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1 BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING

3

4 Volume II
5 October 14, 2000

6 8:30 a.m.

7 Borough Assembly Chambers
8 Naknek Alaska

9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair
13 H. Robin Samuelsen, Vice Chair
14 Shirley Kelly, Secretary
15 Robert Heyano, Member
16 Andrew Balluta, Member
17 Peter M. Abraham, Member
18
19 Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:37 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good morning.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, that's pretty good. There's a response out there today. Okay. Let's see here. We're under the section of our agenda which deals with new business. And we'll turn it over to Robin to talk to us this morning about halibut in the area of subsistence.

MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, Mr. Chairman. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is tasked with -- they're the only ones that could allocate halibut, because of the Halibut Treaty Act and the restrictions in Mays and Stevens Act.

About four years ago a NMFS enforcement officer went out to Toksook Bay and this local fisherman had -- was out fishing halibut, and he'd caught two undersized halibut. It's illegal in the State of Alaska to possess 32 inches and under halibut. And proceeded to try to take the fish away, and the whole village out and escorted him to the airport and said don't come back.

And from that spawned a proposal to the Council to allow the retention of under 32 inch halibut in 4(E), which is Bristol Bay and up around the coast. IPHA halibut districts. The council did that, and the tribal governments submitted a proposal through the Halibut Subsistence Working Group, asking that halibut be recognized as subsistence food. We took two detours in that process, because the State Legislature had written us a letter asking us to delay implementation until the State figured out what it was going to do as far as getting in compliance with ANILCA.

And this last winter I put the chairman on notice, and the council on notice that I fully planned to take this issue up in our Sitka meeting here last week. From that meeting we took a lot of public testimony, and we spent about seven hours in deliberations on this one proposal. We had to define eligibility. We recognized subsistence, the next step was defining eligibility, and the eligibility standard that the council adopted was persons eligible to subsistence fish for halibut are Alaska rural residents as defined in ANILCA and identified in table 5.4 entitled

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1 Alaska rural places and areas with subsistence halibut
2 uses. Table 5.4 is the State of Alaska definition of
3 roughly 118 communities. And will also include other
4 communities for which customary and traditional findings
5 are developed in the future. The list specifically
6 includes the communities of Adak, Diomede, and Shishmaref.
7 This list of eligible communities can only be changed by
8 the council action.

9

10 The council argues communities seeking eligibility
11 -- urges communities seeking eligibility to subsistence
12 fish for halibut to pursue a customary and traditional
13 finding under appropriate bodies before petitioning the
14 council.

15

16 Other persons eligible to subsistence fish for
17 halibut are all identified members of Alaska federally
18 recognized native tribes in rural places with a finding of
19 customary and traditional use of halibut who move or have
20 moved to an urban area are allowed to return to their
21 tribal membership and exercise their subsistence rights for
22 halibut fishing. In other words, Mr. Chairman, if you
23 moved to Anchorage, you could come back to Naknek and
24 qualify.

25

26 All members of Alaska federally recognized native
27 tribes with a finding of customary and traditional use of
28 halibut that live in an area that has become, or in the
29 future becomes urban shall be allowed to exercise their
30 halibut subsistence rights anywhere in a designated rural
31 area within the State of Alaska. So if I'm living in
32 Kodiak, and Kodiak's deemed a rural area, I would have to
33 go outside the Kodiak boundaries and subsistence fish.

34

35 Under federal law and ANILCA, subsistence uses are
36 identified as customary and traditional uses of fish and
37 game by rural Alaska residents.

38

39 Define legal gear. The legal gear for subsistence
40 halibut fishing is set, hand-held gear of not more than 30
41 hooks, including long-line, hand line, rod and reel, spear,
42 jigging, and hand troll gear.

43

44 Retention of subsistence halibut less than 32
45 inches while commercial fishing is allowed only in
46 regulatory 4(E), including Savoonga and Gambell. Retention
47 of halibut greater than 32 inches while commercial fishing
48 is allowed statewide with retentions reported and counted
49 against an IFQ program.

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1 Customary and traditional trade through monetary
2 exchange shall be limited to an annual maximum of \$400 per
3 person. No customary and traditional trade is allowed upon
4 the premises of a commercial buying operation. Persons
5 licensed to engage in a fishery -- fisheries business may
6 not exchange -- solicit to exchange or receive for
7 commercial purposes subsistence taken halibut. No exchange
8 of subsistence caught halibut from a monetary exchange,
9 trade or barter is allowed to enter a commercial -- to
10 enter commerce at any time and at any point.

11
12 Customary and traditional trade through nonmonetary
13 exchange is allowed with anyone.

14
15 The bag limit, the daily limit for subsistence
16 halibut in rural areas is up to 20 halibut, except there's
17 no limit in 4(C) and 4(E), including Savoonga and Gambell.

18
19 Under cooperative agreements, cooperative
20 agreements with the tribes, state, the federal government
21 and other entities may be developed for harvesting --
22 harvest monitoring, local area planning, and other issues
23 affecting subsistence uses of halibut.

24
25 The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
26 requests that the Alaska Board of Fisheries to recommend
27 potential regulatory options for subsistence halibut
28 regulations relating to, number 1, legal gear, daily
29 limits, reporting requirements, customary and traditional
30 use areas of tribes in the rural communities, and nonrural
31 areas with definitions for halibut fishing areas. And that
32 will -- what the Board of Fish will do is go and hold
33 hearings in the five or six designated IPHC areas, they'll
34 get recommendations from them communities through their
35 advisory board process, and then make a recommendation back
36 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council on gear and
37 bag limits and that type of stuff, and we'll act on that
38 recommendation. The folks -- subsistence users will be
39 able to comment to the Board of Fish, and they'll also be
40 able to comment on the proposed changes to the North
41 Pacific Fishery Management Council.

42
43 That's all I have to report.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That sounded
46 pretty simple, didn't it? But I don't think it was quite
47 that simple. Seven hours it took to get the thing passed?

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, seven hours.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: With people like Bob
2 Penney involved?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Bob Penney was
5 involved, Carl Rosier, Alaska Territorial (ph) Sportsmen, a
6 very strong supporter of subsistence.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Put that in the
9 minutes just that way. That would be wonderful. Yeah.
10 No, seven hours of dealing with a subsistence issue like
11 that makes it -- let's see, the agenda item we had
12 yesterday with cooperative project and resource monitoring
13 with Taylor, that makes that a cake walk. But we really
14 appreciate the report this morning, and a lot of hard work,
15 difficult, difficult to drag those decisions out. Those
16 are really hard ones to do on subsistence. We really
17 appreciate that a lot, Robin.

18
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: This will be -- this goes
20 to the Secretary of Commerce and through our regulatory
21 process, it probably won't be implemented for a year or a
22 year and a half, Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Well, thank you
25 very much. Any questions or comments, Council members?
26 Okay. We have another item here this morning, and that
27 will be Jim Larson I see is here. I don't know if Jeff is
28 here this morning or not. Are you going to do this whole
29 thing this morning?

30
31 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

34
35 MR. LARSON: I gave Jeff the day off here.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Great. Well,
38 thank you, Jim, for coming down this morning. I appreciate
39 it. Yeah.

40
41 MR. LARSON: Yeah. Yeah. I'm Jim Larson,
42 I'm the project leader of the King Salmon Fishery Resource
43 Office. This is the first time I've talked to you guys. I
44 think Jeff gave a presentation last year on some of the
45 projects that we do, but I thought I'd introduce what our
46 office does real briefly, and then this year I was also
47 given the in-season management for Bristol Bay, so I want
48 to talk about that a little bit, and then one subsistence
49 project. So this will be fairly brief, but.....

50

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1 My office is a fishery office within Fish and
2 Wildlife Service. It's myself, and I've got three other
3 fisheries biologists, and basically we provide technical
4 assistance to the Department of Interior on fisheries
5 matters. I liken us to a consultant. Basically wherever
6 the money is, you know, we'll go, and currently our money
7 comes through Fish and Wildlife to work on refuges, so
8 that's pretty much where our projects have occurred. My
9 area is basically the Togiak Refuge, Alaska
10 Peninsula/Becharof down to Izembek. So we operate projects
11 all through that area, and if you go to I think it was tab
12 L under the -- let's see. Tab J under Alaska
13 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge, there's a list of some of the
14 projects there, and I'm not really going to talk about
15 those. You can -- if you have questions, you're welcome to
16 ask them. We do a fair bit of work all through the area,
17 but.....

18
19 I guess just one other item in that we will be
20 putting on a new biologist here for subsistence in-season
21 monitoring, and we'll also use that for a monitoring
22 position to help get some of the subsistence projects
23 going.

24
25 One other items is that Jeff Adams, who a lot of
26 people know, who's been out here for a lot of years, he
27 will be moving to Fairbanks here in the next about a month
28 or so. And he's taking a job with the Fairbanks Fisheries
29 Office, so that's just -- that will be a real loss for the
30 area. He's been here for a lot of years, and a good friend
31 to a lot of people, so --but we will be actively recruiting
32 to replace him, and so you'll see some new faces in the
33 fisheries office there.

34
35 I'll move on to the in-season management. As some
36 of you probably know, I was delegated the in-season
37 management for the Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and
38 Aleutians this year from the Federal Board of Subsistence.
39 And basically those actions were very -- my authority was
40 very limited to basically conservation actions within
41 conservation units, or to protect subsistence needs, and I
42 didn't have any ability to exert any authority outside the
43 federal conservation units.

44
45 And that's a real interesting point in defining
46 what a federal conservation unit is. It's -- I see it a
47 lot with these projects, you know, where we actually
48 operate, and basically those units are like the refuges or
49 the parks. If you look up on the map there, you'll see the
50 orange areas there, that's a lot of BLM land. Our actions

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1 don't occur on some of that. They do in the wild and
2 scenic areas, but they don't -- also, these maps are fairly
3 inaccurate, because the -- there's a lot of white area
4 there, the corporation lands within the boundaries of the
5 conservation units that we actually do have authority, and
6 so there's actually a fair bit on those maps that we
7 actually can exert authority on to. And boundaries become
8 real interesting, so it would be nice to, you know, have a
9 little bit more accurate. I mean, that was one of the
10 issues I had to deal with.

11
12 You know, I think the good example is up in the
13 Lake Clark area. That was obviously a hot spot this year,
14 and we paid close attention to that area. And, you know, I
15 guess the short answer to that is that any in-season
16 management that I could exert would have to be within Lake
17 Clark itself, not the Newhalen River, the Newhalen River is
18 outside the conservation unit. Nothing within Iliamna Lake
19 itself. Nothing in the Kvichak itself, and could do the --
20 I think it's about ten miles up the Alagnak, up river from
21 there. The lower part, that would be under state control.
22 So you can see that my actions in that area would be very
23 limited, but it is an area that we paid close attention to,
24 and we, you know, worked closely with the state to find
25 out, you know -- they kept us informed what the escapements
26 were, what their actions were, and, you know, I think
27 actually our -- you know, just this federal in-season or
28 the federal management probably had the state acting a
29 little more conservative in that Kvichak area with the
30 threat of, you know, potential actions, although our
31 actions could have been -- would be real limited, I think
32 the Federal Subsistence Board expressed that they were
33 really loathe to take any extraterritorial actions, you
34 know, outside the conservation units, and so, you know,
35 that basically put our ability to react inside the
36 conservation units, but.....

37
38 I just want to say I want to commend the state for
39 keeping us informed and taking actions to, you know,
40 restrict the commercial fisheries, to protect that stock,
41 and I think their planning for this coming year to set an
42 escapement floor, or basically a biological escapement goal
43 for that area. And that would be very good. You know,
44 that will give us a target for management if we do have to
45 take actions within those conservation units.

46
47 But in that Lake Clark area, really the actions
48 that I would have been limited to, you know, after defining
49 the area was for conservation is either shut down the
50 subsistence, shut down the sport, or restrict nonrural

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1 subsistence in that Lake Clark area, so really only had
2 three opportunities for action in that area. And basically
3 we took none. You know, with the sport fish closing down,
4 and the commercial pulled in as close as it could and
5 restricted, then really our only action was to close
6 subsistence, and that was -- that would be a very drastic
7 action in our eyes to do that.

8

9 Another area that we kind of -- we've got a call on
10 anyway was in the Ugashik area, and that was from Tim
11 Enright. He called, but again those conservation units
12 come into play. He was fishing outside the conservation
13 unit, and the issues were outside the conservation unit, so
14 basically could do nothing for him in that area.

15

16 And then Chignik was another that we were paying
17 close attention to. It looked like the fish were maybe a
18 little bit late, and the locals were kind of concerned, but
19 there is a weir on the Chignik River, and the state
20 management biologist, George Pappas, was obviously paying
21 attention to the subsistence needs of those people. He was
22 reacting very conservatively. Their escapements -- they do
23 have a management plan for that area for that late season
24 in August and September, and the escapements were coming in
25 within that management plan, so again there was no action,
26 but we were paying close attention to the -- the Chignik
27 area is an area though that we probably could have had some
28 effect on the commercial fishery. The boundaries of the
29 conservation unit actually extend into the Chignik Lagoon
30 commercial fishing district, so we actually could have
31 taken some in-season management actions there, but again
32 the State was managing very conservatively, and the
33 escapements were meeting the plans, so again we didn't take
34 any action.

35

36 And then, you know, preseason we had a meeting with
37 the state, or, you know, I contacted all the management
38 biologists that we thought maybe we'd have some issues, and
39 specifically Perryville had come up. We were concerned
40 with the Kametolook River. Basically that one has a very
41 low escapement. We're not exactly sure why, but the
42 State's been running a restoration effort in that area to
43 restore coho salmon. We're pretty sure it's probably over-
44 fishing in the area, and -- but anyway the State -- you
45 guys are probably more aware of, you know, some of the
46 commercial actions in that area, but they've reduced the
47 Cape fisheries, and in that Perryville area they've
48 supposedly backed off on the commercial fishery to protect
49 those local stocks, so that's really -- so about the only
50 action that we could take in there was -- would be to close

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1 the subsistence. There really isn't any sport fishing in
2 that area, so -- and again we're real loath to do that.

3

4 You know, they're very small stocks in those whole
5 Pacific drainages, they're very fragile. We've done some
6 work on some of the other rivers up north in the Yantari
7 area, and you are looking at very small populations.
8 There's a lot of them because of all the small streams, but
9 it would be very easy to overfish any one of them, but
10 enforcement in that area is a nightmare. I mean, I think
11 if you heard BBNA talk about trying to get permits out for
12 caribou down there, it's a very rough area to work.

13 It's.....

14

15 So anyway that's it for in-season management, and
16 I'd be glad to take any questions there. Let me cover
17 projects that -- one project in particular.

18

19 Last year we were funded to operate the -- install
20 and operate the Togiak weir. That would have been a
21 floating weir in the Togiak River to count salmon, and a
22 cooperative project with the state and the local village
23 and Fish and Wildlife Service. And the first year was a
24 feasibility study, and we have the preliminary results of
25 that. It's very fortuitous that the -- our water resources
26 branch of the Fish and Wildlife Service was conducting a
27 flow study in that drainage, so they actually had -- have
28 discharge measurements for the drainage that they just
29 installed in the past year, so we had a year's worth of
30 flow data in the main stem river. In May we went out and
31 surveyed potential sites in the lower river. It was only a
32 two-day effort there. Mark Lisac and Jeff Adams and I
33 think one of their rangers went out and looked at areas,
34 and found some potential areas that we could install the
35 weir.

36

37 And basically what you do with these floating
38 weirs, is you install them at low flow as soon as the ice
39 is out, and before you get the run-off of the snow melt,
40 and so that's when they were surveying these areas. And
41 then once the weir's installed, you -- these are resistance
42 board weirs. Basically there's a -- they're floating.
43 They're made out of PVC pickets, and then they have a board
44 that's off-set at 100 degrees, and it provides some
45 flotation, so it -- basically if the flows go up too much
46 when you have this thing deployed, it will sink it. You
47 won't lose your weir. And then when the flows go down, it
48 pops up and you're fish tight again. It's a great tool for
49 the area here in Western Alaska with all these flashy
50 streams, and so that's what we were looking at.

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1 So you -- but you have to get it in before the high
2 water, that spring melt occurs and the you just let it sit
3 on the bottom of the river, and then when the flows go own,
4 then you set the boards and then you're fish tight, and --
5 but it has to withstand that high flow. And that's the
6 real concern here in the Togiak River. With those
7 discharge measurements, basically it's way beyond the
8 capability of that type of weir. Basically we'd be looking
9 at having the Corps of Engineers come in here and build
10 Bonneville Dam as a fish weir, and we don't think that's
11 real acceptable, so basically our conclusion is that a weir
12 in the main stem Togiak is not feasible. We're not going
13 to pursue it any more.

14
15 We are looking at some potential alternatives
16 though. Specifically we're looking at -- and our preferred
17 is to maybe establish smaller weirs in some of the
18 tributaries to, you know, improve some of the escapement
19 monitoring in the Togiak River.

20
21 We bounced around the idea of sonar, but in the
22 early 90s we actually operated sonar in that river as a
23 feasibility, and because you have five species of fish --
24 or salmon, and dolly varden, and whitefish and arctic char
25 in that area, species apportionment in the sonar is
26 extremely difficult. You use gill nets to do the
27 apportionment, and it's a highly biased gear, so I don't
28 think we'd have much confidence in the numbers that we
29 would generate there. We'd probably get a total
30 escapement, but you still have to apportion it by each fish
31 species, and that's very difficult, so again sonar's way
32 down on the list, and so.....

33
34 We'll be working with the state and the Togiak
35 Refuge and the Village of Togiak to come up with some
36 alternatives, or else we'll turn the money back to
37 Subsistence. So that's all I've got.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council
40 members? Yes?

41
42 MR. HEYANO: At the last meeting we
43 requested a map designating federal waters within this
44 RAC's jurisdiction. Is that being worked on?

45
46 MR. LARSON: I'd have to pass that one over
47 to Subsistence.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: Oh.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Somebody's nodding.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, that's in our.....

4

5 MR. LARSON: Yeah.

6

7 MR. JENNINGS:office.

8

9 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: We're working on that to try
12 to improve the maps.

13

14 MR. LARSON: It would be very helpful from
15 my standpoint, because it is very convoluted. The Alaska
16 Peninsula is actually fairly straight forward, and the
17 Togiak Refuge is very straight forward in my book, but
18 where you get the Alaska Maritime Refuge involved, and
19 that's all those little sea stacks out there in the
20 Pacific, those are federal lands, and those are some of
21 that old refuge, and it's very interesting boundaries, so
22 it would be very good to have that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim, you're right on
25 those maps. Yesterday we were looking at some of the lands
26 that.....

27

28 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:really were federal
31 lands, and they still had some of the state and other lands
32 with the wrong color. So it really was kind of confusing.
33 This is all federal, and then part of it is whited in as
34 state or something else, and it's not.

35

36 MR. LARSON: No, it.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So that's a good
39 comments. The other thing is Boris -- you know, at the
40 fish conference we had here, I talked to you a little bit,
41 and then we never got together again, but I would like.....

42

43 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:I would still like
46 to get together with you on some of those streams down
47 there in the Perryville/Ivanof area that he's concerned
48 about. When they come to us and say we have this concern,
49 then we need to follow up and come see you at least and say
50 what efforts can be made. Is this something that's going

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1 to have to come back to this Council for a recommendation?
2 And so we appreciate you calling and we'll follow up with
3 that appointment to make sure that we're satisfied that
4 Boris is -- knows that we're looking at the concerns that
5 they have down in that area.

6
7 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then we have your
10 proposals here I believe that you sent in to.....

11
12 MR. LARSON: Right. Those are.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:those have gone to
15 the federal? Yeah.

16
17 MR. LARSON: Right. We submitted nine
18 proposals there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. One pre-died, nine
21 proposals. How does that work?

22
23 MR. LARSON: I hope you realize I didn't
24 pass out any of my information here to save that tree, so
25 other than that.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're saving
28 trees. Very good for you, Jim. That's good. Council
29 members, anything else this morning? Well, thanks. We'll
30 be calling you. We appreciate you taking time this morning
31 to come down and meet with us.

32
33 I believe the last item on the agenda today will be
34 the -- other than the next meetings will be the customary
35 trade. Council members, what are your wishes on this?

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Refresh our memory. What
38 do we need to do there?

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, somewhere in our
41 packet it says something about a committee. Let's see.
42 Who out there handles this customary trade issue?

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Tab D, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What federal
47 department handles this customary trade? Who was dealing
48 with that yesterday? Okay. We may just have a couple
49 recommendations here for you, Tim.

50

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1 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The last page on B, back
4 page, new customary trade working group. I guess we're
5 wondering where we fit into the program if we want to make
6 a recommendation today on a dollar amount or want a little
7 input on this customary trade working group. What are the
8 steps again? Robert?

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman,
11 it's that last sentence in the second paragraph. All
12 council chairs have been contacted and believe that this is
13 an important issue. They wish to be included early in the
14 discussion. I think if I remember correctly yesterday, we
15 need to come up with some recommendations, or at least have
16 some discussions on definition of included early in this
17 discussion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tim, who's going to be on
20 this committee?

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Right now.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This working group.

25

26 MR. JENNINGS: I mentioned yesterday that
27 Pete Probasco, I don't know if you're familiar with Pete.
28 He's recently retired from the ADF&G Commercial Fish
29 Division out of Kodiak.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: He's a recent hire in our
36 office. He's the statewide ADF&G liaison for our office
37 now. He's been assigned as the chair of this working
38 group. The other members have not yet been selected, so
39 the group is currently forming. Reforming. And as I
40 mentioned yesterday, the idea, the goal here is to have the
41 group take a fresh look at the issue, in trying to define
42 -- take another step toward defining significant commercial
43 enterprise with input from interested RAC members. There's
44 an opportunity for individual RAC members to participate in
45 this working group if they so desire, or to wait for some
46 initial product to come from the working group, and then
47 comment as we go through the process.

48

49 I mentioned yesterday that there's at least one
50 Board member who is very interested in trying to address

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1 this issue before the next fishing season. And the idea as
2 well was to at the next fisheries training, if that's in
3 January or whenever it is, if we happened to move the date,
4 that we would have an update that we'd bring to the -- to
5 that meeting, and participate with the coordination with
6 the RACs. So that's about as far as I'm aware of how this
7 group is reforming, and where we're headed with this. It's
8 still in the developmental stages of reforming this group.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think we would
11 like to make a recommendation from our RAC that one of our
12 Council members be on that working group. And, you know,
13 either Robert or Robin, and we'll appoint Robert to go
14 ahead and go on that, so we have a true democracy going
15 here. That's a pretty important one, so.....

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: So that would be Robert?

18

19 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Robert Heyano. Yeah.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Congratulations.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Happy -- that's a
24 good one though, very important. Yeah. Okay. Anything
25 else, Council members? Well, thank you very much, Tim.

26

27 The next meeting that we have here, to talk about,
28 we discussed a little bit of a meeting for the RAC in
29 December in relationship to the money amount for projects.
30 Do you want to handle this in January or do you want to
31 handle this in December. What do you think? What do you
32 think the importance is as far as meeting again before --
33 if we meet in December, and we meet again in January, or
34 can we handle that -- those amounts, projects, dollar
35 amount that was recommended to us yesterday in January?
36 What do you guys -- yeah, Robin?

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: The problem is I don't know
39 who's all going to show for the January meeting. And
40 whether we're going to -- as a RAC going to be able to
41 provide comments, collective comments for recommendations
42 out of the RAC, and I thought maybe we could have a one --
43 if the information could get out to us, maybe we could have
44 a teleconference meeting just on the projects just so we
45 could provide you or whoever's going to be at the January
46 22nd meeting, our RAC comments. I don't know how that
47 would work. Cliff?

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can we teleconference for
50 half a day or whatever it takes to do that?

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1 MR. JENNINGS: Sure.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah. The list
4 has been given to us here, and so we would -- we would
5 really like to have some comments go to the Federal Board
6 before we get there in January, to say, real nice for you
7 to give us a list, this is what we think. It may be some
8 things we -- not even on their list that this Council would
9 feel is more important than what has been, you know, given
10 to us, so.....

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Or a one-day face-to-face,
13 Mr. Chairman, it doesn't matter.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if we could do that
16 in Dillingham, too. We wouldn't have to drag all the staff
17 out I don't think. We could just get together and have the
18 projects that we would like in Dillingham for a day. Come
19 in the evening, and have a meeting in the morning, and go
20 back the next day. Yeah, Robert?

21

22 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chair, I would think
23 that since this is going to be the first time we're going
24 to be looking at these project proposals, and going over
25 the new criteria, evaluating with the new criteria, I would
26 be in favor of a face-to-face meeting, if that's at all
27 possible, and, you know, maybe we can just give you
28 direction to work on that, to try to schedule that before
29 the January meeting.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What would be a
32 good time, just before Christmas?

33

34 MR. HEYANO: I would -- we need to find out
35 when the final cut's coming, or when that will be done, I
36 guess. And then just as soon after that would be my
37 recommendation.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Didn't you give us 56
40 yesterday?

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD: Excuse me. It was 47 I
43 believe for Bristol Bay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, 47, Taylor.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. And let me mention
48 again that the results of this first screening phase will
49 be announced on Monday, so that from the 50, about half of
50 that. I don't remember the exact figures, but about half

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1 of those are advanced for further consideration. They're
2 the finalist pool. And out of those, all but a handful
3 would actually be finally funded. The finalists pools is
4 close to our available budget, but where there were some
5 very good projects, we left a little bit of room for
6 flexibility at the last stage. So we will provide to you
7 next week a report that sorts the 52 projects that says
8 these were advanced, these were advanced with
9 modifications, and these were not advanced. And we'll
10 provide a rationale statement identifying the technical
11 problem for one that was not advanced, or the strategic
12 issue that was responsible for advancing a particular
13 project. So you'll have a fair bit of infor- -- some key
14 information on every project within a week's time. The
15 report will be available next week.

16
17 The package that we're trying to finalize by
18 December 31st will be the final cuts so to speak. From the
19 finalists we will pick the ones that we think actually --
20 the staff recommendation for the best projects for final
21 funding would be identified, and at that point we will have
22 these science reviews, the so-called peer review comments.
23 That's the package we'll bring to the Council after
24 December 31st, and I think your comments would be best
25 focused if you have the final package before you. That --
26 you know, at that point you would be able to say we think a
27 mistake was made on project number 3. It should have
28 been elevated and wasn't, or something of that sort. So
29 we'd be happy to meet with you particularly after December
30 31st when that staff work is done.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: After December 31st?

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct. I think meeting
35 prior to December 31st is -- would be premature,
36 because.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD:you don't actually
41 have the staff recommendations in front of you. And we're
42 going to have a real tough time.....

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Sometime in the first week
45 of January

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD:we're going to make a
48 lot of exceptional efforts to meet the December 31st
49 deadline, but we're not going to be done early with that
50 report, I'm quite sure of that.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It sounds like January
2 5th would be the first best date then.

3
4 MR. BRELSFORD: At your pleasure.
5 We'll.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We could.....

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: We'll make.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:poll the Council
12 members and work with Cliff, and you can work with the
13 departments. And can we just have a very scaled down -- we
14 don't have to drag all the staff members out and everything
15 to come to this meeting.

16
17 MR. BRELSFORD: No, I think we would have
18 some of the fisheries specialists.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

21
22 MR. BRELSFORD:from the region, and
23 probably one person from our office to explain the package,
24 and it could be focused,.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD:not a long meeting.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would that be okay,
31 Robert and Andy and Pete? Shirley? I think we're pretty
32 good timewise as far as the first week in January.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: So the special meeting --
35 the notion was the 5th of January? That's the discussion
36 at this point?

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The 5th of January
43 is a Friday. Is that okay? But to get out of there on a
44 Friday as well. I mean, come, you know, -- have it a one
45 dayer, be kind of come and go.

46
47 MR. BRELSFORD: No, we'll -- we're
48 committed to doing a good program here, and having a strong
49 council.....

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:with a lot of close
4 attention.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

7

8 MR. BRELSFORD:high interest. That's
9 a strength, that's a benefit for all of us. So we'll be
10 here Friday, Saturday, it's not a problem.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, if we come
13 in on Thursday evening and have our meeting on Friday, and
14 then make it out that night,.....

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: That would be fine.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that will be fine.
19 We can handle that. Anything else, Council members? Yes?

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I'd like to call Ralph Anderson up from BBNA, and have a
23 little talk with him about 9(E) grizzly bear.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Brown bear. Ralph, do you
28 think -- we're butting up against a deadline for call for
29 proposals I think the 27th of this month, and you were in
30 the room yesterday when -- and commented on the reports
31 that we got on caribou on the north Peninsula, and were
32 present when we were having predator conversations. Do you
33 think it would be possible for BBNA to poll them villages,
34 explain to them the situation with caribou, our predator
35 concerns, and see if they'd like to sponsor or do anything
36 about the brown bear seasons?

37

38 MR. ANDERSON: That can be done, Robin.
39 How soon would you like.....

40

41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, that -- if the
42 villages, communities in 9(E) want to put in a proposal,
43 they need to put in a proposal by the 27th of this month I
44 believe it is.

45

46 MR. ANDERSON: Well, I'll begin polling
47 them on Monday.

48

49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

50

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1 MR. ANDERSON: And get on it as quickly as
2 I can.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that would be
7 liberalizing the season and take of the animals and that
8 type of thing. And, you know, like we have -- one spring
9 we have a hunt and then that's -- and then the fall hunt is
10 off, and then the following one we have, you know, another
11 fall hunt, and the spring is off, altering the -- I sure
12 would be interested in maybe spring and fall hunt and
13 taking another look at the bag, the number of animals, what
14 you can take within -- like a four-year period of time you
15 can take one bear, and so kind of keep those in mind, too,
16 is in -- we'll appreciate that.

17
18 MR. ANDERSON: And, Robin, I'd like -- if
19 we can get together on Monday to discuss what you have in
20 mind, that would be helpful, too.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert?

25
26 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would
27 request that during the poll, if he would include the
28 question if -- is -- if they feel that something needs to
29 be done with the wolf population also, but actually
30 approach it as two different issues.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: But if you're going to be
35 doing a poll or seeking input from those communities,
36 include wolves if you would?

37
38 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, Sandy, would
41 you like to come on up and give us your name? Thank you,
42 Ralph.

43
44 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 I'm Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service. I think you
46 probably know this, but just in case I'm catching a little
47 bit of miscommunication, when I listened to this yester- --
48 the discussion yesterday, I was looking both at the State
49 regulations, and the federal regulations, and when you
50 compare the two side-by-side for brown bear, they're very

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1 different. When I look at the federal regulations, they're
2 clearly more liberal than the state regulations. I
3 interpret Robin's comments to be somewhat focused on the
4 state regulations. And I just want to -- am I correct
5 about that?

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: I believe under -- Mr.
8 Chairman?

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I believe under the federal
13 regulations a resident can take a bear every year?

14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: And under the state
18 regulations, it's one every four years,.....

19

20 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN:a shorter season,
23 closed seasons, and -- yes,.....

24

25 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN:I'm primarily asking
28 BBNA to do a poll on the state regulations at this point in
29 time.

30

31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. I appreciate your
32 indulgence. I, you know, just want to make sure that
33 someone isn't focused toward the federal deadline and then
34 to find out it's really the state and basically you miss an
35 opportunity, you know, to get something forward that you're
36 trying to do. So thank you for the clarification.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you. You
39 bet. Any other comments, Council members? Okay. Well, I
40 guess there's nothing else for you to discuss, unless you
41 guys want to bring up some new things, and -- you don't
42 have any more, do you?

43

44 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's a new day.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a new day. Yeah.
47 You know, just as a note of interest, a while back Andy
48 Balluta lost his brother Jimmy up at Nondalton, and we deal
49 in these issues of sitting here fighting about fish and
50 game and being really hard nosed about some things, but

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1 while we were up at Nondalton at the funeral service, I had
2 a friend whose wife was -- she's a physician assistant,
3 Mattie Boskosky from Egigik, and while I was there, I
4 dropped Paul off, who just moved here to Naknek to take the
5 Nelbro caretaking job. And we went up there for the
6 funeral service, and he was visiting his wife at Iliamna,
7 and the daughter was down at Becharof Lake, Jewel, at the
8 scientific program that you have down there, that the feds
9 have down there. And we got a call saying that we need to
10 pick up Paul and bring him back. You know, so we left the
11 funeral service early, which was unfortunate we had to do
12 that, but Jewel and gotten sick. And they brought her back
13 from Becharof, and she had a fever and her glands were
14 swollen a little bit, and within the next day or so she was
15 in Seattle with acute leukemia. And, of course, that's a
16 lot more serious than just who's going to fight over fish
17 and game. But she went down there, and in that situation,
18 they take all the white corpuscles out, and start off with
19 new ones, and fortunately they started coming back, and
20 then she got pneumonia. And, of course, her folks went
21 down there, and that's where they stayed for a month, you
22 know, living in a hotel, 100 bucks a day. And she's 18
23 years old, beautiful, came up here to be -- do sports and
24 everything, you know, and losing her hair, and that's not a
25 good thing for a girl to do, and she's a senior and
26 everything and all these fun things that's go on. But
27 today she's coming back. She's doing well, and she's
28 coming back today. She's coming to Egigik today, and back
29 to Naknek tomorrow, so.....

30
31 We apologize for not staying, Andy, you know, but
32 some of these things do happen, and along with all the
33 things that go on as far as what we do on issues of
34 numbers, these type of things, it's nice to know that we're
35 concerned as well about our people and their health as well
36 as those type of things. So that's a good story. We're
37 really happy that -- and the people supported them, helped
38 them out financially, letters all over the country, you
39 know, the canneries and so that's a good way to end our
40 meeting today. Anything else? A motion to adjourn? Oh,
41 excuse me.

42
43 COURT REPORTER: The next meeting?

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, next meeting? Yeah,
46 it's going to be January the 5th in Dillingham, yeah.
47 Anything else?

48
49 MR. JENNINGS: How about for the spring
50 meeting? Do you want to set the spring meeting at this

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1 time?

2

3

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know. Yeah?

4

5

MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would
6 just -- you have some direction that -- concerning the
7 issue of addressing the funding proposals, and I think
8 you've done an excellent job in the past of scheduling the
9 spring meeting also, so I would just move that we leave it
10 to the call of the chair.

11

12

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's just look at in
13 January 5th. We'll have a pretty good idea by then, and
14 maybe Cliff can have us some -- so a motion?

15

16

MR. SAMUELSEN: So move.

17

18

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second?

19

20

MR. BALLUTA: Second.

21

22

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Out of here. Thank you.
23 The great evacuation is next.

24

25

(Off record - 9:20 a.m.)

26

27

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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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, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 199 through 221 contain
a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, BRISTOL
BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING,
taken electronically by Meredith Downing on the 14th day of
October 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the
Borough Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04