

1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6 VOLUME II
7
8 King Salmon, Alaska
9 February 21, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
14
15 Randy Alvarez, Chair
16 Nanci Morris Lyon
17 Peter Abraham
18 Virginia Aleck
19 Dan Dunaway
20
21
22 Regional Council Coordinator - Clifford Edenshaw
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (King Salmon, Alaska - 2/21/2007)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'll call the
8 meeting back to order. It's 9:00 o'clock.
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Are you on line,
11 Virginia?
12
13 MS. ALECK: Yes, I am.
14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We're going
18 to work on some Fish and Game proposals and comment on
19 some proposals. Laura, are you ready?
20
21 MS. GREFFENIUS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Go ahead and proceed
24 then.
25
26 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Good morning,
27 everyone. This is Laura Greffenius with OSM.
28
29 So we can first go to -- here's this
30 preliminary recommendations, and as I said, they're in
31 two groups. So if you go to Page 3, it considers the
32 Mulchatna Caribou Herd proposals, which are 76, 77, 78,
33 80 and 209. And what would be the most expeditious
34 under the circumstances, if we went straight to 209.
35
36 Just to give a quick synopsis here,
37 Proposal 76 is what -- and that's this packet here that
38 looks like this that I had handed to you yesterday, and
39 on the front of it, on the bottom, Proposal -- and
40 these, for the people in the audience, these are on the
41 table over there. Proposal 76 is one that ADF&G had
42 submitted, and it goes for several pages, so it's in
43 the very front. And this covered Units 9 and 17, and
44 then later on as -- and then some of the other ones,
45 77, they're submitted by some individuals. I see
46 Randy's name. 78 and 80 are submitted by individuals,
47 that deal with the same issue, aren't as -- they don't
48 cover as many angles of it.
49
50 And so then going on to 209, which is

1 towards the end, it's one that is a change that
2 includes what No. 76 included, so it's actually more
3 comprehensive, because it pertains to 9A, 9B and 9C
4 within the Alagnak River drainage, 17, 18, 19A and 19B.
5 So essentially it's covering the whole range of the
6 Mulchatna.

7

8 And it says under this proposal, bag
9 limits for all hunters will be reduced to one caribou
10 per regulatory year. The resident season would
11 uniformly be changed to August 1 to March 15th, and
12 non-resident seasons where allowed would uniformly be
13 changed to September 1 to September 15th. And same day
14 airborne would no longer be allowed in Units 9B, 17B
15 and 17C. And then it states pertaining to -- it goes
16 on to talk about the proxy hunting.

17

18 So what I'm saying is 209 is the most
19 comprehensive that deals with everything and is the
20 most recent. And it's a change that the State had
21 submitted after the actual proposal book had come out.
22 So your comments would be most beneficial on those.
23 And then the other ones could just end up being, you
24 know, take no action based on, you know, the
25 recommendation made on 209.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Well, 209 is
28 similar to our proposal dealing with the caribou bag
29 limit -- or caribou season. I don't like their bag
30 limit, but I can go along with everything else in their
31 proposal. Our advisory committee went along with the
32 proposal except for the bag limit.

33

34 MS. GREFFENIUS: Of the one?

35

36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. We would.....

37

38 MS. GREFFENIUS: You wanted to keep it
39 to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We wanted to keep it
42 at three. It's the same as -- Joe Chythlook, our
43 coordinator, was there, and he said the Nushagak
44 Advisory Committee had done the same thing.

45

46 MS. GREFFENIUS: Doesn't want one.
47 Okay. So leave it at three.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So just to expedite
50 things, how do you guys feel about that? Basically the

1 way it's written except for keeping the bag limit at
2 three?
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd be willing to move
5 that that would be our comment.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
8
9 MS. GREFFENIUS: And then yesterday you
10 had some comments about the resident hunters when we
11 were discussing the federal proposal, but we couldn't
12 really address that at the time, and so this is the
13 time to address it.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: This does.
16
17 MS. GREFFENIUS: Exactly.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It gives them the
20 opportunity in this proposal. You know, it keep 17B
21 closed for nonresidents, but it keeps 9B, gives them an
22 opportunity in 9B, which if they're going to have an
23 opportunity, I feel it's better that it would be in 9B,
24 because if it was in 17B, there's a lot of hunting
25 pressure in Nushagak Hills in the falltime when the
26 caribou are migrating down. It tends to stop them or
27 turn them and they don't come down. But if it was
28 closed for non-residents up there in the falltime, then
29 they would probably, in my opinion, make it down
30 earlier to 9B, and then everybody would have a chance,
31 because in the falltime the last few years there hadn't
32 been hardly any caribou in 9B until early winter is
33 when they usually show up.
34
35 So there's a motion to.....
36
37 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. So 17B it was
38 non-residents, keep it closed to non-residents?
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes. That's the
41 way.....
42
43 MS. GREFFENIUS: And then were there
44 any other places.....
45
46 MS. ALECK: Mr. Chairman, this is
47 Virginia.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Go ahead, Virginia.
50

1 MS. ALECK: I was wondering, do I -- I
2 don't think I have copies of them proposals, do I, in
3 this booklet?
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No.
6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: No.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No, this is
10 handouts, copies of the state proposals.
11
12 MS. ALECK: Okay. Okay. I was
13 looking. Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But it's -- okay.
16
17 MS. GREFFENIUS: So I guess just to get
18 right to the point, the other places where the non-
19 resident's season is listed there in the right-hand
20 column, September 1 to September 15th, are there any
21 other places where -- so are those ones you -- is your
22 recommendation to retain those, or are there any other
23 places where the non-resident season, that the Council
24 would want to see no open season? Because you were
25 discussing non-resident issues yesterday, and so I just
26 wanted to check with you on that. Right now it's in
27 17.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The way I feel about
30 it, if they're not going to give us a three bag limit
31 and only a one, I don't think it should be open to non-
32 residents anywhere, if they're going to keep the one
33 bag limit, because it clearly shows that there's just
34 not enough to go around when they're dropping down to
35 one. Then in that case it shouldn't be open to non-
36 residents anywhere.
37
38 MS. GREFFENIUS: Across the board
39 you're saying?
40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Across the board.
42
43 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. So non-
44 resident.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: How do you feel
47 about that?
48
49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Absolutely. I think,
50 you know, they're making their own statement by saying

1 that the herd is under extreme distress if they're
2 dropping us from five to one. So I think that that
3 would be included in my advice to them would e that
4 they need to consider very carefully if they're going
5 to take us down to one really what they need to be
6 doing with the non-resident bag limits, because that's
7 just short of going to Tier II.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: That sounds fine with me,
12 but I think we can -- or it could be fine with the bag
13 limit of three, just the way -- see that stuff Jim put
14 out. The non-resident's effort's really going down
15 anyway. Hopefully that they'll keep that three bag
16 limit for residents, shorten these seasons, eliminate
17 the same day and see how it works for a year or two.

18

19 MS. MORRIS LYON: I agree. And that's
20 what I'm saying. I think to enforce our pull for the
21 three is to make the statement that by taking it down
22 to one so suddenly like that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's what I was
29 going to say.

30

31 MS. GREFFENIUS: Can I get a
32 translation? That's good.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: When I say (In Native),
35 that means good, and you can't move any more and you go
36 that direction.

37

38 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. So let me just
39 in a couple sentences, your recommendation -- and I
40 don't want to put words in your mouth, but just that
41 I've got it, to keep it at three, and then have the
42 non-resident seasons -- your reference would be the
43 harvest limit is three, and have the harvest limit --
44 harvest limit at three and have the non-resident season
45 as it is right here. If it goes down to a one limit as
46 it is written right here, then eliminate the non-
47 residents and have no open season for non-residents.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Uh-huh. Yeah.

50

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. So I've got it
2 summarized.
3
4 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native)
5
6 MS. GREFFENIUS: So then do you want to
7 do your.....
8
9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Can we vote on that
10 now, please?
11
12 MS. GREFFENIUS: I'm not making a
13 motion. I was just doing a synopsis and then so
14 whatever motion you want to make.
15
16 MS. MORRIS LYON: You synopsised well.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So we have a motion
19 by -- was that your.....
20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I made a motion.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan. And seconded?
24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second it.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Seconded by Nanci.
28 Cliff.
29
30 MR. EDENSHAW: I think probably in
31 there you should also, because under the Council's
32 actions under -- in our booklet in regards to the
33 proposals we addressed yesterday, there was overlapping
34 proposals that affect the other -- which ones are they?
35 They're Y-K, Western?
36
37 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, they'll be
38 presented at Y-K and Western.
39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah. So just to let
41 you know, this is going to be -- the Council's
42 recommendation not only for what we covered yesterday,
43 but for this 209, we'll provide those at the other
44 Councils' meetings.
45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and 209 addresses
47 Unit 18 and 19.
48
49 MS. GREFFENIUS: Right. They overlap,
50 so we'll make sure we do this.....

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, yeah, and
2 should we maybe include in this motion that we will
3 take no action on the other proposals due to the action
4 taken on 209, so that we can encompass everything?
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, make that a
7 friendly amendment, so, yeah, we just have one motion
8 that kind of rolls it up. Thank you.
9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: On 209.
11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The question's been
15 called for. Virginia, we're going to vote on 209. The
16 reasons why by what we've stated. And we amended their
17 proposal for three, to maintain a three bag limit, and
18 if that's not -- if they don't keep a three bag limit,
19 we recommend closing non-residents in the whole
20 Mulchatna Caribou Herd area. Do you hear?
21
22 MS. ALECK: Yeah.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So we're
25 going to vote now. All in favor of the amended -- our
26 amended version of 209 signify by saying aye.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Opposed.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Motion carried,
35 five/zero.
36
37 MR. ABRAHAM: Great.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete, thanks. See
40 you.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: See you guys over here
43 next fall with rod and reel.
44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: We're not having it
46 in Dillingham? We're not having it Dillingham next
47 fall?
48
49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: On the bank with rod and
2 reel. Yeah. Me, too.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: No, meet at Rapids.
7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll be there.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thanks, Pete.
11
12 (Peter Abraham departs the meeting)
13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Mr. Chair.
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: Nanci, let me get to
17 that question. He was wanting to switch them around.
18 (Microphone off)
19
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: The problem is,
21 they've got no place to eat over there or anything
22 else.
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: I think he said -- but
25 Dan was saying -- well, we'll discuss that later, but
26 anyway, that's what he was alluding to.
27
28 MS. MORRIS LYON: Doesn't matter much
29 to me really.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Where are we?
32
33 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Well, the other
34 two State proposals are No. 110 and No. 112. And you
35 can, you know, make comments, but if there's not -- no
36 motion for them. And that was a separate single piece
37 of paper from this packet with the Mulchatna Caribou
38 Herd ones. It's separate from the stapled one, and it
39 would have been just one front and back. And it has
40 Proposal 110 and Proposal 112, and this is relates --
41 it's not the same, but it relates to the Federal
42 proposal which we discussed yesterday, No. 25. So if
43 there's anything you want?
44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I guess I should
46 give you some -- these two proposals are by the Lake
47 Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee.....
48
49 MS. GREFFENIUS: Uh-huh. I see that.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:which I'm part
2 of. And so let me talk about these for a minute and
3 tell you our reasons why we did it.

4
5 The reason why we did it is because
6 it's been getting increasingly harder and harder to
7 harvest moose, you know, in the falltime. And looking
8 at the proposed -- or the regulation book, this is
9 already in effect on the Nushagak in 17B and also up in
10 the Kuskokwim area for moose and caribou up there. So,
11 you know, we decided to ask the Board of Game if we
12 could have this, you know, basically the same thing.
13 And reading from -- and at our meeting Monday before
14 this meeting up in Igiugig, the State says their
15 reasons they got that was because of conflict between
16 the user groups. You know, although there are -- the
17 Nushagak River has, you know, a fair abundance of
18 moose, it's probably in my opinion above average for
19 population and so that's the reason why it wasn't a
20 conservation issue. It was a conflict issue, because
21 of all the people that hunt there.

22
23 And that's probably the main reason why
24 we implemented it, because friends and cousins of mine,
25 we hunt the Kvichak and also Branch River, which is
26 Alagnak sometimes up to the forks. And there's a
27 commercial fishing boat -- a guy that commercial
28 fishes, he also sets his jet boat up, a big aluminum
29 jet boat with a big tent on it, and has three or four
30 skiffs tied behind him, and he goes up there and stays
31 up there for the two-week season. And my cousin had
32 talked to him, and he said he wasn't hunting caribou.
33 Well, he was -- basically he didn't tell him the truth
34 what he was really doing, but he's been up there for
35 year after year for -- doing this for the last five,
36 six years. And it doesn't look like he's.....

37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Longer than that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Longer than that?
41 Yeah. Well, time flies the older you get, but anyway
42 he's in direct conflict, because of the -- of what the
43 local people are using, you know. And our intent was
44 to, you know, move the non-resident hunters away from
45 the areas where the locals use, and it's over -- it's
46 probably 95 percent or more that -- how the people get
47 around is by boats, you know. Hardly anybody flies out
48 and hunts moose by doing that method, you know, which
49 is the method that most of the non-residents use,
50 because they're using guides and outfitters, and air

1 taxis and so that still leaves them that opportunity.
2 You know, we'd just kind of like to see them not be in
3 conflict with -- you know, competing with the local
4 people, because it's getting so hard to harvest moose
5 in the falltime. And so that's our reasons right there
6 is if they've got it in Nushagak and 9B and also up in
7 the Kuskokwim for moose and caribou, we'd like to have
8 the same thing.

9
10 And then the State was -- their
11 recommendation, or this -- yeah, their recommendation,
12 they didn't support it, because they said that there
13 they were in conflict with -- the reason why it got
14 implemented in Nushagak and Kuskokwim is because of the
15 conflict between the two. Well, we stated that at the
16 meeting, you know, and with the staff recommendations,
17 I don't think they understood that was the problem. I
18 think what they understood was that there was just not
19 enough to go around and to keep them out of there.
20 Well, that's part of the reason, but we asked for it in
21 9B and then 9C which -- the portion of 9C is the
22 Alagnak River drainage. And if you guys got any
23 questions?

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, but what about
26 perhaps putting a proposal in for restricting them from
27 using (inaudible). I mean, I think that might hit the
28 core of the problem better and be more enforceable than
29 the two-mile corridor.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Joe Klutsch, he
32 probably wouldn't like it very well, because he brings
33 his -- he's got an operation up there in the Bechar --
34 up in that.....

35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, and that's our
37 problem is we're working unethical versus ethical, and
38 that comes down to the bottom line.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I know. And
41 he might not like it, but from what I understand,
42 there's only like one -- do you know how many moose was
43 shot up in the Branch River up in the Federal land?

44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: Troy?

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It wasn't very many.
48 It was either one or two, wasn't it?

49
50 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah, and I

1 (indiscernible, away from microphone).
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is that counting the
4 winter, or just the fall?
5
6 MR. HAMMOND: (Indiscernible, away from
7 microphone)
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I know not very
10 many. There's not very many moose up there, and then
11 he's in competition with the -- you know, he can go up
12 there with a boat, and so can the local people, you
13 know, so he's in competition with the locals, but that
14 would be a good idea. But they need to get -- you
15 know, sometimes they need to get around if they've got
16 a camp on the river. I don't know exactly how they
17 operate everywhere, but -- yeah.
18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Might be a better
20 (indiscernible).
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Might be. Dan.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Help me here, Randy,
25 because I know from my time around Igiugig that moose
26 is a tense subject, and I've heard it, too, but my
27 country's Nushagak. And I think we had times where
28 there was 5 to 10 airplanes on the strip at Baliganik
29 and, you know, many boats buzzing up and down the
30 river. Help me understand. When it's moose season on
31 the Kvichak or the Branch, how many air taxi guys are
32 dropping folks off and kind of -- do you have some
33 sense of -- doe it really ramp up? Do you get a lot of
34 traffic all of a sudden or.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: There's not very
37 many airplanes. The boats that -- that guy that we're
38 in conflict with comes out of Naknek here, because he
39 keeps his boat here, he fishes here. You know, the
40 only -- up in Iliamna, I'm not sure what happens up
41 there.
42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: But is there like guides
44 operating close to the river, or is -- do the guides,
45 say, bring non-resident hunters on the river like --
46 and 15 boats on the river all of a sudden or.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You know, they have
49 to come from some place, because they don't have an
50 operation in Igiugig. They can fly in, but they don't,

1 you know, have boats like the sport fishing industry
2 does, you know. But I'm not sure if that happens or
3 not. I haven't seen that happen where they land in
4 Igiugig with their airplane and then jump in their boat
5 and do that. If they do, they come from down Naknek or
6 up around Iliamna, and they don't -- they haven't come
7 that far.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just trying to get a
10 sense of the scale of disruption, because I know it
11 just mushroomed up there in the upper Nushagak, seeing
12 the edges of it around Dillingham, because I usually
13 don't go that far north, but folks up there, they'd --
14 really crazy. And I think that's what tipped the Board
15 to adopt that up there. The difference is, too, though
16 is you have a whole lot less moose.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's what I was
19 going to say. The problem is it's got -- and it's -- I
20 foresee a future problem that's going to be, you know
21 -- basically to put it on the table, I think a lot of
22 what's happening is a lot of these fishing camps that
23 have established themselves on the Alagnak, these
24 guides decide to stay around for that moose hunting
25 week where that didn't used to happen.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: And most of those
28 are non-residents.

29

30 MS. MORRIS LYON: 90 percent at least I
31 would say are non-residents.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: There's Somerville
34 and then there's another guy that -- Somerville leased
35 John Knutz's, my cousin's, property there, and then
36 there's another guy just downriver on the other side of
37 the river from him that leased a piece of my uncle's
38 allotment there. And there's those two operations
39 right there, and then there's Katmai Lodge, which
40 they're from Outside some place. I don't know where
41 they are.

42

43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Seattle.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But that's a big
46 operation. You know, that's a monstrous operation, so
47 there's -- I would say that all those that I know of
48 are non-resident operations, and then -- and they're
49 hunting, you know, moose with it, they're taking people
50 out or doing it themselves. They're non-residents and

1 they're competing right directly with the user group,
2 because the Alagnak is a popular area for a lot of
3 people here in Naknek and Levelock, and then I'll come
4 down, maybe I can hunt there once in a while, you know,
5 but it's not my whole area. I hunt Kaskanak and around
6 the Igiugig there. but these people.....

7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: The problem is, is
9 that combined with the very low density population,
10 it's taking the meat away from the locals, and I think
11 that's very true. And Troy could probably tell us. I
12 honestly think of one single one of those camps either
13 that is established by a resident. All those camps for
14 some weird reason I think are non-resident.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Troy. Orville.

17
18 MR. HAMMOND: (Indiscernible, away from
19 microphone)

20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Yeah.

22
23 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, Members. I
24 just want to share the last two falls, the last two
25 years that my family and I have hunted up there.
26 There's actually a lot of pressure up there on the
27 Kvichak. The reason we didn't go to the Branch,
28 because there was people at the Branch also. And then
29 you talk about that boat, I saw him last year there for
30 a while, and then he had moved up to the Yellow Creek,
31 up in that area. But there are about five boats with
32 him, skiffs with him that are travelling back and
33 forth.

34
35 I also saw a couple airplanes that some
36 of the locals and I talked that weren't from around
37 there, and they were wondering where the float planes
38 came from. They weren't of the lodges that we were
39 passing up there, so -- just to share that there's a
40 lot of action, activity up there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you,
43 Orville. Cliff.

44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I was
46 just looking at -- you know, to push us up, give us
47 little nudge on 110 and 112, the Council rejected the
48 Federal proposals yesterday, so these ones here are for
49 State, so.....

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and I think the
2 difference is that State can consider issues that we
3 couldn't touch with the Federal authorities granted,
4 but we could -- I see no problem supporting these,
5 unless we're out of line to discuss anything outside
6 our ANILCA authority.

7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: No, it's just
9 (microphone off).

10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: I think somehow
12 through these proposals, and I'm not sure, perhaps -- I
13 mean, we could -- if they're willing to take our words
14 on it, maybe we can be willing to totally kind of
15 digress from what the proposals say, to let them be
16 aware that there is a serious conflict up there, that
17 it's reaching a point where we'd like to see something
18 done about it, and if they have suggestions other than
19 these, we're open to them, but we'd like to see action
20 taken to reduce that conflict in some form.

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: I think one avenue we
23 could do today is in our annual report that we're going
24 to prepare, this could be included in the issues in
25 terms of addressing Federal lands or access, you know,
26 something like that could be included in our annual
27 report. And once proposals -- once the proposal period
28 for wildlife is open, we could address what type of
29 proposals we could submit regarding moose hunting up
30 there in, what is that, 9C? And as Nanci said, you
31 know, we could ask -- her and I could get together and
32 draft the Council's comments, and we can submit
33 comments in regards to these proposals. I think the
34 other route is we're probably -- handle this in the
35 annual report, because we don't have -- the proposal
36 period isn't open now for wildlife until next year --
37 until the fall. so this would be a good way for us to
38 address this. The Park Service and the agency, the
39 Refuge would be able to write comments on these as well
40 as at that time if the Council so chooses to address
41 the moose I guess it's in 9C.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. That will be
44 a directive then to put that, put our comments into the
45 report, because we don't have a quorum now to vote on
46 anything, so we can't even vote on anything now. Dan.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: One thing though, too, is
49 by us commenting on these tells the Board of Game we're
50 watching it closely. They might prefer to try to come

1 up with the solution, but we don't feel the need to do
2 something under Federal, because I'm looking, there's
3 quite a bit of BLM land and especially on the Alagnak,
4 between that and the wild and scenic river status. It
5 might help motivate the Board of Game to find a
6 solution before we try to come up with one. Nudges
7 them along to consider. I know I missed it, but I
8 heard about it, back when Huggie (ph) was operating in
9 Igiugig, there were some really tense.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. There's been
12 people that tried doing that, and it -- after a while
13 they got much conflict, because they have to deal with
14 the village, and the village doesn't want them to do
15 that, hunt moose, because there's not enough, so they
16 have -- everybody has left, don't do it any more,
17 because they have to -- if they're going -- they're
18 mainly a sportfishing operation, and they -- most of
19 the land around Igiugig down to the flats belongs to
20 the village corporation, and if they want to use that
21 land, you know, they have to get along with the
22 village, so that's been the case, but that only goes so
23 far down. And they don't have agreements with all the
24 user groups, especially ones that don't live there.
25 Anyway, it.....

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: So I guess I would hope
28 the Board would seriously look at these proposals and
29 maybe if they think a mile's better than two miles, it
30 would be an accommodation that the Board could do, and
31 that solves the problem and reduces the conflict, I'd
32 be happy to not have to take action at this Board.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You know, I think a
35 mile would even be sufficient, because I don't think --
36 a lot of people aren't going to pack a moose a mile any
37 more.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Especially on that
40 Alagnak terrain. I'd like to see them do it. I'd
41 help, some boat.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff.

44

45 MR. EDENSHAW: And also, Laura, you may
46 point out to Dan on the copies that you made, they put
47 down Units 19 and 17.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, that's a typo.

50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: In 104.
2
3 MS. GREFFENIUS: 110?
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah.
6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: On Page 104.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: 104, in Proposal 110. I'm
10 sure that's a typo. Yeah. Definitely.
11
12 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No, that's right.
15
16 MR. EDENSHAW: 19?
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: As it is in 19 and
19 17.
20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, I see.
22
23 MS. GREFFENIUS: Oh, we were just
24 glancing at -- oh, pertaining to what's already in
25 existence.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes.
28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Referring to the
30 precedence in other places.
31
32 MS. GREFFENIUS: You're right. Yeah.
33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: They already have a --
35 so you're saying they already have a buffer in Unit 17
36 and 19?
37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, for Nushagak. We
39 just got it. Boy, I was amazed, but it's really -- it
40 helps.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 2005. And then
43 that's for moose. And in 19 they have it for moose and
44 caribou. That's the State regs. What else?
45
46 MS. GREFFENIUS: Well, just the
47 synopsis again. This has been really informative just
48 for our future proposals can hear about the issues, so,
49 I mean, just to hear your discussions. On the previous
50 there was an actual motion that you voted on, and then

1 on this one you can take your comments as such that
2 have been discussed here and then summarize those, and
3 they can be in the written record. Is that what you'd
4 like to see happen? We can just take them from the
5 transcripts?

6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.

8
9 MS. GREFFENIUS: So it's not a Council
10 recommendation, but Council comments. We can do it
11 that way.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. There's not
14 enough of us to make a recommendation now, is there?

15
16 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. I just wanted
17 to let you know we can do that, and that's going to
18 be.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Or can we still make
21 a recommendation with.....

22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair. On the
24 ones that -- when Pete was here, when the Council made
25 a recommendation on the caribou, what Laura and I can
26 do, we can go ahead and make sure that the Mulchatna
27 Caribou proposal that the Council made recommendation
28 on, we'll reflect that, and then we'll include below
29 there comments that the Council had on these other
30 ones.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Comments generally
33 support 110, 112.

34
35 MS. GREFFENIUS: The previous one was
36 an actual motion.

37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Uh-huh.
39 (Affirmative)

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: But not formally I guess.

42
43 MS. GREFFENIUS: Right. And then on
44 this one you foresee in the future wanting to address a
45 Federal proposal -- or have some Federal proposal to
46 address this similar situation?

47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, that was the
49 whole reason why we submitted. what proposal was that?
50

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: But this one -- yeah,
2 this one's more specific for certain locales.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No, no our proposal.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: 209?
7
8 MS. GREFFENIUS: That was 25.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 23. Was that 23?
11
12 MS. GREFFENIUS: 25.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was 25?
15
16 MS. GREFFENIUS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. 23 was to
19 caribou. Yeah, 25 then. Okay.
20
21 MS. GREFFENIUS: But these are specific
22 to just these specific locations. Okay.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What else do you
25 have?
26
27 MS. GREFFENIUS: I have an answer to
28 some question -- a question that you had yesterday. I
29 can do that right now while I'm here, or at another
30 time.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Sure.
33
34 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. This pertains
35 -- change of topic of then. This pertains to the
36 Statewide WP07-03. This was the one that begins on
37 Page 78 in your book.
38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Tanned or untanned?
40
41 MS. GREFFENIUS: Exactly. It was the
42 one where the proponent is requesting Federal
43 regulations that allow the sale of raw or untanned
44 hides, capes of goat, sheep, caribou or moose. And so
45 your motion was -- your recommendation from the Council
46 was to include processed hides, to make it more
47 inclusive. And I talked with Dan LaPlant who many of
48 you might know in our office. He's the wildlife
49 liaison to ADF&G and will be at the Board of Game. But
50 then on this one he's also very familiar with this

1 statewide one. And he said that was a good
2 recommendation, that if we -- when you say processed,
3 usually the terminology is tanned. If we put it as
4 tanned, does that -- unless there's any other kind of
5 process that was intended by that, we would just put
6 tanned, if that's good with the Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was your.....

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: That was my intent.

11

12 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Because that
13 was kind of the intent?

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: I think processed, I was
16 being inclusive and wasn't quite clear what all the --
17 I didn't have any other specific process in mind but
18 tanning.

19

20 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. He said that as
21 far as why in the proposal it was raw and untanned, he
22 said there's no logical explanation, that the main
23 reason is, is that when the proponent puts in a
24 proposal, what they asked for specifically was raw and
25 untanned, and that's how they had presented it. And so
26 we don't change it unless we're asked to do so, and so
27 if in the course of all the Councils making
28 recommendations, I mean, yours will go before the other
29 Councils, since you're the first meeting in the cycle
30 and we'll let them know that the Bristol Bay adopted it
31 to be inclusive to include tanned and then, you know,
32 the other Councils can consider that as well. And so
33 the State doesn't prohibit tanned hides as far as the
34 sales, and so that's one of the things on this one was
35 to align what's allowed in the State regulations, and
36 so it's not something in their prohibited list, and so
37 it -- well, we can carry it forward to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board with that recommendation. So if that
39 helps out.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Sure.

42

43 MS. GREFFENIUS:we just wanted to
44 get that information to you.

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. Inside the
47 Council's recommendation, it won't say we will -- we're
48 making comment in regards, but because of what the
49 Council's recommendation was yesterday, that will be
50 straight forward, but we can include comments that just

1 as Dan and Nanci said, that implying that it be tanned,
2 but I'm not.....
3
4 MS. GREFFENIUS: Because that's what
5 you voted on.
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW:going to -- because
8 we can't change their recommendation now, because they
9 voted on it yesterday. We're just going to add their
10 comments that Dan and Nanci tanned, to be inclusive.
11
12 MS. GREFFENIUS: When you said
13 processed. Yeah, what the intent was, tanned, so the
14 language can be specified later on.
15
16 Any questions on that? Okay. Thank
17 you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I've got a comment
20 or a question. There's other statewide Board of Game
21 proposals I think we should comment on, you know,
22 dealing with bears, because, you know, there's
23 proposals for up in the Katmai Preserve, and also, you
24 know, the one right next to McNeil, between McNeil
25 Refuge and the park. You know, I think we should
26 comment on it. You know, we won't be able to take
27 action, but we can -- we probably should comment on it.
28
29 MS. GREFFENIUS: Do we have access to
30 those? Did you bring your packet with you or do we
31 need to call the office down there? I agree.
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I don't have --
34 there was like one proposal book in Dillingham it
35 seemed like.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff.
38
39 MR. EDENSHAW: Probably Mary McBurney
40 probably has those memorized. She's not here.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I have to run home
43 and get my book. It should only take five minutes,
44 but.....
45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, I'd prefer if
47 we could go down here and complete the agenda before we
48 jump in and start doing comments on bears in Katmai.
49
50 MS. MORRIS LYON: Put it under new

1 business.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We'll do it
4 under new business at the end.

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Because if Mary comes
7 back, I'm sure she may have some additional information
8 on some proposals.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So that's a good
11 idea. Let's just stay on the agenda and then we'll
12 take a recess and then I'll pick up my book.

13

14 Where are we?

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: 12.A. Rod Campbell.

17

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Good morning, Mr.
19 Chairman. Council Member. I'm Rod Campbell with the
20 Office of Subsistence Management, and I have an
21 information only briefing.

22

23 You already mentioned that it's under
24 12.A.1. in your book. A copy -- this refers to an AFN
25 letter and its relationship to the Office of
26 Subsistence Management budget situation. A copy of
27 that letter is on Page 111 and 112 in your book. A
28 copy of the January 22nd, 2007 letter from Kenneth
29 Stansell, he was the acting Fish and Wildlife Service
30 Director, to Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska
31 Federation of Natives is included in all 10 Regional
32 Council books for the winter 2007 Council meeting
33 season.

34

35 Inflation, increasing costs and budget
36 reductions have eroded the Office of Subsistence
37 Management program since 2000. In 2006 OSM dealt with
38 a 450,000 budget shortfall by keeping five vacancies
39 unfilled. In 2007 OSM must address a national Fish and
40 Wildlife Service realignment initiative to redirect 10
41 percent of staff and funding to the field, as well as
42 an additional \$300,000 budget shortfall due to
43 inflation and increasing costs. The President's fiscal
44 year 2008 budget proposes OSM for an additional
45 \$500,000 reduction.

46

47 Regional Advisory Councils remain the
48 highest priority in the face of declining budgets and
49 declining spending power. However, bold steps are
50 required to address the budget situation. There have

1 been and will continue to be reductions in OSM's
2 staffing and services. We will continue to address
3 declining budgets with reduction to the Fisheries
4 Monitoring and Partners Program. There will also be a
5 reduction in funding for the State of Alaska for
6 liaison and staff support. And we need to explore all
7 options, including the possibility of having a two-year
8 regulatory cycle rather than every year. And we will
9 be briefing the Regional Councils more fully on the
10 budget situation and program impacts at the fall 2007
11 meetings. And we continue to look for ways to respond
12 to these budget realities while providing a subsistence
13 program that is effective and responsive to the needs
14 of rural Alaskans.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Rod. Any
19 questions or comment to Rod. I've got a question. The
20 program is you said at least \$300,000 annually
21 shortfall. Is that cut in budget or just the price of
22 everything's going up more and more, and this 300,000
23 is what -- how much more it costs to do everything?

24

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Well, Mr. Chairman,
26 according to the briefing that I have, it says this
27 national realignment for 2007, that's redirecting 10
28 percent of staff out to the field offices, and that
29 300,000 shortfall is part of inflation and increasing
30 costs. So, you know, it's a combination there, that
31 your buying power's less, but you're actually -- you
32 know, you're still coming up dollars short. In 2008
33 that additional 500,000 I think -- I don't know, I
34 would think that would include everything, the
35 inflation part of it as well our projects.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: When do you know if
38 there's going to be an increase -- when will you know
39 what the budget -- if it's going to be able to be
40 funded or not? When will you know that?

41

42 MR. CAMPBELL: What will be funded?

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, when you're --
45 you need a certain amount of money -- you're probably
46 asking to be funded for so much for the next cycle or
47 two. I'm not familiar with how it works, but.....

48

49 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah. That was
50 referenced in here to this 2008 fiscal year that starts

1 October 1st. That's where they're requesting an
2 additional 500,000 reduction to the program. And that
3 is in the President's budget, and that would go
4 effective October 1st. So that's in the budget. I
5 don't know how all that process works. There may be
6 someone else about if that's going to be the final
7 number or it could increase or go down or whatever, you
8 know, legislative action they can take back in
9 Washington to do that, but that is, my understanding,
10 in the budget and that has been published for a
11 \$500,000 reduction. It's a reality. At least that's
12 what I've been instructed.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So you're either
15 going to -- Judy.

16

17 MS. GOTTLIEB: Good morning. Sorry to
18 just jump in on this.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's all right.

21

22 MS. GOTTLIEB: I'm Judy Gottlieb from
23 the Federal Subsistence Board.

24

25 Budget and budget process is really
26 complicated, and I'm more complicated perhaps than it
27 needs to be. For example, just last Friday we received
28 from Congress our budget for the fiscal year which
29 started October 1, past October 1, and it goes through
30 this September 30th. This was a pretty strange year.
31 They really didn't do a new budget for us. They just
32 kind of said, use your last year's budget and we'll
33 give you a little bit for higher costs for salaries and
34 benefits and things like that. This is an odd year.

35

36 But a more typical year, like Rod was
37 describing, the President has submitted a budget to
38 Congress with certain numbers in it. But until the
39 Senate and the House go through the budget and approve
40 or disapprove those numbers, we won't know what our
41 final budget is. Now, hopefully for next year we'll
42 know what our final budget is a lot earlier than we did
43 this year. I mean, on a good year, you know it by
44 October 1. On a bad year, it might be February 15th.

45

46 But, I mean, it is discouraging that in
47 the Fish and Wildlife submission and the President's
48 approved budget that it shows a \$500,000 reduction for
49 this program. But we don't know the final outcome, and
50 we won't until Congress is done with it and gives us

1 our appropriations for next year.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank
4 you.

5

6 So I've got one more question. So if
7 you don't get funded fully, you say that your options
8 are to either cut some of the programs or go to a two-
9 year cycle?

10

11 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Or
12 perhaps a combination of that. The two-year cycle has
13 been brought up before. As you know, we have an annual
14 cycle. We're looking at a reorganization of OSM as far
15 as Staff to more efficiently handle the workload with
16 these vacancies that we have not filled. So that's
17 part of the reorganization. And I know initially one
18 of the ways to deal with a Staff shortfall was to go to
19 a two-year regulatory cycle instead of one, so Staff
20 could be able to handle both the Fisheries Monitoring
21 Program and utilize some of those staff on the
22 regulatory side. So that was one of the things that
23 came up.

24

25 And also in the briefing that I said it
26 would continue to reduce funds for the Fisheries
27 Monitoring and Partners Programs. So they've cut out
28 the Fisheries Monitoring out of these programs that we
29 have in the field. Different research and projects
30 will continue to be reduced to try to meet that.

31

32 And again funding to the State, because
33 we do provide quite a bit of funding to the State of
34 Alaska for their liaison group that works with the
35 Federal agencies, and also to provide funds for Fish
36 and Game Staff to attend different Council meetings and
37 other related meetings. So that's also part of the
38 plan is to take some funding -- you know, reduce those
39 funding to try to make up the shortfall.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: There's been a few
44 meetings where I've thought, gee, did we really have to
45 meet, or could we have done it more efficiently. And
46 then there's a meeting like this one where I thought it
47 was going to be easy and quick, and it turned out that
48 I feel like we did some pretty important things. I
49 don't feel like we can always predict when those will
50 be. I would encourage you to look for savings where

1 you can, but at the same time -- like maybe we could
2 sort out that, well, maybe we can do the whole thing on
3 a teleconference, or maybe we could go to two-year
4 cycle.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I don't like
7 teleconference. They're tough.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: No, but they're -- yeah,
10 it's a lot harder to get stuff across and I admire
11 Virginia for being so rugged. But there's been, not
12 that many, but a couple where it's like, oh, this is
13 probably pretty expensive for what we had to do. We've
14 done more here than probably most meetings that I've
15 been at. This one here, like I -- it turned out to be
16 a lot more critical than I thought.

17
18 The only other thing I'd say is that I
19 know the State is pretty strapped, and I hope that some
20 support there to -- I kind of keep harping on this, but
21 I hate to see too much of a divergence, State and
22 Federal, where things get -- problems bureaucratically,
23 and I think when you get too much bureaucratic
24 bickering, we're not serving the public. So I hope
25 that some liaison, some support and coordination, and
26 funding it can continue, because it seems like that
27 overall statewide there's a lot less -- there was a lot
28 less contention. As the funding dropped, now we hear a
29 lot of heat coming out of Kenai area and other places.
30 So I hope those kinds of things are considered in the
31 -- as you go to save money. I'm sure partly this is
32 done because we've got a war to fund, and scraping the
33 barrel everywhere, but -- anyway, that's just a few
34 comments I had.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Rod.

37
38 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, I was just going
39 to follow up on the teleconference part. I think
40 you're aware of in the past OSM has encouraged
41 different Councils to meet in more hub areas, and it's
42 certainly not a problem with this Council, because it's
43 usually I think King Salmon, Dillingham it is. And
44 even with that the logistics can be challenging and
45 expensive that way. But I certainly know in the
46 discussions that that is something that, especially in
47 other Council areas, would be much, much more difficult
48 to have Council meetings out in some of these smaller
49 areas where it is very, very expensive to go to. so
50 that -- you know, that's another part of the rethinking

1 again that's a challenge to get all the local people
2 involved as much as you can, but still realize that we
3 do have such a budget shortfall that we're going to
4 have to, you know, maybe rethink some places where we
5 do have the Council meetings. Not necessarily
6 teleconference, but, you know, it's a real challenge.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You have to depend a
9 lot on written comments, because if you look at what
10 the State does, most of their meetings are all in
11 Anchorage, you know, and if folks feel strongly enough
12 about certain issues, they show up. So it is a
13 problem, all right, you know. Some places you can't
14 have meetings. You don't have facilities to house
15 people, you know, enough people to go there, where, you
16 know, you end up with more written comments than people
17 that manage to make it to the meeting themselves,
18 but.....

19

20 Cliff.

21

22 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. I think any
23 -- down the road with OSM, I think if there's going to
24 be any changes, you know, the Board's going to give the
25 Council's an opportunity. If we -- let's say for
26 example, he mentioned a two-year cycle. If there's a
27 proposal to go down that path, they're going to provide
28 the Councils an opportunity to provide input on that,
29 because, you know, for example, if that happened, then
30 we'd be looking at special actions and RFRs playing a
31 more important role in terms of how this Council does
32 business.

33

34 And, lastly, I believe that we're not
35 going to go into teleconference, because when we hold
36 meetings like this, we have to provide, if the Councils
37 are proposing to change seasons and bag limits or
38 C&T's, we're always going to need public process, due
39 public process, so, believe me, at least on the Federal
40 side, I certainly hope we're not going to go down that
41 path of teleconference, because we have to provide the
42 public an opportunity when they're going to impact or
43 propose changes in seasons and bag limits. And the
44 only time we're going to hold a teleconference is if
45 the Council had made recommendations, or if there's --
46 you know, maybe there's an opportunity for them to
47 provide information on such a topic as this budget, we
48 can get the Council on teleconference and provide
49 comments back to OSM, but at least since I've been
50 doing this region and others in the past, we've -- at

1 least I've tried to refrain from having those as much
2 as possible, because it's -- I believe there has been a
3 need to do some of it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Teleconference is
6 all right for one or two issues, you know, but not for
7 a whole meeting, or to take public comment, that would
8 be all right, too.

9

10 Rod.

11

12 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah. It was just
13 pointed out to me that I should probably clarify on
14 this two-year cycle. Like on the fish we would do that
15 every other year and then you would have wildlife every
16 other year, so probably have a meeting every year, but
17 fish you would only do every other year and wildlife
18 every other year, so you'd still have a meeting every
19 year.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: If that would be the
22 case, that's probably the route I would prefer instead
23 of eliminating too many things, you know. It would
24 make it pretty weak. But if you go every other year,
25 you know, I think that that would still work. You
26 know, the State does the Board of Game every two years
27 and the Board of Fish every three years. You know,
28 they do take up change requests, which could happen
29 here if we went to two years, you know. All you would
30 need is, you know, follow some criteria for that to
31 happen. That would probably be better than to take
32 away too many other things, you know.

33

34 Okay. Are we done with that report?

35

36 MR. CAMPBELL: I think we are.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Cliff, next is?

39

40 MR. EDENSHAW: Laura, he's not ready.
41 BBNA. She was waiting for Molly and others.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. I think
44 what.....

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW: So we could go ahead and
47 move on with Orville and Ron.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I think what
50 happened, Molly is probably coming over in that plane

1 that Pete's going to go back on, so she's probably
2 coming down now, so maybe we'll just wait until.....

3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: We'll just move on to C
5 with the Alaska Peninsula. Also, Mr. Chair, while
6 they're arm wrestling over seeing who's going to come
7 up, I could just -- you know, when Rod was talking, at
8 the next meeting, you know, if we're going down that
9 path, you know, we could sit down and take time to go
10 through this book, too, with the Council, because you
11 bring up the Katmai bear. You know, if you look in the
12 regulations for 9 -- at least under our -- for 9A, C
13 and D, there's no Federal season, so there's some
14 things that the Council could do to shore up their
15 portions if they felt, you know, proposals needed to be
16 submitted. That's something we could do at the next
17 meeting, you know, to talk to the Councils, and sit
18 there and tell them to look through there, because this
19 next cycle we're going to address fisheries proposals,
20 but certainly at the next meeting, you know, I can go
21 through the book as well as, you know, the other
22 Council members, and if they felt there needed to be
23 some changes in wildlife, or even the fisheries, then
24 address those and take the appropriate action, whether
25 it's a proposal or else it could be administrative in
26 OSM, but that's something the Council could also do.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, we could do
29 that on new business. Discuss that.

30
31 Ron, are you going to.....

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He can do the
34 short stuff.

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: They're still wrestling.

37
38 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb with the Alaska
39 Peninsula/ Becharof National Wildlife Refuge with our
40 agency report. And there is some copies, some written
41 copies over there, and the handout I gave you yesterday
42 has all this information in it. I'll be quick.

43
44 I'll start off with caribou.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm looking for my
47 handout. Just a second.

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: Sure. I've got to get
50 organized myself.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: The one that starts with
2 North Peninsula Caribou?

3
4 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.

7
8 MR. SQUIBB: Just a summary of what
9 we've done and work with the Northern Alaska Peninsula
10 Caribou Herd, and this is all in combination with
11 working closely with ADF&G. The herd is still in
12 decline. The work we did on it this last year was the
13 composition counts, which we do every year, and working
14 closely with ADF&G. And when they're out in the
15 helicopter, they did composition on 1700 and a little
16 more than that caribou, and out of those, you know, the
17 composition they derived out of that was 14 calves per
18 100 cows. And 14 is pretty low. It's not going to
19 bring the herd back any time soon. It's not even at a
20 level of maintenance. So, yeah, they're still in
21 decline. You know, it will be a while before the range
22 allows the animals to be in better condition. But the
23 bull ratio is fine at 26 bulls per 100 cows. I think
24 ADF&G likes to get 25 or better, so the bull/cow ratio
25 is good. So it's not a problem of the bulls being able
26 to -- or not being able to clean (ph) the cows, so
27 that's good. But again the calf survival is poor.

28
29 We have been working in the last couple
30 of years with monitoring some calves, up to 50, 52 or
31 so, and following them to their demise, and those who
32 have survived, you know, long enough to get up to speed
33 and be able to run with the herd. so we are going to
34 continue that again this year. It will be the third
35 year.

36
37 And we still have the cows that we're
38 watching. I think we -- let's see, we have about 50,
39 52 cows that we have given the anti-parasitic drug,
40 Ivermectin, which I think -- not 50/50. There's a few
41 more calves -- or, excuse me, cows with that Ivermectin
42 treatment versus a slightly smaller number of those
43 that were not treated to get a comparison to see what
44 would happen if we could control the parasite disease
45 problem in those gals. In the last two years we
46 haven't gotten -- well, there's a trend that direction,
47 but it's not been a real dramatic turn around, but
48 we're still pursuing that. This will be the third and
49 presumably last year of that.

50

1 Let's see. And feel free to ask
2 questions if you have at any time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: While you're still
5 on caribou, 1725, is that the population?

6
7 MR. SQUIBB: No, no, no. That's the
8 number of -- let's see how I ought to word this.
9 That's the number of caribou that they got the
10 composition on. So there is considerably more than
11 1700. In other words, these are -- the 1700 includes
12 only those animals that the helicopter got on and has
13 determined, okay, that's a cow, that's a bull, that's a
14 large bull. Those are only -- that includes only the
15 ones where the helicopter crew in getting the
16 composition made, you know, a decision of what this
17 individual animal was. We put them in there. And the
18 way they do that, they have a helicopter, and it's
19 basically like a cowboy, you know, herding cattle,
20 only, you know, the cowboy is the helicopter. And so
21 whenever they -- you know, I wasn't in the helicopter,
22 I was helping as a spotter to find caribou. And so
23 we'd find a bunch of caribou and at that time of year
24 it was mostly around, oh, Whale Mountain and the upper
25 end of Becharof, that's the greatest area -- or, excuse
26 me, the greatest numbers we saw that. So we'd find a
27 big bunch of caribou, give the lat and lon and then
28 we'd go off and try and find another large group.
29 They'd come in with the helicopter and then they'd
30 start -- they'd cut a bunch off. You know, they can't
31 do it all at once, so they cut off 10, 20 animals, and
32 then they, you know, get behind each of them and say,
33 calf, calf, cow, cow, large bull, calf. And then
34 they'd go back and grab another bunch. And it's not
35 perfect, so you never get every caribou caught. You
36 never get the -- you know, there's no way we -- I don't
37 know what the proportion is, but there's no way we ever
38 get close to getting a determination of, you know,
39 whether they're cow or calf or a large bull or a medium
40 bull.

41
42 So, you know, certainly, well, I'd say
43 we're -- you know, that's not a number of the herd.
44 The herd's much more than that, because, you know, some
45 of them slide off, and we don't get them all.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you have an
48 estimate?

49
50 MR. SQUIBB: At this point, no, I don't

1 have an official estimate for the herd. I would
2 imagine it's well over seven -- or, excuse me, well
3 over 2,000.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, that's more
6 than -- a couple of years ago, if I recall, they were
7 estimating like 14 or 1500, so that's more than the
8 estimate a couple years ago.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. My memory's not
11 good on that. But I believe.....

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: That's what I remember.

14
15 MR. SQUIBB: So it is somewhat a larger
16 amount.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It seems to be
19 coming up, so maybe.....

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: I think it's -- I think I
22 would not conclude that. The number may be bigger,
23 but, you know, that -- we always don't see a lot of the
24 animals, and so this time around when we did the comp
25 count, we might have just -- it might have been
26 coincidence that we were seeing a larger proportion
27 than we normally do in the past. So I don't think the
28 herd's -- I don't think we could -- you know, there
29 might be a small number up or something, but the herd
30 is going to be in decline, because the calf survival is
31 so dismal. So, you know, and odds are we miss some
32 caribou in previous years, and this year maybe the herd
33 was bunched up better and we were more efficient in
34 terms of doing a comp count.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That was one concern
37 I had when they said it was 14 or 1500, I was concerned
38 that they weren't counting all the caribou, because it
39 had dropped down so much, Rod.

40
41 MR. SQUIBB: Exactly. It's when
42 they're scattered in smaller groups, it's harder to
43 find them, and like I say, it may -- I would assume
44 until we have more substantial data that it's in
45 decline until proven otherwise. And I don't think this
46 proves it otherwise at this point I guess.

47
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm looking at this
49 other statement you have in here that says that the
50 composition of this year's grouping was 14 calves per

1 100 cows, and the calf composition during the last two
2 years had been 7 cows (sic) per 100 cows. You still
3 don't see that as a come-back either?
4
5 MR. SQUIBB: Well, it's better.
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Granted, it still
8 stinks, but it's double what it was.
9
10 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, it's better. That
11 is definitely better, but that's going to be -- it's
12 not going to be enough to grow. It's maybe enough to
13 slow down.....
14
15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Hold its own?
16
17 MR. SQUIBB:the slide or maybe
18 hold its own, but still I think to hold its own, and
19 this isn't my area of expertise, but I think you're
20 looking at 25 per hundred, you know, after they're on
21 their own and can run with the herd. That's kind of a
22 minimum for stability. So again that's -- I hadn't
23 been thinking in those terms for a while, so don't
24 quote me on that, but somewhere around there. You
25 know, if it's.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You mentioned the
28 range.....
29
30 MR. SQUIBB: The range, yes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:is coming back.
33 If that is.....
34
35 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. We -- go ahead.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: But when it comes --
38 you mentioned when it comes back, so it must be -- the
39 range must be getting better, because the herd has been
40 pretty low for quite a while, so the range must be
41 getting better. As that range gets better, then there
42 should be more food and the caribou should be
43 healthier.
44
45 MR. SQUIBB: Right.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So it should -- the
48 calf -- the ratio should go up, so then that should
49 bring the -- once we limit -- once that happens, it
50 should start.....

1 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Once the range
2 does fully, you know, come back, yes. And again I'm
3 very conservative on this, because I don't want, you
4 know, people to jump to conclusions that, you know, the
5 herd is going to come up any time soon.

6
7 MS. ALECK: I have a question.

8
9 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Go ahead.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Go ahead, Virginia.

12
13 MS. ALECK: Yeah, I was just wondering,
14 have you guys done anything with the bulls to check on
15 their age composition and also maybe predators that are
16 feeding on the calves?

17
18 MR. SQUIBB: Predator work per se,
19 well, we have started collaring some wolves to learn
20 something about them, but we're just starting into
21 that, and I'll talk a little bit more on that. And,
22 I'm sorry, Virginia, did I space the other questions?

23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: Age comps on bulls.

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, the comp. Yeah, they
27 do composition on the bulls as well, you know, and the
28 bulls -- for the calves, you know, it's a calf. For
29 the cows, it's a cow. With the bulls, they break it
30 into two to three categories: large bulls, small bulls
31 and intermediate, I don't know exactly the terms Fish
32 and Game uses. And so we do monitor the bulls as well,
33 but that's only in numbers. We haven't worked with the
34 bulls in the sense of checking them to see if there's a
35 problem in, you know, cleaning the cows. We think, no,
36 that that's not a problem, because the calf -- when you
37 go -- when we have had, you know, been on the ground in
38 the major calving areas the last two years, and it's
39 not -- we're not seeing calves on cows. It's the
40 survival of the calves that is a problem. So they're
41 dropping them, but, you know, as you said earlier about
42 the range condition, they're -- you know, the mortality
43 of the calves for the first two weeks of life is sort
44 of normal, and, you know, it's brutal. I mean, they
45 get wiped out. You know, the calves -- you put collars
46 on the little things, go check on them, and they're
47 getting wiped out left and right. And in a herd that's
48 in good condition, and Lem did a nice comparison with
49 some Interior herds that were, you know, in good
50 condition, that weren't in decline, they were in stable

1 herds, that, you know, our calves are making it -- you
2 know, they lose about, you know, say 50 percent in the
3 first two weeks of life, but then in a healthy herd,
4 well, like these Interior herds that Lem compared, they
5 can run with the herd. And once they're mixed in with
6 the herd, and, you know, they're small little groups,
7 but once they're mixed in with the herd, they're -- you
8 know, it's harder for the predators to get to them.
9 But our calves are not able to do that after the first
10 two weeks of life. They're hav -- it takes them a
11 little longer, because they're nutritionally stressed,
12 because the range isn't so good, the cow's not making
13 as much milk as she could in an ideal situation. And
14 so -- some cows are probably in better shape and
15 they're getting calves off, but on average, we're not
16 getting the calf recruitment into the herd as soon as
17 in a healthy herd. In other words, they're
18 undernourished if you will, and it takes them longer to
19 get that situation, that growth that will give them the
20 speed to stay with the herd, and more -- better avoid
21 the predators. So we're stuck with that.

22

23 And the range, like I say, there's also
24 -- you talk about -- you know, we can have good years
25 and bad years in terms of the forage, but it's still
26 the range, it's going to take quite some time to fully
27 recover where it will start -- you know, and the herd's
28 going to be on the rocks for some time. And until
29 proven otherwise, I don't want to mislead anybody into
30 thinking we are going to have a quick recovery.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The range takes how
33 long to grow -- I mean, the food takes how long to grow
34 that? Twenty years?

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: I don't know if it's 20.
37 I know it's got to be more than 10 anyway. It's what
38 this range -- you know, it's unique. You know, in the
39 Interior and a lot of places lichens are, you know, one
40 of the major winter food sources. There's very little
41 lichen cover on the Peninsula.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What stage do you
44 estimate the range at right now? Is it more than it
45 used to be?

46

47 MR. SQUIBB: It's more than -- when's
48 used to be? What -- how far back used to be?

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: When we had the

1 declines, they were saying there's the -- when it
2 dropped down severely that.....
3
4 MR. SQUIBB: Well, it wasn't as
5 severe.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ:I mean, Tier II
8 and then no hunting at all.
9
10 MR. SQUIBB: Right.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It must be better
13 than it was back then? And.....
14
15 MR. SQUIBB: I wouldn't venture a
16 guess, because, you know, as a herd declines, yes,
17 there's less mouths to feed, but, you know, the ones
18 that were there the year before and the two years
19 before that and three years before that, they were
20 chewing it down. And so it's -- and also it's a
21 quality phenomenon, because, you know, going way back
22 to when the herd came out of the last decline in the
23 40s or the 50s when they started to grow in numbers
24 again, the range hadn't been heavily grazed for a long
25 time, for, you know, 20 years. And so it's, you know,
26 going to be a slow process for them to recover.
27
28 And then the other part of the equation
29 is all forage plants are not the same. Some have
30 higher quality, and, you know, more easily digested.
31 And so you can grow faster on that. And others aren't.
32 Now, generally animals when they move onto a range are
33 going to go after the most nutritious, the things that
34 have the least digestive inhibitors in them. There's
35 this big game going on. The plants don't want to get
36 eaten, so they're playing games chemically to, you
37 know, this is over millennia, to make themselves less
38 palatable. But then, you know, the animals are
39 fighting, coming at them to try and get them in their
40 prime stages when they're least -- you know, when the
41 plants aren't rank and they haven't gotten the
42 secondary roots in them.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So you really don't
45 have an idea what stage the range is at?
46
47 MR. SQUIBB: Because you -- yeah, we
48 don't know that, because we haven't gotten out there,
49 and there's really nothing to compare with. And that's
50 -- you know, getting on the ground and doing a lot of

1 plots takes a lot of time, and we don't know this. You
2 know, it's not easily -- it's not like a one, two,
3 three plan of how you say it's good or bad. And we're
4 using the condition of the animal to be a
5 representative of the range quality. Because when the
6 animals get in good shape, we know the range has
7 recovered.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's what I was
10 going to say, that apparently we probably won't know
11 what the range is going to be like until the herd comes
12 back, and then we'll say, well, the range must be good
13 now, because the herd came back, so.....

14

15 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I mean, it's
16 circular, exactly the way you said it. And there are
17 -- and like I say, there's peculiarities about this
18 range, like lichen is the prime winter food for
19 caribou, but there's hardly any lichen out there.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: One more question.

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: But, yeah, they seem to
24 have done fine. They haven't had lichen for a long
25 time. In '97 I noticed there wasn't any lichen out
26 there.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What kind of
29 population do we need to have before we can have a hunt
30 again?

31

32 MR. SQUIBB: On that one, I don't know.
33 I can't tell you that.

34

35 MS. MORRIS LYON: You probably need to
36 ask Lem that.

37

38 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.

41

42 MR. SQUIBB: That would be a better one
43 to ask, and I don't know what he would say on that
44 either. So I -- you know, I hate being up here being
45 the bearer of bad news, but I.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, I appreciate
48 it. Those other guys didn't want to do it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So I don't want, you

1 know -- yeah, there will be some better years for calf
2 survival and some worse years for calf survival, but,
3 you know, I don't want people to get excited about
4 these small changes. Yeah, anything's good when, you
5 know, we get a -- you know, if we can get 15 -- instead
6 of 14, if we can get 15 or if we can get 20 calves per
7 100 cows, that's all good, because it's -- you know,
8 we're in a holding action. And if we -- you know, the
9 stronger we can be, and the more individuals we get
10 through, it's all good, but it's going to be a while
11 before that herd's going up. And I just don't want to
12 mislead anybody into thinking otherwise, because it's
13 not -- you know, if it comes fast, great, I'd love to
14 be wrong, but I just don't want to mislead people.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm just trying to
17 keep informed here.

18

19 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Yeah. I'm just
20 trying not to misinform anybody on that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you,
23 sir.

24

25 MR. SQUIBB: And I appreciate your
26 questions, and I wish I could, you know, give you
27 better answers or happier answers, but I can't.

28

29 So I'll go on with moose now.

30 Basically, you know, I spoke about this yesterday. We
31 -- the good news is, as I mentioned yesterday, we have
32 gotten an estimate of areas we have surveyed on our
33 moose abundance estimate of about -- so we have, you
34 know, hard data on the area down past Black Lake -- or
35 to Black Lake from -- so in that area from Katmai Park
36 on Bristol Bay drainages to Black Lake or so, we're
37 pretty confident from our statistician and the work
38 we've done that there's probably about 2500 moose in
39 that area. And our extrapolation beyond that, or by
40 the statistician, it was the best shot he could take,
41 but again that's -- beyond that is unknown until we get
42 in there and actually do survey work, but his estimate
43 would push us perhaps around 3,000 moose in the area if
44 that estimate is correct. And we know we have 2500
45 with the methods we've been going with, which is some
46 good news.

47

48 And then -- so any questions on --
49 that's the main thing we've got going with moose.

50

1 We didn't get any trend surveys this
2 year, because of lack of snow cover. We made some
3 flights and didn't get -- you know, there wasn't good
4 snow cover when we were able to get out. And also we
5 did do -- after antlers had dropped, we did go out and
6 worked the Black Lake area. The weather that day
7 wouldn't let us get right up close to the mountains, so
8 we didn't do the same area we counted the year before,
9 but in the area we did count, it seemed like about the
10 same numbers to the recollection of folks who had been
11 out there the previous year. So there's, you know, so
12 indication in that area anyway that there's -- it's
13 stable numbers for moose.

14
15 So that's all I've got on moose unless
16 you have some other questions.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We talked about
19 moose quite a bit yesterday.

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Then the only bit
22 of -- let's see. Then the only new thing we have going
23 is we have -- we were able when they were doing the
24 caribou capture last year, we also captured some
25 wolves, and we've got collars on -- we captured 12
26 wolves in eight groups, and of those -- they're all on
27 VHF beacons. They all have the normal transmitter on
28 them, but we can hear the beep-beep-beep and fly
29 directionally to them and find them. And on top of
30 that three of those have GPS collars on them as well,
31 so we can remotely download and get home range data.
32 And we're committed to try and get maybe 20 more as
33 best we can is our objective, so we can have a better
34 sense of wolf activity on the caribou range. And we're
35 just getting started on that, and we've made some
36 progress, but we'll see what we can learn about the
37 wolf populations.

38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just out of
40 curiosity, from your preliminaries, what you've gotten
41 so far on your tracking, are you finding any surprises
42 with larger ranges or more migratory animals than you'd
43 expected or.....

44
45 MR. SQUIBB: Well, actually we only
46 have the 12 or so, and some are in the same pack, some
47 aren't. And right now we're just sort of in the, you
48 know, gee whiz part of it of, you know -- and our
49 sample sizes aren't very big, so we're kind of
50 learning. We want to get those other GPS collars out

1 to try and get a better sense of -- you know, because
2 that gives us a lot of data. Because when we fly them,
3 you know, you don't always find them. Probably we've
4 got a two-thirds chance of finding them. They do --
5 one thing, I've only gone out on a couple of those
6 flights, and they do move a lot. That's interesting.
7 It's -- you know, they're not as easy to find
8 repeatedly as a moose when we've had them -- or even
9 the caribou, because they move, but they're -- you
10 know, they stay bunched up. So it's very interesting.
11 I'm learning. But, you know, if we can get some more
12 GPS collars out and move a little farther south. Right
13 now we have Big Creek and the Naknek Drainage down
14 beyond to -- then we have from there down to beyond
15 Port Heiden. We've got a couple of packs there, so
16 they're spread out, and maybe we can go a little
17 farther south and then fill in some of the holes up
18 here. And then once we get a good number of fixes
19 around one pack if you will, then we might -- you can
20 also perhaps -- the idea is we can perhaps estimate
21 where other packs were by the holes. You know, in
22 other words, because we know we have a pack here and a
23 pack there and a pack there, and then there's nothing
24 in here from the wolves we collared, and then we can
25 say, well, aha, there's probably a pack in there that
26 we just didn't get a collar on. So we're going to try
27 and pursue things like that to get more information on
28 them and see what we can learn.

29

30 Any questions on that?

31

32 MS. MORRIS LYON: In other words, no.

33

34 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, I'm sorry. Repeat
35 your question. I wandered off there. I'm sorry.

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I'm just -- I
38 said from your preliminary results that you've got from
39 the tagging, have you noticed any unusual?

40

41 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, we don't -- no,
42 nothing unusual.

43

44 MS. MORRIS LYON: None that you can yet
45 see?

46

47 MR. SQUIBB: And we've already lost two
48 of them. You know, two of them are dead in the time,
49 just in the last few months, so I -- and I think that's
50 the norm for wolves. They don't live a whole long

1 time, but they do their thing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a quick question, or
6 one comment. After all the complaints I've heard about
7 wolves, I'm glad to see you're able to fund a program.

8

9

10 Second, I heard a rumor that somebody
11 got like 11 wolves last winter down in the Nushagak
12 area. And was that a rumor or do you have any --
13 that's a substantial chunk I would think in there.

14

15 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, I think I heard
16 that, too. I talk to Tim Enright occasionally, and the
17 last I talked to him, he said he couldn't get any place
18 to the wolves for some reasons. They weren't coming
19 around, so I -- my recollection anyway. But, yeah, I
20 don't know much about harvest.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: They don't want to be
23 shot.

24

25 MR. SQUIBB: Eleven. Yeah, I have a
26 vague recollection of hearing that some place, but I
27 can't remember the source.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks.

30

31 MR. SQUIBB: Sorry I can't do better on
32 that one. any other questions. Well, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thanks, Ron.

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: My pleasure.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Togiak National
39 Wildlife Refuge.

40

41 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there isn't
42 anyone here from there. I'll just go ahead and.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. Yeah. Paul,
45 he said yesterday they have their report in here.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: It's a pretty thorough
48 one, too, it looks like. (Microphone off) a lot of
49 those advisory committee meetings, so.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
2
3 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, Ted Krieg
4 has some input he'll provide to the Council.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.
7
8 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg with Subsistence
9 Division, Fish and Game out of the Dillingham office.
10
11 I just briefly was going to update you,
12 Mr. Chairman and Council members, briefly update you on
13 a couple of projects that FIS, Fisheries Information
14 Service projects funding that comes through your
15 Council. And you've gotten reports and updates
16 previously.
17
18 But one project that's kind of an on-
19 going, and we're nearing completion of that, there's a
20 draft report being reviewed. It's in the review
21 process and that's going to take a few months anyway,
22 and so it will be a while before the final report comes
23 out, but that's customary trade and barter of
24 subsistence fish. And the communities that were
25 involved in that were Dillingham, Nondalton, King
26 Salmon, Naknek and Togiak. So that report will be,
27 like I said, coming out in a couple months.
28
29 The other project, and Robin Levine
30 from BBNA may have some more extensive reporting on
31 this project when she arrives, but there's a
32 subsistence salmon project that's going to start this
33 summer, and the collaborators are BBNA, the National
34 Park Service, namely Lake Clark personnel, and then
35 Subsistence Division of Fish and Game. And it's kind
36 of a different -- excuse me, kind of a different
37 project, because we're actually going to -- it
38 includes, well, the four Lake Clark and Iliamna Lake
39 communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna and
40 Newhalen, and we're going to do what we call some
41 participant observation. So for like about six weeks
42 this summer, we'll be up there actually participating
43 in the subsistence fishery and documenting, you know,
44 what's going on during the season. That's the first
45 phase of it. There's some continuing parts of that.
46 So that will be starting this summer, probably June.
47
48 And that's all I have at this point,
49 unless there's any questions.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Questions for Ted.
2 Thank you, Ted.
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Look forward to the
5 results on those.
6
7 MR. KRIEG: Thank you.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Next is Lake Clark.
10 Let's take a quick break.
11
12 (Off record)
13
14 (Virginia Aleck leaves the meeting)
15
16 (On record)
17
18 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Mary, who do we have
19 helping you?
20
21 MS. MCBURNEY: Well, I would like to
22 introduce Laura Sorenson. And for the record, I'm Mary
23 McBurney, subsistence manager for Lake Clark, Katmai
24 and Aniakchak. And Laura has been with the park or
25 affiliated with the park for two seasons now. She
26 first came to us as an BBNA fisheries intern, and then
27 got to know Dr. Carol Ann Woody and Carol Ann was so
28 impressed with Laura's work from her first season in
29 Lake Clark that she asked Laura to come back on as a
30 seasonal last year, and we're looking forward to a
31 third season with Laura this coming year, and working
32 with the humpback whitefish project.
33
34 So today Laura's going to give you an
35 update on the humpback whitefish project, a little bit
36 of information about where we've been and where we're
37 heading this coming season with the third year of work.
38 So I'll just turn it over to Laura.
39
40 MS. SORENSEN: I don't want to get any
41 more technology involved. My name is Laura Sorensen,
42 and I will be speaking to you about the Lake Clark
43 humpback whitefish project. And as Mary said, I had
44 come to BBNA as a Partners intern in 2005. I worked
45 for the Fisheries Research Institute on Lake Aleknagik,
46 and while there I participated in their daily creek
47 surveys and gathering limnological data around the
48 lake. Upon completion of the program, interns gave
49 presentations to the funders, and among those present
50 was Carol Woody who offered me a position for the

1 following season. And that's how I ended up working on
2 the whitefish project.

3
4 Project funding was provided by FIS of
5 OSM with matching funds from the NPS, the USGS and BBNA
6 Partners Program.

7
8 So the objectives of the talk today,
9 I'd like to give you a brief background of subsistence
10 importance of the humpback whitefish, and the project
11 rationale with methods and results to date. Humpback
12 whitefish are the second most important food fish to
13 the residents of the Kvichak River watershed, because
14 they're available year round. Seventy to 100 percent
15 of Kvichak River watershed household annually harvest
16 18 to 50,000 usable pounds of non-salmon fish, with
17 whitefish being their primary target. And about 75
18 percent of the households of Nondalton participate in
19 the harvest of humpback whitefish in areas within and
20 adjacent to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, a
21 Federal subsistence management unit.

22
23 The project rationale. A decline in
24 numbers was reported in 1999 by subsistence users of
25 Igiugig and Nondalton. The whitefish harvest dropped
26 from 13,000 to 1,000 fish from the mid 90s to the early
27 2000s. Reasons for the reduced harvest remain unclear
28 as catch per unit effort and basic biologic data are
29 lacking. Therefore the species was prioritized for
30 study in the Kvichak drainage.

31
32 And this graph illustrates the decline.
33 The highest yellow bar represents the numbers of the
34 whitefish harvest in the mid 90s, and the black bar
35 adjacent to it shows the decline to the early 2000s.
36 And the other fish on here are the other percent
37 composition of, well, the non-salmon fish that they
38 harvested.

39
40 So the objectives of this study are to
41 characterize the life history and also to identify and
42 map the essential habitats of the humpback whitefish.
43 The study site is the Lake Clark National Park and
44 Preserve as you can see here.

45
46 In 2005 the focus of the study was
47 finding the fish and starting to collect life history
48 information, such as age and size, and also to attempt
49 to verify anadromy to see if the fish were going down
50 to the estuary or not, because in the Yukon they do

1 have fish that do so.

2

3 And this map shows all locations that
4 we sampled in 2005. Sampling was conducted over a
5 range of randomly selected fish habitats, primarily
6 litoral zones due to gear strengths. And based on
7 input from local subsistence fishers, fish eggs were
8 used to prebait sampling areas and traps in an effort
9 to attract fish to the gear. Various capture methods
10 were used, including seines, hook and line, gill nets,
11 variable mesh gillnets, fyke nets, minnow traps and
12 hoop nets.

13

14 When fish were captured, length and
15 scales were taken for age analysis. On the right,
16 Tatiana Oskok is taking scale samples, and on the left
17 an otolith is exposed for collection. 100 fish was
18 sacrificed to collect otoliths, because they're often
19 more accurate in estimating age than the scales. And
20 the otoliths were also used to verify anadromy.

21

22 In 2006, to determine the essential
23 habitats of the humpback whitefish, they were
24 surgically implanted with radio tags and radio
25 telemetry was used to track them around the watershed
26 using boats, plans and remote receiver stations. And
27 this map shows the proposed tagging sites and the radio
28 telemetry stations.

29

30 We used the capture methods, I'm sorry,
31 that were most successful for the year before. These
32 were constantly monitored floating gillnets and seines.
33 Fish were picked from the net, placed in an anesthetic
34 bath of aqueous and from the bath they were weighed and
35 placed into the surgery cradles. And the middle is a
36 photo of this complete surgery and these are just more
37 photos of the surgery.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's for the
40 implants?

41

42 MS. SORENSEN: That's for the implants,
43 yeah. The fish were placed into freshwater bins to
44 recover and then subsequently released.

45

46 Tracking. Tracking took place by boat,
47 plane and downloading of the remote receivers every one
48 to 14 days depending on weather.

49

50 MR. EDENSHAW: Laura, when the Council

1 approved the project, was it a two-year project? Was
2 it funded for two years?
3
4 MS. SORENSEN: I'm not sure.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: Do you remember, Mary,
7 if it was three years?
8
9 MS. MCBURNEY: I thought it was three
10 years.
11
12 MR. EDENSHAW: Three years. So this
13 past summer was the second year?
14
15 MS. SORENSEN: Yes, that's correct. So
16 our results to date, this graph shows the size
17 frequency from the first year of study over there
18 measuring fish. As you can see we found a large number
19 of fish from the 80 to 120 millimeter range. And
20 closely following that was adult fish at 400
21 millimeters.
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: And that would be all
24 related to your sampling gear?
25
26 MS. SORENSEN: I don't know.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Did that have
29 anything.....
30
31 MS. SORENSEN: We used two-inch stretch
32 gear. Actually this year we started. We had the most
33 success with that, because it didn't gill the fish, but
34 they go caught.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's this scale
37 again?
38
39 MS. SORENSEN: Oh, the horizontal axis,
40 that's the lengths of the fish, and then the vertical,
41 that's how many of that size we got. So there are 800
42 total, and the largest number were juveniles that we
43 found.
44
45 And this is aging the fish. I believe
46 these are scales, and -- oh, you can hardly see it. Up
47 in the upper left, one bar of light and one bar of dark
48 is one year in the fish's life, and so that fish is
49 four years old. And down at the bottom right you can
50 see that fish is actually 23 (ph).

1 And age frequency. The 100 fish that
2 were sacrificed to collect otoliths, we did use those
3 to compare age to the scales, and so on the X with the
4 age of the fish, and on the Y how many of those ages
5 that we saw. And we saw more 6, 12, and 16 year old
6 fish.

7
8 The strontium study, to measure
9 anadromy in a fish, you see the concentration levels of
10 strontium, and we took that from the otoliths. The top
11 two rows are examples of freshwater fish, and that's
12 the concentration of strontium they have. You can see
13 there are no definitive spikes. And the bottom two
14 rows are anadromous fish, and there are definitive
15 spikes in their strontium levels. And so these are our
16 fish, the 10 that we sampled, and there are no
17 definitive spikes in ours, so we can't conclude whether
18 they to the, I'm sorry, to the estuary or not. And
19 further studies would be needed.

20
21 So defining essential habitats for
22 2006, again our tagging locations are the triangles,
23 and the circles are remote receiver stations, and again
24 this is a remote receiver station. And I actually have
25 a couple of examples for you of fish movement paths.
26 This fish was tagged in Port Alsworth in mid May, and
27 he travelled down Lake Clark to the outlet, went into
28 Six-Mile, past the town of Nondalton to the Nondalton
29 fish camp, swam back up into Lake Clark, went up
30 Chulitna Bay into the Chulitna River in late fall, and
31 was last picked up back in Port Alsworth where we
32 tagged him in the summer.

33
34 And our second fish was tagged at the
35 Nondalton fish camp in Six-Mile Lake. And he also went
36 up the Chulitna River in late fall, and again was also
37 picked up back down at the Nondalton fish camp where we
38 tagged him in mid July.

39
40 And do some of the conclusions that we
41 made this summer, we saw the most adult humpback
42 whitefish in these areas. We presume that these are
43 the summer feeding areas. Again more studies are
44 needed to know that for sure. And in late fall is when
45 these fish spawn and since the majority of our fish
46 went up the Chulitna River, we assume that it's a
47 probable spawning area. We would need to do fall
48 sampling.

49
50 And so whitefish are important to

1 subsistence users, but numbers are declining. We are
2 not sure why, so we do need to continue the studies.

3
4 Our plans for this coming field season,
5 we would like to finish up the life history section and
6 also to tag and track 100 more fish. And we'd actually
7 like to put another remote receiver tower down at the
8 town of Igiugig. Our farthest tower right now is in
9 Newhalen. We'd like -- we had a couple that went past
10 it. We haven't found them in Iliamna. We did one
11 quick high fly over. But we would like to see if
12 they're going past Igiugig.

13
14 Thank you for your time.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You said that those
17 don't go down to -- can you tell if they go to the
18 ocean or not?

19
20 MS. SORENSEN: With those 10 fish we
21 were not able -- we would have to do further studies,
22 and part of putting a tower at Igiugig is it is much
23 closer to the estuary than Newhalen, which is on the,
24 you know, north end of Lake Iliamna. It would help us
25 to find out, because if they are going past Igiugig,
26 then we'll have to put towers further down the river.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Because the reason
29 why I say this, you know, people in Igiugig would catch
30 them right about freeze-up in October, end of October,
31 and they're always -- it seems they're coming up the
32 river.

33
34 MS. SORENSEN: Really?

35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: They must go back
37 down if they go down to the ocean under the ice or
38 something where nobody catches them, but there's some
39 years -- there used to be a lot more than there are
40 now.

41
42 MS. SORENSEN: Yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's when
45 everybody harvests them is right before the freeze up.
46 In some years there's freeze ups -- then they show up
47 it's during freeze up, and so they're limited on the
48 fishing, because of too much ice. But my uncle says
49 they come from down in the ocean, and that's what I
50 always thought, because they're coming from down river.

1 And early in October, if you fish down at the flats,
2 you'll catch them before -- then later on they'll start
3 -- maybe a week later they'll show up around Igiugig
4 and then there will be quite a few. So they're coming
5 from down that way some place, because if you fish down
6 the flats, you'll catch them before you catch them in
7 Igiugig.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: You might have an
10 anadromous population and an non-anadromous population.
11 All these kinds of studies do is make you ask more
12 questions and want to do more studies, but fascinating.
13 Are you done?

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Do you know if anybody's
18 looked at these -- you said you kind of have a -- you
19 call them modes, 6-year, at 12-year and 16. Has there
20 been any attempt to kind of look at that with salmon
21 escapement?

22
23 MS. SORENSEN: No, I'm not sure. I can
24 give you the number for Dan Young who works in Port
25 Alsworth at the National Park Service, and he would
26 have more information than I do. He is one of the
27 project investigators.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: I would think that he
30 or.....

31
32 MS. SORENSEN: Or Carol Ann.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY:Carol Ann would
35 automatically start looking at that. And I thought it
36 was really interesting that -- excellent. I'm glad to
37 see something besides salmon.

38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I want to know
40 what were your conclusions then on your, realizing that
41 you have a very small sampling of the otoliths, but
42 your otoliths versus scales. Was that basically saying
43 that those fish were actually older than you thought
44 they were, those juvenile fish?

45
46 MS. SORENSEN: Well, I can't answer
47 that directly. You would have to ask Carol Ann or Dan,
48 but I can say that when comparing otolith to scale age,
49 scale age was always younger. When a fish reach a
50 certain length, probably around 4 or 500 millimeters,

1 it's really hard to read the scales, because there are
2 fish that live longer than 27 years. So it just
3 becomes so compact, it's really hard to read.
4
5 MS. MORRIS LYON: But it was kind of a
6 trend that was showing?
7
8 MS. SORENSEN: It was, yes.
9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. And what about
11 -- so what do you estimate age of maturity at for these
12 whitefish for reproducing?
13
14 MS. SORENSEN: I'm sorry, I couldn't
15 say.
16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: That you don't know?
18
19 MS. SORENSEN: No. I know that it's at
20 whenever they reach 400 millimeters in length we had
21 considered them to be mature.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's the oldest
24 ones that you guys caught?
25
26 MS. SORENSEN: Twenty-seven was the one
27 that we sampled.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Twenty-seven years
30 old?
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Lack of population.
33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's what I'm
35 wondering.
36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: That's what happened to
38 Pacific.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you.
41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you also.
43
44 MR. KRIEG: Did you catch any other
45 species of whitefish?
46
47 MS. SORENSEN: Round. We've had a few
48 round. We wrote down just the numbers of them that we
49 were catching. We didn't measure them, we didn't take
50 samples of them.

1 MR. KRIEG: (Inaudible, microphone not
2 turned on)
3
4 MS. SORENSEN: No, not really. We got
5 a lot of pike.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: No sturgeon?
8
9 MS. SORENSEN: No.
10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: No suckers?
12
13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You probably thought
14 about it.
15
16 MS. SORENSEN: We got suckers.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, they might be
19 important, too.
20
21 MS. SORENSEN: They might be.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: They're up there.
24 There's one at Fish and Game office that got caught
25 down here by Naknek Trading in a subsistence net. You
26 guys have all seen that one at in King Salmon office,
27 that one that's about that long.
28
29 MS. SORENSEN: Well, we didn't catch
30 any of those.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: They're up there
33 from what I understand.
34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: Was it.....
36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: They're probably just
38 not hanging out at the same place as the whitefish I
39 would assume.
40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: It would be nice to see.
42 Curiosity. Was it just a really random sturgeon, or is
43 there a thriving population. I would think you would
44 see a few more if there was.....
45
46 (Off record comments)
47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thank you, Laura.
49
50 MS. SORENSEN: Thank you.

1 (Off record comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I guess we're ready.

4

5 MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman. Good
6 morning. My name is Ralph Moore. I'm superintendent
7 of Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak
8 National Monument and preserve.

9

10 We have two sets of material that we
11 passed around. And the first one I'd like to talk
12 about is the one that is addressed to Randy Alvarez as
13 Chairman of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.
14 I have a cover letter here that accompanies a report.
15 At our meeting in Dillingham, I was asked about the
16 Kakhonak ATV issue. And I assured the group at that
17 time that that was a very important priority for me,
18 and for the National Park Service.

19

20 The ATV use in the Preserve to support
21 subsistence activities is a question that's been
22 pending for many years. A study was done in 2000,
23 seven years ago, and it's taken a considerable time to
24 be able to get this out to the public. So attached --
25 we've been working quite hard on bringing this report
26 up to date and getting this out in time for this
27 meeting. Our intent is to submit this to the public
28 for 60 days beginning March 1st, but as a courtesy, I
29 wanted to get this out to the members of the Council
30 first, and you'll have a chance to look at it before we
31 actually send this out with a cover letter explaining
32 where we'll go from here.

33

34 I feel, one, because so much time was
35 invested in talking to people in these communities and
36 other stakeholders, we really want to make sure that
37 the information that's in this report is accurate. So
38 I think it's important that the public has an
39 opportunity to provide comments, and we are also going
40 to work with the community of Kakhonak this summer to
41 have that ATV trail GPS'd, and this will go from
42 Kakhonak into the preserve, and this will be an
43 important piece in helping us make a determination or a
44 finding regarding ATV use in the preserve on what has
45 been customary and traditional.

46

47 So again I appreciate the opportunity
48 to work with you on this issue, and we're excited that
49 we're able to get this out after as I say seven years
50 of some deliberation in getting through this. But

1 we're making progress.
2
3 And I don't know if you have any
4 questions on that before we move to the other topic.
5
6 MR. EDENSHAW: Ralph, one of them asked
7 last time, that there was an on-going study in Denali.
8 How far has that proceeded in comparison to this one
9 here?
10
11 MR. MOORE: Betty (ph), do you happen
12 to know about the.....
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: Dan O'Hara asked about
15 that at the last meeting. There was.....
16
17 MR. MOORE: Right. There was a study
18 in Cantwell.
19
20 (Pause)
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thanks. Dan.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I wanted to
25 clarify, are you going to move on to another topic, or
26 are you going to touch a couple of high points in your
27 ATV report?
28
29 MR. MOORE: I had another topic which
30 was our comments to the Board of Game on the upcoming
31 proposals. So I guess if there are any questions that
32 you had on this report at this time. There will be
33 plenty of opportunity to comment on the specifics
34 within here. This was just an opportunity to get this
35 out to you before we submit it to the public.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So you haven't come
38 up with a decision then?
39
40 MR. MOORE: No, it's a multi-step
41 process. First is to get the information out, and we
42 want to make sure that the information is the best
43 information we can get. The second will be to make a
44 determination on whether this use has been traditional.
45 So as Troy was saying, this is really the first step,
46 and then after we get our public comment back, see if
47 there's anything we missed in interviewing residents
48 and so forth, and we can always add that to -- or we'd
49 add that to this report, but the next stage would be to
50 make the determination once we have any additional

1 information.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: So on Page 1 here, it
4 says that it will be a 60-day public review, so the
5 Council has 60 days or are you giving them some
6 flexibility in terms of providing comments back?

7

8 MR. MOORE: I don't see any reason why
9 we need to be bound necessarily to that 60 days at all.
10 I think it was to try to put some -- knowing that
11 summer was coming, in terms of getting the input from
12 the local communities mostly, we were concerned that if
13 it went on into summer, we might not hear. So we can
14 certainly receive comments later than that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. We're not
17 going to meet again until October. For this board to
18 have comments on it. We certainly can do it
19 individually. When do you figure the determination is
20 going to be put out?

21

22 MR. MOORE: Well, I think that we were
23 sort of trying to play catch up, because we had dragged
24 our feet so long on this, and I certainly don't want it
25 to be the kind of thing where, okay, we've dragged our
26 feet and so now you have a very short window to
27 respond. If I may kind of turn this around a little
28 bit to ask you, what would be reasonable for you, and
29 I'll try to work within that framework so that you feel
30 that the communities would have an ample time to
31 provide comment and that the Council would as well.
32 I'm more concerned that we get a quality product than I
33 am that we meet a certain length of time.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, that's my
36 concern also, you know. You need to make sure that
37 those parties that are affected or real interested in
38 it have time to put in their say. Igiugig Village
39 Council, I'm the vice president of the council, and
40 I'll put this on our next month agenda, so I'll bring
41 it up and we'll go with this. I'm not sure -- I'd like
42 to see what's in here, too, so.....

43

44 MR. MOORE: Oh, absolutely, and we have
45 not sent -- prepared the cover letter yet that would go
46 out to the public, so if there is a time frame that you
47 feel is better than 60 days, let me know before we send
48 this out. We're trying to get this out by March 1st.
49 That was an internal goal.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. Sometimes 60
2 days is kind of short considering how long it took and
3 what's involved, you know. People -- if it happened a
4 little bit longer, it would be better than making it
5 too short and not enough time.
6
7 MR. MOORE: That's fine.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Because we waited so
10 long already.
11
12 MR. MOORE: Yeah. Absolutely. Let us
13 know, and we'll work with you on that. If you feel it
14 should be 90, if you feel it should be up to the date
15 where your next meeting is in Dillingham. Yeah, let me
16 know, and I'll word the cover letter appropriately. We
17 just want to make sure we do get some comments. I know
18 when summer comes, everybody is scattered to the winds,
19 and I'm just hoping we can get the comments that we
20 need to be able to move to the next step by fall.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. And if we
23 were -- if you were to hold back until after our fall
24 meeting, then we would be able to comment on it also.
25
26 MR. MOORE: We don't see a problem with
27 that at all, and it would work fine for us. We just
28 really apologize that this has taken so long to get out
29 to you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. That's all
32 right. I'm just worried that if you were to make the
33 comment period too short, it would not be good. It
34 would be better to, you know, hold out a little while
35 longer. And then also then we could comment at our
36 fall meeting.
37
38 MR. MOORE: And that would give you
39 also an opportunity to hear from local folks, to be
40 able to then get back together as a group.
41
42 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yes. All right.
43 Thank you.
44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it will take some
46 time to digest. And here in another month people will
47 be thinking herring, and then it's all over until after
48 moose season.
49
50 MR. MOORE: Okay. We'll change the

1 wording on the cover letter that goes out.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank
4 you. Cliff.

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman. The
7 Council can also, you know, looking through this, you
8 know, we're going to draft the annual report issues,
9 and I can -- before I even became the coordinator, I
10 know this issue came up with the Council when Helga was
11 the coordinator for the Council. None of you knew her.
12 Maybe Randy knew her before. But in the annual reports
13 that the Council did in the beginning, this was
14 included in there. And my other question is, is Don
15 and Bill still going to be involved in the project?

16

17 MR. MOORE: I don't know Bill, so I may
18 have to defer that to you folks. Don is actively
19 working on the project and was involved with the update
20 of the draft. He's currently involved with an ATV
21 issue with Wrangell-St. Elias and also with Denali, and
22 depending on the time frame, will be able to help us
23 with the Kakhonak issues as well. I just don't know
24 his schedule, but he was very -- worked very closely
25 with us on this draft.

26

27 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay. Because before
28 Randy assumed the Chair of the Council, when Dan was
29 serving as Chair, he had an opportunity to fly into
30 Igiugig, I think it was, or Kakhonak when Don was
31 holding the meetings, and was totally -- he was very
32 pleased with the meeting. So when Randy said that,
33 since he serves as chair for the tribe, you know, it
34 may be a good opportunity for the Service, when Randy
35 does that, if they're going to.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I'm not.

38

39 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, I thought you were.
40 Well, anyway he was talking about putting that on the
41 agenda with one of those, perhaps with Kakhonak.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Vice. Dolly Andrews
44 is our president.

45

46 MR. MOORE: I'll work with Don, and I
47 would also like to be able to get up to those meetings.
48 And when we were working on this draft, Don did express
49 an interest, because of the time delay, that he would
50 also like to get back out as we are getting this out to

1 the public. So he definitely would like to stay
2 involved in it. I don't know the other gentleman.

3

4 MS. MCBURNEY: Bill Schneider is with
5 University of Alaska Fairbanks, and their Project
6 Jukebox, oral history project. I don't know what
7 Bill's further involvement may be in this project.
8 That was very much funding dependent. And that
9 component of the gathering of the oral histories has
10 been completed. But as far as additional work that may
11 need to be done to make this report more complete, Don
12 would be the person that would be conducting that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Any more questions
15 on this report.

16

17 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm glad to see it's
18 done.

19

20 MR. MOORE: We're getting there.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right.

23

24 MR. MOORE: Okay. The next topic. The
25 other attachment that we circulated is a letter to Mr.
26 Ron Somerville, Chairman of the Alaska Board of Game,
27 in response to the Board of Game proposals. There's a
28 cover letter, and then attached are the proposals and
29 these 10 pages outline our comments broken down by what
30 park -- by proposal number and it tells what unit of
31 the National Park Service those would apply to. LACL
32 is Lake Clark, KATM is Katmai, ANIA is Aniakchak, DENA
33 is Denali and WRST is Wrangell-St. Elias.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: It sounded like
36 airport tags.

37

38 MR. MOORE: I know. I wanted to go
39 over a couple things that were in the cover letter,
40 because I think the Council would be interested in
41 knowing an update on this. At the March 2005 meeting
42 of the Board of Game, the Board addressed the issue of
43 a possible land exchange in the Kamashak Bay area that
44 would involve State lands and what's referred to as the
45 Douglas Headlands area that lie within Katmai National
46 Park. It was the expressed interest of the Board at
47 that time that this -- because this had been discussed
48 for a long period of time, they really wanted to see
49 some conclusion to this proposed land exchange.

50

1 So following this meeting, the National
2 Park Service worked with Alaska Department of Natural
3 Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
4 and all the parties expressed concern with the costs
5 and the complexity involved. Because of the size of
6 the transaction, 50,000 acres, that would likely
7 require some sort of legislative direction from
8 Congress and also the State Legislature to be
9 successful. In addition, obtaining the staffing and
10 funding to be able to cover the costs of conducting an
11 exchange of that magnitude would be very challenging,
12 especially in times of tight budgets. In addition, the
13 existing priority for both State and Federal projects
14 would have to be deferred to process such an exchange,
15 and so things were not moving very quickly on that at
16 all.

17
18 However, we did want to make very clear
19 that the National Park Service does support improved
20 hunting opportunities for residents of the Naknek
21 region, and we are proposing to resolve a long-standing
22 problem of hunter access along part of the western
23 boundary, which is sort of a stairstep along the Pike
24 Ridge area. The Pike Ridge trail is used by many local
25 people to access State lands that abut the western
26 boundary of the park, and the ORV trail crosses inside
27 and outside of the park. The problem is that the ORVs
28 are not currently authorized in the park. So several
29 solutions have been suggested, one revising
30 regulations, another one modifying the boundary to
31 exclude the trail from the park, or possibly exchanging
32 land with the State in combination with the boundary
33 exchange to exclude the trail from the park.

34
35 So we've been working pretty hard on
36 that this winter, identifying from aerial photos and
37 also from -- we do have one GPS record of that trail.
38 In the northern end it becomes a little diffuse and
39 that will take a little bit of attention on the ground
40 to determine the exact location of it. But we intend
41 to commence a public process this year that will lead
42 hopefully to allowing ORVs on the Pike Ridge trail for
43 access for hunting and other public uses. And that
44 will probably involve some land, either boundary --
45 well, it will probably involve some boundary
46 adjustments, and how those boundary adjustments occur,
47 whether it's through an exchange or whatever remains to
48 be seen. But a boundary adjustment is probably the
49 direction we would head.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I know that
2 this -- the area you're talking about, the Pikes Ridge
3 trail there, you know, that --being that I was born and
4 raised here, you know. That trail's been there before
5 the park boundary was enlarged to take in that area, so
6 that trail was there before there was -- the park was
7 there. And, you know, the people still utilize that.
8 That's one of the areas that they use for hunting
9 moose, and, you know, I'd hate -- they need to be able
10 to access that, because it always has been, you know,
11 part of the -- even before there was three-wheelers and
12 four-wheelers there, people would be driving up there
13 with jeeps and other four-wheel drive vehicles, and
14 it's kind of like the King Salmon Creek trail there.
15 That's been there for a long time as I can remember
16 anyway. I don't know when they were first put in, but
17 they've been there for a long time. And it is
18 important. Like you say, the people who have -- do
19 utilize it every year, so it needs to -- you need to
20 address that so that it can be still used by those
21 vehicles.

22
23 MR. MOORE: We agree. Sometimes when
24 boundaries are drawn, they're drawn without a close
25 look of what's really happening on the ground and how
26 best to manage resources there. And I think we can
27 improve that situation out there.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, but I mean, my
30 only other comment is I commend you guys for not
31 barring down on people, because we all -- I mean,
32 myself living on that end of the road, that's just part
33 of my area that I consider -- I don't even take into
34 consideration that I need permission to be there. So I
35 commend you guys for not slapping hands or making a big
36 deal out of it thus far, and actually doing something
37 to make it right.

38
39 MR. MOORE: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: On these Douglas
44 Headlands, can you show us just roughly the land we're
45 talking about up there on that map?

46
47 MR. MOORE: (Inaudible, not near a
48 microphone)

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, okay. Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Ralph, are you about
2 complete?
3
4 MR. MOORE: Those were the two things
5 that we wanted to bring to the attention of the Council
6 today, and, Mary, do you have anything, or, Troy, to
7 add? Okay.
8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: I haven't had a chance to
10 review them here.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I haven't had a
13 chance to look at any of them. Maybe we could -- if
14 you want, I suppose some of you guys are probably
15 leaving. Anybody in a hurry, or do you have time to
16 review some of this stuff?
17
18 MR. MOORE: Sure.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So if we -- because
21 the reason why I ask this, we're going to take up in
22 new business bear proposals in the Katmai Preserve, and
23 maybe you could.....
24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Maybe that would be the
26 time to go back to this. Okay.
27
28 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. Or do you
29 want to do it now?
30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'd like some time.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Well, I was
34 going to have him go over it individually, just take 10
35 minutes.
36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: That would be fine,
38 too, yeah.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: While we're all --
41 not getting to any of them too great, just kind of fill
42 us in, so we won't have to review them before we.....
43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Direct us to the high --
45 the ones of greatest interest.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Because if we're
48 going to take these up, some of the proposals up in new
49 business, for the bear ones up in the preserve, maybe
50 you can just inform us on what you guys feel about

1 these individual proposals, and not getting into them
2 too great. All right. Virginia.

3

4 MS. MCBURNEY: Not having the Board of
5 Game proposal book in front of me, I'm not -- I could
6 use a little bit of help, if you know if there are
7 particular proposal numbers that you want us to focus
8 on?

9

10 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We could take a
11 five-minute break and I'll run home and get my book.

12

13 MS. MCBURNEY: And incidently, Mr.
14 Chair, I'm not going anywhere until tomorrow morning.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. And I'd kind
17 of like to just continue to get done instead of taking
18 lunch.

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: Take lunch here?

21

22 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Well, what time is
23 it? Well, you know, maybe another hour we'll be done.
24 You know, we're down to the -- we've only got another
25 report, oh, and BBNA, then some new business stuff and
26 we're done, right?

27

28 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, BLM. Tim wanted to
29 provide a short briefing for the Council, too.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, otherwise we
32 take lunch. Okay. Let's take five minutes and I'll
33 get that book.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay.

40

41 MR. MOORE: Mr. Chairman. After
42 looking at the proposals again and kind of refreshing
43 our memory on our comments, we thought it might be most
44 appropriate for us to just identify the ones that we
45 feel really are the most critical to address in front
46 of Council. Some of these are peripherally affecting
47 our park areas, but do have an impact, and we've asked
48 Troy Hammond, our wildlife biologist to help give some
49 background, and address the most critical proposals
50 affecting the preserve.

1 MR. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman. Members of
2 the Council. My name is Troy Hammond, and I work for
3 Katmai National Park. I was just going to give sort of
4 a brief summary of how these relate to Katmai preserve
5 specifically, and if you have questions about some of
6 the others probably we'll refer them back to Mary.

7
8 But as some of you, or perhaps all of
9 you, are well aware Katmai National Preserve as an
10 addition to Katmai National Park has legislative
11 authorization that specifically includes sport hunting
12 and harvest of bears. One of the -- sort of the long-
13 standing pattern of harvest up there tended to be
14 slightly increasing, but relatively stable for a long
15 time. The last two or three hunt cycles, however, the
16 harvest has increased a lot. And that has concerned
17 us, because we don't have data to make an assessment
18 about whether that's something that the area can
19 sustain. Fish and Game doesn't have good population
20 data at that level, and prefers to manage populations
21 at a larger scale. Our ANILCA guidance tells us that
22 we're supposed to keep track of that population of the
23 preserve, and that's really difficult with animals like
24 this that migrate real extensive during feeding
25 seasons.

26
27 So what we have been supportive these
28 last few Board of Game cycles of proposals that will at
29 some level reduce the opportunity or potentially the
30 harvest during this phase when harvest up there has
31 been higher than normal in hopes that we could follow
32 up and get some population information to make an
33 assessment of what sort of a harvest guideline would be
34 reasonable, if there is one. And we've held that
35 position for the last two Board of Game cycles. And
36 that's sort of our continuing position.

37
38 And so as we go through all of these
39 different proposals, we've tended to support the
40 proposals that offer opportunity for us to control
41 harvest. Right now it's the harvest, the season up
42 there had been extended a few years back. It used to
43 be October 7 to 21, it's now October 1 to 21. So we
44 have been in the past and continue to be supportive of
45 moving that opening date back to the 7th, partly just
46 to reduce the window slightly.

47
48 Their Proposal 38 is one that we've
49 supported with modification. It seeks to establish a
50 permit hunt. We would prefer that it was a

1 registration permit rather than a drawing permit, but
2 we are supportive of that proposal. And we'd like to
3 see a guideline with harvest in the 14 to 19 range,
4 because that's sort of the historical target we were at
5 before these last two or three cycles where it's headed
6 up into the more than 30 range.

7
8 There's a number of proposals that ask
9 for different changes. 39 is a proposal to change the
10 dates of the season to an opening on the 15th. We're a
11 little concerned that a season that goes from the 15th
12 to the 21st doesn't leave enough weather window to
13 provide for wise decisions about weather safety, and so
14 we would prefer a window that's between the 7th and the
15 21st, which is similar to what it was -- which is the
16 same as it was in the past.

17
18 There are a number of proposals to
19 close hunting, and we have opposed those, because it is
20 a statutory purpose of the preserve to have a hunting
21 season. We agree with some of them that we need to try
22 to get a better sense of the population in the area so
23 that we can have a solid guideline for what -- how the
24 hunt is managed, but we're not sure that a closure is
25 appropriate or necessary in the meantime before we get
26 there.

27
28 I think that's most of the -- let's
29 see. And then Proposals 43, 44, 46, 47, 48 relate to
30 the Douglas Headlands that we spoke about before, and
31 the possibility of reopening those, which the Board of
32 Game supported two years ago. And we've been on record
33 for a number of years as supporting the continued
34 closure of that area, partly just because it makes
35 sense. These lands are surrounded by hunting closures
36 in McNeil Sanctuary and in Katmai Park. Managing a
37 hunt on a small area like that with no adjacent open
38 areas is really sort of complicated. There's not a lot
39 of places like this even in the State where you've got
40 a little tiny patch of open hunting for brown bears.
41 So we have continued to support that area being
42 maintained as a closure. That is, of course, State
43 land, and so we're offering our comments to the Board
44 of Game, but they have -- we have no statutory basis
45 for following through on that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you. That's
48 it for the bear ones? Yeah, that's what we asked for,
49 just to comment, because we wanted to pick up some of
50 those proposals in the Katmai Preserve. And I think

1 probably also comment on, yeah, the headlands there
2 next to McNeil. How much -- done? Thank you.

3

4 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you.

5

6 MR. MOORE: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Is the Park Service
9 done with their report for Lake Clark And Katmai?

10

11 MR. MOORE: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So now then
14 we are on to Aniakchak? What's that? Okay. Done. So
15 we'll go back to BBNA. Robin.

16

17 MS. LEVINE: Mr. Chairman and members
18 of the Board. Thank you very much for your patience.
19 I'm sorry to be late today. For the record, my name is
20 Robin Levine. I am the subsistence fisheries social
21 scientist of the Partners Program at BBNA. Molly
22 Chythlook could not be here today to represent the
23 Natural Resources Department, so I am their sole
24 representative.

25

26 The Partners Program over the last, oh,
27 gosh, five years now is coming to a close of it's five-
28 year funding cycle. In that five years we have had two
29 fisheries biologists and two social scientists, and
30 over the course of that time we have overseen the
31 operation of a number of FRMP projects. These are
32 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Projects, many of which
33 are now coming to a close. My associate, Ted Krieg,
34 gave you a presentation earlier about the customary
35 trade report that is in final draft stages now, and we
36 have another project coming into -- starting
37 implementing this April of this year, which is the
38 Kvichak watershed subsistence salmon fish camp
39 ethnography, and a number of proposals on the table.

40

41 And I do find that at this time I am
42 going to also be submitting my proposal for another two
43 years for my position, and I do hope that I am here in
44 October to once again represent the Partners Program,
45 but we'll see. It will be up for competitive process.

46

47 Aside from the research projects that
48 I've been involved with, we also have a very strong
49 internship program. And if you'll remember in the
50 fall, Valley Peterson was our summer intern program

1 coordinator, and she gave a presentation at that time
2 on the summer internships. And there were seven I
3 believe, or eight this summer. And this fall, since
4 fall, I've actually had the opportunity to find
5 placement for three other internships, two in Anchorage
6 and one in Dillingham. And these are seasonal part-
7 time internships. And so the program has grown from
8 2003 when the program started, I think there was one
9 intern that year, to 11 in a year, and this year at
10 least 10. Actually at least 10 this year internships.
11 So I have flyers and internship job descriptions that I
12 would love to have help getting the word out in regards
13 to these. We're looking for young people from the
14 Bristol Bay region, college students or just out of
15 high school, as long as they're 18, who are interested
16 in fisheries. And they can be interested in it from
17 management perspective. We have a position at Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries, and
19 that will be assisting Tim Sands and Charlotte Westing.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's the time line
22 for this internship?
23

24 MS. LEVINE: All the internships start
25 about mid June and they end in August, mid August with
26 a presentation, a professional PowerPoint presentation
27 given to the folks at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
28 headquarters. And there's an open invitation so
29 members of the community and other natural resource
30 professionals will be there. And actually it is at
31 that kind of forum where people interested in potential
32 future hires actually kind of get to scout out the
33 talent. And Laura Sorenson, who you saw a little
34 earlier today, was one of our interns in 2005, and
35 actually it was at her presentation that her future
36 employer saw her and got very excited about her skills
37 and potential, as I imagine you'll all agree are very
38 evident.
39

40 The part of the -- actually another
41 development in the intern program is a partnership we
42 are working on with the Bristol Bay campus in
43 Dillingham for a TECUP grant, that is Tribal Colleges
44 and University Programs grant. And if we actually get
45 the TECUP grant, the idea would be we would create more
46 internships through the TECUP grant and the Partners
47 Program. And we'd need a little more help. We'd
48 probably hire a permanent intern program coordinator.
49 The Natural Resources Department at BBNA is also
50 looking at how to find placement for interns in

1 forestry, in marine mammals and in the environmental
2 programs, so actually it would be quite a large
3 endeavor, and with the intention of developing
4 professional skills, and greater educational -- well,
5 educational and professional development in fisheries
6 and in natural resource management. And it looks to be
7 very promising.

8
9 So we're pretty excited, and I hope
10 that that goes through, All of the proposals, included.
11 And I have got flyers here and job descriptions for
12 this summer. And if you know of anyone, you know who
13 to contact. Do you have any questions.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What age group are
16 you looking for?

17
18 MS. LEVINE: 18, because most of the
19 internships we have are going to be out in the field,
20 and so because of that and being away from a family
21 support structure, 18 needs to be the age. We may look
22 at creating some high school internships as well
23 through the TECUP program.

24
25 Another thing, just to let you know,
26 that regardless of where the internships are located,
27 we will also provide transportation to and from for the
28 interns. And that can be into Dillingham -- actually,
29 we've got round trip from Dillingham to Anchorage or
30 Anchorage to Dillingham, or King Salmon or actually
31 wherever they are to wherever they need to go, and into
32 Anchorage for their presentation at the end of the
33 summer. The internships during the summer are offered
34 in conjunction with a one to three-credit course,
35 depending on what they would prefer to take. And it's
36 an elective. They don't have to take the college
37 credit, but we pay for it if they want it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: All right. Thank
40 you, Robin. what that it then?

41
42 MS. LEVINE: That would be it. Thank
43 you very much.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. BLM.

46
47 MR. SULLIVAN: Hello, Mr. Chair and
48 Council members. My name is Tim Sullivan. I'm from
49 the Anchorage field office for the Bureau of Land
50 Management, and I'm here to present an agency update.

1 Jeff Denton, the Anchorage field office
2 subsistence specialist and wildlife biologist accepted
3 a new position with Minerals Management Service, and he
4 would like to convey that it had been an honor and a
5 privilege to work with the Bristol Bay RAC Council and
6 the Federal Subsistence Program for the last 16 years.
7 It was a pleasure to serve the Bristol Bay community
8 and to maintain the resources that maintain your way of
9 life.

10
11 And I'm here to inform you that Jeff's
12 position will be refilled, but that usually takes on
13 the order of six months to a year to get a position
14 refilled.

15
16 The second item, BLM is currently
17 working on a Bristol Bay Resource Management Plan, and
18 the comment period just recently closed for that plan.
19 And BLM is in the process of gathering the comments.
20 They've had over 12,000 comments. And they will be
21 analyzing the comments for further consideration in the
22 review process.

23
24 And the next item I would like to brief
25 you on, that there was several key changes in BLM
26 management over the last year. The BLM director, Henry
27 Bisson, was replaced by Tom Lonnie, and Tom will be
28 representing BLM on the Federal Subsistence Board. And
29 Chuck Ardizzone is the BLM representative on the
30 Federal Subsistence Staff Committee.

31
32 Thank you. That's all I have right
33 now.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you, Tim. Any
36 questions or comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Thank you. Is that
41 it on agency reports then, Cliff?

42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: So we go down to new
46 business. What do we have? We have some BLM
47 proposals. Where -- Tim was talking a minute ago. It
48 reminded me of MMS.

49
50 I was asked BBNA to go to a MMS meeting

1 in December on oil and gas in Bristol Bay. And I
2 attended the -- it was the Argon -- well, I can't
3 remember what they were called, but they paid my way in
4 there for a three-day meeting at the Hilton Hotel. And
5 I went, because BBNA asked me to go in for to represent
6 subsistence, because I'm on this board and I also
7 utilize subsistence, and I utilize BBNA Board of
8 Directors at times. So I went in for that Mineral
9 Management Service meeting, which dealt with oil and
10 gas in Bristol Bay outside of Port Moller. And it was
11 pretty interesting what goes on down there, and there
12 was a lot of interested parties, and it sounds like it
13 might be coming up in the future.

14
15 But what I got out of it was if the
16 process keeps going ahead, it will be like around 2025
17 before they actually start producing, and around 2015
18 to 20 before they start development. But it's just a
19 process that they had to go through to -- if there's
20 going to be oil and gas development. So I just wanted
21 to bring that up.

22
23 One more thing that might be of
24 interest to people. I'd seen on the news, it was last
25 night, that they had about the Pebble Mine. they had a
26 news conference, and I guess the mine estimates is \$300
27 billion worth of ore there now. The stock is going up
28 from what I understand. And they also moved -- the
29 mine people said they moved their applications for
30 permits to '09, another year back, because of they need
31 to do more exploration I guess. So anyway just -- and
32 I find it, you know, interesting that it's almost
33 uncomprehendable how much it's worth, and I think the
34 State needs to be compensated for that if it's going to
35 happen. It's a real small percentage. It's State land
36 and it's only a two, three percent of the total revenue
37 that they would actually receive from all this. And if
38 this were to happen, I feel that the State needs to be
39 -- it's our -- it's State land, and everybody in the
40 State of Alaska owns it, and they need to be
41 compensated for that. The laws need to be changed if
42 it's going to happen, that it does get compensated for
43 that.

44
45 I guess we can just go over some of the
46 Board of Game proposals.

47
48 So this is just a comment, we can't act
49 on it. I can tell you what our advisory committee did
50 on some of these proposals. The Lake Iliamna Advisory

1 Committee, they opposed the closures and restrictions
2 in the preserve, mainly around Moraine and Funnel
3 Creeks up at the end of Klutuk Lake.

4
5 And also there was a proposal to close
6 all of the remainder of 9C, which would take it all the
7 way down to the mouth of Branch River. And we also
8 opposed that.

9
10 We were a split vote on the section
11 right next to McNeil. The proposal -- well, the
12 committee was in support of opening it, but it was a
13 split vote. And I don't support that myself. I was
14 one of them that didn't support it. I think it's too
15 political for only a few permits that would be
16 available. It's been closed for quite a few years and
17 the closure ran out from what I understand, so now the
18 Board was wanting to open it back up. And there hasn't
19 been a season there yet, and so, you know I think it's
20 been closed.

21
22 I could go along with it still being
23 closed, but being -- like I say, I just don't support
24 closing any of the other areas in the preserve. And
25 like Nancy had mentioned a little while ago, closing it
26 or even restricting it around the preserve, up around
27 Kukaklek and Moraine and Funnel, it would probably go
28 against ANILCA where it doesn't -- it's not a
29 conservation issue in my opinion.

30
31 This fall when we had a meeting in
32 Igiugig of the fish and game advisory committee, Dan
33 Salmon was at the meeting, and he said that he flew up
34 there last fall when the salmon were there and the
35 bears were there. He counted about 150 bears in that
36 area, Moraine and Funnel. And then Lem Butler said,
37 well, he looked sometime about that time, and he
38 counted about 200 bears there. So there's not a
39 conservation issue as far as I could see.

40
41 Nanci.

42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I mean, I'm
44 going to speak, you know, with my other hat on here as
45 somebody who spends probably four to five days a week
46 in that area in the preserve specifically from
47 September into October, and I'm all about numbers and
48 knowing some good hard facts. But I'm here to tell
49 you, in the last 10 years, those populations of bears
50 in that area has increased hugely. The numbers have

1 grown very steadily, and I don't know if they're
2 migrated out of other areas. So again, I totally agree
3 with what Troy said earlier, we need some solid
4 numbers, but we need those numbers to happen and come
5 around, because there's been a huge increase in
6 population in that specific area of the preserve from
7 clear over by Kulik clear over to Moraine, at basically
8 both ends of your spectrum there. And just from daily
9 observation, we don't have a population problem.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't really have
12 anything other than I don't mind see the removals, or
13 for some hunting to continue as it has been. My sense
14 was when I spent more time in the Lake Iliamna area,
15 people were getting pretty fed up with trophy bear
16 management. There was bears in Iliamna, and I heard it
17 from every village up that way and even down to around
18 here that if anything, there's become almost too many
19 bear. It's caused a problem in their villages. So
20 some hunting to continue to crop them off. I've even
21 wondered if the whole trophy management might be
22 threatened if the villages just got fed up with
23 tolerating the higher bear populations.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. One other
26 thing that was brought up at our advisory committee
27 meeting in Igiugig one day was if -- what will be
28 happening this summer in the commercial fisheries. The
29 Kvichak has been coming back the last two or three
30 years, and this year the fishery is going to start out
31 in the bay, and for the last 10 to 15 years the fishery
32 has been in the river. And that's probably one of the
33 reasons why the Alagnak has had such huge escapements.
34 The escapement is -- Fish and Game was -- their
35 escapement goal used to be SAG, which is an aerial
36 survey and it was 100 and maybe 5,000, but they said
37 they're going to have a counting tower and they'll need
38 about -- it will be about 350,000 that their goal will
39 be. And that's a lot different than 3, 4 and 5
40 million. And with the commercial fishing that's going
41 to be out in the district this summer, I expect that
42 the escapement goal for the Alagnak will probably be
43 dropped down to less than a million. But it will still
44 be above the goal of 350,000.

45

46 And with that kind of escapement goals,
47 the bears are not going to find the fish there and
48 they're going to go elsewhere, and there won't be as
49 many bears there. And what worries me is if that is
50 closed and it turns into a bear viewing area, they're

1 going to say, well, we need more fish to feed these
2 bears, and it's going to affect the economy. So that's
3 another reason why we didn't support that.

4
5 Cliff.

6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair. If the
8 Counsel's going to provide comments, perhaps you could
9 preface your comments with what proposal you're
10 referring to in the list that Judy and -- or Mary and
11 them handed out to us, because I know that the Council
12 took action on the one regarding the Mulchatna caribou
13 that was going to be forwarded but regarding most of
14 these other proposals on this handout, it would be
15 easier if you referenced with what proposal numbers.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do we need to do
18 that?

19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: You don't have to. I'm
21 just saying if you're going to -- I thought you started
22 under new business by saying that you were going to
23 provide comments, but if the Council's not going to,
24 then we can.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I thought about
27 that, but we can't act on it, so I just thought maybe
28 we could just generic statements.

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: That's what I'm
31 thinking, too, because more than likely the Board of
32 Game is going to start lumping these together, too,
33 into area specific. Usually when they go to address
34 them.

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: But when Laura -- well,
37 when she and I prepare these comments that the Council
38 took action on the Mulchatna herd, and even though the
39 Council can't make a formal recommendation on these
40 proposals that deal with brown bears over there, you
41 could certainly submit comments that will be submitted
42 along with the recommendation that they had on the
43 Mulchatna Caribou.

44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: WE can make just a
46 general comment then that would apply to each and every
47 one of them, and you can just apply it.

48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, and that's why I
50 was asking. If you're making comments on these brown

1 bear proposals, or bear ones, you should let us know
2 which proposals you're referring to so that.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I was referring to
5 the ones dealing with the preserve, and the one next to
6 McNeil.

7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Let's separate them
9 out though.

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: The 39 and the ones that
12 Troy said were in No. 39 and 43 through 48. Was
13 it.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah, so bear
16 hunting proposals.

17
18 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, 38.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Basically the ones
21 that Troy and Ralph and Mary commented to us on.
22 Unless you guys have something else to add to it.

23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, I just think we
25 should separate them out, because we're dealing with a
26 couple of different things. One's openings and one's
27 closures, so I think we should separate the Headlands
28 out from the issues in -- the opening issues for
29 the.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Oh, yeah, there's
32 some of them were change the seasons.

33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: And I think -- I
35 don't know, I mean I would be in support of must making
36 a strong statement that we see no need for even season
37 changes or closures in any of those areas due to
38 healthy populations and hunting opportunities
39 available.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That's kind of the
42 way I feel about that, too, you know. There seems to
43 be a lot of bears in that. And those two comments with
44 Dan Salmon and Lem Butler, that was probably in August
45 of last fall, which I'm not sure what kind of a season,
46 how many bears were harvested up there after that, but
47 it couldn't have been too much of an impact on that, so
48 I would go along with Nancy on even the seasons the way
49 they were until there is a problem. But like I
50 mentioned, took also that I think with -- there won't

1 be as many fish available up there for the bears, so
2 there probably won't be as many bears hanging around in
3 there and I hope that's not taken that it's been
4 overharvested. What will happen is there won't be the
5 fish there to eat, so there won't be as many bears
6 there.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah that's why it
9 would be I think a very -- and I don't know though, I
10 understand, again just -- okay. Back up. I think it
11 would behoove everybody to be able to have some sort of
12 a population census, but again not being a biologist, I
13 do see the difficulty in approaching that, knowing that
14 bears have such a huge territory that they live their
15 whole life in, so to be able to target what that
16 population is and where they're at at any one time is
17 very, very difficult, but somebody needs to kind of get
18 some sort of a handle on it somewhere so we do know
19 when we're having a population decrease or increase.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Dan.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, statistically
24 valid. Yeah, I
25 m with you guys on it. I'd support those comments the
26 Park Service made where they want to continue hunting
27 opportunities in the preserve.

28

29 But like I said earlier, as far as a
30 lot of these communities are concerned, there's too
31 many bears already, and I'm not too concerned that
32 there's going to be an undue harm by maintaining or
33 slightly increased harvest opportunities.

34

35 I'll just leave it with that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We have some generic
38 comments on.....

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: That's for 38 through
41 what, 48?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. 38 or 36.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I won't support added
46 restrictions.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: You know, we can't
49 really take action so, you know, just generic comments,
50 unless you.....

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I really haven't had time
2 to.....
3
4 MS. MORRIS LYON: And then as far as
5 the headlands issue goes, I guess my biggest question
6 on that one is I don't -- I'm not -- I'm kind of torn.
7 Opportunity is opportunity, yet it's -- the area that's
8 involved in that would be very difficult to police and
9 to keep people legal in. How much use is actually seen
10 by subsistence users in that area? Is it mostly for
11 sport hunt deals? Should we even be weighing in on
12 that, because if we see use there? None. Okay. Then
13 I'm not willing to make any statement.
14
15 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. Anything else
16 on new business.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: Not so much new
21 business, Mr. Chair and Council members, but under No.
22 10, we have until March 23rd for the Council or any
23 member of the public who so wishes, or agency to submit
24 proposals to change fisheries. So we'll have until
25 March 23rd.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I forgot we skipped
28 10. I don't have anything to bring up.
29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: And you got her fish
31 issues already to you?
32
33 MR. EDENSHAW: No, but I'll be in
34 contact with -- I'll give her a call when I get back,
35 but also Dan at the last meeting also asked about the
36 customary trade issue, so that's something the Council
37 may consider, because he said he was approached by some
38 residents about upping the dollar amount for customary
39 trade, because of -- as you recall his comments at the
40 last meeting, but.....
41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Vaguely I remember it.
43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: If not, that's okay.
45 You until the 23rd if you have any other fisheries.
46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, the one thing I
48 think of, I know Boris has an ongoing concern about
49 salmon interception and salmon availability down there
50 in the Perryville, Ivanoff. Seeing guys from the FRO

1 here, they're still doing some work down that way.
2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: (Indiscernible)
4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, really?
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: (Indiscernible) King
8 Salmon.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Part of budget cuts. Is Larson
11 still out here?
12
13 MS. MORRIS LYON: But I didn't know how
14 much longer he was going to be here though.
15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Is there going to be
17 anybody left out at the FRO out here, or are they
18 closing it?
19
20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible,
21 away from microphone)
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Save money I guess? Then
24 I hope they give them a commensurate travel budget,
25 because they're going to turn around and gripe about
26 the cost of coming out to King Salmon to just begin
27 thinking about going to Cold Bay or Port Heiden or
28 whatever. Wow, that's a big change.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What's next, Cliff.
31
32 MR. EDENSHAW: The time and place of
33 our next meeting. On 120 there's the calendar for the
34 '08. We're the first of the 10 meetings here for this
35 cycle, so anywhere on there is good for the Council.
36 That way Rod can't come to me and ask you guys to
37 change.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We have October 8th
40 and 9th.
41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: No. No. No. That's our
43 fall meeting. On page 120 for the winter.
44
45 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: I mean, this is our
46 fall meeting, October 8th and 9th.
47
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Correct.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. So we

1 have.....
2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, 1st and 2nd.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What was 8th and
6 9th?
7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Nothing. You were
9 looking above.
10
11 MR. EDENSHAW: It's a holiday.
12
13 MS. MORRIS LYON: It's above it not
14 below it.
15
16 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Are you going to be
17 able to make that one, you think?
18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: I think so. I think
20 so.
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Meet you on the river.
23 Oh, well, it's in Dillingham.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: A year from now,
26 Cliff, I don't know what's going to happen.
27
28 MS. MORRIS LYON: 19th and 20th. Just
29 do the first meeting.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 19th and 20th?
32
33 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, let's just do
34 that.
35
36 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: 19th and 20th.
37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: Here again in Naknek.
39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Which would get us
41 before all that basketball stuff.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Yeah. Now, Pete was
44 lobbying for kind of pulling a switch here and doing
45 winters in Dillingham and falls in Naknek.
46
47 MS. MORRIS LYON: I honestly don't
48 care. Do you care?
49
50 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: What?

1 MR. EDENSHAW: He's complaining because
2 it's a holiday again.
3
4 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: The 19th isn't a
5 holiday.
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW: You come up there and
8 deal with him.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, what if we shifted
11 it one day farther into the week, would that work?
12 20th and 21st?
13
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Wednesday and
15 Thursday? My thing is if they just -- again, it's not
16 that big a deal again probably, but if there's
17 basketball tournaments and stuff going on then. And
18 they usually start them on Thursdays.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Oh, they do.
21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thursday, Friday,
23 Saturday usually.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Do you want to move
26 it back to the next week? It doesn't matter to me. I
27 have no idea what I'm going to be.....
28
29 MR. EDENSHAW: 25th and 6th?
30
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: The 19th and 20th.
32 But he was talking about switching, whether we wanted
33 to switch and have this meeting, the spring meeting in
34 Dillingham and fall meeting here. Actually that would
35 be better for me, so I would say, yeah, let's.
36
37 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Would you like to
38 have the fall meeting here?
39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Sure, it would be
41 easier. Fly back and keep working.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Did Boris mention
44 that -- I mean, not Boris.
45
46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Pete.
47
48 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Pete.
49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Pete was really

1 lobbying for that.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: We can change it?
4
5 MR. EDENSHAW: You mean to have this
6 fall meeting in Dillingham?
7
8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Next fall's out here.
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: It shouldn't be any
11 problem if you want to switch the fall from Dillingham
12 to King Salmon. I mean, here in Naknek. Okay. We'll
13 just make that change and we'll go ahead. So for
14 October 1st and 2nd, we'll go ahead and meet here in
15 Naknek. And then what dates in February for
16 Dillingham?
17
18 (Off record conversations)
19
20 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: That might work
21 better for me, too. Otherwise I want the spring
22 meeting as late as possible so I can go fishing.
23
24 MS. MORRIS LYON: It actually works a
25 lot better for me, the more I think about it, so I'm
26 all for that.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay. Well, just.....
29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: They've actually got
31 some open over there now. I've had to spend a few
32 weekends over there. Yeah, they've got more than one
33 choice, yeah.
34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, that's what Pete
36 said, too. Pete Abraham said they had.....
37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: They've got a really
39 good one, Hillside Haven.
40
41 (Off record conversations away from
42 microphones)
43
44 MS. MORRIS LYON: They just started
45 that, yeah.
46
47 (Off record conversations away from
48 microphones)
49
50 MS. MORRIS LYON: Are we done?

1 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Are we done, Cliff?
2
3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Right now, Mr. Chair,
5 yes.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Does anybody else
8 have anything.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN ALVAREZ: Okay. I guess we're
13 adjourned. Thanks everybody for your time and patience
14 and presentations.
15
16 (Off record)
17
18 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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