

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
October 20, 1998  
1:00 P.M.  
Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers  
Naknek, Alaska

**VOLUME I**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alvin Boskofsky, Secretary/Acting Chairman  
Peter Abraham  
Timothy Enright  
Andrew Balluta

Helga Eakon, Coordinator

0002

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:37 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: I'd call this meeting to order.

MS. EAKON: There we go. All right.

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: 1:36. We'll have roll call.

MS. EAKON: Okay. Okay, Mr. Chair. Alvin Boskofsky?

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Here.

MS. EAKON: Andrew Balluta?

MR. BALLUTA: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robert Heyano. Peter Abraham?

MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

MS. EAKON: Dan O'Hara. Timothy Enright?

MR. ENRIGHT: Here.

MS. EAKON: Robin Samuelson? A quorum is established,  
Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Welcome. Introductions.

MS. EAKON: Maybe we can start with those.....

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: The Board?

MS. EAKON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative) We'll start with  
Andrew.

MR. BALLUTA: Andrew Balluta from Iliamna.

MR. ENRIGHT: Tim Enright from Ugashik.

MR. ABRAHAM: Pete from Togiak.

CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Alvin Boskofsky from Chignik Lake.

MS. EAKON: I'm Helga Eakon, Regional Coordinator.

COURT REPORTER: Meredith Downing, Court Reporter, and  
when you folks do come up -- come to give your reports, be sure

0003

1 to come up to the front table.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Yeah.

4  
5 MR. BRANSON: John Branson, historian at Lake Clark  
6 National Park.

7  
8 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, refuge plan (ph) and  
9 subsistence coordinator at Alaska Peninsula Refuge, King  
10 Salmon.

11  
12 MR. KRIEG: Ken Krieg, Bristol Bay Native Association,  
13 Natural Resource Department.

14  
15 MR. O. LIND: Orville Lind, refuge ranger for the  
16 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge.

17  
18 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher, Subsistence Office,  
19 Anchorage.

20  
21 MR. DYASAK: Jon Dyasak with Togiak Refuge.

22  
23 MR. FINK: Lee Fink, Subsistence Coordinator and Chief  
24 Ranger at Lake Clark National Park.

25  
26 MR. TINGE: Ralph Tinge with the regional office of the  
27 Park Service in Anchorage.

28  
29 MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce Greenwood from Anchorage in the  
30 Wildlife Resources Division.

31  
32 MR. CLARK: Rick Clark, Chief of Resource Management  
33 for the National Park Service, Katmai National Park and  
34 Aniakchak National Monument.

35  
36 MR. MIKE: Donald Mike, Subsistence Resource  
37 Specialist, Katmai/Aniakchak National Monument.

38  
39 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, biologist, Anchorage Field  
40 Office, BLM.

41  
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Dunaway, Department of Fish and Game,  
43 Sport Fish Division.

44  
45 MR. WOOLINGTON: Jim Woolington, Department of Fish and  
46 Game, area biologist for Unit 17 out of Dillingham.

47  
48 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, wildlife biologist with  
49 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

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1 MR. HINKES: Mike Hinkes, wildlife biologist/pilot from  
2 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Dillingham.

3  
4 MR. SHARP: And I'm Ferdinand Sharp, Togiak National  
5 Wildlife Refuge, RIT for Manakotak.

6  
7 MR. KELLY: Charles Kelly, commercial fisherman,  
8 Egegik.

9  
10 MS. KELLY: Shirley Kelly, RIT from the Alaska  
11 Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

12  
13 MR. O'HARA: Tom O'Hara for the National Park Service,  
14 King Salmon, and Aniakchak, ranger/pilot.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: I don't know what to do. What's  
17 next here? Welcome everybody to this meeting. I'm the acting  
18 chair. I don't know what I'm doing. That's one way to put it.  
19 I got put in here. Dan's not here, and Robin's not here. Dan  
20 supposedly will be here in the morning. I'll do the best I  
21 could.

22  
23 MS. EAKON: You bet.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: So we're going to do the review  
26 and approval of agenda, aren't we?

27  
28 MS. EAKON: Okay. We do have changes. First of all, I  
29 should explain that Robert Heyano was unable to be here because  
30 of, quote, very important personal matters, end quote.

31  
32 And Robin Samuelsen said that he had to be in Wasilla  
33 on account of his job. He works for Bristol Bay Economic  
34 Development Corporation. And I think it's in connection with  
35 the State Board of Fisheries maybe, but I'm not certain.  
36 That's correct? Okay.

37  
38 And Dan O'Hara is escorting somebody, an important  
39 person from South America I believe, and is supposed to catch a  
40 flight in the morning. His son, Tom O'Hara, is here and  
41 promised that he'll try to track him down and find out for us  
42 what time he'll be here in the morning.

43  
44 And in reviewing your agenda, and speaking with the  
45 acting chair, Alvin Boskofsky, who is currently the secretary  
46 of this regional council, and under the council charter, when  
47 the chair and vice chair are absent, he is to preside in their  
48 absence. Absences. Is how come he's acting chair.

49  
50 So I think we should ask, what is the wish of the

0005

1 quorum here regarding election of officers? I should mention  
2 to you that Robin said he's up for nomination for any office  
3 but chair. He's too busy to serve as chair. So it's up to  
4 you, if you want to hold your elections now or wait until Dan  
5 comes back tomorrow. It's your pleasure.

6  
7 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I think we ought to wait  
8 until Dan gets here tomorrow.

9  
10 MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.

11  
12 MR. ENRIGHT: I agree.

13  
14 MS. EAKON: Okay. There's a consensus? So please note  
15 that item six of your agenda for October 20 will be moved back  
16 to tomorrow.

17  
18 I think that opportunity for public comments, it's  
19 always open during the course of the meeting, so we should have  
20 that opportunity after review of the agenda, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 Old business. Special Action Request, 97-07, Unit 9(E)  
23 caribou and moose. Because Dan O'Hara did chair that task  
24 force group, I think it's important to hold that off for  
25 tomorrow as well, do you agree?

26  
27 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFKY: (Nods affirmative)

28  
29 MS. EAKON: Okay. Proposal 59, 17 -- Unit 17(A) moose.  
30 Do you want to move that -- hold that off until tomorrow, too?

31  
32 MR. ENRIGHT: Yeah.

33  
34 MS. EAKON: Is that okay? I will mention that I spoke  
35 to Dan O'Hara during AFN, and he said to cancel the evening  
36 session for tonight. He was very disappointed at the  
37 continuing moratorium for funding, and since he -- he said  
38 since the fisheries issues are not imminently forthcoming this  
39 year, just cancel that session for tonight, because we had  
40 planned it at a time when we thought that we will be able to  
41 publish the final rule, and that there would not be a  
42 moratorium.

43  
44 So it is just as well, because the Assembly, the  
45 Borough Assembly is going to meet tonight, so whenever we  
46 recess today, I promised Cynthia that we would clear the table.  
47 We'll put your stuff in boxes in the corner of the room, and  
48 then put the stuff back out for tomorrow.

49  
50 Update on federal subsistence fisheries management.

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1 Rosa Meehan has gotten the flu, so Sue Detwiler is going to fly  
2 in tomorrow morning with Pat McClenahan who serves as  
3 anthropologist for this regional council. So we will also  
4 postpone that presentation until tomorrow.

5  
6 Also, there are items on the 1997 annual report. We do  
7 have a solicitor's opinion on same-day-airborne, and there is a  
8 copy on the table, and I did -- you do -- the regional council  
9 members do have a copy. It came out I believe it was last  
10 Friday. When you go home tonight, please be sure to read this,  
11 because it's -- I think it took management people by surprise.  
12 I just wanted to mention that. But I think that we should go  
13 ahead and wait until tomorrow for the 1997 annual report  
14 discussion, because our anthropologist has a role in some of  
15 these items. Is that okay? Is that okay? All right.

16  
17 Also, moving on, what we are going to have is testimony  
18 from five people from the 9(E) villages at 1:30 tomorrow  
19 afternoon. And they want to speak to moose and caribou in Unit  
20 9(E). So at 1:30 we'll just -- whenever they call in, we'll  
21 hear their testimony. And I would suggest that immediately  
22 after they testify tomorrow, that you go ahead and take up 97-  
23 09.

24  
25 The same way with the report of the c&t working group.  
26 Because Dan O'Hara was a member of that Board-appointed task  
27 force, and Pat McClenahan will assist in that presentation.  
28 Because if you took the time to read the paper, regional  
29 council action is required. It is required, because the Chair  
30 of the Federal Subsistence Board would like comments from all  
31 of the regional councils on c&t.

32  
33 Agency reports. We could do agency reports. They are  
34 non- -- they don't require any kind of motions. We could do  
35 that this afternoon.

36  
37 Status report on deferred proposals, Pat can do those,  
38 and then we'll do the council proposals.

39  
40 There is a request from Ekwok Village Council for an  
41 increase in regional council size to nine seats, and you do  
42 have it under Tab N in your book.

43  
44 And I think that covers the agenda, Mr. Chair, unless  
45 you have -- do you have any other items to add? If not, it  
46 would be appropriate to hold off on adopting it until tomorrow,  
47 if you wish, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to explain to you the  
48 different changes.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFKY: I think we should, too.

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1 MS. EAKON: Okay. So that would bring us down to  
2 opportunity for public comments, if there are any -- if there's  
3 anyone present who would like to offer public comment on any  
4 issue relating to subsistence?

5  
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Helga?

7  
8 MS. EAKON: Uh-hum?

9  
10 MR. ABRAHAM: We won't take action on this over here?  
11 On receiving the agenda?

12  
13 MS. EAKON: On what?

14  
15 MR. ABRAHAM: Our agenda items. We leave it as it is  
16 without.....

17  
18 MS. EAKON: Unless you think it's appropriate to.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: I think what she said, we'll hold  
21 off on adoption of this agenda until tomorrow.

22  
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Tomorrow?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Yeah.

26  
27 MS. EAKON: Yeah. Since we are just.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Because Dan will be here.

30  
31 MS. EAKON: .....going to -- since we are just going to  
32 address the agency reports this afternoon.

33  
34 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Okay.

35  
36 MS. EAKON: Is that okay?

37  
38 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay.

39  
40 MS. EAKON: So formal adoption of the agenda we'll do  
41 tomorrow, okay?

42  
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

44  
45 MS. EAKON: All right. In which case, Mr. Chair, it  
46 will be appropriate to start off with agency reports. I didn't  
47 hear a response to anyone wanting to publicly testify. So the  
48 first one would be Togiak Refuge.

49  
50 MR. HINKES: Good afternoon, Acting Chair, my name is

0008

1 Mike Hinkes with the Togiak Refuge, and this will be Andy  
2 Aderman. I'll be presenting a brief report on the Togiak  
3 activities and Andy will add in wherever we need to.

4  
5 I had one thought that with the on-going studies in  
6 17(A) on the moose populations there that maybe that particular  
7 report, that part of the report might want to wait until  
8 tomorrow when we'll be considering the proposal at that time,  
9 if that's.....

10  
11 Okay. Aaron Archibeque, he normally gives this  
12 presentation, but he is out of State attending some conference  
13 down in the Lower 48, so I'll be sitting in for him. And just  
14 briefly going through, you have under J is a written report of  
15 which I'm going to briefly highlight some of the items. You  
16 can either follow through with that or just kind of listen to  
17 me, but.....

18  
19 Again as we have in the past years, we had our public  
20 use -- implementation of our public use management plan, and  
21 part of that has included stationing river rangers on our three  
22 main rivers on the refuge: The Kanektok, the Goodnews and the  
23 Togiak River. Staffing on the Kanektok River has been a  
24 cooperative effort with the village there, and primarily we're  
25 documenting public use, monitoring user conflicts and  
26 collecting various biological data, and it's an on-going  
27 program which we plan on continuing, you know, from years to  
28 come here.

29  
30 Under our fisheries program, there's been three areas  
31 of emphasis. The first one is our salmon spawning ground  
32 aerial surveys, which we do in cooperation with Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game out of both the Bethel office and  
34 the Dillingham office. Secondly is a cooperative salmon  
35 escapement monitoring projects, which again it's cooperating  
36 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and also the  
37 Village of Quinhagak for the Kanektok River.

38  
39 And then a new project which we started up this year  
40 was the Togiak River Dolly Varden life history study. Kind of  
41 the points of emphasis there, with the escapement monitoring,  
42 we've been -- we've worked to support the Village of Quinhagak.  
43 Let's see, that's a -- it's a counting tower I believe. And on  
44 the Goodnews we've supported Fish and Game, and that's a  
45 floating weir, and that's the second year that we've been  
46 working with them on that. And also we've assisted in funding  
47 for the Togiak Lake sockeye salmon tower, counting tower, on  
48 the Togiak River.

49  
50 The new study that we have going on this year is dolly



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1 varden in the Togiak River. We captured over 3,000 dollies  
2 this last year, and also we've marked and measured, collected  
3 biological data on them. And we also implanted transmitters on  
4 97 dollies, which plan on collecting data where we determine  
5 the spawning location, over-wintering areas, and the out-  
6 migration to sea. It's a multi-year study over the next --  
7 we'll probably be working over the next five years. Part of  
8 that study also is -- involves subsistence monitoring, working  
9 with the village to collect some data on subsistence use.

10  
11 Andy, if there's anything I missed, you know, just kind  
12 of jump in.

13  
14 Getting down to wildlife, we've worked with the Alaska  
15 Department of Fish and Game monitoring the Kilbuck and  
16 Mulchatna caribou populations, both doing aerial surveys and  
17 radio tracking of collared caribou on that herd.

18  
19 Continue work on the introduced Nushagak Peninsula  
20 caribou herd. This is going in their tenth year since  
21 re-introduction, and the herd seems to be flourishing. We just  
22 completed a composition count this fall, and if I can find the  
23 information, very similar to past years, we're seeing high  
24 ratios of calves to cows for over the past -- let's see, past  
25 few years, our cow to calf ratio has been in the neighborhood  
26 of 62 calves per 100 cows, and our bull/cow ratio has remained  
27 high, in the general area of 57 bulls per 100 cows. We  
28 estimate the population somewhere in the neighborhood of 1500  
29 -- 1200 to 1500 animals that seem to remain on the Peninsula,  
30 and based on the reproductive success, we're probably getting  
31 movement off of the Peninsula and establishing into other  
32 areas.

33  
34 Okay. One other thing that we did this fall was we  
35 collected, again in cooperation with the Alaska Department of  
36 Fish and Game, collected five calves on the Peninsula, and  
37 based on the weights and the fat contents, some of the --  
38 indicates that the herd is extremely healthy and with heavy  
39 calf weights, so that herd seems to be doing very well, and  
40 doesn't appear to be any major impact on the habitat there so  
41 far.

42  
43 Were you going to make some comments?

44  
45 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. Andy Aderman. I was just going to  
46 update you. The last sentence in the first paragraph under  
47 Nushagak Peninsula caribou, where it says reported harvest was  
48 58 caribou. That was true about a month ago when I submitted  
49 this. That figure now should be 68. Six-eight.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Sixty-eight?

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

4

5 MR. HINKES: And that was for the entire year? That  
6 was through the spring hunt, right?

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: Right.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: That was up until what, the end of  
11 September?

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: That season, the '97/98 season was the  
14 month of August 1997, and then December 1st, 1997, through the  
15 end of March, 1998.

16

17 MR. HINKES: We've had an August and September hunt,  
18 but we're not sure what the harvest has been in the past.  
19 There hasn't been that high a harvest during the fall. I don't  
20 -- maybe some out of Manokotak, and a couple out of Dillingham,  
21 but the fall hunt is -- there's not much pressure during that  
22 time.

23

24 Okay. Again, I'll skip over moose for right, you know,  
25 and address that tomorrow. Give a full report on that.

26

27 Other things we continue to be involved with,  
28 cooperative brown bear study with -- again with Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game out of the Bethel and Dillingham  
30 office, and with Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and also  
31 Bureau of Land Management. And it's an on-going study, now I  
32 think in its fifth year, and I think we have somewhere in the  
33 neighborhood of 23 bears that are still -- 23 or -- 23 to 25  
34 bears that are still radio-collared. But we continue to track  
35 them on a biweekly basis, or twice a month during the  
36 summertime, and right up and through denning.

37

38 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman? On the one we observed,  
39 Gechiak Creek, it wasn't a cow, it was a bull. The one that  
40 was shot or wounded. That was a bull instead of a cow. It  
41 says a cow right here.

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. We'll make that correction, Pete.

44

45 MR. HINKES: Oh, okay.

46

47 MS. EAKON: Where are you on?

48

49 MR. ADERMAN: The correction is on page three of our  
50 report, second paragraph, last sentence. We observed a cow.

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1 MS. EAKON: Oh, okay.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: That should read we observed a bull.

4

5 MS. EAKON: Okay.

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: As far as marine mammals, we continue to  
8 monitor the walrus haul-out out at Cape Peirce, and also at  
9 Cape Newenham. In the past we've had a die-off from walrus  
10 going off the cliffs there. We haven't seen that this year.  
11 We've been working to keep the animals from getting up on the  
12 cliff where they don't find themselves falling off the cliffs  
13 trying to get back to the water.

14

15 Let's see, peak counts for -- where is that here. Peak  
16 counts for this year was 7,000 animals hauled out, and that was  
17 during August. And at Cape Newenham, our peak haul-out there  
18 was during July, and it was about 1,300 animals. And we're not  
19 involved in Round Island, but their peak on Round Island was  
20 only 1,725 this year. It's probably one of the lowest Round  
21 Island counts in recent times.

22

23 Also out at Cape Peirce, continue our seabird  
24 monitoring effort, and it's part of a region-wide effort to  
25 monitor the health of the Bering Sea ecosystem. Seabirds  
26 haven't done very well. We had a complete failure of  
27 kittiwakes this year, and with common murres and cormorants,  
28 they were also down, is that right?

29

30 MR. ADERMAN: (Nods affirmative)

31

32 MR. HINKES: About the same, but maybe slightly down.  
33 But the big -- I don't know if you've heard in recent years  
34 we've -- the past two years, we've had some seabird die-offs.  
35 Last year I think the greatest numbers were shearwaters, but  
36 this year we had quite a few murres that were washing up in  
37 Bristol Bay. Again, the examinations along -- of those birds  
38 appear to be a food problem again, with possibly -- we're not  
39 sure what, but there's a big effort going on to try to answer  
40 some of these questions associated with problems with the  
41 Bering Sea ecosystem.

42

43 This year we initiated harlequin aerial surveys along  
44 some of our major rivers in kind of a cooperative effort with  
45 Yukon Delta to see just how those populations are doing.  
46 They're kind of priority species, but until this year we  
47 haven't had the money to take a look at how their numbers are  
48 doing.

49

50 And, lastly, we continue our education and outreach

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1 programs. We had two of our environmental education camps  
2 again this year, one out at Cape Peirce. The other one is a  
3 caribou camp, but because of weather, we did not put that on on  
4 the Peninsula, but we had a substitute camp up at Aleknagik  
5 this year. And we continue to work with the villages and the  
6 Boy Scouts, and -- you know, on our outreach program.

7  
8 But that's all I had right now. Do you have anything  
9 else to add, Andy?

10  
11 MR. ADERMAN: No, I don't.

12  
13 MR. HINKES: That's kind of a quick and dirty.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: On these seabirds, on the major  
16 die-offs, was that food shortage or.....

17  
18 MR. HINKES: Yeah, obviously.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: .....because we've had the.....

21  
22 MR. HINKES: .....food shortage,.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: .....same thing in Chignik.

25  
26 MR. HINKES: .....but it could be that, depending on  
27 the species of bird, where they feed in the water column. With  
28 warmer waters, the prey species may be living deeper in the  
29 water now that the birds just can't access them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Yeah, we had the same problem down  
32 in Chignik, 'cause we had a lot of dead birds down there, too.

33  
34 MR. HINKES: Uh-hum.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: So it must have been happening all  
37 along.

38  
39 MR. HINKES: Was there more this year than last year  
40 that you saw down there?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: No, I didn't see as many this  
43 year.

44  
45 MR. HINKES: Yeah. That's pretty much what we found,  
46 too, it wasn't as bad a die-off, but.....

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: I seen -- last year I counted on  
49 the sand spit there over 500 in just a short little area. But  
50 this year it may be four or five.

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1 MR. HINKES: No, it's not quite as bad, although, you  
2 know, with our -- you know, the kittiwakes failing, that may be  
3 something associated with food also. No reproduction there.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Are there any questions from the  
6 council members?

7  
8 MR. ABRAHAM: Quyana.

9  
10 MS. EAKON: AKP-Becharof.

11  
12 MR. O. LIND: Good afternoon, Acting Chairman. My name  
13 is Orville Lind, I'm acting manager for the Alaska Peninsula/  
14 Becharof Refuge. Glad to be here.

15  
16 Those folks that don't have the book, we have some  
17 books back there, and also an information bulletin that we're  
18 going to go to on tab J, right after Togiak's report.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Excuse me, Orville. We had some  
21 more people come in here. Would you care to introduce  
22 themself?

23  
24 MR. O'DOMIN: I'm Charles O'Domin from Chignik.

25  
26 MR. A. LIND: I'm Andrew Lind from Chignik Lakes  
27 Student Council.

28  
29 MR. O. LIND: Okay. And this is Ron Squibb who's our  
30 biologist. I'm going to let him handle all the biological  
31 stuff here, and move on to page three, avian studies.

32  
33 The spring waterfowl surveys. We had some help from  
34 some volunteers and some interns working for us. They  
35 conducted waterfowl surveys along the Naknek River from March  
36 9th to March 14th, and the numbers peaked at about 3,900 ducks,  
37 geese and swans total. Twenty-one species of waterfowl were  
38 observed in the Naknek. And survey results were similar to  
39 '93, '96, and '97, but they were lower than '91, '92, '94, and  
40 '95. Also, our refuge pilot did some surveys with our  
41 biologists and they counted waterfowl also along the Naknek  
42 River from the air. Also in Ugashik, in Egegik and the Chevak  
43 Rivers.

44  
45 We also had some migratory songbird surveys at Mother  
46 Goose Lake. That's in the Ugashik Unit, and it's the fifth  
47 year on-going. And it's been pretty successful, but currently  
48 1,280 were banded, and through the season, 2,678 birds were  
49 banded during migration. And also an addition of 485 birds  
50 were recaptured during the breeding, and 335 were recaptured

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1 during migration. So there's a repetitiveness of birds coming  
2 back and getting caught.

3  
4 We have several Becharof Lake ecosystem projects.  
5 They're doing baseline studies on song birds, plants. There's  
6 coho salmon survey of the Becharof system. And King Salmon  
7 rainbow trout population evaluation. They have the Gertrude  
8 Creek hook and line sampling. They have Becharof Lake drainage  
9 hydrologic investigation. Limnology monitoring of the Lake  
10 Becharof. Field sampling, continued Becharof Lake studies.

11  
12 And I'm going to postpone the subsistence information  
13 that we have until tomorrow.

14  
15 Our visitor's center up there at King Salmon is doing  
16 very well. We recently had Dr. Scott and an assistant from the  
17 Bird Learning Treatment Center come out from Anchorage and they  
18 brought a bald eagle and raven and two gyrfalcons, in which we  
19 assisted in giving a presentation at the Bristol Bay High  
20 School. And then the next day we assisted in giving  
21 presentations up there at the Visitor's Center where students  
22 were coming down, and been able to hold the birds and get their  
23 pictures taken. It was pretty successful.

24  
25 Under environmental education, we've had our second  
26 ecosystem science camp out there and Bible camp, which we've  
27 renamed Spirit Camp. And that's been also very successful,  
28 where we've involved the Bristol Bay School District the first  
29 year, and then, of course, last year we went in partnership  
30 with the Lake and Peninsula School District. And where these  
31 students are learning natural -- about natural plants, caribou,  
32 birds, bears, aquatic biology, telemetry, orienteering with  
33 maps, compass, GPS equipment, native cultures awareness,  
34 stories, games. It was one of the highlights last year for me  
35 being involved with that.

36  
37 And again we've been very successful with the Western  
38 Alaska Goose Calendar contest. And we've actually had 290  
39 local students entering the poster contest, and 38 entered the  
40 literature contest which were winners, both in the Bristol Bay  
41 area and the Alaska Peninsula.

42  
43 Not too long ago we had a nontoxic shot seminar, which  
44 was very successful. We had I believe it was 18 local people  
45 from around. We had two folks from the villages, one from  
46 Chignik Lake and one from Pilot Point. Actually there was  
47 three from Pilot Point. And those folks that were used to  
48 shooting lead, and didn't care about steel shot now care about  
49 steel shot more than they do lead. So that speaks for itself.  
50 We had the expert Tom Roster conducting that seminar, and

0015

1 hopefully we can get him back in the future.

2

3 I'm going to let Ron Squibb talk about the creel  
4 surveys, since he was part of that.

5

6 Administration. Refuge planning, we did travel to the  
7 villages, to Perryville, Egegik, Pilot Point, Port Heiden,  
8 Chignik Bay, Lagoon, Lake, Naknek, South Naknek. And  
9 essentially the public comments for the comprehensive  
10 conservation plan for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof  
11 Refuges.

12

13 And just a note under miscellaneous. We had a tragic  
14 loss of a veteran Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer, and  
15 that was Sergeant Dave Churchill, Fish and Wildlife Service,  
16 who was a pilot and law enforcement officer.

17

18 And I'll turn it over to Ron Squibb now to give his  
19 report. Thank you.

20

21 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you, Orville. Mr. Chairman, Ron  
22 Squibb, Refuge Planner and Subsistence Coordinator with the  
23 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge complex.

24

25 And as we're towards the end of the page, I'll just  
26 ahead and pick up the Ugashik Narrows creel survey to start  
27 with, on page seven. We worked in cooperation with the Alaska  
28 Department of Fish and Game's Sport Fish Division, with Dan  
29 Dunaway's shop out of Dillingham, and with their help and  
30 expertise, we staffed that with seasonal people, and I got to  
31 help a little bit there, but we basically contacted all of the  
32 sport fishermen coming into that location, which is real  
33 popular for the grayling, and towards fall for silvers as well.  
34 And we were collecting the number of people, their fishing  
35 effort, and their catch and harvest of fish, and of those, who  
36 would let us sample the fish they caught and released, or  
37 sometimes caught and kept, we would get length, and took scale  
38 from them, and used -- those data we'll, you know, Fish and  
39 Game will analyze to come up a little idea of the status of the  
40 grayling population as well as some other information of other  
41 species in that vicinity. It was I thought a fairly successful  
42 operation, and we probably will not continue it next year, but  
43 we haven't had this sort of study there at a real popular site  
44 on the refuge for sport fishermen since the early 1990s, so  
45 we're glad to get some data on that area.

46

47 The rest of the time I think I'll basically just go  
48 over the big game work we've done since the last meeting in  
49 March, just the highlights of those operations. And I don't --  
50 won't necessarily go in the order in the book, but just

0016

1 highlight the -- by starting off with the spring. We helped  
2 fund, but didn't actively participate in, Fish and Game's calf  
3 mortality study of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd  
4 that Dick Sellers carried out with the help of Pat Valkenburg  
5 and -- one of the research biologists, and Randy Zarnke, one of  
6 their veterinarians, as well as Rick Swisher of Quick Silver  
7 Air, the helicopter pilot. And the report has been circulated  
8 since July, and I'm sure that some of you have gotten a change  
9 to see it.

10  
11 A summary of the results of the 37 radio collared  
12 calves that they successfully collared, 35 percent died within  
13 the first month. Interestingly, during the first two weeks of  
14 life, the primary cause of death was predation, but thereafter  
15 in the last part of their first month of life, a large -- about  
16 the same number I should say of calves died apparently from  
17 disease, which is indicative perhaps of our idea that it may be  
18 nutrition that's limiting the herd at this stage.

19  
20 Dick at the same time did his checks on his known age  
21 radio-collared females, on the cows, and for the third year in  
22 a row with his study on this -- on these known age animals, the  
23 females who should have calved at two years of age, which I  
24 believe perhaps about a third of the animals calve in a healthy  
25 population, we had no calves produced by those females. And  
26 those who -- the three-year-old females, about 25 percent of  
27 those were pregnant and calving, which you would expect a  
28 higher rate than that in a real healthy population. And at the  
29 four-year-old, we had one -- the first -- those who were  
30 collared several years or three years ago have now reached that  
31 stage, and there we had 86 percent pregnancies, which is what  
32 you do expect, 89 percent pregnancy is a good pregnancy rate.  
33 And so -- but again it doesn't indicate severe malnutrition,  
34 but those younger females are trying to grow at the same time  
35 they're trying to reproduce, and when the body is limited, the  
36 pregnancies tend to be the part that isn't successful as they  
37 protect themselves so they can grow and get adult size before  
38 they reproduce. So that appears to be, you know, more evidence  
39 that -- as we think we have of nutrition perhaps being the  
40 factor that's limiting the herd at this stage.

41  
42 Then in June and July again we helped Fish and Game  
43 with their post calving surveys of the Northern Peninsula herd.  
44 We flew the Pacific side drainages, and the upper part of the  
45 drainages in -- on the Aleutian Mountain Range on refuge lands,  
46 and Dick Sellers did his surveys on the Bristol Bay coastal  
47 plane. And the results of that, the total count was 9200  
48 animals, which was down about 700, 800 animals from last year's  
49 count, so not good, but not a dramatic decline. And of that,  
50 the area that we counted where most of our animals tend to be



0017

1 concentrated is in the mountains of the Ugashik Unit, and there  
2 for the last -- or perhaps since '94, our numbers in that area  
3 have been stable to slightly increasing, right around 2,000  
4 animals, while the animals in -- on the Bristol Bay tend to be  
5 declining.

6  
7 We did survey the Chignik Unit this year, and since we  
8 have no previous data of the same sort for some years, the best  
9 comparison I can give you is that on one day we flew up in  
10 Ugashik area, and we were counting 540 caribou per hour of  
11 survey. The next day in identical conditions we were able to  
12 fly in the Chignik Unit, and there we were only seeing 51  
13 caribou per hour of survey. So that indicates that, you know,  
14 about one-tenth the animals are present in the Chignik Unit per  
15 area as we see up in the Ugashik Unit, which is what the people  
16 have been reporting to us, and hunting down there, have been  
17 telling us all along.

18  
19 Then in July and August we had a vegetation crew come  
20 out from our regional office. Steve Talbot and -- Sandy Talbot  
21 and Wilf Scofield, a professor from the University of British  
22 Colombia. And they worked this year on the Bristol Bay side at  
23 five sites, one about 20 miles south of here, and then Whale  
24 Mountain, Ugashik Narrows, Mother Good Lake, and Sandy Lake,  
25 and worked -- they were able to survey 147 five-by-five meter  
26 plots which they were working on. And our objectives are to  
27 use those data as ground-truthing data to come up with a  
28 habitat map for the area. And with that, one of the spin-offs  
29 of that would be we might be able to better define caribou  
30 habitat, and get another angle of coming up with what a proper  
31 carrying capacity if you will for the herd would be. Also, an  
32 objective, of course, is to evaluate the condition of the range  
33 that the caribou are using. Excuse me. So next year we hope  
34 to expand, have that crew out again and work the Pacific side,  
35 get some more -- some information on that side as well for  
36 comparison sake. And at present they're working on analyzing  
37 those data. Excuse me, please.

38  
39 Then just the first week of October, again with Dick  
40 Sellers of Fish and Game in the lead, and we were helping as  
41 well, we went down to the -- worked both the Northern Peninsula  
42 herd and the Southern Peninsula herd. We see -- there were 22  
43 VHF radio collars to put on the Northern Peninsula herd, and  
44 again this is Dick's continuing study of calving by known age  
45 females, so we got calves who were born this spring, put radio  
46 collars on them so we can track them over the next few years of  
47 their lives as they grow, and see how they reproduce, and  
48 hopefully if we have -- you know, we'll be able to see if their  
49 production is improving or not doing so well as the next years  
50 go on. And similarly put the same collars on herds in the

0018

1 Southern Alaska Peninsula herd. Only 13 new VHF beacons were  
2 put there.

3  
4 And a new angle we're trying out this year is getting  
5 satellite collars on some animals, as, you know, the distance  
6 down to the Chignik Unit and also down in Port Moller areas, is  
7 it's a long way from here as well as from Cold Bay, and so we  
8 don't get surveys there as much as we'd like. So what we've  
9 gotten as sort of an experiment is we've gotten 14 satellite  
10 collars which, instead of the normal radio collar we use most  
11 of the time, you have to fly by an airplane and you listen for  
12 it to beep, and then you know it's there, and you fly close to  
13 it and find out where it is. These talk to satellites that fly  
14 over every day, and we have actually programmed in to get the  
15 most life out of these collars, we're having it only talk to  
16 the satellite once a week, and that way we can get a location,  
17 approximate location on the animals without having to fly down  
18 there, and so we'll get weekly information on them, and perhaps  
19 better be able to look at movement of animals across the 9(E)  
20 boundary, and as well as back and forth from Pacific to the  
21 Bristol Bay side.

22  
23 So I was very happy today, I got an e-mail. I'd been  
24 -- basically when you turn the switch on these things, that's  
25 what sets its clock, and I was hoping I'd timed it properly so  
26 they wouldn't -- they'd talk to the satellites when they flew  
27 over and not be waving to an empty sky if I'd turned on the  
28 wrong time, and I was happy today to get data from the company  
29 that coordinates that information for us. So most seem to be  
30 working, and I look forward hopefully to gain some information  
31 on those animals on a weekly basis.

32  
33 Then come November and December, we'll again do our  
34 moose trend surveys areas. The refuge tries to get the Big  
35 Creek area and the Kejulik area in the Becharof Refuge, the  
36 Ugashik Lakes area in Ugashik Unit, and we're trying also this  
37 year with the emphasis on interest in what's going on with the  
38 moose on the Pacific Coast, we'll try to get into Yantarni Bay,  
39 and Aniakchak/Amber Bays areas done. Of course, that's always  
40 weather and snow dependent, trying to get good snow cover early  
41 enough to count the bull -- you know, get the bulls before  
42 their antlers drop off and get those ratios. But hopefully  
43 we'll -- with a little luck we'll be able to accomplish that  
44 this fall as well.

45  
46 And that's basically it for the biology programs since  
47 the last meeting. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to  
48 address those.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Is there any possibility of radio

0019

1 collaring moose to satellite collars?

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: That's certainly a possibility. I -- oh,  
4 that was one thing I did want to bring up. It brought to me --  
5 if you would pass the word, if anybody does happen to take an  
6 animal with a collar on, we'd sure appreciate getting those  
7 back, because the satellite are a lot more expensive than the  
8 -- than even the normal collars are. It helps a lot if we get  
9 them back, we can send them to the shop and have, you know, new  
10 batteries, et cetera, and send them back out, and that will  
11 stretch our dollars better.

12

13 But that's certainly a possibility. We're trying to  
14 figure out how best to get information on moose, and like I  
15 say, it's kind of experimental right now. One of our worries  
16 is these satellite collars are a little bit heavier than the  
17 normal collars, so we had to find big cows to put them on. And  
18 certainly with moose, there will be no problem whatsoever to  
19 put on there, so we -- yeah, we can certainly consider that. I  
20 mean, we haven't really decided what direction to go with the  
21 moose question, so all the suggestions are appreciated.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Any questions from the council  
24 members? Hearing none, thank you, Ron and Orville.

25

26 MR. O. LIND: In closing, Mr. Chairman, Orville Lind,  
27 Darrell Lons, the Refuge Manager, and Deputy Manager Steven  
28 Hill send their apologies for not being here. Thank you.

29

30 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council  
31 members.

32

33 MS. EAKON: Mr. Chair, before we go on -- before we  
34 move on to the National Park Service, I should mention that  
35 there will be a migratory birds forum tomorrow night here in  
36 this room. And Bob Stevens and Bob Levy and Tom Murphy from  
37 ADF&G -- Tom Murphy is from ADF&G, will be here to do that  
38 forum.

39

40 And I should mention regarding Smiley Knutson's native  
41 allotment, as I was leaving work last night, he told me that  
42 what you have in your books is an answer, but he didn't phrase  
43 his question clearly enough, but I had asked Bruce Greenwood to  
44 go ahead and talk on what he thought was Smiley's question,  
45 because it is a pertinent topic. Native allotments are always  
46 pertinent. And Smiley Knutson will call in at 4:00 o'clock  
47 tomorrow afternoon to ask the question he really wanted to ask,  
48 and Bruce Greenwood said he has the answer that he will offer  
49 to Smiley when he calls in tomorrow afternoon. I just wanted  
50 to mention that, Mr. Chair.

0020

1 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Okay. Where are we at now,  
2 National.....

3  
4 MS. EAKON: Katmai.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: .....Park Service, Katmai.

7  
8 MS. EAKON: Yes.

9  
10 MR. CLARK: Mr. Acting Chair, members of the council,  
11 it's a pleasure to be before you today, and have the  
12 opportunity to talk to you about activities concerning Katmai  
13 National Park and Aniakchak National Monument. My name is Rick  
14 Clark, Chief of Resource Management, National Park Service for  
15 both Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak National  
16 Monument and Preserve. And joining me is Donald Mike, our  
17 Subsistence Resource Specialist who'll be talking later about  
18 the Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission and different  
19 activities concerning that group and body.

20  
21 Two items that are of particular interest to this  
22 council we will defer until tomorrow as action items. Those  
23 two issues are the ATV access matter to Katmai National Park --  
24 or to Katmai National Preserve. That is going to be addressed  
25 by Ralph Tinge, the task force chairman who's with us, and will  
26 be providing an overview on that effort and what that task  
27 force has been involved with since this Council's last meeting  
28 last March.

29  
30 Another matter that is of particular concern to the  
31 Council is the over-all Alagnak Wild River status as it relates  
32 to the comprehensive river corridor management plan, as well as  
33 potential applications that the Federal Subsistence Board would  
34 have as it relates to federal subsistence fisheries management.  
35 Again, we will provide a detailed overview of those two issues  
36 tomorrow as indicated in your agenda.

37  
38 The National Park Service was involved in various  
39 projects over the course of the last year. Chief among them  
40 was an Alagnak rainbow trout abundance study that we conducted  
41 in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological  
42 Resources Division, with input and cooperation also from ADF&G,  
43 Mack Minard when he was there, an currently Dan Dunaway. Over  
44 the course of the last two years, we have radio tagged 150  
45 fish. Basically we're doing that for purposes of determining  
46 over-all abundance estimates, what their movement is within the  
47 Alagnak drainage, as well as whether there's different  
48 aggregate populations that are occurring. So that is under  
49 way. We just completed the second year of a five-year study,  
50 and hope to be completing a findings report over the course of

0021

1 the next two or three months, at which time we will provide  
2 that information to this Council for review and comment.

3  
4 Another effort that is under way was we began the first  
5 year of a three-year brown bear study along the Katmai coast,  
6 principally targeting the areas of Hallow Bay, Kathlia (ph)  
7 Bay, Kukak, and Kanak Bay in addition to Amlik -- or geographic  
8 Arbor/Amlik Bay. The primary purpose for that study is to  
9 over-all quantify the degree to which bears are using those,  
10 when they're using them, and to what degree there may be human  
11 conflict occurring with bear movement and use in those areas.  
12 As the Council's probably aware, we're experiencing an  
13 increasing amount of use along our coast, and we want to make  
14 sure that the bears are not affected, and if there's a need to  
15 change our concession policies and recommend amendments to  
16 those contracts, we want to get out and provide the information  
17 and science in order to make those recommendations. So the  
18 data that we acquire this year is currently being analyzed, and  
19 we expect that we will be issuing a report after the third  
20 year, which will conclude in the year 2000.

21  
22 Another effort that is under way that the Council is  
23 most likely aware of is the potential location of facilities  
24 associated with the Brooks River area. There is a proposed  
25 recommendation to relocate those facilities to the south side  
26 of the Brooks River, thereby establishing the north side as a  
27 human-free area. That project and that effort is in its  
28 preliminary stages. Again there is an interdisciplinary team  
29 that has been fielded to look at those areas and make those  
30 recommendations, and environmental assessment related to the  
31 development concept plan that was prepared and completed in  
32 1995 is in the process of being prepared and most likely will  
33 be issued sometime late 1999.

34  
35 Also in 1999, again related to the development concept  
36 plan and recommendations that came out of that effort, we will  
37 likely be completing some additional boardwalks and an  
38 additional platform adjacent to the Brooks River. Again, an  
39 environmental assessment describing those projects will be  
40 issued sometime later this winter, early spring.

41  
42 Another project that we are involved in that I know is  
43 true and dear to this Council's heart is the over-all moose and  
44 caribou issue related to Unit 9(E) and described and reported  
45 upon by our sister agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ron  
46 Squibb. We're cooperating with the Alaska Peninsula Refuge and  
47 also ADF&G, Dick Sellers, in looking at those population  
48 trends, and also determining what effects may be occurring for  
49 Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, so we're working very  
50 closely with those groups. Aniakchak constitutes only 10

0022

1 percent of the federal lands on the northern Alaska Peninsula,  
2 so we're a player, but we're largely looking to those other  
3 agencies for advice and recommendations as it pertains to that  
4 herd.

5  
6 With that, I will turn to Donald Mike who will provide  
7 a general overview as to different projects that the Aniakchak  
8 Subsistence Resource Commission has been involved over the  
9 course of the last six months. So, Donald?

10  
11 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chair and council  
12 members. The Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource  
13 Commission met recently at Chignik Lake on October 5th, and we  
14 had several seats that were expired that were Secretary  
15 appointees, and the Commission endorsed to keep Robert  
16 Christiansen as a member, and we sent out a letter to the  
17 Secretary endorsing his seat for another three-year term. And  
18 the letters -- I gave you a copy of the letter endorsing Bobby  
19 Christianson to Helga and they're inserts on you -- in your  
20 books, so.....

21  
22 Two other seats that are currently vacant, we've -- the  
23 Commission spoke as a body, and we're working on soliciting  
24 some names to sit on these seats, and I've got some names and  
25 am in the process of contacting these folks and soliciting  
26 their interest in serving on these commission seats. So the  
27 other two seats that are recently expired are Governor's  
28 appointees. That would be Harry Kamakoff, Jr. from Chignik  
29 Lake, and Royce Sconberg from Chignik Bay, and the Commission  
30 endorsed their seats for another three years, so -- and that's  
31 updated on our membership status.

32  
33 The Aniakchak Subsistence Plan, we're still developing  
34 the Aniakchak Subsistence Plan. I'm working with Karen Summer  
35 from our Anchorage office, and we've got the templates done,  
36 and we're in the process of putting the plans together, and  
37 moving the -- inserting some issues related to Aniakchak  
38 National Monument. And during our next meeting, we will be  
39 discussing further in detail as the -- as far as the contents  
40 of the plan is concerned.

41  
42 Another item, on the Unit 9 moose and caribou special  
43 action, we -- at the last fall meeting, Bristol Bay's fall  
44 meeting, Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council's fall meeting,  
45 the Commission brought forth to the Council a recommendation to  
46 close nonsubsistence take of moose and caribou in Unit 9(E) and  
47 the Council deferred that action until the task force committee  
48 met, so we hope to have an opportunity to readdress our hunting  
49 plan recommendations that we submitted.

50

0023

1           Our last meeting, the SRC's meeting, the Commission did  
2 not have any proposals or c&t changes for -- to submit for this  
3 meeting.

4  
5           The resident zone communities, we're still -- I am  
6 still in the process of trying to contact Perryville and  
7 Ivanoff Bay, and I'm going to be sending out letters requesting  
8 a meeting with the village councils to discuss the possibility  
9 of Perryville and Ivanoff Bay being on a resident zone  
10 community list for Aniakchak National Monument, so that's still  
11 in the works.

12  
13           The Alagnak Wild and Scenic River vacancy position, do  
14 you have anything further on that, Rick?

15  
16           MR. CLARK: No, I'll address the Alagnak River in its  
17 entirety tomorrow when we address that item.

18  
19           MR. MIKE: Okay. The Aniakchak National Monument SRC,  
20 at their last meeting we submitted six hunting plans to the  
21 Secretary and Governor. We did not receive any response from  
22 the Secretary, and we've resubmitted the original hunting plans  
23 back to the Secretary. Hopefully before our next scheduled SRC  
24 meeting, we will have a response from the Secretary. And I've  
25 enclosed with the inserts the original hunting plan  
26 recommendations that we submitted to this Council last year as  
27 part of your package. So hopefully we will be getting a  
28 response from the Secretary.

29  
30           And the other thing -- one other item the SRC passed as  
31 the Commission endorsed a recommendation identified during the  
32 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd Special Task Force  
33 meeting back in September, and they fully endorse the  
34 recommendations except for one item. They had reservations  
35 about the bear recommendations since the Chignik Area Local  
36 Advisory Committee made a proposal or some action that they did  
37 as a local advisory committee body to have a bear season  
38 completely different from the hunting time recommendation that  
39 the special task force put together, so they had some  
40 reservations about supporting the one bear every year by this  
41 task force.

42  
43           And that's all I have to report, unless anybody has any  
44 questions?

45  
46           MR. CLARK: There was one more item, Helga, and members  
47 of the Council, that we wanted to address. Last March an issue  
48 came before the Council concerning over-all applicability of  
49 federal subsistence regulations to native allotments within  
50 National Park Service boundaries, specifically Katmai National

0024

1 Park, so Bruce Greenwood has joined us today and would like to  
2 provide an overview, if the Council would permit, at this time  
3 pertaining to that issue.

4  
5 MS. EAKON: Certainly.

6  
7 (Whispered conversation)

8  
9 MR. GREENWOOD: Mr. Acting Chair, Council, my name is  
10 Bruce Greenwood from National Park Service in Anchorage.

11  
12 As Rick gave you the summary, at the last spring's  
13 meeting when Proposal 45 which pertained to c&t in Unit 9,  
14 particularly Unit 9(C), was discussed the question was brought  
15 up, is where -- if there was a positive customary and  
16 traditional use determination, where would it apply on National  
17 Park Service lands, in particular regarding Smiley Knutson's  
18 native allotment. So we researched that since last spring, and  
19 regarding where does it apply on National Park Service lands,  
20 it would apply on the preserve, and it would apply on  
21 non-adjudicated native allotments along the Alagnak River  
22 corridor.

23  
24 Now, regarding Smiley Knutson, he has an allotment in  
25 his name along the river corridor, and that allotment has not  
26 been adjudicated at this time, therefore, the federal  
27 subsistence management regulations would apply to that native  
28 allotment. So with a positive customary and traditional  
29 determination, and a brown bear season, he would be able to  
30 harvest brown bear on that native allotment.

31  
32 Well, we sent him a letter in this regard, and he  
33 notified us that he had another allotment that was being gifted  
34 to him. This allotment is a certificated native allotment  
35 which is essentially -- it's been adjudicated and is  
36 essentially private land. This allotment lies adjacent to the  
37 Naknek River, and is within Katmai National Park. So it is  
38 private land. Therefore the federal subsistence management  
39 regulations would not apply on that parcel of land. In further  
40 research, we found out that the state regulations would apply  
41 on that parcel, so he indeed could hunt on that native  
42 allotment under the state regulations, which would be the state  
43 sport regulations.

44  
45 Are there any questions?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Any question from the Council?  
48 Time out? He wants time out.

49  
50 MS. EAKON: Sure. I think you'll get your questions



0025

1 when Smiley comes on line at 4:00 o'clock tomorrow, Bruce.

2

3 MR. GREENWOOD: Okay.

4

5 MR. CLARK: That concludes our report for today, and  
6 again we will address the Alagnak Wild River as well as the  
7 Katmai access, ATV issue, tomorrow, so unless there's further  
8 questions, that would conclude our remarks today. Thank you.

9

10 MR. BALLUTA: Quyana.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Thank you again, Bruce, Donald. I  
13 forgot who the other one was.

14

15 (Whispered conversation)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: We'll take a ten-minute break.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Call the meeting back to order.  
24 Where's our sergeant-at-arms?

25

26 MS. EAKON: Just ring your bottle.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: We're down to Lake Clark?

29

30 MS. EAKON: We're at.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Lake Clark.

33

34 MS. EAKON: We're at Lake Clark, yeah. Just say real  
35 loud.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Lake Clark National Park and  
38 Preserve.

39

40 MR. FINK: Good afternoon, Mr. Acting Chair, council  
41 members, my name is Lee Fink with Lake Clark National Park and  
42 Preserve. I'd just like to add a little bit to the subsistence  
43 issue update that you have in your booklets this afternoon.  
44 Probably just go over the high points and make a couple  
45 amendments or changes that have occurred since this went to  
46 print.

47

48 The Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource  
49 Commission is planning to meet in mid January in Pedro Bay.  
50 The exact date has not yet been set. We're waiting for a

0026

1 response from council members. And at that time they will  
2 review proposals to change federal subsistence regulations and  
3 then they will have those recommendations available for the  
4 spring round of this council meeting. Also they will be  
5 reviewing a draft, internally a draft subsistence management  
6 plan for Lake Clark National Park, and hopefully that will be  
7 available for this Council's review probably also in the spring  
8 round of meetings.

9  
10 As far as federal registration hunts that are permitted  
11 in Lake Clark National Park, the figures for 97/98 season  
12 remain the way they're printed in your information update, but  
13 we've had a few changes to this years on-going season.  
14 Currently we've issued nine permits for Dall -- or, excuse me,  
15 eight permits for Dall sheep, and we've had two harvested.  
16 We've issued four brown bear permits, and we've had one female  
17 harvested. And we've issued one potlatch moose permit, and  
18 according to Andrew, unofficially we believe there's been one  
19 harvested, but that information hasn't been sent through the  
20 reporting channels as of yet.

21  
22 The brown bear federal registration permits have been  
23 an issue that this Council has looked at over the last couple  
24 of years, and just last week, the National Park Service, and  
25 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game worked out the major  
26 components of a joint brown bear study, research study plan for  
27 the northern portion of Unit 9(B), which is something that this  
28 Council had asked us to try and put together. So we don't have  
29 a lot of details at this time, because it's still kind of in  
30 the planning stage. I do have a draft wildlife research study  
31 plan that was put together by Earl Becker. He's the biologist  
32 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that's going to be  
33 the project lead -- the lead on this project. And probably try  
34 to have some more detailed information available for you in the  
35 spring round, which will be just shortly before the survey  
36 starts. And our hope is that will give us some good baseline  
37 data on brown bear populations in the northern part of Unit  
38 9(B).

39  
40 Also upcoming this spring will be a newly funded  
41 project for five years studying sockeye salmon within Lake  
42 Clark, its tributaries, with respect to escapement along the  
43 Newhalen River, and that is a joint study between the National  
44 Park Service and BRD, and hopefully we'll get some good  
45 baseline salmon data in the next few years from that on-going  
46 study.

47  
48 We also have moose, a couple of different moose studies  
49 on-going at Lake Clark. We have 44 cow moose collared. We are  
50 currently in the second full year of this three-year project.

0027

1 To date five of the radio collared cows have died over the last  
2 two years, and we have -- don't have any real encouraging news  
3 on calf survival either. In '97 out of 15 calves observed, two  
4 remained by the fall of the year, and this year out of 18  
5 calves sighted, only one is currently surviving. So there  
6 seems to be fairly low recruitment numbers. And those collared  
7 moose are basically in the greater Lake Clark area, drainages  
8 that come directly into Lake Clark in Unit 9(B).

9  
10 Along with that, we have moose trend surveys that we  
11 conduct in Unit 9(B), 17(B) and 19(B). Those are all units  
12 that are inside the boundary of the park and preserve. Last  
13 year, due to poor weather conditions, we were unable to conduct  
14 that survey in either November or December, but we have plans  
15 to attempt that again, and hopefully we'll get some more data  
16 on moose populations in the surrounding units.

17  
18 We do have one interesting note from cultural resources  
19 at Lake Clark. Our historian, John Branson, who's here today,  
20 recently the Alaska Natural History Association published his  
21 book that he edited called Greetings from Southwest Alaska, and  
22 Orville just told me it's the hottest selling item at the  
23 visitor's center here in King Salmon. It's a collection of  
24 readings from Southwest Alaska. It was a joint project that  
25 was co-sponsored by the Bristol Bay School District, the Lake  
26 and Peninsula School District, Lake and Peninsula Borough, and  
27 Bristol Bay Native Corporation, along with the National Park  
28 Service. And so it seems to be a real well-received  
29 publication, and copies are available at the visitor's center  
30 here at King Salmon.

31  
32 So I guess unless there's -- if there's any questions  
33 about what's happening at Lake Clark, just a brief overview of  
34 the year's activities.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFKY: Roughly how many moose are in Lake  
37 Clark area?

38  
39 MR. FINK: Well, I don't know that I have that number  
40 in front of me. Normally they're kind of -- the populations  
41 are evaluated based on the game management units, and there's  
42 several game management units. Unit 19(B), 17(B) and 9(B) are  
43 all inside the park and preserve. And there's an estimated,  
44 you know, several hundred moose in there, but I'm not exactly  
45 sure of the population.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFKY: Any questions from council  
48 members? No.

49  
50 MR. FINK: All right. Well, thank you.

0028

1 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Thank you. We did have one more  
2 -- there was a lady that came in with Orville and them that  
3 wasn't introduced.

4  
5 MS. SHARP: Hi, my name is Marlane, I'm from Pilot  
6 Point, the Traditional Council in Pilot Point.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Okay. Where are we now?

9  
10 MS. EAKON: Two new people. Two more just walked in.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: And two more just walked in I  
13 heard?

14  
15 MR. NELSON: John Nelson from Kokhanok Village Council.

16  
17 MR. J. MIKE: John Mike, Kokhanok Village Council.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Then we go to Alaska Department of  
20 Fish and Game.

21  
22 MS. EAKON: Uh-hum. Uh-hum.

23  
24 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair and council members, my name  
25 is Jim Woolington, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the  
26 area biologist for Unit 17 in Dillingham for the Division of  
27 Wildlife Conservation. I think on your agenda, I think Comm  
28 Fish was supposed to be next. Bill Glick didn't make it in  
29 today. I guess originally this was scheduled for tomorrow, and  
30 I spoke earlier with Bill, and he said that he hadn't planned  
31 on showing up until tomorrow morning, so perhaps he can give  
32 his numbers and whatnot tomorrow.

33  
34 But I'm the new area biologist for the Division of  
35 Wildlife Conservation. I took over for Larry Van Daele who  
36 transferred to Kodiak after I think about, oh, eight years I  
37 think there in Dillingham.

38  
39 I'll start out with some harvest numbers for last year,  
40 and some preliminary numbers for this year. We do have a  
41 registration, state registration moose hunt in Unit 17(A) over  
42 in the Togiak drainage where the Togiak Refuge is -- part of  
43 the Togiak Refuge is located. For 1998 there were 48 permits  
44 issued, 37 permits have been returned to date, and -- or,  
45 excuse me, by the 16th, and there have been nine moose reported  
46 taken. For 1997 the moose harvest for all of Unit 17 is  
47 similar to previous years. It was -- the preliminary number is  
48 347 moose total for Unit 17 in 1997. Hunter numbers seem to be  
49 up slightly, but the harvest was about the same.

50

0029

1 For caribou, we don't have 1998 numbers yet. The  
2 season is still going on. 1997 harvest was -- reported harvest  
3 on the caribou harvest reporting card was about 2700 caribou.  
4 This is down from the reported harvest on previous years, and  
5 probably reflects an actual decrease in hunting activity. The  
6 way the caribou were distributed last year, that I felt that  
7 there was actually a decrease for the Mulchatna caribou herd.  
8 We don't have any 1998 harvest data yet.

9  
10 This year Unit 17(A) is on a -- is only open under  
11 emergency order when there's sufficient caribou over in that  
12 area to warrant a season. There was -- Unit 18 over to the  
13 west of 17(A) was -- an emergency order was issued to open the  
14 caribou season on the Mulchatna caribou over there. There were  
15 not sufficient caribou in Unit 17 to justify an opening this  
16 year.

17  
18 Fur bearers. Over-all harvest was pretty much similar  
19 to previous years with two pretty noticeable exceptions.  
20 Beavers and wolves. Beaver, total Unit 17 harvest was 382  
21 beaver sealed, and this is the lowest beaver harvest since  
22 1956. Wolf harvest, there were 93 wolves sealed, and this is  
23 the second highest in recent years. Apparently the low beaver  
24 harvest, at least what I was told, had related to poor fishing  
25 season, and that sort of thing, although last year there was  
26 quite a bit of snow, so access and travel should have been  
27 pretty easy for people.

28  
29 Brown bears. For the 1997/98 harvest, there was a  
30 total of 78 brown bears in all of Unit 17, and that's the  
31 highest recorded harvest for brown bears.

32  
33 Surveys that we've conducted. Caribou surveys for  
34 Mulchatna caribou herd, we were not -- unable to conduct our  
35 photo census this year. We try to do it every other year.  
36 This is the year we were going to do it. However, weather  
37 conditions, various factors just didn't allow us to get it  
38 done. They didn't group up when the -- when we were able to  
39 get the planes out there and take the photos of them. The  
40 estimate is still in excess of 200,000 caribou in the Mulchatna  
41 caribou herd.

42  
43 We did conduct the fall 19- -- or the '98 fall  
44 composition counts with Mike Hinkes and Andy Aderman, Fish and  
45 Wildlife Service, assisted us with that in piloting the  
46 spotting plane. Thirty-four calves per 100 cows, 41 bulls per  
47 100 cows, and this is similar to some previous -- the last few  
48 previous years we've conducted the composition counts. And  
49 those are pretty good numbers, although the 32 (sic) is about  
50 half of what Mike and Andy reported for the Nushagak herd, 34

0030

1 is still for fall comp counts for caribou, especially in a  
2 large herd, is still pretty good. The 62 is just kind of off  
3 the scale. It's extremely good. Thirty-four is good.

4  
5 Mike and Andy reported the information on the Nushagak  
6 Peninsula caribou. They mentioned that we did collect five  
7 calves, and fat compo- -- these -- they averaged right -- a bit  
8 above 130 pounds -- or, excuse me, they -- the highest weight  
9 was 131 pounds for one of the calves, and that's very large for  
10 calves in October. Fat deposition again was just off the  
11 scale. There was rump fat on the calves that you normally just  
12 don't see it on the calves this time of the year. They're in  
13 very good shape down there.

14  
15 Some other items. The Round Island walrus hunt. The  
16 Department of Fish and Game issued 15 access permits for  
17 hunters going out onto Round Island. The hunt period ends  
18 today. There are reported 12 walrus were taken, and one  
19 village was going to try and get out there today. Twin Hills  
20 was going to try and get out and hunt today. Whether they -- I  
21 left before I heard whether they're actually able to get out  
22 there or not.

23  
24 Another item, caribou foot rot. In August I got a call  
25 from some air taxi operators out of Iliamna saying that their  
26 hunters were reporting seeing limping caribou, and they were  
27 reporting seeing some dead caribou. These would be the  
28 Mulchatna caribou herd. Because of those reports, and our  
29 concern, we went out with a helicopter and collected some  
30 caribou that -- found caribou, observed some limping, went  
31 ahead and shot them, and worked up some necropsy work on them.  
32 Took samples, blood samples, tissue samples and all their feet,  
33 sent them back to a lab, and they were able to isolate the  
34 organism that causes what's called foot rot. And it's the same  
35 foot rot that cattle get in a feed lot situation. And it's  
36 caused by a bacteria that is always out there. It's -- you  
37 find it wherever you find hoofed animals like that. It just  
38 gets -- under wet and crowded conditions it can become a  
39 problem. How many caribou might have got it, we don't really  
40 know. Like I said, there's over 200,000 caribou in the  
41 Mulchatna herd.

42  
43 We also -- when -- from these animals, the samples we  
44 tested for brucellosis, which was what our first concern was  
45 when we heard of limping animals. That's kind of indicative of  
46 caribou that get brucellosis. There's never been brucellosis  
47 recorded -- reported from caribou in the Bristol Bay area, so  
48 that's why we were concerned about it. Brucellosis is a  
49 disease that people can get from infected animals. All the  
50 results for brucellosis came back negative, so we're pretty

0031

1 safe there.

2

3 The outbreak of this appeared to be fairly spotty.  
4 Some hunters in areas reported very -- observing very few  
5 animals that were limping or had swollen feet. Hunters in  
6 other areas reported seeing quite a few. Estimates as -- well,  
7 some of them said, well, 15 percent of the caribou that we saw  
8 were limping. Well, caribou limp for a lot of different  
9 reasons, but there were a number of -- quite a number of  
10 caribou out there with foot rot. It's -- similar symptoms have  
11 been reported in the Mulchatna herd before, and I think in the  
12 late 60s the Northern Peninsula herd, there was an outbreak of  
13 it, and quite a few died. I think it was 1968, quite a few  
14 died that winter from what they suspected was foot rot. And  
15 it's something that will just basically have to run its course.  
16 There's not -- for a wild population, there's basically nothing  
17 you can for it.

18

19 So -- and that's pretty much what I have, if you have  
20 any questions?

21

22 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: How many wolves did you say was  
23 taken?

24

25 MR. WOOLINGTON: There were 93 wolves taken in Unit 17  
26 in the 97/98 season. And that's the second highest in recent  
27 years. The previous high was actually during the time when you  
28 could take them same-day-airborne. This year, of course, you  
29 couldn't, so -- and most of those were ground shot, so people  
30 taking them with the use of snow machines.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Any question from the council  
33 members? No questions or anything? Thank you, Jim. Where are  
34 we at now?

35

36 MS. EAKON: Actually the Bristol Bay salmon season  
37 summary, I guess that's going to be done by Bill Glick, is that  
38 correct,.....

39

40 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yes.

41

42 MS. EAKON: .....Jim Woolington? Okay. So we should  
43 add a (d) under 3, sport fish summary, and that will be  
44 presented by Dan Dunaway.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Dan Dunaway  
47 with the State of Alaska, Fish and Game, Sport Fish. I'm the  
48 new area biologist for the Bristol Bay/Southwest Alaska area.  
49 Helga's passing out a brief season summary that I've put  
50 together. I'll just hit the high points of that. And also

0032

1 I've brought a copy of our area management report for 1997 that  
2 I'll leave with Helga. If you want more detailed information  
3 on a variety of our programs, and it has most of the up-to-date  
4 information that we use for our management, explains our  
5 approaches and all.

6  
7 For the summary here, I guess the high points are that  
8 no sport fisheries developed significant problems requiring an  
9 in-season restriction or emergency order during the 1998  
10 season. We've had increasing participation in area sport  
11 fisheries that average about seven to 11 percent per year, and  
12 it's been a major concern for local residents. The Department  
13 monitors the major fisheries in an effort to be responsive to  
14 changes through our creel surveys, through a statewide harvest  
15 survey, of which there's some summaries in this annual  
16 management report, and then some specialized research projects.

17  
18 I'll have to -- in my next statement here, I say  
19 overall in '98, efforts -- sport fishing efforts appear to  
20 increase. I just was told Friday that statewide license, sport  
21 fish license sales dropped dramatically. We don't really don't  
22 know why. Some of it could be related to the greatly increased  
23 prices on some licenses, especially for nonresidents, but  
24 statewide it would appear that the 1998 sport fishing effort  
25 dropped. I think on a fishery by fishery basis out here in  
26 Bristol Bay, some fisheries still are increasing and others are  
27 decreasing. I think some of the publicity on the red -- bad  
28 red run in the Anchorage area caused a lot of people to not  
29 come out for sockeye salmon, and I know in a number of cases  
30 people understood that all salmon in Bristol Bay were in  
31 trouble, which is not the case. So kind of the jury's out  
32 whether the effort's up or down, and it may depend on the  
33 individual fishery.

34  
35 However, I would like to point out that we had a Board  
36 of Fisheries meeting in November of 1997. There were pretty  
37 extensive changes to sport fishing regulations throughout  
38 Bristol Bay, and I believe those were timely and sufficient to  
39 address a lot of the concerns for the growth of the sport  
40 fishery. Some of the important ones were an annual harvest bag  
41 limit for king salmon for all sport anglers of five in most  
42 areas, and in a few selected places like the Nushagak River,  
43 that was reduced to four for the year.

44  
45 In addition, there were some gear restrictions in some  
46 places. There was a spawning season, king salmon spawning  
47 season closure adopted for all rivers that had not previously  
48 had one, so that depending on the river, July 25th or after  
49 July 31st, there was no sport fishing allowed. This was to  
50 protect, once the salmon are on the spawning grounds, they're



0033

1 allowed to spawn without a bother from the sport fishing folks.

2

3 Guides are no longer allowed to retain any fish while  
4 they're guiding.

5

6 And bag limits for grayling and char were significantly  
7 reduced.

8

9 And I think all of these were timely, more socially  
10 acceptable to most folks, and in a time where -- I don't know  
11 if there was significant impacts, but this certainly reduces  
12 the potential for significant impacts throughout Bristol Bay.

13

14 Touching on some of the particular fisheries, I want to  
15 point out for this year we had a creel survey, on-site creel  
16 survey conducted on the lower Alagnak River. We -- that was  
17 conducted from July 22nd to 28th. And we interviewed 1473  
18 anglers, and there was about 920 -- or 920 king salmon  
19 released, 412 king salmon kept, for a relatively low catch per  
20 hour of .21. I'm not entirely clear why it was so low,  
21 although run timing in that river was later than normal.  
22 Certainly that run had a lot of protection. There was very  
23 little commercial fishing on that run due to attempts to  
24 protect the red salmon run. Aerial spawning ground surveys  
25 showed about 4,000 fish, which is about 500 below the long-term  
26 average, but not so low that we're really alarmed, but we will  
27 be watching that.

28

29 Also, the Togiak River, we had an on-site creel survey.  
30 It's the first time we've had one for the king salmon fishery  
31 since 1990. It was conducted from June 27th through July 23.  
32 Again we had kind of low early season success until after July  
33 15th, and a relatively low amount of effort, only about 600  
34 anglers interviewed. I believe this was due to the  
35 exceptionally good king salmon fishing on the Nushagak River,  
36 and a lot of the guide camps have camps on both rivers and put  
37 their people on the Nushagak instead of the Togiak, and  
38 significantly lessened the impact on the Togiak River.

39

40 Our closest concern over this year was the -- moving  
41 onto sockeye salmon in the Kvichak River drainage. We were  
42 pretty concerned. It wasn't a very good run. We worked very  
43 closely, Sport Fish did, with Commercial Fisheries, monitoring  
44 this fishery. And I was all set to reduce the bag limit to  
45 one, depending on what we projected escapement to be, but we  
46 had a surge of an escapement, and by July 11 Commercial Fishery  
47 was considering re-opening, in which case we felt it wasn't  
48 necessary to reduce the sport fish harvest. Effort was quite  
49 low throughout the area based on my talks with folks in the  
50 Iliamna area and Igiugig area, and the need for any restriction

0034

1 seemed -- it just didn't seem to have much need for it.

2

3 Flicking through other points here, going on to Togiak  
4 River coho salmon escapement, I just learned this from Bill  
5 Glick, and he might elaborate on it further when he talks.  
6 Recently they completed their aerial surveys. The escapement  
7 goal is 50,000 in that river. I believe they estimate about  
8 25,000 made it up the river, and this is a real puzzlement,  
9 because in-season we estimated 30,000 coho salmon holding in  
10 the lower river. We did get reports of illegal commercial  
11 fishing in the river, and I believe that Commercial Fisheries  
12 actually closed the commercial fishery due to these reports.  
13 I'm real concerned that we thought we had a very good run, and  
14 that all reports from the sport fishery was it was excellent or  
15 at least very good. And now we don't -- we were well on our  
16 way to making escapement goal, and yet we didn't get it. And  
17 that could hurt us for years to come. A bad coho run can haunt  
18 you every four years for many years to come, and I could show  
19 you that in the Nushagak. So I hope that we don't have that  
20 problem in the future.

21

22 Other items, as we -- throughout the summer we were  
23 coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Research  
24 Office here in King Salmon and Kenai on a rainbow trout disease  
25 assessment survey that was done throughout Bristol Bay and  
26 Kodiak Island, and even parts of the lower Kuskokwim. I'm  
27 really excited about this. There's been concerns about disease  
28 that we see in the Lower 48, and we want to know if we have it  
29 here. It's called Wirling Disease. We collected samples from  
30 the Nushagak River, Agulowak River, and the Fish and Wildlife  
31 Service collected them from the Naknek, I believe King Salmon  
32 River down on the Becharof Refuge, Togiak River, Kanektok  
33 River, and Kisaralik -- or Kwethluk River, I'm not sure which  
34 one. And that -- the results of that study won't be available  
35 for some time, but we worked jointly on that, and I'm hoping we  
36 have a good broad area of understanding of potential for  
37 diseases.

38

39 We also -- as Ron Squibb mentioned, we had a  
40 cooperative arrangement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
41 Becharof Refuge on the Ugashik Narrows creel survey. We're  
42 just beginning data analysis this week, and a report should be  
43 completed probably about April of '99.

44

45 I want to touch also, we had the most extensive sport  
46 fishing enforcement effort throughout Bristol Bay that we've  
47 ever had. In part that was due to some funding from the Sport  
48 Fish Division to the State of Alaska Public Safety, Fish and  
49 Wildlife Protection officers. We transferred I believe  
50 \$100,000 to them. A lot of that money was for enforcement

0035

1 elsewhere, but a significant portion was spent in Bristol Bay.  
2 We had up to eight officers at one time in the field, which was  
3 more than we expected. And at times they might have been a  
4 little more vigorous than maybe people felt necessary, but  
5 overall I think it was a real success, and the word got out on  
6 the new regulations. And I believe we hope to have some level  
7 of enforcement in future years. I know a lot of local people  
8 have expressed concerns over whether people have been following  
9 the sport fishing regulations. I think this year they got lots  
10 of encouragement.

11  
12 A couple of other items I thought I'd bring up just so  
13 you know what the Board of Fisheries has got on their horizon.  
14 I see I didn't really manage my space well here. At the bottom  
15 it says quality fisheries management, and the main text that  
16 follows.

17  
18 But at the November '97 Board meeting here in Naknek,  
19 the Board of Fisheries asked Sport Fish Division to investigate  
20 the concept of what they called managing for a quality of  
21 experience through limiting of effort or participation. And  
22 we've taken our first tentative steps in that regard. We're  
23 going to try to address four points, including development of  
24 criteria for selecting waters eligible for quality management.  
25 Researching other permit systems throughout the country that  
26 limit participation, development of administrative processes  
27 for limiting or permitting access, and also getting some -- a  
28 readout from the State Attorney General on the authority and  
29 the mechanism that we need to do to be allowed to do that. And  
30 probably most importantly is developing a public process to  
31 investigate the concept, and it will include all advisory  
32 committees that are involved in the Bristol Bay area, affected  
33 industry, interest groups, other affected agencies, and, of  
34 course, most importantly the general public. To date we've had  
35 a verbal indication from the Attorney General that there is  
36 precedent for the Board of Fish to restrict access as a sport  
37 fisheries management tool. We -- the precedent most  
38 immediately to mind is more in the big game hunting where we  
39 have a special quality management for trophy sheep in the Tok  
40 Trophy Management Area. The Department staff, we've developed  
41 a draft stakeholder list. We're also -- we met with our  
42 technical staff, and we're developing a plan for assessing  
43 public interest, whether people want this or not, developing a  
44 list of perspective criteria, what sorts of places would it be  
45 appropriate to have limited access, how would it happen, how  
46 should it be monitored, and also we've developed a budget  
47 request from our technical staff for a mail-out survey. Other  
48 ideas for getting input on this include having advisory -- of  
49 course, presenting this idea to the State advisory committees,  
50 some community meetings, focus groups. We may use the

0036

1 Department WEB site to get the word out and to solicit comment.  
2 And we've even talked about an internet chat room, which -- I  
3 don't understand how these work, but I guess anybody who feels  
4 like commenting could -- that has access to the internet could  
5 comment on it.

6  
7 Of course, this would -- probably one of the criteria  
8 in something like this would respect the State subsistence  
9 priority. And it would probably be modeled somewhat under our  
10 rainbow trout management plan where we would probably seek to  
11 avoid conflicts with subsistence concerns, although it may lend  
12 itself to reducing conflict in some places.

13  
14 That will -- whole project will probably proceed very  
15 slowly and very cautiously with again emphasizing public  
16 interest and support. If the public wants it, we'll try to  
17 find a way where it's acceptable to all publics, but it's not a  
18 big agenda item for the Department to promote or push. We feel  
19 the public has asked for it, and we'll see what they want. And  
20 I believe that's the Board of Fisheries' attitude as well.  
21 They'll be discussing this topic at about this same level up in  
22 Wasilla in the next day or two.

23  
24 Another item is the Naknek River Rainbow Trout  
25 Management Plan. There's been some concern on the sport  
26 fishery for rainbow trout on the Naknek River. Again during --  
27 the Board of Fisheries' concern was from a variety of  
28 perspectives was -- developed quite a bit of heat, and the  
29 Board's solution was to postpone any action and encourage all  
30 interested parties to form a committee and discuss a management  
31 plan and then come back to the Board with some idea on how to  
32 manage this fishery so it's acceptable to all users. There was  
33 a meeting in this room this spring discussing it, and -- to the  
34 public with some more ideas. Not much has happened since in  
35 the public discussion.

36  
37 My staff just completed a brief analysis of the data  
38 available, and what analysis have been done, and if there's  
39 anything more we can do, and essentially we have pretty good  
40 data sets back to about 1969. We've wrung them out as much as  
41 we can, and until we gather more data, there isn't a whole lot  
42 we can do. We believe the population is healthy, and it's  
43 probably more of an allocative discussion among user groups,  
44 which is -- the Department can provide some suggestions and  
45 comments on the biological effects of different management  
46 actions, but it's up to the user groups to hammer out the  
47 allocative issues.

48  
49 And that's all I have for you. I'm sorry I took up so  
50 much time, but I appreciate the opportunity. If there's any

0037

1 questions, I'm happy to answer them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: This public comment, you've got  
4 advisory committees, community meetings, it wasn't (ph) on  
5 radio or station broadcasting.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that's an opportunity we didn't  
8 discuss, but I am involved with KDLG in a programming advisory  
9 mode, and I have thought of making myself available. There's  
10 what we call an open line program that if KDLG was interested,  
11 I'd certainly be available for a call-in or discussion. It is  
12 a very sensitive issues. In some ways I -- some communities  
13 ask us to limit nonlocal participation. And then there's also  
14 the concerns, well, we don't restrict who goes to Anchorage  
15 when they feel like it, so it will be a balance. I think a  
16 good, open, thorough discussion by all interested people will  
17 be real important, and I think we can boil down a list of  
18 waters where it wouldn't interfere with subsistence use or  
19 other uses.

20

21 Some of the most -- I see this quality management would  
22 be appropriate in some very remote streams that typically  
23 aren't visited by local people, or at a particular time of year  
24 when it's not visited by local folks.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Oh, I think the local people will  
27 have, you know, knowledge of what's going on, you know, and  
28 show that, you know, there's something there that if it's going  
29 to hurt them, well, they'd have reason to, you know, make  
30 comments.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, yes. And we're interested in  
33 hearing them. And in the example -- this actually grew out of  
34 the Naknek Rainbow Trout Plan where local people were not at  
35 all shy about providing their comments, and that was real  
36 helpful.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Any question from the Council  
39 members? Hearing none, I guess we'll move on forward.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Thank you.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll leave this with Helga.

46

47 (Whispered conversation)

48

49 MS. EAKON: I was going to ask Mr. Nelson from Kokhanok  
50 if he was going to be here tomorrow for the discussion on ATV

0038

1 use in Katmai Preserve?

2

3 MR. NELSON: Yes, that's -- we came out here to observe  
4 and listen to what's being said about ORV uses on Katmai.

5

6 MS. EAKON: So you're going to testify when that topic  
7 comes up tomorrow, is that -- or did you want to testify now?  
8 Tomorrow?

9

10 MR. NELSON: I just wanted to listen to the discussion  
11 first, and.....

12

13 MS. EAKON: Oh, okay.

14

15 MR. NELSON: .....then if I wanted to testify, I'd like  
16 to testify if I wanted to.

17

18 MS. EAKON: Okay. I guess -- Mr. Chair, I think that  
19 concludes the reports portion for this afternoon, unless  
20 another organization wanted to comment. Maybe you could ask,  
21 is there any public comment since we are a public forum?

22

23 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: Is there any public comments? Any  
24 other agencies?

25

26 MS. EAKON: Otherwise, our information sharing is  
27 concluded for this afternoon, Mr. Chair. The anthropologist  
28 and Sue Detwiler are going to be here on the 9:30 plane, and  
29 I'm really hoping that Dan O'Hara will also be on that plane,  
30 in which case 9:30 would be appropriate to reconvene. Do you  
31 think so? 9:30 tomorrow? Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: I told you we was going to take a  
34 break. We are recessed until tomorrow morning.

35

36 MS. EAKON: 9:30 tomorrow?

37

38 CHAIRMAN BOSKOFISKY: 9:30 a.m.

39

40 (Off record - 3:50 p.m.)

41

42 \*\*\*\*\*

43 (END OF DAY'S PROCEEDINGS)

44

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Meredith L. Downing, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 38 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting taken electronically by me on the 20th day of October, 1998, beginning at the hour of 1:37 o'clock p.m. at the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers, Naknek, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th day of October, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 7/3/02

S E A L