakchak.

MS. MOORE: Heather Moore, I'm a marine biologist.

MR. POETTER: Rick Poetter, deputy refuge manager with the Alaska Peninsula Wildlife Refuge.

MR. MINARD: Mac Minard, Fish & Game, sport fish.

MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, BBNA natural resource department.

MR. KNUTSEN: John Knutsen, I do work for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as an RIT, but tonight I'm here representing Paug-Vik, Inc., Limited, a profit corporation for Naknek with 315 shareholders, and also a president of the village council for Naknek with a hundred council members.

MR. COFFING: Mike Coffing. I'm with Fish & Wildlife Service out of Bethel, but I work with Helga and Dave Fisher on the regional team for the Bristol Bay region here.

MR. O'HARA: Helga?

MS. EAKON: Helga Eakon, regional advisor, council coordinator, not only for Bristol Bay, but also for Southcentral Federal Subsistence Resource Region, and I work out of Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Service offices.

MR. O'HARA: We might as well go around the table and introduce ourselves and give a little background what you do.

MR. HEYANO: Robert Heyano, Dillingham. Commercial fisherman, chairman of the Nushagak Advisory Committee.

MR. O'HARA: Dan O'Hara from Naknek, I'm the chairman of the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin Samuelson Bristol Bay Native Association.

MR. STEPANOFF: Sam Stepanoff from Chignik Lake, Bristol Bay Regional Council, commercial fisherman.

MR. O'HARA: Did I leave anybody out? Everybody was introduced. Well, thank you for participating this evening in that matter, and we'd like to do the review and adoption of the agenda. I understand, Helga, possibly you might have some agenda items that maybe -- do you want to change anything on that agenda before we adopt them?

MS. EAKON: Please refer to page 2, item 8 E. Lee Fink, who handles subsistence matters for Lake Clark National Park & Preserve is quite ill and he's unable to attend this meeting, and he had asked Tim LaPorte to do an update on the subsistence resource commission for that particular park and preserve, however Tim is not here. So we might have to just hold that off until the next meeting. Also Ron Hood is not here, Rick Poetter, and your last name is spelled P-o-e-t-t-e-r.

MR. POETTER: That is correct.

MS. EAKON: Is standing in his place. The Bureau of Land Management report, item 8 H, Jeff Denton relays his regrets. He's going to be attending the Western Interior Regional Council meeting at Aniak this time, and I don't know if the State of Alaska has a report, but I put the State down just in case one of the two gentlemen here would like to do a report.

Under old business, 9 A, Ted Krieg will take the lead on that particular agenda item in Lee's absence.

Page 3, item 10 A, the Kodiak Aleutians Regional Council had a meeting recently and they withdrew that particular proposal so you could -- we won't even address it, so just delete that.

And before we go into the request for reconsideration

and special action request that the Federal Subsistence Board acted upon on September 26th, I would like to ask Sue Detwiler to kind of briefly review what an RFR is and what is a special action, and the process that both go through, just kind of a quick review to refresh ourselves.

Page 4 -- no, that's it, that's all.

MR. O'HARA: Okay, council members, do you have any changes, anything you'd like to add to the agenda?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, under 10 C, SAR request from Togiak -- or 10 D, special action request from Togiak on caribou, we're probably going to get to that tomorrow some time?

MS. EAKON: Tomorrow, tomorrow morning.

MR. SAMUELSEN: I'd like to know if Larry Van Daele would be available for questioning on that herd as well as the refuge manager?

MR. VAN DAELE: Yes, I plan to be here, Robin.

SPEAKER: So do I, Robin.

MR. O'HARA: Any other agenda items that need to be addressed before we approve the minutes tonight? That will be the first action item. All right, I'd like to have a motion to accept the review and the adoption of the agenda.

MR. HEYANO: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

MR. O'HARA: Any further discussion? Question.

MR. HEYANO: Question.

MR. O'HARA: All those in favor say aye.

(Unanimous)

MR. O'HARA: And the minutes of the February meeting, I think we had 5, and I don't know if you've had a chance to look them over or not, but --

MR. SAMUELSEN: Move for adoption of the minutes of February 15, 16, 1995.

MR. O'HARA: 15 and 16 for a second?

MR. HEYANO: Second.

MR. O'HARA: Any discussion under this motion? All those in favor say aye.

(Unanimous).

MR. O'HARA: Unanimous. Election of officers. We'll turn the chair over to Helga.

MS. EAKON: Those of you who have books, under tab 1, I included a copy of the Federal Subsistence Board approved operations manual for regional councils, and for your reference on page 18 and 19, our explanations of the roles of the three officers that this council elects, the chair, vice-chair and the secretary. With that let me explain that the office of chair serves a one year term, however may serve more than one year. Conducts regional council meetings, attends and represents the regional council at the meetings of the board. The chair is a voting member of the council. Signs reports, correspondence, meeting minutes and other documents for external distribution. With that I will open the floor for nominations for the office of chair.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Dan O'Hara.

MS. EAKON: Robin has nominated Dan O'Hara.

MR. STEPANOFF: I'll second it.

MS. EAKON: Sam Stepanoff has seconded it. Any other nominations for the office of chair?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Motion nominations be closed.

MS. EAKON: Is there a second?

MR. HEYANO: Second.

MS. EAKON: All in fair say aye.

(Unanimous. Mr. O'Hara abstained.)

MR. O'HARA: I did not vote on that, the record should show on that.

MS. EAKON: With Dan abstaining.

MR. O'HARA: I'll take it from here.

MS. EAKON: Yeah, if you'd like to.

MR. O'HARA: We'd like to, at this time, have open nominations for the vice-chairman.

MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Robin Samuelsen.

MR. O'HARA: Is there a second?

MR. STEPANOFF: I'll second it.

MR. O'HARA: Pardon me?

MR. STEPANOFF: I'll second it.

MR. O'HARA: I guess what I should have done was left it open for further nominations. Any other further nominations? I'd like to ask for a motion that we -- that the nominations -- that nominations cease.

MR. HEYANO: So moved, Chair.

MR. O'HARA: Second, did you second it, Sam.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

MR. O'HARA: He's not going to be making a second.

All those in fair say aye.

(Unanimous)

MR. O'HARA: Since we have Robin as the vice-chair. At this time we'll open the floor for nomination for secretary.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Nominate Sam.

MR. O'HARA: Any further nomination?

MR. HEYANO: Move that the nominations be closed.

MR. O'HARA: Question. All those in fair say aye.

(Unanimous)

MR. O'HARA: We do have a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary.

MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, I should have announced this earlier, but the Secretary of the Interior, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, we appointed Dan O'Hara and Pete Abraham to the council.

MR. O'HARA: Okay.

MS. EAKON: You have been reappointed.

MR. O'HARA: I got a letter on that, thank you.

Come down to the part of the meeting this evening where we have received public comments, and this is your opportunity as an audience today to make public comment, and I'm sure if council members want to, as the meeting goes on, they perhaps can call on individuals from the public as well, so it doesn't necessarily mean we're not going to have any more input, because we want to have input as we go along, and yet we have to run an orderly meeting.

Are there any members of the public that would like to make a comment at this time? Anyone want to make a public comment? Okay, we will close that part of it to the public comment at this time.

But, like I said, council members may call upon individuals and give opportunity for comment as we go along. We're

not -- it's okay if the council members were not totally -- people giving advice as the meeting goes along, if that's okay with council members.

You have in the front of your packet a piece of paper that looks like this federal subsistence management program, it's in the front of your packet, has about eight pages to it. This piece of paper has -- in front of you. Under reports, under 8 A, just wanted to make comment to you that I attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage, and all of the proposals that we had submitted, beginning with the second page, 24 unit 9(E) caribou, and that goes down under the page 3 to all of the different proposals that we worked up and submitted to the main federal board and they acted favorably on all of our proposals, so we had a very good year.

Advisory board members, you remember that we pretty much followed the guidelines and had continuity with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game advisory committees as well, and so it went quite well, and we're real glad to report that we had a hundred percent success on that and a lot of you did a lot of work, too, to help.

I was wondering if any of you wanted any comment or a report at all on any of the proposals under 8 A? Hearing none then we'll go down to 8 B, and that's also my part of the agenda to give a report to you.

Now this was, advisory board members and members of the public, this was a real fascinating meeting, one of the best meetings and probably one of the very emotional meetings that I've attended, and I've attended a lot of meetings, and I've attended some pretty tough meetings, too, but this was an incredible meeting. They had, let's see, that was in July, yeah, they actually had a pretty tough one in April, too, didn't they. But the July one, they asked us if we would come in just to support the advisory board members that were council members that were going to be there from the Kenai area, and of course, as you know, they are not blessed with what we have out here in Bristol Bay where you have vast amount of lands and lesser amount of people, and I think we have 10,000 people in the area, it's a few less bears today, I see a lot of them stacked up at King Salmon when I came over tonight, but a certain amount of bear, quite a few moose, a lot caribou, 50 million fish, and it goes from population to the animals. BBNC has a chart they put out, shows the population of people down here and the animals and it goes like that (indicating). It's not that way in Kenai, it starts with the people up here and squashes down to a very small amount of game.

And they had, let's see, Helga, what do we call these people, those were not C & T users.

MS. EAKON: Yes, residents of the non-rural communities in the non-rural areas in the Kenai Peninsula. Only eight communities are eligible for customary and traditional use of large mammal species on the Kenai Peninsula.

MR. O'HARA: I mean it was an incredible meeting. I wish all the advisory members could have been there, because it makes you appreciate Bristol Bay a lot. It was very emotional. People were not going to get to hunt and fish in the refuge, there was not enough to go around, the advisory board made the recommendation and the federal board had to deal with it.

And I remember hearing one thing, and I think it's something that we should learn, in fact, I heard a lot about it at

our BBNC meeting in Stuyahok just on Saturday. I heard a native guy get up, the press was so rude, they put the camera in his face, and you had to look in that big eye when you give a talk, he said he had never lost any meat as a subsistence user. And he said the guides lose meat all the time, and I -- you know, you got to be careful when you make judgments on that, but he said he has never lost meat as a subsistence user, and of course the majority of the people that were there and some of the guides that were standing in the background can't give testimony to that, but I thought that was pretty incredible and so --

(Mr. LaPorte enters the meeting).

MR. O'HARA: We didn't have a whole lot to say, we supported him. It was quite an interesting meeting, and we didn't have anything on the table so it worked out fine for us.

All right, Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission.

Susan, are you going to be talking to us? Any questions on 8 B or the July meeting?

MR. SAMUELSEN: If I may, wanton waste has been highlighted over in this area by ADF&G protection officers as well as BBNA has been receiving calls, and I think it's going to be dealt with on the advisory committee. Whether it's going to be shortened seasons, I don't know what form it's going to take, but it's a concern to people out in this region.

MR. O'HARA: It's going to be difficult to -- this board will have to deal with it, too. We do have a member, Tim LaPorte who just came in, we're glad to see you. Overflowing with a quorum now, I'll tell you. Nice to have you.

MR. LaPORTE: Thank you.

MR. O'HARA: We're under number 8 C, and Susan Savage is going to be talking.

MS. SAVAGE: My name is Susan Savage, I'm with Katmai National Park & Preserve. I don't have very much to report.

Around the end of February I started talking with Harry Kalmakoff, Junior who is the acting chairman for the Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission. Orville Lind was formerly our chairman but he resigned and was replaced and we have not had an official meeting since his resignation, so we have not been able to officially vote in a new chairman.

The date was arranged for an Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission's meeting on April 6th and 7th, and on April 6th Harry Kalmakoff, Junior, Afonie Takak, Sam Stepanoff and Nefuti Orloff arrived for the meeting. We were expecting Johnny Lind to arrive but he didn't, and because we had people, Helga came in, Paul Hunter from Park Service, Terry Haynes from ADF&G, Heather Moore from Fish & Wildlife Service, Bill and myself were there, but we did not have a quorum so we could not have a meeting.

We just talked about some issues informally, and the members suggested that we try for another meeting in Chignik Lake in November. And I would like to promise that's going to happen but I can't promise at this time, because, as you all know, with the regional advisory council you have to have quite a bit of lead time on arranging a meeting, and I have been involved with other commitments up until last Friday, so I haven't been able to start arranging a meeting yet.

So I did copy the list of members, and as you recall you are responsible for placing three members on that commission, and

those members are Afonie Takak, Johnny Lind and Sam Stepanoff, two of which I have the pleasure to report were at the meeting that we did try to call, and they are all in office until November of next year, and so there is really no action needed on your part. And I also attached a copy of the agenda for the meeting that we had planned. So that's it.

MR. O'HARA: Okay. Susan, when did you plan on maybe having that meeting in November, do you have a date?

MS. SAVAGE: I don't have a date. I have been completely committed with another project until Friday when my last seasonal went home, so I have not made any contacts with anybody to set that meeting. But we need, with the regional advisory council process, we need four weeks for lead time, so it couldn't happen before the middle of November.

MR. O'HARA: You're thinking about November, middle of November possibly?

MS. SAVAGE: Yeah.

MR. O'HARA: Any questions council members? None.

Thank you.

MR. O'HARA: Katmai National Park & Preserve.

MR. PIERCE: I think it's great you got off to a quick start, elected Tim to the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, chief cook and bottle washer. I don't know when you're going to tell him that.

Bill Pierce, superintendent of Katmai National Park and Aniakchak. I guess we can start off by saying we are trying to recover from a number of vacancies that have occurred in the last six months, we've got six vacant positions. Lost the chief ranger, chief of resource, ranger pilot and the administrative and cultural resources. With the reductions in budgets we're struggling to fill them, but there are some success stories.

We did just put on board a ranger pilot from Wrangell, Jim Hummel will be coming over, and he's going to fill the dual role of chief ranger and pilot, and we're hoping we're going to eke out a few more positions out of the limited budget.

So what Susan said was absolutely correct, we're struggling people, like Susan wearing about three or four hats, and it's tough to tie it all together. But be that as it may, subsistence is certainly an important part of the preserve and we are making some progress.

As you can see from the report on the red fish issue.

We're basically trying to work with BBNA and the local people that have put a bill before congress, because our solicitor has basically told us there is no legal way currently that we can authorize it within the park. So we would like to continue to work with them on that legislation to see if we can't find a solution to allow that activity. And I think -- you know, I think we can do that with them.

Susan has given you the Aniakchak update.

We do have the ethnographic subsistence research wrapping up that's been out in the villages, and it should be coming in in final form here, Susan should be getting the final report on that this winter.

Alagnak River was one of the responsibilities Susan had this summer and why she was so busy. She had three seasonal employees on that river this year, a lot of activities, and I know Mac Minard is working on that also from the fishing standpoint.

And the major problems we've seen there, human/bear conflicts, conflicts between motor boats and rafters, and human waste impacts on the banks, and a lot of comments about a decline in the fishery, although we have no documented evidence of that. We plan on doing that again this next summer, working with the State and some of the local entities to see if we can't improve our enforcement on that river, and also education and work with the user.

Hunting guide prospectus, we do have those just about ready to go out to where we will be soliciting proposals from guide service. Two are proposed for Aniakchak and two are proposed for the preserve, Katmai Preserve, and that should occur this winter. The Aniakchak resource management plan we hope to get accomplished this winter also. Both of those, with loss of staff, we're behind the 8 ball getting those done, we should have them out already, but we'll see how we do.

And then Susan's planning on doing some moose surveys this fall, coordinating with ADF&G. A positive note also that we were able to do, we did fill a brand new fisheries biologist position, and Don Bill is the man that did that and he came over from the position he had in the past, retired from Fish & Game and works for us, and we're really happy to have him on board as a fisheries biologist, so that should help us in that respect. And that's about what we've got for you.

MR. O'HARA: You federal guys get right to the report. You must be a pretty tough guy to work for. Only kidding you. Okay, committee members, any questions?

MR. SAMUELSEN: The Alagnak River, what's the long term management goal there? It seems that -- you know, I've heard numerous complaints from the land owners about trespassing on Native allotments, conflicts between the different user groups, and I see next year you're going to step up aggressive law enforcement in the area, but how are we going to get a handle on that? How can we limit the amount of visitors in there? Seems to me that the place is being overrun.

MR. PIERCE: We have that perception also. I think Susan has done it the right way. She's trying to gather sufficient data to demonstrate what the real problems are. She's done that the last two summers. One of the steps she's got in the planning process is to come up with, in no big document, but a short snappy "how can we manage", "what's the management plan for this river" especially since there is a number of jurisdictions there.

We know we need to work with the State, we need to work with BLM to some extent, we definitely need to work with Levelock and some of the Native corporations on that river, and that's going to take -- we need to all pull together to do that.

We'll probably try to add the catalyst to do that here in the next couple years because we're seeing the same things, we need to provide that quality experience and not overrun the place, and it's already reaching that point where we're concerned about that.

MR. SAMUELSEN: So you don't expect no action to be taken on the management of Alagnak for roughly two years?

MR. PIERCE: No, I think you will see action. Besides the planning process, we will continue to increase our enforcement and implementation in working with the commercial operators, for instance. Susan had an excellent newspaper this year that we went

around and met with the commercial operators, gave them copies, and said these are the things you need to be instructing your clients in before you drop them off. She also provided a number of food barrels this year free of charge. We said, you've got to have proper bear food storage, these are available, tell you clients, make sure they check them out; that was pretty successful. We're not totally there, but it's getting better. And as we continue to work with these commercial operators, I think they realize also they have to tow the line or they are going to lose the resource.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Thanks.

MR. O'HARA: Any other -- Robert, do you have a question?

MR. HEYANO: Yeah, part of it was just answered, but, you know, I've heard information from people that use that river saying that it's already past the point now, that there is way too many people up there, and the resource is being damaged, you know, that -- I've never been there myself, but apparently on the lake and where the river starts that's where a lot of people use, and the guides are very territorial, staking out sections of that part and prohibiting other people from actually using it.

MR. PIERCE: We certainly observed some conflicts out there. I've been down last year, Susan has been done a number of times, and I had somewhat the same reaction. As I went down an Alaska Wild River, I was thinking, this seems more like a heavily overused river in the Lower 48. Like the human waste problem, and some of the bear soil and some of the trees cut down, I'm going, "what's happening here?"

I think we're having to catch up. I agree with you, we're behind the power curve, and certainly any way that we can get more cooperation from some of the local entities to work on that, I think that's going to be beneficial to everybody concerned.

MR. HEYANO: You know, maybe as a suggestion, if we could go through and identify areas that has this potential and maybe curve it before we get behind the power curve, because I think I agree with you, listening from the input, we're way behind the 8 ball on this problem. But there must be other areas that we can identify as potentials that may be -- at least slow it down or do something until we have a management plan in place.

MR. PIERCE: I agree, Robert. The coast as an example. We put a coastal management biologist over in Kodiak, and we're trying to get a handle on the use of the coast, because we're seeing that same increase along the coast and potential impacts.

I know Mac had a lot of work done this year on the Marine Creek/Funnel Creek area, and we're concerned about what the impacts are that are happening there. You know, we're behind the 8 ball on Brooks, you know. You look at Brooks Camp and the number of visitors going out there now. We're going to do the best we can, but I think it's going to be an uphill battle, the federal budget is going to be tight for the next couple years, and we're struggling with staffing enough to even be able to outreach and work with people, it's going to take some real cooperation.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Is there any way to cap use on the last year's numbers?

MR. PIERCE: On the Alagnak? Probably not yet. What it's taken us on Brooks, where we're just about at the cap use figures, is we had to do a good solid environmental assessment and

really be able to demonstrate the numbers and show why those impacts need to be corrected. And I don't think we're there yet on the Alagnak. We don't have enough data and enough umph to go forward with the public to get that restriction applied.

MR. LaPORTE: How far down the river is Park Service jurisdiction?

MR. PIERCE: We go a total of 72 miles.

MS. SAVAGE: It's about two miles, three miles below Toll Pollack's (ph) upper place, Bob DeVito's place.

MR. PIERCE: There is quite a bit of river below where we end.

MR. LaPORTE: And a lot of deeded property or private property below that non-corporation private property?

MR. PIERCE: I don't know all the ownerships below. I know we've got inholdings within the corridor that we manage, some of them Native. For the most part, they are working pretty well with us. In fact, they are feeling the impacts as much or worse than we are because of some of the trespass and things that are occurring on their lands.

MR. O'HARA: Any other questions? Bill, there is several things we happened to get into a pretty healthy discussion on the other day, this river, the Aluknuk, you call it the Alagnak, it's really called the Aluknuk. And the gentleman that has that big lodge there, he must have a hundred skiffs.

MR. PIERCE: Katmai lodge, Tony Sarp (ph).

MR. O'HARA: I believe he put in an airstrip that's 4700 hundred feet long, to use a 737 that he's bringing people in next year. I'm not talking about cargo, I'm talking about a massive amount of people coming out there. And that is -- that's on the federal jurisdiction?

MR. PIERCE: No.

MR. O'HARA: State?

MR. PIERCE: The actual corridor stops before that land, I believe it's Levelock Native Corporation land, and the corridor stops before it and doesn't start up again until below that. It was left out of the legislation creating that wild river.

MR. O'HARA: So it's -- Levelock owns it?

MS. SAVAGE: Where his lodge is --

MR. O'HARA: I meant the whole river system.

MR. PIERCE: Well, that portion -- well, the river itself is probably navigable.

MS. SAVAGE: It's navigable.

MR. O'HARA: So on the bank itself, it's navigable --

MR. PIERCE: But the banks itself in that section I think are all Levelock.

MR. O'HARA: No, Levelock leased the property to Sarp. The lodge is in effect -- and it's kind of a two edged sword, because what Levelock is doing and the problem they are facing with their subsistence is that they are dealing with too much use, so that's one of the problems we're facing. And this body has no jurisdiction and can't make proposals what's going to take place on the Alagnak, uh-huh?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Federal portion you can.

MR. O'HARA: And that portion is the upper part of it?

MR. PIERCE: It's the upper part of it, right.

MR. O'HARA: From the, what's the name of that lake up

there.

MR. PIERCE: Just about Toll Pollock's.

MS. SAVAGE: Three miles below.

MR. O'HARA: So he does fall within the jurisdiction of the federal?

MS. SAVAGE: Well, the corridor physical breaks for a mile at his -- about three quarters of a mile above him and about a quarter mile below him, so it's a very strange land ownership pattern.

MR. O'HARA: And yet who has the trespass right on the banks?

MS. SAVAGE: Levelock Corporation.

MR. O'HARA: Of all the river?

MS. SAVAGE: No.

MR. O'HARA: I know it's navigable water, and they have the trespass rights up on their property, but the biggest majority of land use on the Alagnak is federal?

MS. SAVAGE: Right.

MR. O'HARA: Do we make advisory comments on that land from this committee?

MS. SAVAGE: I haven't kept up with the Katie John case.

MS. EAKON: The Katie John case is still on appeal and we do not have jurisdiction until the courts say so.

MR. O'HARA: But we have jurisdiction of refuge on Aniakchak, and stuff like that, but not on the trespass rights on the banks of the Alagnak?

MR. SAMUELSEN: On the banks we do, not to the river.

MR. O'HARA: That's Mac's responsibility on the river, but you've got a lot to say of what's goes on the river if you got something to say of what goes on on the banks, too. So that was a question, that's a hard question, Bill, to deal with, without having the maps and all the color on them.

I was wondering if I could ask Mac a question then. I'll ask him after we finish with you then if we could do that. Any other questions you have?

The red fish issue is still in congress, and I guess it's going to be something that's going to be very controlled, and the mesh size and everything is going to be such that we're not going to be impacting trout and rainbows and stuff like that.

MR. PIERCE: Well, as I recall the legislation, it basically left that up to the State and the Park to work out, which is a smart way to do it. The operations we should be able to work with them on that.

MR. O'HARA: I think that's really important. We're not there to impact other species of fish. We really want to make sure we don't do that, and work with us as close as we can on that. Anything else, any other questions. Well, under Aniakchak, is that your responsibility, or would we be talking to Susan?

MR. PIERCE: Both of us.

MR. O'HARA: Do guides work Aniakchak?

MR. PIERCE: We got two hunting guides apparently working down there. One is Gary King and one is Joe Clutch, and they will be applying, I would think, based on the prospectus, I would expect to see them apply to operate down there along with anybody else that wants to apply, and we will go through the process and

select two out of the applicants.

MR. O'HARA: What we're dealing with next year -- we know what they've been allocated this year. The reason I ask that question, Bill, is because I don't know who the game biologist is here for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Larry. We'll get with you a little later on, but in this same area I think the State of Alaska has some real concerns about the number of animals that can be taken, and caribou this year, that we might need to address in the way of proposals for use of that, what those guys were doing on federal lands. I don't know if you thought about that or if you have a resource count or if you know what the resource is doing, if it's in trouble or what. Do you have any thoughts?

MR. PIERCE: We haven't done too much work down there because lack of funds.

MR. O'HARA: Dick Sellars said you had the answer. He was busy measuring bear skulls.

MR. SPEAKER: He was busy probably hunting ducks, too.

MR. O'HARA: But you'll be able to help us out with that.

MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah, as much as I can.

MR. O'HARA: Any other questions of Bill Pierce.

Thank you, I really appreciate it. Along the same line, since we're dealing with the Alagnak management part of it, would it be okay if we ask Mac Minard to deal with the fish issue? Mac, would you mind fielding a few questions from us this evening.

MR. MINARD: No problem.

MR. O'HARA: It's not part of the agenda, but if you don't mind, since you're the sports biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and it's navigable waters and it falls under your jurisdiction. There has been a horrendous amount of increase in that river.

MR. MINARD: To put that in perspective, Mr. Chairman, effort went from an average of about 3,000 angler days up until two years ago, would have been 1993, '92, and then it jumped in '92 to 12,000 angler days and has remained at that level for the '92, '93 and '94 period. So you had essentially a four-fold increase in sport fish effort on the Alagnak River, and that fishery is broken up into a couple different pieces. It's not unlike the Nushagak here where we're familiar with, where you've got a fairly intense and growing king salmon fishery, you also have a fairly large resident species fishery.

Different than the Nushagak, it's serviced by -- the bulk of the guided effort is serviced out of about three or four fairly significant large operations, the largest being Tony Sarp, and he's got 32 active guide boats.

MR. O'HARA: Not a hundred, okay.

MR. MINARD: But he handles 60 to 70 clients a day on a weekly basis. He handles -- houses up to a hundred people at his lodge a night during the fishing season with guides. So it's a different profile than some of the stuff that maybe Mr. Samuelson and Mr. Heyano are familiar with. There is also a fair component of fly-out activities. But that describes the growth and use and maybe the general characteristics of it. There is quite a bit of fly-in and float traffic that's growing as well.

MR. O'HARA: I've flown that at a busy time of year, maybe two or three times a day, at least every week, and a couple

times each day that way, and you can just see a continual increase, it's a tremendous amount of increase that's taking place, and the question I have -- do you have a question, Robin?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

MR. O'HARA: I imagine there is a lot of hook and release that takes place probably?

MR. MINARD: Mr. Chairman, we have done fairly extensive surveys, fishery surveys, characteristics of the fishery in the lower river. We've worked the king salmon fishery, and we worked the coho salmon fishery in the lower reaches of the river, and I'm fairly confident about the characteristics of that thing. As far as catch and release in the fishery, it's there, the average retention rate is probably 30 percent, which is typical of fisheries like that. The exception is the Naknek where we take a lot.

The resident species fisheries, I don't have hard data on that one, but I would draw inference and say that it probably is something intermediate. There are some fisheries where there is a tremendous voluntary catch and release ethic going on, but I don't think this is entirely one of them. I think this river is probably -- I don't think we're probably taking full bag limits every day of every species available, but I think their retention rate on rainbow trout and resident species is probably a little greater there than it might be in some of the other fisheries based on the reports we're getting.

MR. O'HARA: They keep more?

MR. MINARD: Right.

MR. O'HARA: Have you done any research -- it's our belief that the hook and release thing, fish die from that. Do you have any kind of a percentage on mortality rate of hook and release.

MR. MINARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, our belief is that some fish die from it, too, it depends on the gear type. That dictates more than anything whether a fish will survive or not survive. And the Alagnak River for -- I'd have to look back, but it has been a single hook, artificial lure water, including king salmon, the lower river fishery, for a long time, and that attribute lends itself well to reducing mortality.

With bait we typically assume somewhere in the order of 30 percent mortality can occur. With flies, that's the low end, zero to three percent. With lures you can be anywhere from 6 to 12 percent. Those are just round number figures of studies of thousands and thousands of fish across the nation that we come up with, but there is some mortality associated it.

MR. O'HARA: I was just wondering with that kind of effort on the river, four-fold, just what's going to be your percentage of fish dying.

MR. MINARD: Mr. Chairman, it's conceivable that it would have an impact. And typically a fishery like that where there is a high level of catch and release going on, the mortality associated with that could be a factor probably more in a depressed stock state than it would be in a healthy stock state.

You can remember back to the Naknek where we had a depressed rainbow population ten, 15 years ago. We went to single hook, artificial lures there, we dropped limits, in fact, you were on the advisory committee when we recommended those changes, the 18 inch and less limit. And with a growing effort and growing catch, total catch, that fishery, as you probably are aware, has responded very

well. That fishery is almost back to what it was 10 years ago.

So the fishery has the -- it has the ability to sustain, you know, catch and release activities if they are done properly. I think where we're running into a problem on the Alagnak, potentially, is that you're talking about resident stocks, primarily rainbow trout, and I think we may be having a selective harvest of larger, older fish there, and the nature of that harvest can cause you some problems. Basically it's your spawning component.

MR. O'HARA: You can do a time/area closure on salmon or other species, especially in the ocean, and I would imagine if you can bring back the Naknek, you can, I would assume, preserve that fishery over there in the Alagnak area I would imagine.

MR. MINARD: The key is to define what the catalyst is for the decline. Effort is one thing, and quality of experience is another. You need to be able to twist the right screw to account for it. And you're probably looking at the next board cycle at reductions in resident species limits. The char limit there, for example, is ten, the grayling limit is five, the rainbow limit is two, one over 20. They are quite liberal limits. And I would suspect that at the next board cycle, through this process, the Fish & Game board process, you'll see reductions in limits for that fishery, that's what I'm guessing. We're getting calls from people I've never heard of before, unsolicited calls, "what's happening in the Alagnak, how come it's depressed," so it's a real thing.

MR. O'HARA: Do you think as a biologist with your background it is becoming depressed? Does your research show that when you guys count the fish?

MR. MINARD: The salmon stocks don't appear to be.

MR. O'HARA: Even kings are doing pretty well?

MR. MINARD: Seem to be relatively healthy. And the resident species stuff we just finished collecting the data, we just pulled our crews out the weekend before last, and so that analysis hasn't happened yet, but I suspect we're going to see a shift to smaller sizes, younger age classes, and that's indicative of overharvesting the larger, older fish. I haven't seen it, we haven't done the analysis, but I suspect there is a chance that's going to occur.

We're suffering a bit on the Alagnak from not having a large historical database. It's hard to tell you what did that stock look like when it was healthy, and that was one of the advantages you had in the Naknek, it was quite easy to say this is what success looks like, this is what it's supposed to look like, and we don't have that here.

MR. O'HARA: I don't think -- you know, you can tire a king out. And I think that's a concern they have on -- over here on the Nushagak side. You hear the local people talk about that all the time, and I guess that's something.

What about the conflict between the bears and people and conflict between the guy who is floating the river and a guy with an outboard motor? I don't have an emotional feeling whether they get along, they can kick each other's boats over for all I care. What's going -- are you going to impact the bears, or is there going to be a problem? I understand trash is getting to be a problem. Are people fishing on the banks and is it eroding away, or is that not a good question?

MR. MINARD: I don't think the habitat issue is quite

as big as it might be in other places. Susan did, and she should speak to this, but they did a fair amount of documentation trying to, as I understand, look at the habitat degradation due to camping.

Like any river, you can expect to have desirable places that people will gravitate to for put-in and take-out, overnight spots, and I would expect with that level of use you'll see impacts there before you see them somewhere else.

Some of the large habitat problems there aren't really related to individuals using it on a recreational basis, it has to do with some large scale erosion control problems that are going on there.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Most of my questions were asked by you and answered by Mac. So Mac, your best guesstimate is probably two years from now the department, your department will come in with recommendations on reductions.

MR. MINARD: We'll either come in as a department -- it will be two years before we would go to the board with a regulation package. I suspect, Robin, that it's going to come either through the department or through an individual or with the Naknek Kvichak Advisory Committee or some form like that. You know how it works, it's a little premature to say, yeah, we're going to be here with restrictions, but I know I'm getting significant public opinion telling me those stocks are not what they are. I'm getting phone calls from people that range anywhere from local residents who own property on the river to a guy from Delaware just the other day who called me up, and I've never heard of him, and he took the time to call. So I know there is a significant public opinion that says the stocks aren't what they were, and you also know from being on the board what jam that puts us in when you don't actually have empirical data to write an emergency order, for example, for the next two years. It becomes hard to justify that based on significant public opinion.

We went to the field this season to evaluate the rainbow trout fishery and, you know, in age and size composition, and we have data that date back to the '70s, so we have some sense of what the thing might have looked like. I don't know if that's going to be sufficient to see reductions in bag limits or going to a catch and release fishery or some such thing like that, but the latest would be two years.

I can't tell you we'd be looking at an EO restriction because of the problem we have demonstrating where the problem occurs empirically.

MR. SAMUELSEN: From that data in the '70s, what you collected this year, if you see a 50 percent reduction, then bells and whistles will start going on.

MR. MINARD: Absolutely. It wouldn't even take that, Robin. The way these rainbow trout fisheries show response to overexploitation is the larger, older age classes drop out, and you get a shift in average size to the left, to the smaller sizes of fish, and that's a pretty good indication of an overexploited stock.

MR. SAMUELSEN: What was the bag limit on grayling and rainbow?

MR. MINARD: Rainbow, two a day, one over 20, and which is as liberal as it gets in Bristol Bay. And grayling I believe are five, and char are ten per day and in possession.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Has your personnel noticed -- I get a

lot of calls from the villagers over there from the conflict, the land conflict between the different user groups. Have you documented any of that between the guides?

MR. MINARD: We're not in the habit of documenting it.

When we work that lower river fishery, it's not unlike any other fishery, it seems like everybody is doing something they shouldn't be doing. There is a lot of activity, there is a lot of competition. I've gotten two letters of complaint in the last year regarding float and motor boating encounters, one or the other would generate a letter of complaint, you know, on the behavior of someone else.

MR. SAMUELSEN: You guys got a protection officer on the river?

MR. MINARD: We don't have anybody on the river all the time. We make at least one trip or two in this case to work the king salmon fishery. We've never made a trip over there to work the resident species.

MR. O'HARA: Nobody on the river checking licenses?

MR. MINARD: That's what we did on the king salmon, we didn't work the resident species fishery. The bulk of the effort has historically taken place in the lower river. We can make a fair number of contacts in the day on the lower river. It's pretty difficult to make a fair number of contacts in the remaining upper section of it.

MR. O'HARA: They go all the way up until they have difficulty running an outboard motor.

MR. MINARD: I agree. What we're looking at is where we can get the most contacts within a day's worth of work.

MR. O'HARA: That would be in the lower section and that would be the king season. I have another question on the finfish cycle, it's just over, so we wait another three years.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Two years.

MR. O'HARA: Two years before the proposals come up again.

MR. MINARD: Two year.

MR. O'HARA: Did the Naknek Kvichak Advisory Council make any changes for the Alagnak.

MR. MINARD: No.

MR. O'HARA: Bag limits remain the same?

MR. MINARD: That's correct. There was a proposal put in by Tony Sarp's operation and apparently it got dropped through the cracks. It never appeared before the board was his discussion, and honestly I don't know what the details of that were.

MR. O'HARA: Anyway, you got a couple years to deal with that.

MR. MINARD: Basically we do. That same individual had considered submitting them as an agenda change request, and didn't do that.

MR. SAMUELSEN: One more. Land ownership. Does the State lease land there on that river, or is it all corporation?

MR. MINARD: No, we don't have any leased land there, Mr. Samuelsen. To my understanding it's a mixture of State land on the lower river and the private inholdings and then Levelock Native Corporation's.

MR. O'HARA: Any other questions? Robin asked a question whether or not there was conflict between user groups. Did you want Susan to give some comment on that?

MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I want to know if Mac observed any.

MR. O'HARA: So you're satisfied then?

MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

MR. O'HARA: Other questions. We've been going about an hour. Thank you Mac. Take about a ten minute break and we'll come back and deal with the next item of Lake Clark National Park.

(Off the record.)

MR. O'HARA: We'll call the meeting back to order and give it another 15, 20 minutes, get down to old business and be out of here.

When we took a break we had just finished up Katmai National Park & Preserve, and we appreciate those comments.

And E, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, Lee Fink is ill and perhaps we can wait until tomorrow, unless you wanted to go ahead and do something tonight. Tim LaPorte is the representative from that area.

MR. LaPORTE: I attended the meeting, I've got a whole notebook, but I don't have -- I didn't bring my notebook with me at all. I wouldn't have one fact really to give or anything in report form but we spent a whole day at it.

MR. O'HARA: Maybe we can just hold off and see if we can pick up some information before we adjourn in a day or so, is that all okay, committee members?

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and Andy Aderman is going to handle that.

MR. ADERMAN: Thank you. My name is Andy Aderman, wildlife biologist with the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and we have a number of comments to talk about on various projects that the refuge is involved with.

I'll start up in the northern part, actually north of our refuge, and give a brief status report on waterfall that I received from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Basically the four nesting species of geese, cacklers, brant and white fronts are doing pretty well. There has been increases in those three populations over the past couple years. The emperor geese however have been declining and there is a good deal of concern about them. Their population was down about 5,000 over last year, and I believe that population for North America anyways is at about 50,000. And they have noted that some harvest is still continuing despite closure on hunting for that species.

Other waterfowl, the eiders are of concern, namely the spectacled eiders. It's believed that lead poisoning may be a big factor there in the declining of that species. Also some of the other sea ducks that we don't know a lot about, but it's thought that those populations are stable or possibly decreasing. On the other hand, primary nesting species of dabblers, pin tails, green winged teal and scaup are doing quite well.

Another project that the refuge is involved with is revision of the public use management plan. It's thought that this will take about two years. There is going to be two comment periods, the first of which will be some time this winter. The public use management plan for the refuge primarily focuses on sport fishing, both guided and non-guided and the allocation of sport guides within the rivers on the refuge. Along with that there is a growing demand for people to view walrus out in the Cape Pierce area, and that will

also be addressed.

Also continued to have the river ranger program on the Kanaktok and Goodnews rivers this year, unfortunately there wasn't funding for the third river, the Togiak River.

Moving on, or back to Cape Pierce, that's an annual camp that we have out there, and the primary purpose is to monitor sea birds and marine mammals. Information so far this year on sea birds, we primarily monitor three species, common mures and pelagic cormorants, they seem to be doing okay, populations are stable. Productivity is unchanged. Of concern though are black legged kittie wakes, the third species that we monitor. We have had some of the lowest numbers of birds and some of the lowest productivity that we've seen since we began monitoring out there.

The other monitoring effort is with walrus. Three weeks ago there was reports, or we estimated up to 10,000 using Cape Pierce haul-outs. If you've been watching the news over the last month you may have seen a story on Cape Pierce and the walrus, monitoring program out there, and little over a year ago we had a kind of an unusual incident where some walruses went up high and some of them didn't come back down the same way that they went up and met with ill fate.

MR. O'HARA: What was the loss?

MR. ADERMAN: We estimated right around a hundred, based on the carcasses that were washed up there. Come to work today and found out that a similar incident has happened this year, I believe we're right at 16 or 17 that the staff has reported has died as a result of falling, not knowing why they are going up there and not coming down the same way they go up. I thought I'd mention that.

We also monitor harbor seals out there in Nanvak Bay, is one of the largest seal haul-outs in the northern Bristol Bay area. In conjunction with that, about every three years the refuge cooperates with the National Marine Fisheries Service and monitors seals in northern Bristol Bay, and we did so this year. Numbers appear to be up over the previous count three years ago, and I have a report on that that I'll make available to you and the public.

This last February we undertook a fairly intensive moose survey primarily in the Togiak drainage and also a little east of there into Unit 17(C). I also have a report on that looking specifically at the Togiak drainage. In the area that we surveyed we estimated 101 moose. If we extrapolate that out to the rest of the subunit and areas that we didn't survey, we estimate 136 moose approximately, of which 120 would be on federal public lands. We don't have any composition data on this population as yet. We hope to get that this fall and winter.

MR. O'HARA: Is that an increase in moose?

MR. ADERMAN: I believe so, but you must understand that a survey like what we conducted, to my knowledge, has never been conducted, so this was a first major effort statistical -- a statistically valid effort, but it does appear that moose have increased based on local people's testimony.

MR. O'HARA: Who did the survey before you did, Department of Fish & Game?

MR. ADERMAN: I believe they were joint surveys, either the Department of Fish & Game or some of the flights that were made were by the refuge, but they intended to be a lot less an effort than what we did and didn't always cover as much of an area.

MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

MR. ADERMAN: And moving a little closer to Dillingham here, switching over to caribou with the Nushagak Peninsula herd, we continue to monitor that on a monthly basis. Our estimates, if they are accurate, are -- predict that herd to be around 1500. Based on our collared individuals down there, calving was, I believe, 95 percent of the cows had a calf, or dropped a calf. The next week or two we'll be checking on those to see who is alive and who isn't to get an estimate of survival among those calves and an estimate of production. Also along with that, with the Nushagak Peninsula herd, the Federal Subsistence Board met recently and extended the hunt by one month, so that that hunt will begin December 1st.

We plan to have a committee meeting November 1st where we'll probably focus on the number of permits that we plan to issue for that herd. As I said, we estimate about 1500 animals are down there right now. Management plan says we were going to shoot for a thousand, so last year's harvest was 35 animals reported that we know of, and that was a hundred permits were issued.

I guess the last thing I would like to briefly cover is the fisheries program here on the refuge, and that program focuses on anadromous and resident fish populations, and most activities are coordinated with the State to avoid duplication of effort. The anadromous fish program consists primarily of flying spawning ground surveys near all the river systems and for all species. Each river is flown three times a season centered around the peak spawning for king, coho, sockeye and chum. Estimates are available from the State spawning ground survey report, ADF&G annual management report, and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge files. The service has also completed the second year of an escapement monitoring tower on the Kalukik River (ph).

The resident fish program consists of monitoring populations based on inventory and determining absence or presence of species. Rainbow trout have long been the species of interest by subsistence and sport fishermen. Most of the long-term monitoring revolves around the status of rainbow trout and some of the more heavily utilized rivers, those being the Kanaktok and the Goodnews rivers. Work has begun to establish population parameters for rainbow trout and grayling in the Togiak system. The refuge fisheries management plan, public use management plan and individual project reports summarize much of this work that's going on.

And then finally the Service has contracted with BBNA and ADF&G for freshwater fish, subsistence harvest survey at Togiak and Manokotak. Understand that these surveys have been completed and the data has been turned over to the State for analysis and hopefully those results will be out soon. And I believe there is also another fish, freshwater fish harvest assessment on the Alaska Peninsula, and I understand those -- the data has been collected on that and it's currently in the analysis stage. We'll be awaiting the results of that. And that's all I have for the refuge. If I can answer any questions.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Andy, I thought the eider population that there was a -- there was concern that the population was going down, however they found the wintering area of eiders and it was like hundreds of thousands. I seen a report on it, seems like last spring. Anything out of that report? I didn't follow up on it, I think it was before herring came out.

MR. ADERMAN: Right. They had found a couple holes, if you will, out in the pack ice where these several thousand or hundreds of thousands of birds were. But based on the, I guess the nesting surveys that are done on the delta, primarily where these species nest, they have noticed declines in the nesting populations, and also some of the blood work that they do where they caught some of these birds and drawn blood, they have noticed a high incidents of lead in the blood and they preliminarily think eiders are picking up lead shot that's been spent, and it's in the marshes and it's going to be there for a while.

MR. O'HARA: Is that what you mean what's killing them?

MR. ADERMAN: Well, that's --

MR. O'HARA: You said lead poisoning, I thought they were shooting them. Some of that, too.

MR. ADERMAN: Lots of things that can be killing them in addition to --

MR. O'HARA: That's interesting, I didn't realize that.

MR. SAMUELSEN: About three weeks ago I was in Palo Alto, California watching CNN News in Best Western Hotel and I seen the Togiak report come on. And of course my first thought was, oh my God, here we are focusing on Togiak with the walrus hunt going to be taking place in a week here, and I was wondering why that report was coming out, a week, ten days before the Walrus Island -- walrus hunt was going on. Was that a timed event, or was it just by accident that report came out on CNN? Because soon thereafter I've read several press releases from groups of Friends of the Animals that truly love subsistence users in Alaska and, you know, I got pretty suspicious real fast. And how did that report evolve to CNN News to come out on national TV before a week, ten days before the walrus hunt on Walrus Island?

MR. ADERMAN: I can't address that specific question.

I don't think it was any intent by the refuge that it be aired at any particular time. There was a news crew from Anchorage out to Cape Pierce in August of this year, and that's about all I know on that. You might ask Aaron or any of the other folks.

MR. SAMUELSEN: I sit on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and have put in a proposal to close the waters in Togiak, in fact, close the waters from Newenham directly south and over between Egegik and Port Heiden to bottom trawling, to trawling, any kind of trawling, pelagic or any kind of trawling.

Have you contacted any of the National Marine Fisheries Services or any of the other federal agencies and looked at the by-catch rates of walrus, of seals, of birds by the trawl fleet over in the Togiak area?

MR. ADERMAN: I haven't, no.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Has anybody in the Togiak Wildlife Refuge looked at the by-catch information to see if there is any cause and effect on declines of any species?

MR. ADERMAN: Not that I'm aware of, but I can just only speak for myself and I haven't looked at that information.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Have you observed the trawlers out there fishing the yellow fin sole?

MR. ADERMAN: I haven't, no.

MR. SAMUELSEN: One more, Mr. Chairman. You talked

about the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd. Are you going to give a report on the Togiak, the Mulchatna caribou herd that is over in Togiak later on in this meeting?

MR. ADERMAN: I can give information on that. I was going to leave that to Larry Van Daele because he knows a lot more about the Mulchatnas and their whereabouts and whatnot. And I see that it's a specific agenda item for tomorrow, and I thought we could get more into detail then.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Anything to report on the Kilbuck caribou herd.

MR. ADERMAN: Same thing, they are in that same area in the northern -- north western part of the refuge, and I believe the last flight over in that area there was a mix of Kilbuck and Mulchatna animals based on radio collars. And I think Larry and Mike could probably give you more specific information on what they seen.

MR. O'HARA: Any other questions?

MR. HEYANO: 120 moose on federal land, Togiak Refuge, is that what you said?

MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, if our estimate of 136 for the subunit is correct and then eyeballing the map, you know, where the refuge is and where it isn't, where we saw moose, 120 is our best estimate.

MR. O'HARA: Are they open season?

MR. ADERMAN: No.

MR. O'HARA: They are closed, you can't hunt moose in the Togiak Refuge?

MR. ADERMAN: That's also on the agenda item for tomorrow.

MR. HEYANO: What's the carrying capacity of moose in the refuge?

MR. ADERMAN: Boy, that's a tough question. You mean in the Togiak drainage or the refuge as a whole?

MR. HEYANO: Refuge as a whole.

MR. ADERMAN: I'd hate to venture -- I'd be guessing if I told you, and of course that's a number that could change, you know, overnight depending on the weather. If it -- you know if it gets bad, it could decrease.

MR. HEYANO: Can you give us some idea, is it 120, is it a thousand, is it 5,000.

MR. ADERMAN: I'm not going to give you a number at this time.

MR. HEYANO: So the refuge has no idea what the carrying capacity of moose is.

MR. ADERMAN: I'd say Andy Aderman doesn't have any idea what the refuge can hold.

MR. HEYANO: Interesting.

MR. STEPANOFF: He's talking about the ducks dying off. We had ducks down there also that was dying off, these were like deep water ducks, they were diving deep and we found a lot of them at the beaches and the berry flats and couldn't figure out what it was. It wasn't like, you know, eiders, it was just one type of duck. They were all over down there. And then again, you know, after that oil spill, our eiders had disappeared and they are slowly coming back, so is the geese. Hopefully they will come back.

MR. O'HARA: Anything else, Sam?

MR. STEPANOFF: No.

MR. O'HARA: Do you have tourists that go out there?

MR. SAMUELSEN: That's State.

MR. O'HARA: Walrus is a State --

MR. SAMUELSEN: They handle Cape Piece.

MR. O'HARA: When you talk about walrus, is there a certain jurisdiction that you have over walrus, marine mammal?

MR. ADERMAN: Cape Pierce area is on the refuge.

MR. O'HARA: Round Island is not?

MR. ADERMAN: That's State.

MR. O'HARA: What about Cinnamon down on the peninsula, that's Rick Poetter.

MR. ADERMAN: No, I believe that's State land or non-federal land anyways. And as I understand it, that gets monitored kind of on an irregular basis. When folks are down that way they will do a fly by. King Salmon folks here that I think in the past have monitored numbers.

MR. O'HARA: You got a big haul-out down there that are males, I've flown by and looked at them there the other day, you can climb up and look and see a massive amount of animals. The emperors are problems still, the waterfowl migration, do you still have a decline in the emperors?

MR. ADERMAN: Based on the report from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the monitoring efforts that was out there, primarily where that species nest, and I also believe they do a count on the wintering grounds.

MR. O'HARA: Maybe down south?

MR. ADERMAN: Yeah.

MR. O'HARA: Do they have the same restrictions down there that we have here as far as hunting?

MR. ADERMAN: As far as I know there is no hunting of emperors anywhere.

MR. O'HARA: You can't take them in the Interior and they are still declining.

MR. ADERMAN: Still declining.

MR. O'HARA: I think that's about all I had, so and we'll deal with Larry on the caribou issue then, that will be a hot issue. Thank you, Andy, we appreciate it. Okay, I think we probably will finish with the Togiak National Refuge for the night, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof we'll start at 8:30. Unless there is any other comments from the committee members, we will recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning and we would like to have you come back and join us tomorrow morning at 8:30 and look forward to the Alaska Peninsula Refuge report from Rick.

(Proceedings recessed at 9:14 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE

I, LEONARD J. DiPAOLO, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that the testimony and proceedings were reported stenographically by me and later transcribed under my direction by computer transcription; that the foregoing is a true record of the testimony and proceedings taken at that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this _____ day of _____, 1995.

LEONARD J. DiPAOLO
Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 2-3-96