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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING

March 23, 1999
9:00 a.m.

City Hall Assembly Chambers
Dillingham, Alaska

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel J. O'Hara, Chairman
Harold R. (Robin) Samuelsen, Vice Chairman
Alvin Boskofsky, Secretary
Robert Heyano, Member
Andrew Balluta, Member
Peter M. Abraham, Member
Timothy M. Enright, Member
Jerry Berg, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 9:07 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good morning. We do not have a PA system today, so we're going to have to speak very clearly, and one at a time preferably. My name is Dan O'Hara, I chair the Council, and when we speak this morning, since we don't have a PA system, one of the things that's important is that you give your name so that we can go on record and I apologize we don't have a PA system this morning, so we can speak loudly to one another. And it -- we're glad that you could be here today. And I see along with all the federal bureaucrats actually a few local people who showed up. That's a big improvement than past days, so we're glad to have you, but we don't mind you people hanging around. I guess you're part of the project, so just have to do it that way.

And we'll go around this morning and introduce ourselves, and if you would like to just take a brief moment along with your name, telling us who you're associated with, or what your interest might be here this morning, so we'll kind of get acquainted with each other. And we'll start over here with Joyce?

MS. BRAUER: My name is Joyce Brauer, I'm a real time translator from Anchorage.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

MS. LAUBENSTEIN: And I'm Karen Laubenstein, and I'm a tech writer for the Subsistence program.

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good.

MR. BRELSFORD: Good morning. I'm Taylor Brelsford. I work with the Federal Subsistence Program in the Anchorage Office, and I work with the regional councils statewide, so I don't get to come to Bristol Bay every time, but when I do, I'm really glad to be here.

MS. McCLENAHAN: Good morning, I'm Pat McClenahan. I'm staff anthropologist for Fish and Wildlife Service in the Alaska Regional Office.

MR. SQUIBB: I'm Ron Squibb with the Alaska Peninsula Refuge office in King Salmon. I'm the subsistence coordinator there, and recently became a (indiscernible).

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1 MR. LIND: Good morning. I'm Orville Lind.
2 I work with Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge down in King
3 Salmon. I'm Refuge Ranger.

4
5 MR. HAYNES: Hi, I'm David Haynes. I work
6 for Computer Matrix, court reporting. Two things. Some of
7 you may know Joe Kolasinski, who's my boss. He wanted to send his
8 regards. He's recording Southcentral this morning. And he
9 wanted me to tell you one other thing. If you're talking on
10 the record, please have a microphone near you.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So you are recording,
13 but no PA?

14
15 MR. HAYNES: Yes, exactly.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So he's in troubled waters?

18
19 MR. HAYNES: Yes, he is.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Kenai area. That's
22 fun. Who else there?

23
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sid Smith.

25
26 MR. SMITH: Sid Smith. I'm just a resident
27 of Bristol Bay here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Sid. Nice to see you
30 this morning. John?

31
32 MR. BRANSON: I'm John Branson, historian at
33 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and I help our chief
34 of operations, Lee Fink, out on subsistence. I'm here today,
35 because Lee couldn't make it. He's ill.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, John.

38
39 MS. LIGGETT: Deb Liggett. I'm the new
40 superintendent at Katmai, Lake Clark, and Aniakchak. So it's
41 great to be here. Thanks again. I've been in Alaska a year
42 and a half, a 19-year career employee with the National Park
43 Service with park assignments from Florida to Texas to
44 Minnesota to Alaska. This is my first total immersion
45 experience in subsistence, and I'm looking forward to it.

46
47 I wanted -- since John Branson won't do this on his
48 own, I wanted to -- Okay. Pass it around -- give the Board
49 copies of John's new book, which is a grassroots pictorial
50 from the hinterlands to the tide water. It's about the

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1 Bristol Bay country.

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Of course, we get a signed
5 copy, right?

6

7 MS. LIGGETT: You can feel free to corner him
8 and embarrass him all you want to get him to sign it. Those
9 books will be out. Many of you will get copies in the mail.
10 We just got them in, and I wanted to bring them to you, but I
11 think that you'll enjoy them. And, John, -- well, I -- would
12 you do a little blurb on the slide program that you're hoping
13 to do this afternoon in case some of these folks would like
14 to.....

15

16 MR. BRANSON: Tonight at the request of Tim
17 Troll of Chogiong, he and I are putting on a joint slide show
18 at the Sam Fox Museum at 7:00 o'clock. I'm doing the
19 Telaquana Trail, which is a 50-mile long Dena'ina trail from
20 -- it went from Kijik on Lake Clark north to Telaquana
21 Village. And Tim Troll is doing a slide program on old
22 scenes from old Dillingham, in which he hopes that local
23 people will help him identify some photos that are unknown,
24 so that's -- there might be time to go to that meeting, but
25 it all depends on how it progresses tonight I guess. But I'm
26 going to have to absent myself at any rate.

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What time does it start?

29

30 MR. BRANSON: Seven o'clock.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, John. And, Deb,
33 thank you very much. Welcome. We appreciate you coming to
34 the first meeting, and not halfway through your career
35 showing up at our council meetings. So thank you very much
36 for being here today, and we appreciate that a lot. Okay.
37 Donald, I think you're next, sir.

38

39 MR. MIKE: My name's Donald Mike, I'm from
40 King Salmon, Katmai National Park, and Aniakchak National
41 Monument. I'm a resource specialist and also the
42 (indiscernible) for Katmai (indiscernible).

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Thank
45 you, Donald.

46

47 MR. GLICK: Bill Glick. I'm with the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game here in Dillingham with the
49 Commercial Fisheries Division.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Bill, what was your last
2 name?

3
4 MR. GLICK: Glick.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Glick. Okay. Thank you
7 very much. We appreciate that. Do you want to talk to us?

8
9 MR. ADERMAN: Sure. Andy Aderman with Togiak
10 National Wildlife Refuge as a wildlife biologist.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Andy. John?

13
14 MR. LIND: Johnny Lind, Pachugak (ph) AC.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good.

17
18 MR. ALVAREZ: Randy Alvarez, Lake Iliamna
19 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sir?

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Rob Christensen, Port
24 Heiden Village Council, and I'm on the Aniakchak Board also.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

27
28 MR. SKONBERG: Roy Skonberg from Chignik Bay,
29 and I'm on the Aniakchak Board.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32
33 MR. SKONBERG: (Indiscernible, away from
34 microphone)

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you, Roy.

37
38 MS. OLSEN: Myra Olsen with Lower Bristol Bay
39 Advisory Committee.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

42
43 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Bristol Bay Native
44 Association, Natural Resource Department.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Ted.

47
48 MR. GILLUND: Dave Gillund, I'm the deputy
49 manager at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I've been in
50 Alaska about five months, and.....

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Deputy manager?

2
3 MR. GILLUND: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What does that do?

6
7 MR. GILLUND: He does stuff when the
8 manager's gone I guess.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. Thank
11 you very much. We'll continue.....

12
13 MR. HINKES: Mike Hinkes.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me?

16
17 MR. HINKES: Mike Hinkes with the Togiak
18 Refuge,.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Mike.

21
22 MR. HINKES:wildlife biologist.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you. You
25 walked in just as we were doing introductions. And anyone
26 else this morning that --? Okay. Oh, yes, David.

27
28 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher,.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How could we forget you?

31
32 MR. FISHER: Thanks. Fish and Wildlife
33 Service, Anchorage office.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Has anyone been not
36 introduced this morning? Oh, excuse me, we'll start over
37 here.

38
39 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg, I'm the Bristol Bay
40 coordinator for the Subsistence -- Bristol Bay Subsistence
41 Council, and I'm acting in Helga Eakon's position, and Helga
42 sends her regards, and she misses working with this Council
43 very much, and she sends her regards to the people of Bristol
44 Bay. And I'm really enjoying working with the Council. It's
45 a great bunch of people to work with, and I look forward to a
46 good meeting.

47
48 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Alvin Boskofsky. I'm
49 Secretary of the RAC Board.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dan O'Hara, Chair of the
2 Council. Sore throat?

3
4 MR. BALLUTA: Andrew Balluta of Iliamna, and
5 I'm on the Council right now.

6
7 MR. ENRIGHT: Tim Enright. I'm a Regional
8 Council member.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anyone else this
11 morning not introduced? The gentleman that just walked in
12 the door, would you like to introduce yourself?

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Dunaway with the Department
15 of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division, Dillingham.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Took Matt's place?

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thanks, Dan, it's
22 nice to have you here this morning. Okay. We've all been
23 introduced now. Everyone has had a chance to.....

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You missed Ted.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me?

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ted.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, Ted -- didn't you
32 introduce yourself, Ted?

33
34 MR. KRIEG: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah. I'd like to
37 ask Jerry if he'd call the roll at this time?

38
39 MR. BERG: Okay. For the record, roll call
40 for the Bristol Bay Regional Council meeting in Dillingham on
41 March 23rd. Dan O'Hara, Naknek?

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here.

44
45 MR. BERG: Robin Samuelsen, Dillingham?
46 Alvin Boskofsky, Chignik Lake?

47
48 MR. BOSKOFSKY: Yes.

49
50 MR. BERG: Robert Heyano, Dillingham? Andrew

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1 Balluta, Iliamna?

2 MR. BALLUTA: Here.

3

4 MR. BERG: Pete Abraham, Togiak?

5

6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

7

8 MR. BERG: And Tim Enright, Pilot Point?

9

10 MR. ENRIGHT: Here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. We have a
13 quorum. And just perhaps this morning in the way of opening
14 remarks, if you would like to testify this morning, we have a
15 blue card here that you could fill out and testify. We have
16 one here this morning that's going to testify. I realize
17 some of you who are here representing some of the councils
18 this morning will probably have to go to the Bristol Bay
19 Native Association meeting that's going on a little later on
20 today. Probably some of you will be doing that. If you have
21 an opportunity to bring any of your concerns to us before you
22 leave? I think maybe your meeting starts tomorrow? Is that
23 right, Randy and Robert and some of you -- Roy? Okay. So if
24 you have a chance to talk to us today about of the concerns
25 you have on our proposals or needs in subsistence area in our
26 Region, we'd appreciate you filling out a card and talking to
27 us.

28

29 Also, as we get into issues, and some of these are
30 going to take a little while, for instance when we deal with
31 the caribou, decline of the North Peninsula herd, it's not
32 something we're going to have to -- be able to go through
33 quite quickly. We're going to take some time to deal with
34 this issue. And so if you don't mind, we would like to be
35 able to call on some of you state advisory board members for
36 your input, if that's okay with the Council when we get
37 dealing with some of those issues. I know Myra from the
38 Lower Peninsula there, and Robert, others ones, Roy, if
39 they're still here when we're struggling with that issue,
40 we'd appreciate being -- call on you if we need some input.

41

42 C&T findings today is going -- as we go along is
43 something that probably will not take a great deal of time,
44 but it's an issue we're going to have to deal with, and I
45 appreciate that we have gone so far down the line, audience,
46 on our c&t. Probably one of the few councils that has almost
47 completed c&t findings, thanks to Pat and others who worked
48 hard on giving us this -- c&t for Naknek is going to be very
49 important, I think one of the first proposals that we're
50 going to be dealing with.

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1 We are going to have perhaps this morning some
2 reports from the various department heads, because we'd like
3 to have the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dick Sellers,
4 with us today before we deal with caribou, and we would like
5 to have Robin Samuelsen here when that report's given, so
6 we'll have a full board. I think the most difficult issue
7 we're going to deal with is the fact the State of Alaska has
8 gone to a Tier II on the North Peninsula herd, dropping from
9 17,000 down to about eight, and with no non-resident hunting
10 in sight period as far as I understand. And we'll struggle
11 with -- you know, instead of having 1200 animals to deal
12 with, 600.

13
14 And some of us attended the Game Board meeting in
15 Anchorage, and they started off at -- with a report at 8:30,
16 and then they made a motion to accept 55 I believe it was,
17 State of Alaska Proposal, on the caribou issue on the Alaska
18 Peninsula, and then they amended the motion, and they amended
19 that motion, and they amended and amended for about six hours
20 literally. Came back at 4:00 o'clock, passed the same motion
21 they started off with. It's not an easy issue to deal with.

22
23 When you see going from here to here, that's a big
24 decline. You know, when we caught 160,000 pounds, the next
25 year we got 15,000 pounds, it does something to your bank
26 account. So it's not an issue that's going to be dealt with
27 quite easily. And I think the biggest trouble we're going to
28 have is they're going to issue perhaps 600 animals for the
29 Peninsula, and I would assume that a majority of them are
30 going to go to the villages within the region, and most of
31 those villages are on state land. So how does Title VIII of
32 ANILCA, and 804, is that the number?

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We deal with some of these
37 animals on federal land to make sure that the subsistence
38 users are covered, should urban people qualify under Title
39 VIII.

40
41 I hope that hasn't confused you, but in the short,
42 what we're saying is, is that that it's something that we can
43 deal with. It's been covered quite extensively, but we're
44 not going to go over it in a short period of time, in 20
45 minutes. It may be one of the big issues we're going to be
46 dealing with on -- in our council today.

47
48 So after having said that, I think the first thing
49 we'd like to do this morning to maybe help us out a little
50 bit on other issues is -- I know we have one member who would

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1 like to testify -- well, excuse me, before we go into that,
2 we need to look at the agenda, and I'll ask the Council
3 members if we would like to address the adoption of the
4 agenda that we're going to be doing today? I mentioned to
5 you that perhaps we could maybe move some of the reports up
6 earlier this morning. The reports are on the back -- last
7 page of your agenda, agency reports. I don't know if the new
8 superintendent of parks, Deb Liggett is going to be here all
9 the time we're going to be here, but if she wants to wait
10 until the park reports, or maybe if you have a time frame
11 where you're going to have to leave early, we'd certainly
12 like to have you talk to us at any time you'd like to, too.
13 Ms. Deb.....

14
15 MS. LIGGETT: Yeah, we're fine with going
16 forward with all the agency reports this morning, if that's
17 if that's what the Board chooses to do.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

20
21 MS. LIGGETT: John Branson is tracking down
22 Bruce Greenwood for me now, who's out making phone calls.
23 So.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. So, Council
26 members, would it be okay if we -- after we do the minutes,
27 open the floor to public opinion -- comments on any of the
28 proposals in our agenda, if we could think about maybe doing
29 the reports first this morning? Letting Robin get here,
30 Sellers get here, and then going from there. Would that be
31 okay? All right. Is there any other changes? Did you have
32 a new item here I see under your new agenda. Excuse me. A
33 new item 9A. Jerry, could you speak to that a little bit if
34 you would, please? 9A, a new item on our agenda? I don't
35 have that under my -- yes, it's there. That's okay.

36
37 MR. BERG: Any other new business? Is that?

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It says review and adoption
40 of agenda, add new item 9A?

41
42 MR. BERG: Oh, I see. Right. Yeah, so you
43 would -- if you wanted to add any other new items or make any
44 changes to the agenda, we would note those new items under 9A
45 on your agenda.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything you'd like to add,
48 Council members?

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: On 9A, I'd like to put a brief
4 report on Goose Management Plan, and that will concern
5 Peninsula area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. All right.

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman?

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

12

13 MR. BRELSFORD: If I may, I believe that
14 Pete's topic on the migratory bird, the Goose Management
15 Plan, might go best together with the agenda item on the
16 Migratory Bird Management Treaty update. That way we would
17 be looking at goose management maybe one time in several
18 different ways, so if.....

19

20 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Yeah. I'll just blend
21 in with you at the time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. That will be
24 good.

25

26 MR. BRELSFORD: That will be pretty.....

27

28 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I'll just.....

29

30 MR. BRELSFORD:pretty early on this
31 morning, so you've got to get revved up, Pete.

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, okay. Yeah, I'll just
34 add.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So when we have the
37 -- let's see, Taylor, you're under agency reports, so when
38 you do your report, then he can.....

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: Follow up.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Peter can go ahead and
43 help you with that. Yes? Did you have a comment, Jerry?

44

45 MR. BERG: Yeah, the only -- I tried to check
46 with most of the federal staff this morning about reports.
47 The only people I didn't check with was with Togiak Refuge.
48 I wasn't able to talk with them this morning, so I don't know
49 if they're prepared to go ahead this morning or -- I'm
50 getting a nod from.....

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you? All right.

2

3 MR. BERG:Andy that he's ready to go,
4 so.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other agenda
7 changes? We are going to be teleconferencing people in I
8 believe at various times for maybe issues on the caribou. We
9 may have to move something around a little bit there on that
10 caribou issue. For instance, if somebody really needs to
11 talk to us from the region, and they don't happen to be at
12 the phone at that time and they call back, if we could have
13 the Council agree that we would bring them on line to deal
14 with that issue, but pretty stuck to the agenda as much as we
15 can. Is that okay? Okay. Any other change on the agenda?
16 Yes?

17

18 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chairman, actually it
19 would probably be a good idea just to let folks know in the
20 room that we are going to have that teleconference set up for
21 people from the villages to teleconference in at nine --
22 starting at 9:50 or 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning, so if you
23 know of people that you -- that might be interested, we have
24 an 800 number for those people to call in tomorrow morning,
25 and we'll have that number -- we'll post it over here on our
26 sign-in table if you know of anybody that might be
27 interested.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any questions
30 on the agenda? I'd like a motion to approve the agenda?

31

32 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I'll so move.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Alvin made a motion.
35 Second?

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: I second it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any discussion? Question?
40 All those in favor say aye?

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

45

46 (No opposing votes.)

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.
49 Adoption of the minutes of October 20th and 21st of '98. If
50 you had an opportunity to look over your minutes, if there's

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1 no corrections or deletions from the minutes, I'd like to
2 have a motion to accept those?

3
4 MR. BALLUTA: I move.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any moved -- made a
7 motion to.....

8
9 MR. ENRIGHT: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tim seconded it. Any
12 further discussion?

13
14 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor, say
17 aye?

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

22
23 (No opposing votes.)

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. At this time once
26 again, if you have an op -- would like to pull out a card and
27 at this time share some public testimony? We do have one
28 member of the public who would like to testify at this time.
29 Randy Alvarez from Iliamna, Alaska Department of Fish and
30 Game Advisory Committee, if you could come up to the table
31 here, Randy, and give your testimony? State your name for
32 the record, if you would, please, Randy?

33
34 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, thank you for
35 allowing me to be here. My name is Randy Alvarez, and I'm
36 from Igiugig. I'm the representative from the Lake Iliamna
37 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Our committee has eight
38 seats from -- or, excuse me, nine seats from eight villages.
39 They're Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Newhalen, Iliamna, Pedro
40 Bay, Popanoi (ph), Kakhonak, and Igiugig. And I also sit on
41 the Igiugig Village Council.

42
43 Our advisory committee at our last meeting in January
44 went over some of the federal proposals that were coming up,
45 and I'm -- I'd like to testify on some of those that we went
46 over. The first one is Proposal 30. We support that one.
47 It's the Unit 9(C) c&t for residents of that area. We
48 support that.

49
50 The next one, Proposal 35, it deals with Unit 9(B)

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1 moose. It was proposed by Pedro Bay Corporation. We didn't
2 support that as written. We -- but we support an amended
3 version of it. And our committee after talking, discussing
4 it for about 15 minutes, decided that we didn't think that
5 the season should be open as long as it was proposed, so we
6 went along with a little bit longer season in the December
7 season, which -- to January 15th, instead of the end of
8 December. And that at the Board of Game meeting just two
9 weeks ago in Anchorage, the State Board of Game changed our
10 9(B) moose to the middle of January, and which we amended
11 this one here to.

12
13 And Proposal Number 37, caribou, we supported that
14 one.

15
16 And that's about the extent of our comment on the
17 proposals, but I'd like to talk about old -- some c&t in
18 Katmai that's been brought up at other meetings. We are
19 still concerned about that, and still would -- are working on
20 it, or would like to keep it going so that we could
21 eventually have it, and -- because it's pretty important to
22 the people that, especially Kakhonak and Igiugig that have
23 been travelling into the Preserve hunting caribou in the
24 fall, or doing other things.

25
26 We also are concerned about the amount of bears in
27 our unit. It's -- we've got the Board of Game to lengthen
28 our bear season, because it's -- the amount of bears, its
29 population has increased greatly, and we don't have any other
30 -- we can't see any other way to bring the bear population
31 down without increasing the season, so the Board of Game, the
32 State of Game last -- two weeks ago voted to lengthen our
33 season, so it's pretty important to -- that we -- the Federal
34 Council do the same thing in other areas in Unit 9, because
35 the amount of bears, it's having a big influence on --
36 conflict and influence on the local villages. It's -- and it
37 -- our committee feels that something needs to be done to
38 limit the encounters with -- between the local people and the
39 bears around the villages.

40
41 And that's about the extent of my testimony. Thank
42 you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions for
45 Randy this morning on some of the issues he's dealt with?

46
47 Randy, I have a couple of questions I want to ask
48 you. Did the Game Board deal favorably with the December
49 hunt as far as the antlerless hunt goes, in the game -- in
50 Anchorage?

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1 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes. Our.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You've still got your cow
4 season?

5

6 MR. ALVAREZ: No, we didn't -- we wanted --
7 or we proposed a cow, antlerless moose season in December,
8 but our biologist in King Salmon, the state biologist in King
9 Salmon wasn't in favor of it, so the Board didn't vote it in.
10 But he -- our biologist gave us some facts that if it hit --
11 if -- what was important to him was that the calf to cow
12 ratio wasn't quite high enough. If it came up about another
13 five calves per cow -- per 100 cows, we could have it. That
14 was basically his reason why we didn't get it. It just
15 wasn't high enough. And it was almost high enough, but we
16 have a lot of moose in our area, but it was just -- it just
17 wasn't high enough of a calf to cow survival.

18

19 And our biologist, he -- our regional biologist, he
20 agreed with our -- to move our December season back another
21 15 days, because of our travelling conditions when the winter
22 season did open the first of December. In past years,
23 sometimes it hadn't been froze up, or if it was froze up,
24 there wasn't any snow, so -- and -- or it was bad weather,
25 and it kind of -- the whole month of December is a long
26 month, but with those conditions and the holidays, it put a
27 big -- took a big piece of -- chunk out of that month, so he
28 agreed that we -- it wouldn't hurt it to move the season back
29 a little bit to the middle of January.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The other question I have,
32 Randy, is the dates that the bear season in 9(B), was it?
33 Yes. And 9(E), are the.....

34

35 MR. ALVAREZ: I'm not familiar with 9(E).

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Nine B for sure
38 then. Tell us the dates of when you got that earlier -- or
39 an ex-.....

40

41 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, our -- we -- our
42 committee proposed an earlier bear season in 9(B), because
43 the existing regulation, it had opened October 1st, and in
44 our area, October 1st was too late, because, you know, we're
45 being overrun by bears in August and September.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: August 7th. October 7th,
48 wasn't it?

49

50 MR. ALVAREZ: October 7th is 9(C) and (E).

00016

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

2

3 MR. ALVAREZ: But they also -- I know they
4 changed that to.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

7

8 MR. ALVAREZ:the 1st of October now,
9 but in.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

12

13 MR. ALVAREZ:our area, it was -- I
14 think it was the 1st of October. But that was too late,
15 because we have a little bit -- it freezes up a little bit
16 earlier than it does down in C and E, but in -- which caused
17 the bears to leave the area, and which -- and they're up in
18 the hills and in the mountains, and the local people that did
19 want to harvest a bear, they were gone. And it -- the Board
20 seen, well, you know, that this problem, and agreed to open
21 it up ten days earlier. We wanted it earlier than that, but
22 they didn't want to have the bear season open at the same
23 time as our moose season.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

26

27 MR. ALVAREZ:in September, so they made
28 it after that, so we.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: September 10th to the.....

31

32 MR. ALVAREZ: No, they opened it -- the bear
33 season now, what the Board of Game passed was September 20th.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: September 20th I mean.
36 September 20, yeah. And then all the way to October 21st?
37 Or 20th, or whatever it is.

38

39 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes, I think so.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Something like that.

42

43 MR. ALVAREZ: I'm not sure about the end of
44 it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And they gave the guides a
47 few -- an extra week there, too, an earlier season. Or seven
48 days earlier.

49

50 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

00017

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. If there
2 are no further questions, then thank you very much, Randy,
3 for your testimony this morning.

4
5 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Sid Smith has put
8 his name in this morning. Sid, if you'd come testify today?

9 MR. SMITH: Good morning. I'm not really
10 here to testify on an issue. There's a lot of issues that
11 I'd like to talk about, but one thing I'd like to do is give
12 you food for thought. On your names on your agenda, your
13 board members, if you can indicate what village you're from?

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like that?

16
17 MR. SMITH: Sure. Because that will.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20
21 MR. SMITH:you know, when people.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Yeah. Alvin?

24
25 MR. BOSKOFISKY: From Chignik Lake.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Naknek.

28
29 MR. SMITH: Well, I mean on your brochure
30 also, so that when people look at it, they'll know.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I see.

33
34 MR. SMITH:they'll have an idea.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. In other
37 words, behind your name on the brochure,.....

38
39 MR. SMITH: Right.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:say what village
42 you're from. Okay.

43
44 MR. SMITH: The issue of down the Chain, I've
45 been working on it for two, three weeks now, we have co-
46 management with the Federal Government. And one thing that I
47 was looking at was co-management with the State Troopers, who
48 are VPSOs, and also co-management with the villages around
49 the state. The State is in an awkward position, you know,
50 they only have 28 percent of the lands around the state. So

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1 I think it's important that maybe take a look at and get some
2 of the villages to look at, at least trying to co-manage with
3 the state, not cooperation. Co-management. Because Larry
4 and -- I mean, from -- Merculief from down the Chain who
5 worked on -- how many years it took us to get that. I think
6 Myra King back there knows a little bit about that also.
7 That's one of the issues, you know, I think we need to take a
8 look at. That way the Chain when they look at caribou or
9 even bear, whatever they want to look at on State land,
10 they'll have something to hang their hat on, and if the State
11 don't want to listen, then we'll go back to the federal
12 subsistence law, which, you know, Number VIII.

13

14 The other thing that -- I'm trying to figure out
15 where this gentleman comes from. Nothing against him or
16 anything. Does he work for the Federal Government or the
17 State?

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The recorder?

20

21 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it's private
24 organization, isn't it?

25

26 COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir, we're contracted
27 by the Federal Subsistence.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

30

31 COURT REPORTER: Taylor can speak to that
32 better than I can.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And that -- yeah,
35 we'll have Taylor address it after you finish your testimony,
36 Sid.

37

38 MR. SMITH: I'm not trying to -- but anything
39 would happen, we found out when we travelled around the state
40 on the subsistence bill, is that the input our people put in
41 was not recorded what the people really said. If you take a
42 look at the Migratory Bird Treaty thing, and the subsistence
43 bill, four years later we found out that we're stumbling
44 against a wall. It's not what our people said, but yet the
45 wording that was put into the bill, it was put in not
46 intentionally, but the Secretaries and everything else came
47 from the State. So when it got into the bill, naturally
48 they're going to think of the laws that they have, and when
49 they take and write them out, it's different from what our
50 people say. And one thing we did in Bethel is we took three

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1 separate secretaries, and we had the State's tape, and we
2 compared notes, and they were totally different what the
3 people said. So that's one of the things, you know, we kept
4 fighting for five, six years. What's going on here? And
5 then we start figuring it out, that the information we put
6 in, because a word could change everything.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The whole meaning, yeah.

9

10 MR. SMITH: It's a word game, and that's what
11 I was trying to say. I wasn't trying to pick on him or
12 anything,.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we understand that.

15 Yeah.

16

17 MR. SMITH:but I was trying to figure
18 through all the notes, you know, where you come from, but
19 that's one of the things, you know, maybe you could take a
20 look at, too, I don't -- I mean, I don't know how you guys
21 propose to do it, you know. It wasn't an easy thing. We
22 tried it in Bethel, and it worked. We did it up in Kotzebue,
23 but it kind of just floated. So that's one of the things.
24 When the Board members come out to look at the wording, and I
25 know it's difficult, because you get information from all
26 over the State, but the wordings, it's a tough one to play
27 with, you know, one word could change everything. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before you leave, Sid, we
30 get a transcript back, and it records every word, you know.
31 And you guys have seen that? And I begin to look at how I
32 talk. I couldn't remember -- I couldn't figure out all those
33 uhs and all these things. Literally. And so that's a good
34 point. Because what we went to testify for, we didn't
35 recognize the end product by the time it got back to us.

36

37 MR. SMITH: Right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Congress is great at that.
40 They do a good job of making us totally confused, so we
41 appreciate your comments. Thank you very much.

42

43 Robert Christensen this morning. Port Heiden.
44 Morning, Robert.

45

46 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hello. My name is Robert
47 Christensen. I'm here to testify on our moose in 9(E). In
48 our last count, in the last meeting you guys had in Anchorage
49 a couple weeks ago, and I haven't got anything back on that
50 meeting, or haven't heard what happened. I heard what

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1 happened, and I don't agree with none of that. And I was on
2 this Council, and we fought against that moose, you know.
3 It's down. It's down. And maybe a moose may be high in the
4 count, but not in our area, not in the Chignik areas. And I
5 talked to folks from over at Chignik Lagoon, and they ain't
6 got the moose they used to have. I talked to a pilot over
7 there. He flies the area all the time. I'm totally against
8 the Fish and Game's moose count. I'm here to tell your Board
9 to keep supporting our proposal for a moose closure.

10 Last fall out of our village, we only -- the locals
11 only got one moose, which is very sad. You know, we average
12 seven to eight moose every fall, you know, and it's gone down
13 and down and down. The year before, what we got, maybe three
14 I think it was. And last fall only one.

15
16 I don't have to say anything about the caribou. We
17 know that's hurting, but now we depend on moose in our area.
18 We depended on caribou. When they come through, we will take
19 our one caribou.

20
21 I want to see something done on our moose season. I
22 hear that Fish and Game want to extend the season so they get
23 more moose. We live on that. That's our meat and water.
24 And, by God, pretty soon we're going to be drinking only
25 water. But it's the true fact. We -- that's our livelihood.
26 And if we're going to start listening to what the Fish and
27 Game got to say, we've got to start using local knowledge,
28 that we know, we know what's the best. We're -- I wouldn't
29 be sitting up here if there was more moose, if I seen there
30 was more. There isn't no more. There might be a high count
31 maybe in the valleys, you know, but not in our area, not in
32 the Chignik areas. That's something that we know moose
33 gather up, they go into valleys in the wintertime for
34 protection or mating, whatever, you know, for when they've
35 got babies, calving.

36
37 I flew this area, you know. I was flying when I was
38 16, I know this area. And that's all my testimony. I just
39 want to tell you guys to please support the proposal, closure
40 to the moose also, because that's our last thing we've got.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that it, Robert?

43
44 MR. CHRISTENSEN: That's all I've got.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
47 members? Robert, I've got several questions I'd like to ask
48 you, okay? I appreciate you coming and testifying, because
49 this is going to be one of the issues we're going to be
50 wrestling with.

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1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: You bet.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we have reduced the
4 season in our area up there, Naknek area, on September 15th,
5 because we feel that anything beyond September 15th, you
6 start getting a big bull. Its neck starts swelling up, he's
7 going into rut.

8
9 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now, the Lower Peninsula
12 where you're at, from the Meshik on down, it's my
13 understanding, and I could be wrong, that maybe the moose
14 come into rut a little bit later, because they're proposing a
15 date of September 20th, which I opposed at the Naknek/Kvichak
16 Advisory Committee, which I attended, you know. So the
17 question is, I guess, do they start going into the rut more,
18 will we save more animals if we shut it off on the 15th?
19 Because we have a proposal before us now on September 20th
20 for that region.

21
22 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah. No, that's -- on the
23 20th, you know, you're getting a pretty bad -- if you get
24 around -- anything after the 15th in my knowledge, I shot a
25 lot of moose in my time, you're going to have a strong
26 animal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

29
30 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It's not going to -- like
31 you said, it's -- you know, it's going to be water in the
32 stomach and very strong meat.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Yeah.

35
36 MR. CHRISTENSEN: And I've got to say, you
37 know, I shot a moose maybe about five years ago around the
38 19th and I couldn't eat it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Okay. The other
41 question I have is you mentioned that the information that we
42 have from the count is that there are good number of animals.

43
44 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now, we at the Board
47 meeting, at the -- when we had this meeting in Naknek, and
48 when we dealt with the North Peninsula moose and caribou
49 workshop, and we had a representative from all the villages,
50 especially on the Lower Peninsula, and we put together this

00022

1 little management plan which doesn't mean very much now,
2 because the caribou have dropped down so far, one of the
3 things that we asked Sellers and the Refuge and Fish and
4 Wildlife is we wanted a moose count, we wanted a survey.
5 They had a good survey, and had good snow, good conditions.
6 Tom flew some of it with the 206, and I don't think anyone's
7 more knowledgeable in the area as far as knowing where to fly
8 and look for moose than Tom. However, I think one of the
9 points that you made is that there are no animals accessible
10 from the village.

11
12 MR. CHRISTENSEN: And not -- get back here.
13 Not only that, with our caribou down, that's going to be what
14 we're going to target.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

17
18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: The local people. We're
19 not getting anything from the guides, you know.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

22
23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: What we're doing is --
24 they're feeding us candy to take our animals. The same thing
25 they're doing out in the donut hole with our high seas
26 fishery, you know. That just -- I'm totally against that.
27 I'm not being -- I'm not being, well, they're getting that,
28 and we're not. I'm getting the fact, you know, what we see.
29 We have no more kings in our area, and pretty soon there's
30 not going to be no more moose.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think there are agencies
33 sitting here today, Robert, that do have the say-so over
34 permitting systems, on number of animals been taking,.....

35
36 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Uh-hum.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:so I appreciate very
39 much your testimony today.

40
41 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Any other questions?
44 Thank you. Any other blue cards this morning that we might
45 have left off? Okay. Thank you very much.

46
47 If we have no more members of the public who want to
48 testify, we'd like to begin for the next half hour or so,
49 before we take a break, getting some agency reports at this
50 time, and, Jerry, who do we want to hear first this morning?

00023

1 MR. BERG: I think our Office of Subsistence
2 Management, Taylor Brelsford is ready to go with the
3 Migratory Bird Management issue.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then Peter will talk
6 with him at his appropriate time, okay.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Chairman. I'm Taylor Brelsford.

10
11 The primary topic on this item, agenda item, is to
12 talk about some ongoing work to establish new management
13 bodies for migratory bird management. This would implement
14 the changes in the treaty. But I think Bristol Bay has been
15 particularly well represented and directly involved in all of
16 the efforts to amend the migratory bird treaty, and since
17 Myra was here, I thought, you know, we really ought to let
18 her maybe lay a little of the ground work about some of the
19 effort that went into achieving the treating change, and then
20 the change in the federal legislation, and then I'll talk
21 after her a little bit more about these management bodies
22 that we're working up. So with your permission, Mr.
23 Chairman, I thought Myra being here, we might take just a
24 minute on that background.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. And we'll give our
27 name so that the recorder will know who we're talking about.

28
29 MS. OLSEN: All right. My name is Myra
30 Olsen. Is that.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

33
34 COURT REPORTER: If you could move the
35 microphone over a little, that would be great. Thank you.

36
37 MS. OLSEN: Okay. I had the distinct honor
38 of working on -- serving on the migratory bird working group,
39 and we worked for years to get the amendment -- the Protocol
40 amended to allow for the subsistence hunting, and of egging,
41 and getting birds in the spring, which was overlooked when
42 they did the first -- the Migratory Bird Treaty. It made
43 crooks out of the native community for over 70 years. And so
44 we worked real hard to get an amendment that would allow this
45 cultural practice to be legally reinstated, because they
46 recognized they weren't going to stop it. People are just
47 going to keep doing what they normally did, and it -- in a
48 lot of cases it was the first fresh meat of the year, and so
49 it was a real exciting experience.

50

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1 It was very heartbreaking to see how slow it went,
2 but I would like to encourage anybody that -- who believes in
3 what they're doing, that if you just keep hanging in there
4 and keep on, that that change can happen. So I was really
5 proud to be in Washington, D.C. to sign the Protocol with
6 Canada and the United States, and that was a real honor to
7 see how our hard work was finally coming to bear fruit, and
8 so I've been real excited to see what's happening next, and
9 so this is the next stage of the process.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thank you.

12
13 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Myra. Again, I
14 think this has been a generation of dedicated effort by some
15 very visionary leaders from Western Alaska in things having
16 to do with the Goose Management Plan that Pete will talk
17 about in a moment, and some of these international
18 delegations being able to tell that story, and to achieve a
19 shared perspective on a new approach, a new solution, has --
20 it's really one of the breathtaking achievements of local
21 involvement in resource management, so I think you all ought
22 to feel pretty proud about getting to this point, about this
23 turning point in waterfowl management, and proud of some of
24 the folks who have gone before you to attend all of these
25 meetings, and to make this happen.

26
27 My topic with you is actually found at Tab V.
28 There's a very brief text, and I'll just highlight a couple
29 of points from this, and then there's some more detailed
30 comments that you're free to read later. It's at V as in
31 Victor. And basically what we're doing here is that now the
32 treaty and the laws have been changed, and we're into the
33 implementation phase, but before there will be some new
34 seasons, spring and summer waterfowl seasons, the building
35 step, the first step before that is to create a management
36 structure, a management body that will include village
37 people, as well as the agencies, to work together to assess
38 the health of the waterfowl populations, and figure out what
39 the harvestable part of those populations would be, and then
40 come up with seasons and harvest limits and any guidelines
41 about methods of harvest. So this focuses on this first task
42 of creating the management body.

43
44 I think the first couple of paragraphs really just
45 set the stage. They repeat things that Myra has already
46 said. But then in the bottom of the first page, it refers to
47 some public meetings that were held in several of the bigger
48 communities over the past year. These were jointly conducted
49 by the Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Fish and Game,
50 and then the Native Migratory Bird Working Group that Myra

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1 mentioned. Those hearings were held in Nome, Kotzebue, Fort
2 Yukon, Allakaket, Naknek, Bethel, Dillingham, and Barrow. So
3 this actually is a topic that many of you might have
4 participated in in some regional meetings.

5
6 The second page talks about the timeline for what
7 comes next, and basically the Fish and Wildlife Service
8 Migratory Bird Management Program will be compiling all of
9 the public comments and developing a report or a
10 recommendation. That will come out in late March of '99. A
11 final plan, a sort of preferred alternative, will come out in
12 the summer of '99. And then a decision and actually
13 establishing those management groups would occur in September
14 of '99.

15
16 The next couple of pages actually sum up comments
17 from the various meetings, and I'll just highlight two or
18 three of these in each section that I think are of particular
19 importance.

20
21 The question of what kind of management bodies should
22 be created basically turns on how -- what the scope of the
23 management body should be. Should there be one state-wide
24 group to draw together village and agency representatives, or
25 a number of regional organizations, or some mix in between?
26 And these are the comments that were provided. There is some
27 interest in using folks from the regional advisory councils
28 as kind of a building block on migratory bird management, but
29 at the same time your primary responsibilities have to do
30 with the Federal Subsistence Program under Title VIII of
31 ANILCA, and that's a separate piece of legislation than the
32 waterfowl legislation. So some folks think it might be a
33 little better to keep them in separate channels. That's the
34 debate or the discussion that's reflected in the comments.

35
36 I guess I'd like to turn to the second page. There's
37 a section under -- about midway down called comments specific
38 to particular regions, and there are a couple of these that I
39 think touch on some concerns in the Bristol Bay area that I
40 want to be sure you see. The first bullet talks about the
41 importance of the refuge information technicians, and the
42 Togiak Refuge and the Yukon Delta Refuge are some of the ones
43 that have -- and the Alaska Peninsula Refuge, have been early
44 and strong in the refuge information technician program. And
45 that is seen as a real strength, the staff that can be a go
46 between between the agencies and the villages. The refuge
47 information technicians. A lot of people commented that
48 these would be key people to have involved in the staffing,
49 and the implementation, and the support work for these
50 management bodies.

00026

1 And then at the bottom of that section, you'll see
2 BBNA's testimony emphasized some of the in-region diversity,
3 that a region is not just one thing, there could be sub
4 regions that have unique harvest practices, and so within
5 Bristol Bay, there are three separate regions that need to
6 have some kind of consideration in the waterfowl harvest
7 regulations that would come out.

8
9 I think in the interest of time, I'll maybe stop with
10 that, and leave you to, you know, look at the rest of this if
11 you like. Again, the thing to look for is that through the
12 summer and in the early fall, there will come out a decision,
13 a proposed decision and then a final decision on some
14 management structure that will help set the waterfowl
15 regulations. Those regs are for the year after, okay, but
16 this current summer we're still operating under the existing
17 guidelines, and maybe Pete can say a bit more on that.

18
19 But, again, Mr. Chairman, this is a very important
20 achievement, and we're in some of the early implementation
21 steps, setting up a group that will allow village people and
22 the agency people to work together to create these new
23 regulations. And I'll just encourage you to stay tuned and
24 watch for more information about the decision on this
25 management structure.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Pete, did you want
28 to talk?

29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Pete Abraham from
35 Togiak. Our RIT from Togiak and I have been involved in WCC
36 Program in Bethel, in Kuskokwim. That's the Waterfowl
37 Conservation Commission up there. And I learned a lot from
38 those people there, those people over there, and we started
39 last year on our bird counts and egg counts, and I was very
40 proud when one of our RITs reported in Bethel. The report he
41 gave in the meeting right there was much better than
42 Kuskokwim did, so.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What is an RIT?

45
46 MR. ABRAHAM: Huh?

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What is an RIT?

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: A refuge information

00027

1 technician.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Somebody out there
4 might not know that. I certainly didn't know that, so.....

5

6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:we need to not use
9 initials. We need to give full definition of the word.

10

11 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Now, anyway, Bristol Bay
12 now is involved or working with -- will be working with WCC
13 and AVCP from now on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What.....

16

17 MR. ABRAHAM: Waterfowl Conservation,
18 and.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

21

22 MR. ABRAHAM:Alaska Village Council
23 Presidents.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It might be IRS for all we
26 know, so we've got to know that the.....

27

28 MR. ABRAHAM: Anyway, Bristol Bay is part of
29 bird counting and everything right now, you know. We'll be
30 working in this area, or we worked in this area already, but
31 the most concern I have is since we've been working together
32 from up there is the emperor geese. The emperor geese is way
33 down, and we don't know -- we don't know what the problem is,
34 but there's a mystery right now between from here on down the
35 chains, because the emperor geese is an Alaskan bird. It's
36 ours. So we need know more information from here, from
37 Igiugig, or from Dillingham, all the way down to the Chain
38 down there. Some place along the line, somebody, maybe even
39 King Salmon people will start the same count what we're
40 doing, surveying the birds out there, because we need to have
41 the information about emperor geese. There -- in -- they
42 went down from 80,000 a couple years ago, down to 57,000.
43 Now they're down to 38,000. So.....

44

45 MR. BRELSFORD: 3800 you mean?

46

47 MR. ABRAHAM: Pardon?

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: 3800 do you mean?

50

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1 MR. ABRAHAM: 38,000.

2
3 MR. BRELSFORD: Oh.

4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: I said from a couple years ago
6 there was 80,000.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Oh, okay. I heard you.....

9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: Last year it was 57,000. Now
11 it's 38,000. So there's something happening out there
12 somewhere. We need to find out. And I just want to mention
13 it, because I'm very concerned about it as the refuge
14 information technician and as a public user. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Thank you very much,
17 Peter. Taylor, before you leave, anything else on your
18 report?

19 MR. BRELSFORD: That's it on the migratory
20 bird question,.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD:Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'd like to have an
27 opportunity to ask you some questions on this, if we could,
28 but before we do, I think we've had some new people come in.
29 Bruce, have you introduced yourself yet this morning? And
30 we'll go around the room again.

31
32 MR. GREENWOOD: I'm Bruce Greenwood from
33 National Park Service in Anchorage.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Curt, did you have a
36 chance to introduce yourself this morning?

37
38 MR. ARMSTRONG: No. I'm Curt Armstrong.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I don't know if you
41 got here in time, Curt, to -- if you had any interest in
42 public testimony, we'll be doing that as we go along, too.
43 Anyone else this morning come in since we introduced.....

44
45 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque with Togiak
46 Refuge.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm sorry, I was talking at
49 the same time you were again, what?

50

00029

1 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Aaron.

4
5 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Togiak Refuge.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Nice to have you
8 here this morning. Anyone else today that might have come
9 in? All right. Good.

10
11 Questions, Council members of the -- this migratory
12 bird report from Taylor and the subsistence issue?

13
14 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Are they going to be
15 travelling to villages to get their input on these councils
16 and stuff that they're going to set up?

17
18 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Alvin. Actually
19 the input stage is really much -- is pretty much over at this
20 point. There was a mailing to every household in rural
21 Alaska. It was a large newsprint item. It had a Yup'ik mask
22 in the -- for the graphic, and then a lot of detailed
23 information

24
25 MR. ABRAHAM: This? This right here?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: Actually I thinking of that
28 big -- the big newsprint one that folds over, and it was sent
29 out to every household, asking people to call in with
30 comments or to attend the regional meetings, and then the
31 seven or eight regional hub meetings that were described here
32 were conducted, and there's been on-going consultation with
33 the Alaska Native Migratory Bird Working Group. Those are
34 folks who represent -- have served as leaders in their
35 regions for many years on the waterfowl issue. So I believe
36 the simple answer to your question is that the input phase is
37 behind us, and they're moving ahead to try and make sense of
38 all of the input, and there are no individual village plan --
39 individual village outreach meetings at this stage. When the
40 management bodies are established, I think there will be
41 another wide effort to communicate with the villages, with
42 the users about how to have input, how to work through that
43 new management body.

44
45 And if I'm not mistaken the refuge information
46 technicians typically visit their villages each year to talk
47 about the goose management plan, the status of the waterfowl,
48 and to get feedback or additional input, so those would be
49 the channels for on-going village participation at this
50 point.

00030

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Peter?

4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. The refuge information
6 technician goes around and gathers all the information and on
7 a WCC meeting they'll get Waterfowl Conservation people up
8 there.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're learning.

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: And Alaska Village Council
13 Presidents, they're working on -- they're working on the
14 policy or working group right now. That involve the feds,
15 the State, and the local people, the regional councils. And
16 they would be making a policy and the regulations together.
17 And it's an on-going thing right now.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did that answer your
20 question, Alvin?

21
22 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Well, the thing is, is that
23 they sent questionnaires or whatever out, you know, and not
24 everybody deals with them.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

29
30 MR. BOSKOFISKY: And from what I'm seeing even
31 in our places, that we might have a refuge technician, but he
32 doesn't address our councils or anything to, you know, update
33 on what's going on with the migratory bird. So, you know,
34 they're not doing their part, and nobody's knowing anything.
35 And when I was at the meeting in King Salmon, they had that
36 migratory bird thing, and they did stress that they were
37 going to make sure that all villages knew what was going on.
38 And they were going to have representation someday. But if
39 they're into this process already, you know, these villages,
40 there are a lot of people out there that aren't going to be
41 knowing anything, and not, you know, have the people to be
42 sitting on a board or something to have say-so.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did you want to say
45 something there, Orville?

46
47 MR. LIND: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you give us your
50 name, please, so.....

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1 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, refuge ranger, for
2 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof, King Salmon. To your comment,
3 Alvin, we are in the process right now to make sure that RITs
4 in the future go to all village council meetings.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: RITs?

7
8 MR. LIND: Refuge information technicians.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you.

11
12 MR. LIND: And one of the reasons we're
13 having refuge information technicians home visits is to share
14 information just like that, the migratory bird update,
15 caribou populations, you know, those numbers. So in -- we
16 are in the process to make that communication link better, so
17 hopefully it will work out here in the future.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
20 Council members? Orville?

21 MR. LIND: Yes?

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sid testified a year ago to
24 us at this very same meeting and said something very, very
25 important. The Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alaska is
26 Fran, and just let me reiterate what Alvin is saying here.
27 When the State of Alaska comes to us, and this is a fact, you
28 know, they start up here with the commissioners, and then
29 they have their deputy directors and then they have their
30 legal firm with their game management, and then they go to
31 the advisory boards, and then -- and that's how the system
32 works. Okay. We had a meeting in '97, AFN called a special
33 subsistence meeting in '97, and tons of us went to Anchorage,
34 almost as many people as at AFN convention. Nothing was
35 accomplished and Fran and I walked out of the meeting. And I
36 said, Fran, I said, your system is completely upside down. I
37 said, you start way up here with all of your upper level
38 bureaucrats, and they work all the way down, and they come to
39 the advisory board, which I served on for 20 years in Naknek,
40 and they don't pay any attention to what I have to say
41 anyway. You know, Joe Blow on the street could have way more
42 to say than what I would say to take my time and serve on
43 that committee as a public servant. And then the feds along
44 with Title VIII of ANILCA, and they start down here. Now, we
45 start working up to the other level. I said, if you had done
46 that years ago, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in right
47 now.

48
49 So we can't overlook exactly what Alvin asked you
50 today, that this agencies here have got to go to the people

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1 who use these issues -- these resources out there. And I
2 look at this list that you have here, Taylor: Dillingham,
3 Bethel, Kotzebue, Nome. Those are nobodies when it come to
4 subsistence. Those are people who are -- probably have never
5 used and know and understand a subsistence lifestyle like we
6 grew up with, you know. So we can't overlook that. And it's
7 this council's responsibility that we don't allow that to
8 happen. You know, the guy in Nondalton has got to use a
9 moose, or if they're getting scarce down in the Chigniks,
10 we've got to make an adjustment for those people.

11
12 Granted you can't go, I realize, Taylor, on a large
13 scale basis to every little village, but we have got to make
14 sure that -- and our people are not going to pick up a piece
15 of paper and read it and fill it out, unless they have had
16 some college -- or further education, you know. How long has
17 it been since Levelock filled out a hunting license, or did a
18 report on caribou? They're not even a subsistence user in
19 the State of Alaska's books, because they've never ever
20 bothered to fill out the paper, and I'm not saying they have
21 to. But I appreciate your position, and we're not chastising
22 you for it, but we might later on.

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyway, so -- but that's
27 what we really need to understand and where we're coming
28 from, so thank you very much.

29
30 Any other member of the Council?

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah?

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, and for further
37 information, and for my information, as refuge information
38 technician for our region over here,.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

41
42 MR. ABRAHAM:I keep contact with our
43 office over here, I work with them. I get information from
44 Mike, Andy, sometimes from Pat McClenahan. I get information
45 from everywhere, and then I report to traditional council. I
46 participate in the meeting.....

47
48 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Yeah. See, that's something
49 that's not happening in our place.

50

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1 MR. ABRAHAM:all the time. So I keep
2 update on the moose count, caribou count, what's going on out
3 there. The fish business we're having over here. So my
4 village over here is informed all the time. And not only
5 that, Quinhagak has an RIT just like we do have, and then he
6 has -- you know, he gathers information, and then let the
7 village know, the traditional council know all the time, so
8 beforehand, before something happens, or before they start
9 working on, they know, you know, they know what to say, they
10 know what to -- know what to work with. I guess, you know,
11 it's very important to having a refuge information
12 technician. It's important as a refuge manager that's
13 stationed in Dillingham.

14
15 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Oh, yeah, I know that. It's
16 just that like I stated is that I'm sure Johnny Lind, he's
17 the president of council, he can tell you the same thing. He
18 doesn't come to our meetings to let the people know what's
19 going on. He works in the school. He doesn't even hardly do
20 any home visits. So people don't know what's happening.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll work on that
23 then a little later on.

24
25 MR. BOSKOFISKY: So, you know, that's why I
26 say,.....

27
28 MR. LIND: If I may comment, Mr. Chairman?

29
30 MR. BOSKOFISKY:it makes it hard
31 when.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, Orville, go ahead.

34
35 MR. LIND: As a former refuge information
36 technician, there's other duties assigned as just sharing
37 information with the village folks. Not only one village,
38 but seven to 12 other villages. The first thing that we want
39 to accomplish with the refuge information technician is make
40 sure they understand the refuge system, and, folks, it's
41 taken me nine years to understand the refuge system. We have
42 a brand new RIT down there. I think he's doing a real good
43 job. He's working real hard. He's doing the goose calendar
44 problem, which I believe is one of the greatest success
45 stories that the Fish and Wildlife Service has had with
46 birds. And environmental education programs. It takes a lot
47 just to set one up. But he has an office right there in the
48 village. It's an open office, it's public. You can go visit
49 him if you have any questions. I mean, it -- I just wanted
50 to make sure that folks understand he's there for your

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1 benefit also. He cannot make home visits all the time. He
2 is required to make two home visits a week, and as far as
3 last month, he's able to do that. He's been able to do that.
4 So be patient I'm saying. It's a lot of work, and hopefully
5 we'll make things better.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. We're going to
8 push you a little bit, that's okay. Thank you very much,
9 Orville. Any other questions, Council members?

10
11 Well, the next step then this morning in reporting
12 will be the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and that would
13 be Aaron, and who's taken Daryl Lons' place today? Could we
14 just hold one second here before we go to you? We would like
15 to take a little break here. Who's doing Daryl Lons?

16
17 MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's Ron Squibb
18 and I.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. You and Ron. Okay.
21 So if it's okay, we will take a little break, and we'll come
22 back with you, and then aft- -- following you will be the
23 Park Service report. Okay? So we'll take a ten, 15-minute
24 break at this time for those who get nervous. So you nervous
25 people.

26 (Off record - 10:16 a.m.)

27
28 (On record - 10:35 a.m.)

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and Robin Samuelson
31 has joined us, so we have a full board of advisory council
32 members. And then we have had some new people come in to the
33 meeting since we began at a little after nine this morning,
34 and I'd like to have you introduce yourself, if you would,
35 please?

36
37 MS. ANDREWS: My name is Elizabeth Andrews,
38 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and I
39 coordinate the Department's involvement relative to the
40 federal program for the councils. I've meet a number of
41 council members at Federal Board meetings, but this is my
42 first time at one of your council meetings, and I certainly
43 appreciate the opportunity to be here. Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you,
46 Elizabeth. And I imagine later on in the agenda, you'll be
47 probably popping up somewhere. Good. Anyone else come in
48 this morning who not intro- -- yes?

49
50 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton with the Anchorage

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1 field office, the Bureau of Land Management.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, Jeff. Later on
4 we have a report from you under agency reports. Thank you,
5 Jeff.

6

7 Anyone else this morning who might have come in since
8 we last.....

9

10 MR. SMITH: Who's the guy next to you?

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right here? We just
13 introduced him. If -- Robert and Robin, so you want to make
14 a speech or say anything?

15

16 MR. HEYANO: No, I don't want to make a
17 speech.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: No speech, Mister.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess they decline, Sid.

22

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: No speech, Mr. Chairman,
25 but.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN:I want to apologize for
30 being late. Both Robert and I were in meetings until 8:30
31 last night in Anchorage, and -- with the Board of Fish, and I
32 made staff aware that we'd be coming in this morning I think
33 last week, so.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And, yes, -- oh.

36

37 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Terry Christensen from Port
38 Heiden. I'm a subsistence user, commercial fisherman.
39 Concerned. And I would like to give public testimony
40 sometimes during the course of the day if possible.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. You can
43 certainly fill out a blue card, and.....

44

45 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:wherever you would
48 like to fit it in, it will be fine with us.

49

50 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay. Thanks.

00036

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Terry. Anyone
2 else this morning? Okay.

3
4 Andy, if you'd give us your name and.....

5
6 MR. ADERMAN: All right. Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. My name's Andy Aderman. I work for the Togiak
8 National Wildlife Refuge. My report will be real brief.

9
10 Under Tab V in your books is an information bulletin
11 outlining some of the activities and projects the Refuge has
12 been involved in. I won't go into any of those at this time,
13 unless you have questions. And with your permission,
14 Mr. Chairman, we have some information on moose and caribou
15 that I thought would be more appropriate when the Proposals
16 39 and 40 come up.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Very good. All
19 right.

20
21 MR. ADERMAN: One last thing,.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You said V as in Victor?

24
25 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Okay. All right.

28
29 MR. ADERMAN: One last thing, the refuge is
30 recruiting for a permanent wildlife technician position.
31 That's currently open, and the vacancy announcement will
32 close March 29th, so if you know of anybody that's
33 interested, have them contact the refuge, or there's a site
34 on the internet that they can look up. It's usajobs.opn.gov.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's probably up on the
37 screen now?

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yep.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. There you go.
42 Bring joy to our life? That's okay. Carry on, Andy.

43
44 MR. ADERMAN: That's all I had, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it?

47
48 MR. ADERMAN: That's it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey. I wonder if the rest

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1 of you departments heard that report? Not bad. Okay. Any
2 questions you might have this morning? Of course we'll get
3 more on the moose and caribou later one when we get to our
4 proposals, so -- okay.

5
6 MR. HEYANO: One question I guess, Mr.
7 Chairman?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Yeah.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: Togiak Wildlife Refuge was doing
12 a moose habitat study in 17(A). Would that come -- doe the
13 result of that study come later, or the progress of it?

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. We have on the agenda
16 that we're going to present the draft management plan, and
17 that will be in -- part of that presentation.

18
19 MR. HEYANO: The results of that study?

20
21 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other question, Council
24 members? Thank you, Andy. Now we go to Park Service?

25
26 MR. BERG: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Who is.....

29
30 MR. BERG: Oh, no, Becharof Refuge.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Becharof Refuge, okay.
33 Thank you, Jerry.

34
35 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council
36 members. First of all, I'd like to mention that Daryl Lons,
37 the refuge manager of the Becharof and Alaska Peninsula
38 Refuges is sorry he could not make it. He had to attend a
39 family down at the States.

40
41 I'm going to be really brief on my report. Under Tab
42 V, information bulletin. We're currently in the process
43 right now of revising the management direction for the Alaska
44 Peninsula and Becharof complex. We're travelling to 12
45 communities on the Alaska Peninsula, and asking for input on
46 the revision of the comprehensive conservation plans known as
47 CCPs. The first plan for the Becharof was done in 1985, and
48 then, of course, Alaska Peninsula was done in 1987. Along
49 with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,
50 ANILCA, which established the refuges in 1980, we're mandated

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1 to provide these CCPs, to prepare the CCPs. We're in the
2 process -- we did travel to two villages here last week.
3 We're -- we got weathered in in one village for four and a
4 half days, but we are planning on to complete all village
5 visits here in the next two weeks, weather permitting. It
6 seems to be every time we go on the Pacific side to
7 Perryville, we're stuck there for three or four days, which
8 is kind of nice, to make home visits there, and put on some
9 weight. But anyway, I look forward to doing more village
10 visits. We're asking folks for input. We're getting some
11 good inputs, but again the main topic is the caribou issue.

12
13 I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to our
14 biologist, Ron.

15
16 MR. SQUIBB: Mr. Chairman, and members of the
17 Council, I'm Ron Squibb, subsistence coordinator at Alaska
18 Peninsula and Becharof Refuge. And on the subsequent pages
19 of the information bulletin we list brief descriptions of the
20 projects, the biological projects that have gone on on the
21 refuges, and I'll just briefly discuss those. I presume it
22 would be better to get into the details of the results when
23 we discuss the specific issues as proposals come up later.

24
25 We cooperated in all the big game surveys of caribou
26 and moose. We were cooperating, working closely with area
27 biologist Dick Sellers of Fish and Game. And we cooperated
28 on the post-calving count of the Northern Peninsula herd of
29 caribou which is our standard for measuring their numbers.

30 We had botanists come in from our regional office in
31 Anchorage, and the University of British Columbia to begin to
32 work on getting some information on the status of the caribou
33 range, as well as doing some ground work to establish a
34 habitat map for the refuge. As the years go by we'll be
35 working in that direction as well. They worked mostly on the
36 -- or exclusively on the Bristol Bay side last summer. This
37 summer they'll be coming back for another six weeks, and
38 we're planning to work down near Ivanoff Bay and Stepovak
39 Bay, and we'll also try and get some other work perhaps at
40 Wide Bay on the Pacific coast, and also try and get off to
41 one of the islands that haven't been grazed and try and use
42 that as a comparison. And then continue as well on perhaps
43 one more side or so on the Bristol Bay side. Continue to try
44 and look at habitat.

45
46 In cooperation with Fish and Game, we were able to
47 get some funding and do a calf mortality study this spring --
48 excuse me, last spring, and I got some interesting
49 information on the causes of the mortality among the calves.
50 And Dick Sellers continued, and we helped with his monitoring

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1 of known age cows that had radio collars on them, to try and
2 get their reproductive rates as individuals. And those two
3 projects together tend to indicate that we're continuing to
4 have problems with nutrition. The animals' reproduction is
5 poor. The younger aged animals, the younger aged cows are not
6 calving as early as they should, or in as large a percentage
7 as they should at younger ages. And the calf weights
8 continue to be down. And we also have a little bit of
9 disease and parasite problem that might be more than average.
10 And these things we believe are continuing to indicate
11 perhaps range condition problems, poor nutrition on the part
12 of the -- or rather for the herd.

13
14 We also began last fall a study of movement between
15 the Southern Peninsula herd and the Northern Peninsula herd
16 with the boundary at Port Moller and American Bay, and we put
17 some satellite telemetry collars on, collars that instead of
18 us having to fly down there and locate them, they would
19 transmit to a satellite once a week, and that's sort of a
20 pilot study. It seems to be working fairly well. We had a
21 little bit more mortality than we would have liked among the
22 14 cows we collared. With those we've lost four in the first
23 I guess almost six months now. And -- but we are getting
24 data weekly on their location. We've seen no cross over
25 between the herd. We're seriously considering kind of
26 extending (ph) that, and maybe putting a few more of those on
27 to see -- to continue to try that out as an alternative
28 method.

29
30 On the moose surveys, we.....

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me?

32
33 MR. SQUIBB:cooperated on those. Sir?

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could we ask you some
36 questions on the caribou?

37
38 MR. SQUIBB: Certainly. Certainly.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
41 members, you might have on just -- I understand you're going
42 to be again when we address Proposal 32?

43
44 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You'll be giving a much
47 more -- probably additional information?

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: Well, Dave Fisher will be
50 presenting the.....

00040

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB:information, and I'll be
4 available for questions. I believe Dick Sellers was.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He'll be here.

7

8 MR. SQUIBB:is planning to be here,
9 and.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

12

13 MR. SQUIBB:he'll certainly be
14 available for questions, too, sir.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. But just in case any
17 Council member wanted to ask you any questions now on
18 caribou, we'd like to open the floor to that if you would.
19 We've gone from 17,000 down to what number now does Sellers
20 and you have?

21

22 MR. SQUIBB: The last count, again we used
23 the post-calving counts in late June and early July as the
24 time to get the total herd number, and that last count which
25 is now half a year -- more than half a year old was 9,200 was
26 the combined estimate. We have -- I'm sort of hoping that
27 there -- there is some indication from a study done recently
28 by a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks,
29 that indicated that hot, dry summers may result in poor
30 forage quality for the caribou, and plants that normally are
31 used to cool wet summers. And since we had a cooler, wet
32 summer last year, I'm hoping that maybe this fall -- excuse
33 me, this June/July we'll see a better calf crop.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

36

37 MR. SQUIBB: So that's what I'm hoping for.
38 We'll see. Time tells. We'll know by the end of July on
39 that one.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If we were to do an
42 educated guess today, I would imagine you're somewhere in the
43 8,000 animals now versus 92. Ninety-two is a lot -- still a
44 lot of good animals. You could almost.....

45

46 MR. SQUIBB: Right.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:have a nonresident
49 hunt, and I know we're probably less than that.

50

00041

1 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Yeah, presuming.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

4
5 MR. SQUIBB:1,000 take, realized as has
6 been.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9
10 MR. SQUIBB:in past years, that would
11 be about right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you.

14
15 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, a question. From 17,000
20 to 9200, what's happening? Are they moving out or dying off?

21
22 MR. SQUIBB: Our best theory is that the
23 range condition, the quality of the food they eat has
24 declined, and that they've over-grazed the high qualify plans
25 such that the best aren't as available, and they're eating a
26 lower qualify diet. And so it's not that they're dying off,
27 it's rather that their calf -- their production of calves is
28 down, so as long as the same number are dying either by
29 natural causes, by predation, or by hunting, we're not
30 putting as many calves in at the other end, so that's our
31 theory at this stage.

32 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35
36 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. I'll go on with the moose
37 surveys briefly. In response to a lot of the local proposals
38 to close the Pacific side, and the Peninsula federal public
39 lands in general, we did a lot larger effort to survey moose
40 in December this year in the moose trend surveys. We got --
41 worked with Dick Sellers, and with the pilots, Tom O'Hara
42 with the Park Service, Sam Egli (ph) with Egli Air Haul, and
43 J.C. Tudor with Nakak (ph) Aviation. And we were able to
44 survey on the Bristol Bay side the Meshik River trend area,
45 Cinder River trend area, Mother Goose Lake trend area, and
46 the -- oh, they call it the flats, but it's basically the Dog
47 Salmon/King Salmon River area below Mother Goose Lake. And
48 then on the Pacific side, the only long-term trend area there
49 where there's data on an intermittent basis over the years,
50 is what's called the Pacific trend area, which is basically

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1 from Nak -- Levelock through Amber Bay. In addition to
2 those, we felt we weren't getting enough coverage in the
3 lower part of the Peninsula, or on the Pacific side, so we
4 surveyed as well the entirety of the Aniakchak drainage into
5 Aniakchak Bay, the coast from Kejulik Bay, Hook Bay and
6 Chignik Bay down to the outlet of the lake, and as well we
7 surveyed the Black Lake area and the tributaries into Chignik
8 Lake. So we got data on those.

9
10 Unfortunately those areas, we don't have data from
11 past years. Dick was thinking we should establish some long-
12 term trend areas down there and do a better job covering the
13 southern part of 9(E).

14
15 The information we did get from those surveys does
16 indicate the bull/cow ratios are good, and in the long-term
17 trend areas, the counts in those areas were comparable to
18 previous years. Certainly not back to the peak period of the
19 early 80s, but within the last 15 years, they were
20 comparable. And unfortunately, those areas don't necessarily
21 include some of the areas, you know, the local people have
22 been hunting, so we need to work on those areas, and perhaps,
23 you know, consider the information as a whole and perhaps
24 consider our survey areas. As always, weather prevented us.
25 We had a mechanical failure on the day we had good weather
26 and were planning to head down to survey south of the Chignik
27 Lake area, and try to get down towards the southern end of
28 the Pacific side, so that unfortunately didn't work out as
29 we'd hoped.

30
31 Then on fisheries studies, we had a creel survey at
32 Ugashik Narrows, which is a popular sport fishing site, that
33 had -- had some problems with Arctic grayling in the past,
34 and we got a little bit of information on the Arctic grayling
35 status in terms of size and age composition. And our
36 Fisheries Resource Office did some work with char in Becharof
37 Lake. And we're continuing the waterfowl survey in the
38 Naknek and Kvichak, Ugashik, and Igiugig Rivers in the
39 spring.

40
41 And our songbird study at Becharof Lake Bible Camp,
42 well, since last year, it was last year, we're not --
43 probably not going to continue that for a few years, and
44 Mother Goose is continuing.

45
46 Oh, planned -- Orville reminded me have some planned
47 studies this coming summer. We've had complaints of some
48 conflicts among subsistence users and sport fishermen at the
49 outlet of Becharof Lake. We're planning to have a public use
50 camp there, to monitor that, as well as we've had some

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1 complaints of competition with guided hunters and local
2 hunters on the Big Creek, and we're planning to look at that
3 during moose season this year.

4

5 So that's about it for the biological, you know,
6 summary of the projects from last summer.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, any
9 questions you might have? Yes, Robin?

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Ron, on page of the report, not under section B but under
13 last minutes of the last meeting, a calf mortality survey was
14 conducted on Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, 37 calves were
15 radio collared and 35 percent of those calves dies. And I
16 read through the.....

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN:reports into other
21 areas, I notice that the survival of calves in the moose
22 population. And I guess my question is, as you're out there
23 doing these aerial surveys, have you noticed an increase in
24 the predatory animals such as bear and wolves?

25

26 MR. SQUIBB: I unfortunately wasn't able to
27 work on the calf mortality study with the caribou spring.
28 Dick Sellers was. He can better address that, but to my best
29 understanding, I understand his interpretation was that, yes,
30 we do have significant mortality by bears and wolves of --
31 that they noticed -- basically they put -- the calves are
32 newborns, put radio collars on the newborns, real little
33 collars, and tried to check them every day or two for three
34 weeks, and then went back on a, you know, less frequent basis
35 there after.

36 During the first two weeks, I believe, as it says, 19
37 percent of the calves died, and I again -- Dick is a much
38 longer caribou biologist than I am. I'm new to this came,
39 but my understanding of his interpretation, that is not
40 unusual in a healthy caribou herd for that level mortality in
41 the first couple of weeks. What was a little unusual was we
42 had in the next two weeks, particularly the fourth week of
43 life, they had some mortality that appeared to be perhaps
44 disease related, or calves not being able to follow. That
45 was I think what concerned him more than predation.
46 Predation is significant, but it's not unusually so in a
47 caribou herd. And you might ask him to clarify that, he'd
48 give you.....

49

50 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

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1 MR. SQUIBB:a certainly better
2 interpretation than I can.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: I will. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin, when Dick Sellers --
7 I attended the Game Board meeting in Anchorage as the
8 chairman of your Council, and it was rather -- it was good to
9 have made that connection. And Sellers gave an excellent
10 report, which he'll give to us today, and this is why we're
11 doing agency reports now, to make sure that Sellers is here
12 to help us with the caribou issue along with Dave Fisher, who
13 was there also.

14
15 But I think he said there was about 500 eagles in the
16 area during the calving time, and they even kill some of the
17 calves, and this will be information that he'll give us, plus
18 the bear and wolf predation, which is fairly normal. And
19 along with other problems. It's really a unique situation.

20
21 So any other questions of Ron this morning? Did you
22 have anything else? Yes, excuse me, Robin? Robert.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I was just curious on the
25 Arctic char in Becharof Lake, what do you look for in the ear
26 stones to determine if they're sea run or not?

27
28 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Again, that was done by
29 the Fishery Resource Office. I'll take my best shot at it,
30 unless perhaps, Jerry, you actually would perhaps be a better
31 interpreter of that than I.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want some time?

34
35 MR. BERG: What was your question again,
36 Robert? Was what.....

37 MR. HEYANO: I was just curious. What do you
38 look for in the ear stone to determine if they were sea run
39 or not? Arctic char? It doesn't -- if.....

40
41 MR. BERG: Yeah, I don't know what they're
42 using as criteria to tell if they're sea run Arctic char or
43 not.

44
45 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, Mr. Berg, could
46 you move the microphone between you and Mister.....

47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

49
50 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

00045

1 MR. BERG: Yeah, actually I'm not sure what
2 criteria they're using to tell whether the Arctic char are
3 sea run or resident populations. It could be the size of the
4 fish or certain spawning colors. I'm not sure.

5
6 MR. SQUIBB: I could -- I'll call and check
7 on that. Call the fishery biologist.

8
9 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ron, You have a guide by
12 the name of Needles? Or what's the guide's name up there at
13 Becharof Lake, just up on the hillside there in the refuge?

14
15 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, Shumaker? Phil Shumaker?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Shumaker, yeah. He puts a
18 ton of men in that -- those streams there on the Bible Camp
19 area and those little streams down there. I mean, they're
20 just -- there's a lot of pressure that goes on there. Have
21 you had anybody checking on that to what kind of a return you
22 have?

23
24 MR. SQUIBB: On the char?

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27
28 MR. SQUIBB: We haven't had any work that
29 creek, no, sir, not to my knowledge. I know we have been out
30 at Bible Camp in August and, you know, he has to go through
31 to land on wheels at Bible Camp and walk.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah.

34
35 MR. SQUIBB:oftentimes. And during
36 that period of time, his visits aren't that frequent. I --
37 we do have -- if you are interested, we do -- all the guides
38 have an annual report to us which -- in which they give us
39 basically where they visited, what dates, how many people, so
40 we have rough records of that. If you have particular
41 interest in that, we could check it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other questions,
44 Council members? Yeah, Jerry?

45
46 MR. BERG: Actually I do -- I just read the
47 report on the Arctic char for Becharof Lake, and I can give
48 you a little bit better answer, Robert. The -- all the fish
49 contain an ear bone which they mention in the report, which
50 is called an otolith, and the fish will formulate rings on

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1 that otolith, and they can cut that and get a cross section
2 of it, and the fish will actually have -- there's rings just
3 like on a tree, and you can age the fish that way, and the
4 further those rings are apart, the fish will put on more
5 growth while it's in the ocean, and so they can determine
6 which years were spent in the ocean, and which years were
7 actually spent in fresh water by looking at the distance
8 between those rings, and so that's what they're referring to
9 here when they say that they're going to analyze those ear
10 bones, called otoliths, and then provide the results in the
11 summer of '99.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other question? Thank
16 you very much. And is that all you have?

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. So we have
21 finished the Togiak Refuge and Becharof Refuge. Jerry, what
22 else do we have here now? Park Service.

23

24 MR. BERG: The Park Service.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Under agency
27 reports -- we have had some new people come in this morning.
28 The gentleman in the back, if you'd like to introduce
29 yourself? Tony Gregorio from Chigniks. And.....

30

31 MR. MINISTA: Mike Minista from Manokotak.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me?

34

35 MR. MINISTA: Mike Minista from Manokotak.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Nice to have you,
38 Mike. Anybody else might have come in today that we --?
39 Okay.

40

41 Who will be handling the Park Service today? All
42 right, Donald? Give us your name for the record here,
43 Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: My name is Donald Mike, I'm
46 resource specialist for Katmai and Aniakchak National
47 Monument. And I'm also the subsistence coordinator. And I'd
48 like to thank the Regional Council for having me up here to
49 report on the Katmai and Aniakchak subsistence program.

50

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1 First of all, I'd like to start off with the
2 Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission,
3 and I'll be referring to the Aniakchak National Monument
4 Subsistence Resource Commission as the Commission, since it's
5 pretty so, if you see -- hear me say the Commission, I'm
6 referring to the Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence
7 Resource Commission. So.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So Commission is the key
10 word?

11
12 MR. MIKE: Right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

15
16 MR. MIKE: That will be the key word. The
17 Commission was originally planning to have a Commission
18 meeting in Chignik Lake on April -- March 2nd and 3rd of
19 1999. That is our annual meeting for Aniakchak. And we -- I
20 had to postpone it due to personal reasons, and we've
21 rescheduled for March 29th and 30th in Chignik Lake, so as
22 far as our membership on the Commission is we currently have
23 -- we currently have three members that are expired and we
24 are recruiting for two more people to fill the seats that are
25 Secretary appointments, and we've got a person identified
26 from Chignik Lake, and another person identified from Ivanof
27 Bay. And at its last fall meeting, the Commission endorsed
28 Bobby Christensen from Port Heiden to serve another three-
29 year term, and that letter of endorsement to the Secretary
30 was sent last fall, so we still haven't heard from the
31 Secretary's office as far as Robert Christensen's endorsement
32 to serve another term.

33
34 At the last SR- -- Commission meeting, we went -- the
35 Commission supported a subsistence management plan which is
36 similar to the resource management plan or general management
37 plan for Parks. What -- the subsistence management plan will
38 address subsistence issues in the monument. It will range
39 from c&t to wildlife and eligibility in the monument, so we
40 are in the process of developing a draft subsistence
41 management plan, and during our next Commission meeting which
42 is going to be held next week, we're going to be providing a
43 draft to the Commission for their input on the actual
44 contents of the plan, and provide some guidance as far as how
45 the plan is going to be coming out, so.....

46
47 In it, the plan will have a Park Service policy on
48 each subsistence issue, and a segment called SRC actions, any
49 hunting plan recommendations that the Commission provided, or
50 is still on hold or still in public review. It will be put

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1 in there. And another section will have a final action which
2 documents what the hunting plan recommendations process has
3 been gone through -- going through. So that is -- our plan
4 is we'll be -- a draft complete, done next week, and once we
5 get input from our Commission members, we will hope to have a
6 draft out to the public for public comment, and I hope that
7 we will have a plan for the next Regional Advisory Council
8 for your input and comments, so -- and I'm pretty excited
9 about the subsistence management plan. It will help guide
10 and direct the Commission members as far as subsistence
11 issues are related, and it will be used as a guideline, so it
12 will keep the Commission in track (ph) as far as subsistence
13 issues are concerned.

14
15 Going down to Unite 9(E) moose and caribou special
16 action. A couple years ago the Commission submitted a
17 special action the Federal Subsistence Board requesting a
18 closure to nonsubsistence hunt, and we all know what happened
19 during the special action process, and as a result, it came
20 -- the result was that the Council formulated the Northern
21 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd Task Force committee to address
22 management concerns for moose and caribou in 9(E), and the
23 Commission is still interested in the outcome of this task
24 force. So the Commission had some input as far as the
25 management of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, so
26 we're -- we still hope the Commission will be still a party
27 to this management plan.

28
29 So if you -- any of the Council have any questions,
30 just stop me, I'll be able -- I'll be happy to answer any
31 questions.

32
33 The subsistence regulatory proposals, the -- we
34 submitted comments to the proposals during the proposal cycle
35 to add Chignik Lake -- Chignik Bay and I think Chignik
36 Lagoon. The current federal subsistence regulations did not
37 address c&t for those two communities, and we put in a
38 proposal to add those two communities to have a positive c&t
39 for brown bear. I think they were just left out on brown
40 bear, so we wanted to make sure we included the Chigniks for
41 having a positive c&t for brown bear in Unit 9(E). And Pat
42 McClenahan will be addressing the c&t for brown bear in 9(E),
43 and she'll further provide details on the c&t proposal,
44 so.....

45
46 The resident zone community status for Aniakchak
47 National Monument or the Commission, we -- the Monument
48 currently have five resident zone communities, and they are
49 Port Heiden, Meshik, Chignik Lake, Chignik Bay, and Chignik
50 Lagoon.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the second one?

2
3 MR. MIKE: Meshik.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Meshik?

6
7 MR. MIKE: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Meshik Valley/River.
10 Yeah.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

15
16 MR. MIKE: So those are the five resident
17 zone communities, what that means is that those communities
18 have subsistence opportunities provided to them without a
19 permit from the superintendent, so -- but any one outside
20 those communities can apply for what we call a 13.44
21 eligibility permit to have subsistence opportunities to them
22 to hunt in the Monument themselves, so.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Those are five commun --
25 five districts that can apply?

26
27 MR. MIKE: No, they don't have to apply for
28 it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They don't have to apply?

31
32 MR. MIKE: They don't have to apply for a
33 13.44 eligibility permit, since they are identified as a
34 resident zone community for Aniakchak National Monument.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who has to apply then?

37
38 MR. MIKE: Anyone outside living those --
39 living outside the resident zone communities that I just
40 mentioned, so.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Drop-off hunters, guides?

43
44 MR. MIKE: Not drop off hunters, not guides,
45 but anyone living outside those communities or outside.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon, Naknek,.....

48
49 MR. MIKE:the Monument.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Igiugig. Okay. All
2 right. Okay.

3
4 MR. MIKE: So.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So there are guides or
7 drop-off hunters in that area for subsistence.....

8
9 MR. MIKE: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:for hunting, period?

12
13 MR. MIKE: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

16
17 MR. MIKE: You have to meet certain
18 criteria.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

21
22 MR. MIKE:to be eligible for a
23 subsistence permit in the monument, and we have some
24 eligibility question we ask of each potential applicants,
25 and, you know, we make a determination then that they have
26 subsistence c&t for certain species in the Monument.

27
28 And during our last two Commission meetings, we've
29 been addressing the communities of Perryville and Ivanof Bay
30 for possible resident zone community -- possible resident
31 zone community inclusion to the monument, and the Commission
32 directed the Park Service to look at Perryville and Ivanof
33 Bay as possible resident zone communities, and to date I've
34 spoken with the Village Council of Perryville, and they've
35 expressed interest in being a part of the resident zone
36 community. And I have some folks in Anchorage that will be
37 helping me in doing a determination of resident zone for
38 those two communities, and I'm still in the process of
39 gathering information and determining how to go about the
40 process, and it's going to be a lengthy process, so it won't
41 happen overnight.

42
43 The Commission had six hunting plan recommendations
44 submitted to the -- a final hunting plan recommendation
45 submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary
46 of the Interior wrote back to the chairman, Harry Kalmakoff,
47 and said, well, the Commission got a response from the
48 Secretary's office, and basically the Secretary of the
49 Interior delegated the response to the regional director,
50 which is Bob Barbee, to provide response to the six hunting

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1 plan -- final hunting plan recommendations, and here's some
2 copies for the Council members.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we'd like to see
5 those. Yeah.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.

8

9 MR. MIKE: This is -- these recommendations
10 is the result of the efforts done by the Commission members
11 over the years, and they've been in the books, on paper,
12 since 1992, and we've been trying to get a response from the
13 Secretary's office, and we finally got a response, and I'm
14 grateful to the Commission for their effort and -- effort and
15 -- their effort, I'm trying to find another word to describe
16 it, but this -- the recommendations 92-1 and 92-2 --first of
17 all, all of these hunting plan recommendations were found to
18 not to be in conflict with the -- with ANILCA, so -- yeah,
19 the first recommendation, 92-1 is hunting and trapping in the
20 Monument where traditional uses occurs, so these -- that
21 recommendation is already addressed on the Federal
22 Subsistence Management Program, so hunting and trapping is
23 currently allowed in the Monument and Preserve for
24 traditional activities.

25

26 92-1 addresses traditional place names in the
27 Monument and preserve, and the Secretary basically directed
28 the Superintendent to work with the other agencies to give
29 traditional place names on maps. So we will be consulting
30 with the Commission on these final hunting plan
31 recommendations as far as implementing the plan, so.....

32

33 Recommendation 92-3 addresses the roster or group
34 eligibility system. That's separate, or an alternative to
35 the 13.44 permit system. So we currently have a proposed
36 rule in Washington, D.C. that hasn't been finalized yet, so
37 that's as far as the roster system is concerned, the proposed
38 rule is still out.

39

40 Recommendations as far as c&t and I just spoke
41 earlier about the c&t for brown bear for those two
42 communities that currently were identified in the federal
43 subsistence booklets, so -- and we've provided comments to
44 include the communities that were left out for c&t on brown
45 bear.

46

47 92-6 addresses a cooperative moose and caribou study
48 survey, so as a result of the Northern Alaska Peninsula
49 Caribou Herd Working Group, we certainly -- that's being
50 addressed right now, and as I understand this, that we're in

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1 the process of developing a proposal to do a cooperative
2 moose and caribou study survey.

3
4 And our final approved hunting plan is 92-7, is an
5 access study, and the Commission wishes to have an access
6 study, and the Secretary basically directed the
7 Superintendent to work with the Commission to -- Commission
8 and the Park Service to develop a study plan to look at
9 access in the Monument and Preserve. Just dealing with an
10 access study, so the -- what the Commission wishes to see is
11 access that includes ORVs, snow machine, aircraft, jet boats,
12 or any other watercraft for subsistence access in the
13 preserve. So it's just -- basically just an access study.

14
15 So those final hunting plans were results of the
16 efforts of our Commission and they should be -- I'm proud to
17 be working with them as far as producing some results for the
18 people of the Monument, and they have certainly put a lot of
19 effort into this, and I'm grateful that I'm working the folks
20 there, so.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Donald, you -- if you're
23 going to follow your report here, you still have more things
24 to talk about up in the Katmai and Lake Clark Preserve, and
25 before you leave these six recommendations, maybe there may
26 be some questions by the Council. If -- I really apologize
27 for not having a PA system. His voice is getting quieter and
28 quieter, and he has a lot of good things here to say to us,
29 and I'm really sorry that we can't hear them all. We're
30 working on a PA system, it just broke down.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Well,.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions here, Council
35 members? No?

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I could hear him real
38 good.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. I can
41 hear him, too, but it's -- you know, he's got his back to
42 everybody, and they can't hear him.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No questions? Okay.

47
48 MR. MIKE: I guess I just want to apologize.
49 It's the way I grew up, I wasn't spoken to with a loud voice,
50 so I can hear myself speaking loudly, but I don't know if I

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1 can -- if the people behind me can hear me, so I try to make
2 a constant efforts to raise my voice, so if.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You should do that once in
5 a while. Yeah, go ahead.

6

7 MR. MIKE: If my voice starts getting
8 quieter, just let me know.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Carry on.

11

12 MR. MIKE: The ORV study that's currently
13 underway for the Katmai National Preserve, this issue has
14 been coming up for the last couple of years, and the Park
15 Service has developed a study plan to address -- to make a
16 finding on whether ORV use was traditionally employed in
17 Katmai National Preserve. And a couple -- last year or a
18 couple year ago, we put a team together of interdisciplinary
19 folk -- people, both biologists, anthropologists and
20 researchers to develop a study plan. And the study plan that
21 we have in this booklet is pretty much the same that -- as
22 the version of the report we gave during our last RAC
23 meeting.

24

25 And the only difference is, during our last RAC
26 meeting, we had some concerned citizens from Kakhonak on the
27 process of our study plan that we developed, and our
28 representative from Kakhonak was concerned that the Park
29 Service was moving too fast on the issue on c&t for ORV use
30 in Kakhonak, and he requested a moratorium on the study plan,
31 and Ralph Tingy (ph), our -- he's from our Anchorage office,
32 he currently serves as our team leader on these ORV study
33 plan, granted the resident from Kakhonak an extension on --
34 as far as the study plan goes, so -- and we've moved up our
35 study plan for a completed literature search, we've that.
36 That's was supposed to be done earlier this year, but we
37 moved -- or last year, but we moved it up for May 15th.
38 That's just the literature search. It's not going to -- it's
39 just gathering all the information together and that's --
40 that's all the information that we will have to try and make
41 determinations for a c&t use for ORV in Katmai National
42 Preserve.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Donald, will you have
45 something to give to the Council the next time we meet? I
46 mean, we'd like to hear a report from you before you make
47 your final decision. If the people in Kakhonak are concerned
48 that the thing is moving pretty fast, and they want to get
49 more information to you that -- of use of these vehicles, you
50 know, and maybe even before it was a preserve.

00054

1 MR. MIKE: Right. Yeah, we.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We would like to be aware
4 of that.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I'll certainly provide a
7 progress report.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10

11 MR. MIKE:during our -- during the next
12 RAC meeting. Or.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. This is very
15 important.

16

17 MR. MIKE:Council meeting, so I'm
18 trying to schedule another teleconference with our team
19 members, so I want to keep this thing -- I want to keep this
20 study going, and not leaving it behind, so we just need to
21 make progress, so its progress is slow, and as long as we get
22 some results, we'll try to keep the study going.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

25

26 MR. MIKE: And I'm constantly keeping contact
27 with the Village of Kakhonak to -- giving a report as far as
28 where we are at as far as the study's concerned, and I
29 maintain my contact with the Village Council President in
30 Kakhonak, and just keep him abreast as to what is -- as far
31 as what is going on, so we -- we're planning to have another
32 teleconference meeting, and making sure we're on track, and
33 during our -- during the next council meeting, we will
34 certainly provide a progress report.

35

36 (Whispered conversation)

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Donald?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Just on the Branch River. We
41 currently have a comprehensive river corridor plan to
42 identify issues, threats, and management objectives, so this
43 is a three-year planning effort on the Branch River and it's
44 scheduled to begin this summer, and that's -- the Park
45 Service have contacted the Villages of Igiugig and Levelock
46 concerning this comprehensive river management plan. And
47 this comprehensive river management plan is currently being
48 developed, so during the next council meeting, we hope to
49 have a much more detailed report on the Branch River
50 comprehensive river management plan.

00055

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before you -- are you done
2 with the Branch/Alagnak now?

3
4 MR. MIKE: (No audible answer)

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. This is a very
7 troubled that we have in this area. You have really, really
8 big operators in the area, and a lot of boats going up and
9 down there. I understand the Coast Guard is going to be
10 there this year to enforce that they have six-pack licenses,
11 and this Council has very little jurisdiction over what's
12 going on. I don't think the State of Alaska has even ever
13 appeared up there to even look at one set of licenses. And
14 the place is just being overrun. The drop-off people that
15 are floating down are leaving garbage and a lot of other
16 things in the area. It's being over-populated, and it's
17 basically ruining a nice area. And when you ask Tom Boyd
18 where does this program here, this Advisory Council, fit in
19 with the Federal Board, we don't. The State of Alaska has,
20 you know, the power of navigation. The Park Service has
21 other powers that we don't even know about, and nothing
22 basically is being done, and three years is a long time to
23 wait, Donald. Now, who issues the permits for those people
24 to go in there?

25
26 MR. MIKE: The concessions permits for.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anybody who's allowed to go
29 in there that's a commercial user, into the Alagnak/Branch.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Well, if they want to operate on
32 the Alagnak for commercial purposes, they need to get an
33 individual business permit from the park.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From who?

36
37 MR. MIKE: From our park.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: King Salmon? Do you know
40 how many are issued every year?

41
42 MR. MIKE: I have no idea.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How do you find that out?

45
46 MS. LIGGETT: Dan, I could help.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Would you want to
49 come up here and address that?

50

00056

1 MS. LIGGETT: (Indiscernible, away from
2 microphone) Can I just stand here?

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Give your name, if you
5 can.....

6
7 MS. LIGGETT: I'm Deb Liggett, for those of
8 you that I haven't met as of last week, I'm the
9 (Indiscernible, away from microphone) of the Katmai, Lake
10 Clark and Aniakchak.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

13
14 COURT REPORTER: Dan, excuse me, I'm sorry, I
15 can't hear you. Pick up that mike?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, it's a microphone that
18 we need to talk into, so that would be fine.

19
20 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

21
22 MS. LIGGETT: Katmai National Park has 217
23 individual business permit holders, the most of any unit in
24 the Alaska parks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, really? Uh-hum.

27
28 MS. LIGGETT: And those are tour operators,
29 boat operators, guide operations. Separate from the
30 concession operation at Brooks Camp.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could you tell us a
33 concession operator?

34
35 MS. LIGGETT: The concession operator is Ray
36 Peterson, Sonny Peterson at Katmai Land, and that's a
37 concession. That's a long-term contract.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does he go to.....

40
41 MS. LIGGETT:with the Federal
42 Government.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:to the Branch? Does
45 he go to the Branch?

46
47 MS. LIGGETT: On his -- he also has a Katmai
48 Land permit.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

00057

1 MS. LIGGETT:that accesses the Branch.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I see. Okay. So that's an
4 additional type of user group that.....

5

6 MS. LIGGETT: That's right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:comes in there.
9 That's very informative, because we're beginning to see now
10 this amount of thing taking place on that river system.

11

12 MS. LIGGETT: There was a major change that
13 occurred in the last session of Congress with what was called
14 the Thomas Bill that changes some of our concession laws. Up
15 until then,.....

16

17 MR. HEYANO: Stevens.

18

19 MS. LIGGETT:a park manager could not
20 limit the number of individual business permit holders.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me? Will you repeat
23 that again?

24

25 MS. LIGGETT: Under the law, the concessions
26 law that we've been operating under for about the last 20
27 years, a park manager could not limit the number of
28 individual business permit holders. But.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But that changed?

31

32 MS. LIGGETT: That changed. But the new
33 regulations are not out yet.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay.

36

37 MS. LIGGETT: They're apparently on the
38 Assistant Secretary's desk, the draft regulations. They were
39 on a fast track to get out, because this is a nationwide
40 issue.

41

42 Individual permit holders I perhaps should explain do
43 not have their place of business or any money exchanged
44 inside the park boundaries, that all of that occurs outside
45 the park. They just simply access the park for whatever
46 particular service that they're providing their clients.

47

48 The new regs that are going to be out on the street
49 for public comment, both in-house comment within the National
50 Park Service and public comment, simultaneously, to try and

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1 hurry the system up, those new regs would allow park managers
2 to limit the number of incidental business permit holders.
3 And that might be something that the Board.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Federal Board?

6
7 MS. LIGGETT: That both the Board and at the
8 RAC and at the SRCs might want to comment.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think so. I think
11 they might want to comment on that, yeah. Yeah. Okay.
12 Well, thank you, we kind of put you on the spot there a
13 little bit, Ms. Liggett, but.....

14
15 MS. LIGGETT: Oh, that's okay. Donald can
16 only be my shield for so long.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We are really
19 searching for some information. We appreciate you being
20 here. Alvin?

21
22 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Under that new law, what is
23 the limit,.....

24
25 MS. LIGGETT: The limit.....

26
27 MR. BOSKOFISKY:do they have it set?

28
29 MS. LIGGETT: The regs don't specify yet on
30 how that limit might be achieved, and that might be some one
31 thing that some public input would be valuable on.
32 Presumably it would have to do with resource impacts and
33 visitor experience.

34
35 When -- at a meeting over at BBNA yesterday, I
36 already confessed that the Alagnak is one of the snowballs
37 that the new superintendent sees rolling down the hill.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Absolutely. You know --
40 excuse me, go ahead, Robin?

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, we've heard complaints
43 from subsistence users that traditionally have used the
44 Alagnak for -- I think ever since this Council was formed,
45 and pre-.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Long before, yeah.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN:pre-Council, and looking
50 for relief in that area. So I think the Advisory Council

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1 needs to -- you know, we need to set a maximum, and if that's
2 cutting back on the existing because it's doing habitat
3 damage, or the experiences have.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Resource, yeah.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN:diminished. We've
8 gotten reports from local users. They don't even like eating
9 rainbow out of there, because they're so deformed, they've
10 been caught and released so many times. They're disfigured,
11 so, you know, I've got to concur with some of Dan's
12 statements there that -- and I'm glad the Nation finally
13 caught up with the people over in Levelock and the other
14 areas that had concerns.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN:15 years ago.

19

20 MS. LIGGETT: The comprehensive -- the
21 funding that we have to do a comprehensive river management
22 plan in concert with the State and with native associations
23 is almost \$400,000 over the next three years or so. We're in
24 the process of getting a vacancy announcement out for the
25 project manager on that. But I think that it's -- and it is
26 a long time, I agree with you. But it's critical that you
27 stay involved and track that process.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think we can't
30 emphasize too strongly, Ms. Liggett, that when some of the
31 people in Levelock, I think of Michael Andrew coming in from
32 Igiugig and Randy knows this, some of these old native people
33 who have always gone up there and traditionally used that,
34 are very intimidated by guides and these sports type people
35 who come and pretty much indicate they don't really have a
36 place there. And we really need to address that issue. The
37 first right of refusal is to eat that product, not play with
38 it.....

39

40 MS. LIGGETT: Right.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:basically. So thank
43 you very much. We appreciate that.

44

45 MS. LIGGETT: Right. Thank you.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Dan, as far as the Branch
48 River is concerned, we've had river rangers stationed on the
49 Branch River last summer, and we've had some park employees
50 stationed at Ninebienik (ph) to meet with rafters coming in,

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1 and what we try to do is educate the public that -- about
2 private properties along the Branch River, and refuse does
3 need to be -- if they take in garbage, they need to take it
4 out. So we're doing a lot of that information stuff, and
5 we're also working with people at Igiugig, and taking in
6 their concerns, too, so we're actively trying to participate
7 in the Branch River as far as management on the ecosystem is
8 concerned, so we've been working very well with the rangers
9 in Katmai National Park along with our resource management
10 folks working on the river itself, so.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm old enough to ride the
13 bus for free now. You've got to start speaking up a little
14 bit, okay?

15
16 MR. MIKE: Okay. I'll try.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Okay. Anything
19 else, Donald, that you.....

20
21 MR. MIKE: Yeah. The last thing I wanted to
22 mention is I want to welcome Deb Liggett to Katmai National
23 Park and Aniakchak National Monument, and I sure appreciate
24 her taking the time and -- time to come out to the Regional
25 Advisory Council meetings, so -- and as many of you know,
26 Karen Guson (ph), she was our previous unit manager for
27 Katmai and Aniakchak, left for a superintendent's job in
28 Guam,.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Poor thing.

31
32 MR. MIKE:and in her place Katmai hired
33 John Bundy from Lake Clark. He's our new unit manager for
34 Katmai National Park and Aniakchak National Monument.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We've met John. And
37 that's good. Any questions, Council members? Robert?

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Yes. Donald, is it -- in
40 development of this river management plan, is it your intent
41 that because of the complex jurisdiction and multiple land
42 ownership that these other people, or owners, land owners,
43 will also adopt the plan for their land? Is that kind of the
44 intent, or one of the things you hope to accomplish?

45
46 MR. MIKE: Mr. Heyano, I'm not actively
47 involved in this comprehensive management plan. Rick Clark
48 is our key contact for this plan, so I can find out if --
49 that information for you and give you an answer to that,
50 unless Deb has an answer.

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1 MS. LIGGETT: Robert, all I can tell you is
2 that we hope that it's a comprehensive plan, and that it
3 takes into account the needs of those different entities.
4 And whether that means one set of rules for the entire river,
5 I don't know that we're there yet. I think that a lot of
6 that depends upon public comment and the needs of those
7 folks. Could we at the next -- at your fall meeting -- could
8 we get Mr. Clark here, our resource.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

11
12 MS. LIGGETT:management specialist.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

15
16 MS. LIGGETT:to give you another update
17 on that? I hope you hear from us before then.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

20
21 MS. LIGGETT:on that, but.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Thanks, Ms. Liggett,
24 we appreciate it. Anything else, Council members? Thank you
25 very much.

26
27 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you, Dan.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We're going to --
32 we have one more public testimony before lunch today, and
33 then I would hope to be able to do the BLM report, if Jeff
34 Denton is here? Not yet. Not yet, but not quite yet.

35
36 I think we had Terry Christensen wanted to testify.
37 Before you testify, I want to ask Ron a question. Yes?

38
39 MR. GREENWOOD: (Indiscernible, away from
40 microphone) Park Service report to do for Lake Clark National
41 Park.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, we're still in the
44 park. Come on up here, I'm sorry. We'll take you, Terry
45 before lunch. Okay.

46
47 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, we still have John
48 Branson.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we've got -- oh, my

00062

1 goodness.

2

3 (Whispered conversation)

4

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Why don't we take a
6 short break, and go up to like 12:30,

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:so the restaurants
11 will clear out (whispered conversation).

12

13 MR. GREENWOOD: Mr. Chair, Council, Lee Fink
14 is unable to be at the meeting and he asked us to present a
15 report for Lake Clark National Park to the Council.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's that?

18

19 MR. GREENWOOD: Lee Fink.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

22

23 MR. GREENWOOD: And I'm Bruce Greenwood.

24

25 MR. BRANSON: John Branson from Lake Clark
26 National Park, and we didn't have time to get our report in
27 for the booklet, so could I distribute these now?

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Jerry? That would
30 be fine.

31

32 MR. GREENWOOD: There was an SRC meeting,
33 Lake Clark SRC, held a meeting in late January, and at this
34 meeting the purpose was to discuss and review the Lake Clark
35 National Park subsistence management plan, and we wanted to
36 obtain SRC's input into this plan. And once this input has
37 been gathered, and the comments have been incorporated, the
38 plan will then be sent out for public review. This is very
39 similar to what Donald explained regarding the management
40 plan that they prepared for Aniakchak. And most SRCs in the
41 State of Alaska now have management plans either completed or
42 in progress.

43

44 The Subsistence Resource Commission also discussed
45 proposals to change the regulations for this year. Most of
46 the ones they had no concern about. However, they spent
47 quite a bit of time discussing Proposal 35, which we'll talk
48 about later in this meeting. Proposal 35 is a proposal to
49 change the present season for moose in Unit 9(B).

50

00063

1 MR. BRANSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to be
2 here to represent Lake Clark National Park and Preserve with
3 our subsistence issue update. The federal registration hunts
4 for 1998/99, which commenced July 1st, '98, were three hunts
5 of dall sheep, eight permits were issued, two harvested.
6 Brown bear, five issued, two harvested. And one potlatch
7 moose, one issued and we haven't received any word as to the
8 ultimate disposition of that moose.

9
10 Resource projects for 1998, it was a year of
11 transition from nat -- for the natural resources program.
12 Thanks to tireless efforts by some talented seasonal
13 technicians, and the willingness of the ranger staff to pitch
14 in whenever necessary, and help from the Alaska Support
15 Office, we made good progress on a number of projects. One
16 was the moose survey, movement, survival and productivity of
17 moose in the Lake Clark drainage of Game Management Unit
18 9(B). This was the second year. '98 was the second year of
19 a three-year project to determine seasonal ranges and
20 movement patterns, estimate productivity and determine calf
21 and cow survival rates.

22
23 In between November '97 and November '98, more than
24 650 locations were obtained on collared moose during aerial
25 flights. And 45 collared moose, we have out, and nearly all
26 the cows tested positive for pregnancy when collared, and
27 from '97 we had no calf survival, and from '98 we had one
28 calf survive.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me.

31
32 MR. BRANSON: Yes?

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had no cow survival or
35 no calf survival?

36
37 MR. BRANSON: Calves I meant.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Calves, okay.

40
41 MR. BRANSON: Uh-hum.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, because if the cows
44 didn't survive, then the calves didn't either.

45
46 MR. BRANSON: In this handout, there's more
47 detailed information on the overview of the survey techniques
48 and the population estimate, and the confidence interval of
49 the survey techniques.

50

00064

1 Another park project is the access -- assess and
2 manage impacts of humans along national park coast lines,
3 bears as indicators. And that was going on our Cook Inlet
4 coast in the Chinitna Bay area, but this season it will be
5 moved to the Katmai coast.

6 And we are also monitoring furbearer populations, the
7 beaver cache survey.

8
9 We have another very interesting study coming up this
10 year with BRD, the Biological Resources Division of the
11 U.S.G.S. and the Park Service. It's determine the population
12 demographics and ecology of the sockeye salmon. And sockeye
13 salmon depend on spawning and rearing habitat Kijik River and
14 other Lake Clark tributaries. And the number of adult salmon
15 returning to the Newhalen River and Lake Clark watershed in
16 1969 -- excuse me, 1996, was only 2.3 percent of the previous
17 eight-year average. And the study will determine the
18 relative abundance and productivity within the lake and
19 tributaries with respect to escapement into Newhalen River,
20 examine the occurrence of subpopulations within Lake Clark
21 watershed, identify critical salmon habitat, document human
22 harvest and determine whether harvest is affecting run size.

23
24 We have another study going on on the limnology, the
25 water quality of Lake Clark National Park, which dovetail
26 nicely with that sockeye study.

27
28 And then we have another brown bear study that's
29 going on, and I have a more detailed draft proposal of that
30 study here for anyone that's interested. And that's going to
31 be doing a lot of work. In May 1999, a cooperative project
32 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game will test a new brown
33 bear survey technique in Lake Clark Game Management Unit
34 9(B).

35
36 That's all I have on the natural resource aspects of
37 the park, but we had a few cultural resource projects that
38 were of note. In 1998, in June, we surveyed 52 Dena'ina
39 house sites at the Kijik National Historic Landmark for
40 carbon -- radiocarbon analysis, and we found that some of the
41 houses were occupied between 1400 A.D. and 1910 A.D.

42
43 And then we have a cooperative program with the
44 Newhalen Tribal Council and the Newhalen School, and the
45 Alaska Federation of Natives grant, in which we surveyed some
46 sites on the Lower Newhalen River, and we found dates from
47 1275 A.D. to 1410 A.D., and some very old ones from 810 B.C.
48 to 210 B.C. People were -- we believe were living on the
49 Lower Newhalen River.

50

00065

1 And then we have a program with the University of
2 Alaska Fairbanks, a CD ROM program we developed with elders
3 from the Iliamna/Lake Clark country talking about subsistence
4 and other issues early in this century, and Andrew Balluta
5 was one of the chief informants on that. He's narrating a
6 trip over the Telaquana Trail. And that will be available in
7 the schools at Pedro Bay, Newhalen, Nondalton, Port Alsworth
8 and the King Salmon Visitor Center. A CD ROM program coming
9 up very shortly, and the University will be releasing it.

10
11 And, lastly, we had a few historic photographs were
12 located this year documenting early 20th Century subsistence
13 wood gathering, and trapping in the Lake Clark/Iliamna area.

14
15 Are there any questions? Comments?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members? Well,
18 John, we have an interesting situation on our hands here
19 where I believe the park slogan is protect and preserve, is
20 that what basically the park does?

21
22 MR. BRANSON: Yes, among other things,.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

25
26 MR. BRANSON:to protect and preserve
27 the -- for future generations.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To look at or to use or
30 what?

31
32 MR. BRANSON: To -- for their enjoyment and
33 the use -- ANILCA has mandated subsistence opportunities be
34 available for local residents who qualify. So that would be
35 a use of sorts, yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: John, when you look at
38 calf/cow survival rate here that you looked at in your park,
39 with the -- do you have any idea the number of wolves and
40 bear that exist as predators on these animals?

41
42 MR. BRANSON: Well, we have some bear studies
43 as I have mentioned coming up and we're trying to get a
44 handle on that. Local sentiment is that bears and wolves are
45 seemingly at an all-time high in that are.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

48
49 MR. BRANSON: And -- but we don't have any
50 hard evidence, but we're trying to this spring begin this

00066

1 survey of the bear population. It's.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

4

5 MR. BRANSON:to determine.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be good.

8

9 MR. BRANSON:if in fact -- what in fact
10 the bear populations are.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The tricky part of this,
13 John, is you can't begin eliminating wolves and bear as
14 predators on moose, even for the purpose of subsistence,
15 because, you know, Sellers did such a fine job at telling us
16 this, and these things we learn. We go to meetings and hear
17 the people who do these studies and know what's going on our
18 resource, and we depend upon them. If you begin eliminating
19 the predators down to the place where you begin protecting
20 animals, you'd almost have to eliminate the whole bear
21 population and wolf population, and we can't do that. We
22 don't want to do that. Somewhere along the line in a park
23 system, we're going to have to come to a balance, and I don't
24 know how this can be arrived, where we do have a subsistence
25 use of that -- of those populations. And I know that bear as
26 time goes on will become more of a subsistence animal, you
27 know. And we use furs all the time in the wintertime. I
28 mean, so help me, in this 30 below zero weather, we know
29 about using furs. And so the wolf could be a very valuable
30 tool. And yet to balance that moose population for
31 subsistence use, you know, when you get a guide who has a lun
32 (ph) travelling along the shoreline of Lake Clark, and he
33 can't go any further than that, and maybe up the Chilitna a
34 little ways, and the you've got the guide with the floats and
35 nine-man raft and an outboard motor and two or three super
36 cubs, and a Helo-courier and everything else can go
37 everywhere and, you know, capitalize on these animals, it
38 makes it difficult when we're dealing with subsistence, and
39 then you've got a certain number of bears, and a certain
40 number of wolves, eating a certain number of moose, and the
41 local people are standing there in your communities and
42 watching this go on, and the park slogan is protect and
43 preserve, you know, and much of that people are from some
44 place else, protecting and preserving and watching, and it
45 doesn't do us much good when it comes to, you know, putting
46 that moose in our freezer. But that's the issue. And I know
47 it's not an easy one to address, and it may not even be your
48 responsibility to answer that, but I think as a Council
49 member, I certainly do have say that, and that that's
50 something we're going to be looking at and putting pressure

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1 on in the long term. So that's just a comment.

2

3 MR. BRANSON: Well, with all due respect to
4 you, Mr. Chairman, we don't have any guides operating within
5 the park, so.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, no. Let me clarify
8 that. You don't have any nonresident, other than the
9 qualified village users of five communities that can use in
10 your park. However, they can go right across, you know,
11 behind Nondalton,.....

12

13 MR. BRANSON: Uh-hum.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and do things that the
16 Nondalton people can't do while the bears and the wolves are
17 eating up the moose that maybe Nondalton could use. That's
18 the issue.

19

20 MR. BRANSON: Uh-hum.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's a tough one.

23

24 MR. BRANSON: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And I appreciate
27 being able to say that to you.

28

29 Any other things, gentlemen?

30

31 MR. GREENWOOD: I -- when -- oh, go ahead,
32 Robert.

33

34 MR. HEYANO: I guess, what do you contribute
35 to the high calf mortality?

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like me to guess?

38

39 MR. BRANSON: Well, I haven't heard an
40 assessment by our resource management specialist, but the
41 local sentiment is that by pilots and long-term residents in
42 the area, it's -- in the spring, the brown bears are
43 constantly following the calf moose until they separate them
44 from their mother, and they usually prevail there, and they
45 kill the calf. And then in the winter, wolves are taking a
46 number of them. But mainly apparently it's -- they're
47 disappearing by mid summer, most of the calf moose, so that
48 -- most people believe that's a result of bear, brown bear
49 predation. And some of them are drowning, too, because
50 they're -- the mothers flee with them across rivers, and they

00068

1 get -- the calves get swept downstream, and they have found
2 carcasses, calf carcasses on Lake Clark shoreline.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other question? Yeah,
5 Robert?

6
7 MR. HEYANO: Do you have a minimum moose
8 population for the park.....

9
10 MR. BRANSON: Overall.....

11
12 MR. HEYANO:that you try to manage for?

13
14 MR. BRANSON: Not to my knowledge.

15
16 MR. GREENWOOD: No, there is not any minimum
17 population that we manage for at this time.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's not what?

20
21 MR. GREENWOOD: There's not a minimum
22 population that we manage for.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't have a management
25 plan?

26
27 MR. GREENWOOD: No, you -- In the discussion
28 for Proposal 35, Dave Fisher will present the moose biology
29 for Unit 9(B), and he'll address that in detail as that is --
30 as that will be discussed later in the meeting.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert?

33
34 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I guess I could save these
35 questions for later, Mr. Chairman, but I guess, you know,
36 just to put people on notice, I guess my concern is when do
37 we curtail or prohibit the subsistence harvest because the
38 calf -- the reproduction of the moose population doesn't
39 appear to be.

40
41 MR. GREENWOOD: Right now the recruitment's
42 very low. The moose population is in a decline. However,
43 there's the bull/cow ratio is very high, and off hand I don't
44 have the exact figures for that, but that's why there's a
45 continuation of hunting out there is because there additional
46 bulls to be harvested.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: So at some place we'll get a

00069

1 figure, maybe it's in this document and I haven't been able
2 to pick it out, but will you be able to tell us what the
3 total moose population is for Lake Clark Park, right?

4
5 MR. GREENWOOD: At the.....

6
7 MR. HEYANO: Or an estimate?

8
9 MR. GREENWOOD: At the end of the study, I
10 think there will be a much better idea, which will be -- the
11 study's due to be conducted through this summer, so next
12 winter there will be a better idea on what the moose
13 population at that time.

14
15 MR. HEYANO: But you're not prepared to give
16 us one when we discuss Proposal 35 or 32 or whatever it is?

17
18 MR. GREENWOOD: I'll have to defer to Dave
19 Fisher on that.

20
21 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

26
27 MR. GREENWOOD: I believe he has an estimated
28 population for the last couple of years.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?
31 Robert, did you have any more?

32
33 MR. HEYANO: No, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members?
36 Gentlemen, do you have anything else for us?

37
38 MR. GREENWOOD: I had one report to make to
39 the Council. This is as a request last year at the meeting,
40 the winter meeting. There's a discussion of customary and
41 traditional use for brown bear in Unit 9(C), and I was asked
42 to report to the Council on where in 9(C) on National Park
43 Service lands would that apply, if there was a hunting
44 season. And specifically John Smiley Knutson had a question,
45 could he hunt on his native allotment with a positive
46 customary and traditional use determination. So we
47 researched this, and in general with positive customary and
48 traditional use, and a hunting season, that a person could
49 harvest brown bear on the native allotments that are pending
50 approval. And they could also on the -- in the National

00070

1 Preserve.

2

3 Now, specific to John Knutson's allotments, his
4 allotment is actually a certificated native allotment,
5 therefore the federal regulations do not apply on allotments
6 in that classification. It's essentially considered private
7 land.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Did you.....

10

11 MR. GREENWOOD: And.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:have any questions on
14 that?

15

16 MR. GREENWOOD: And this has been discussed
17 with John also, and Smiley understands the situation
18 regarding this.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Do you have
21 any further reports on the park?

22

23 MR. GREENWOOD: No, none. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Have we -- yes, John?

26

27 MR. BRANSON: I wonder if any of the Council
28 members would like copies of the bear or fish, the sockeye
29 studies that are going to be -- these are plans. I could
30 bring them up if.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We need to chastise you a
33 little bit for handing us a report at the time of your oral
34 report, because we like to look at these before you.....

35

36 MR. BRANSON: I'm sure we'll do better next
37 time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. We'll put that
40 in the record then.

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chairman?

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I know, John, we all have a
45 lot to do. Is that all we have now from the Park Service?

46

47 MR. BERG: Yep, that's it. Yep.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're going to take
50 a break, then we have two people to testify after the break,

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1 and they'll break for lunch at 12:30, and when we come back,
2 Terry Christensen and Hans Nicholson will testify. Take a
3 ten minute break.

4
5 (Off record - 11:57 a.m.)
6

7 (On record - 12:05 p.m.)
8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I'll call the
10 meeting back to order. I'd like to have Terry Christensen
11 come up and talk to us at this time. Here you go, Terry.
12 Public testimony.

13 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I'm just
14 going to hit on the moose and caribou for.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You probably need to give
17 your name for the record.

18
19 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It's Terry Christensen,
20 Port Heiden, Native Council, Port Heiden.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

23
24 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I was raised in a family of
25 ten, so you won't have no problem hearing me.

26
27 I'd like to support Proposal 36, close the moose
28 hunting to nonfederally qualified users for the benefit of
29 subsistence users. And going on traditional knowledge, we
30 are not seeing the numbers of moose that the biologists are
31 seeing in 9(E). Our dependence on moose is going to rise
32 naturally due to the decline of our caribou herd. And I also
33 would like to stress that getting meat from guides is not
34 subsistence. And what I'd also like to avoid is the filling
35 out of another permit on hunting of caribou on federal lands.
36 You know, because we are now Tier II in 9(E) as you well
37 know.

38
39 Another point I'd like to make is that subsistence
40 use of caribou in second only to Anaktuvuk Pass.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Say that again?

43
44 MR. CHRISTENSEN: We are only -- we're second
45 of caribou users. Anaktuvuk Pass is number one, and we're --
46 Port Heiden is number two,.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

49
50 MR. CHRISTENSEN:so we have a heavy

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1 dependence on caribou.

2

3 Another note on moose that we'd like to see is
4 hunting -- no hunting past September 15th due to the rut.
5 That's basically my testimony.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, any
8 questions? Go ahead?

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I'll pass.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Terry, I have
15 several questions, if the Council members don't have any
16 more.

17

18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: If I can answer them.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Port Heiden, you
21 know, the Meshik River and Valley's a long way from Port
22 Heiden. I mean, it's a long ways to go to hunting. And I've
23 flown the area, and know it, you know it really well.

24

25 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah, traditionally we hunt
26 the valley with a boat and a skiff in the fall time when the
27 caribou are hard to get up in the federal lands, so in the
28 fall time generally we took a boat and went up river and got
29 them -- got the bulls coming from the south heading up
30 towards your country. That's.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What about going up
33 the Meshik in the fall time for moose?

34

35 MR. CHRISTENSEN: That was -- that was
36 traditional, given for many years. But there's been a
37 decline in moose, you know. In the 70s, if I remember right,
38 you know, I wasn't paying attention to moose back then. It
39 was high school years, but I remember there being a heck of a
40 lot more moose than there is now, you know, but there is a
41 return of the moose, but I don't think the numbers are as
42 high as the Department is saying. In my eye. But again I
43 don't have an airplane, but this is going on traditional
44 knowledge, and speaking with the other subsistence users in
45 the area, and that would encompass the Chigniks and also Port
46 Heiden.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So you said Proposal
49 Number.....

50

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1 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Thirty-six.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thirty-six was closure on
4 moose that you were addressing.....

5

6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:potentially then.

9 Okay. All right. Okay.

10

11 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Just to keep us -- ensure
12 that we have enough food for the table, you know, that's
13 basically what I'm.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Port Heiden is on state
16 lands, you've got to go to federal lands to.....

17

18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Right.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:find these creatures,
21 and that's what we're talking about today.

22

23 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That's all I had. I
26 thank you very much. Okay.

27

28 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, let's see.
31 Hans Nicholson there, if you would, please? If you'd give us
32 your name for the record, Hans, we'd appreciate it.

33

34 MR. NICHOLSON: For the record, my name is
35 Hans Nicholson. I represent the Nushagak Advisory Committee
36 here in Dillingham. The State Board.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

39

40 MR. NICHOLSON: Or, I shouldn't say State
41 Board. On the State side.

42

43 Our committee met -- I'm also a resident of
44 Dillingham, born and raised here.

45

46 Our advisory committee met February 16th and
47 discussed some of these federal proposals, and I'm here to
48 comment on Proposals 39 and 40.

49

50 Proposal 39 would make permanent a hunting season of

00074

1 the Cape Constantine caribou herd. This area is hunted by
2 permit only at this time, and as the numbers decline, it can
3 be controlled by the number of permits issued. And the
4 Nushagak Advisory committee supports this proposal.

5
6 Proposal Number 40. Proposal Number 40 would create
7 a federal open season for moose in Unit 17(A). This area
8 comes under the refuge and last March the Bristol Bay
9 Regional Council defined this proposal to establish an August
10 20 through September 15 season, one bull, state registration
11 permit. This proposal mirrors state regulations. There were
12 very low numbers of moose throughout the 80s and 90s, but
13 there was a notable increase in 1992. This year there was a
14 minimum of 409 moose. A cooperative moose management project
15 is going on in this area. Thirty-six moose have been caught
16 and radio collars placed on them. There were 88 calves per
17 100 cows. Staff checked on them in October and the moose had
18 a 54 percent survival rate. They also saw a lot of bulls,
19 but they don't have a lot of good composition counts.

20
21 The Nushagak Advisory Committee moved to oppose
22 Proposal -- to oppose Proposal Number 40 until such a time
23 that the users, the federal and state government can get
24 together to discuss this issue. Further, that a subcommittee
25 be appointed to deal with this issue on behalf of the
26 advisory committee.

27
28 In the past, the Nushagak Advisory Committee has
29 always maintained conservatism. We not believe that the Game
30 Management Unit 17(A) can support such a hunt at this time.
31 Opening such a hunt now without putting checks in place or
32 even having the numbers to support such a unit would and
33 could adversely effect the populations of moose in 17(A). In
34 some of our earlier meetings, our minutes show that we
35 opposed such a hunt, and believe that the resource needs to
36 grow before such a hunt can be implemented. In -- also in
37 some of our earlier committee meetings, numbers to support a
38 moose hunt indicate that this area needs approximately 1,000
39 animals to sustain the populations if a hunt were
40 implemented. A state hunt is already on the books. We also
41 believe that a cooperative management plan between the State
42 and Federal needs to be implemented before expanding any
43 further hunts in 17(A). You have to remember that this area
44 didn't have any moose populations in the -- much moose
45 populations in the past, and has taken a long time to build
46 up the populations.

47
48 We urge you to take caution when deciding the future
49 of this resource. Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you,
2 Hans. Any questions, Council members?

3
4 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: What's your name again, sir?

9
10 MR. NICHOLSON: Hans Nicholson.

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Hans Nicholson. Can one
13 of you answer some questions about the population base in
14 17(A), or that's going to come later?

15
16 MR. HINKES: Well, we plan on giving a
17 complete presentation -- this is Mike Hinkes with Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, Togiak. We plan on giving a complete
19 presentation later on when we come to deal with this
20 proposal, including, you know, the growth and expansion of
21 that population. And so if you want to wait until that time,
22 Pete,.....

23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

25
26 MR. HINKES:you know, and then we can
27 -- you know, we can comment on some of the things that Tom
28 said, you know, in his presentation.

29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Thank you, Hans. Yeah.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hans, I want to ask a
33 question, and I want to make sure it's somewhat halfway
34 intelligent. Is this 17(A) that we've had a permitted hunt
35 with a certain number of animals, and the permits are issued
36 by the State of Alaska, and it was a cooperative effort
37 between the feds and State only to take a certain number of
38 animals, is that what we've done? Council members? Okay.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's my recollection.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We wanted 600 animals
43 before we could have, you know, a public hunt. You say 1,000
44 which is.....

45
46 MR. NICHOLSON: 1,000.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

49
50 MR. NICHOLSON: And it's -- I think the -- if

00076

1 I remember correctly, initially they were discussing anywhere
2 from 600 to 1,000.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And the habitat
5 looks good. The predator thing is pretty low. A lot of good
6 favorable things happening, we wanted to make sure that these
7 moose were not taken illegally until they got to a certain
8 level that they could be used by all the subsistence
9 qualified users in the area. And that's basically what
10 you're talking about, right?

11
12 MR. NICHOLSON: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And Robert called
15 for a moose management plan on that?

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: We agreed.

18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The way we were going,
22 that was at last meeting.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman, I
25 think if you go back and read the minutes, there was actually
26 a motion made by Robin Samuelsen to come.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay.

29
30 MR. HEYANO:up with a moose management
31 plan.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A moose management plan.

34
35 MR. HEYANO:before we started.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah. I understand
38 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech).

39
40 MR. HEYANO:liberalization of hunting.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Yeah. So we're
43 very well aware of that.

44
45 MR. NICHOLSON: And I think that's all that
46 we're asking,.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

49
50 MR. NICHOLSON:you know, take a good

00077

1 hard look at it.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

4

5 MR. NICHOLSON:before you make any
6 decisions.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Okay.

9

10 MR. ABRAHAM: And, Mr. Chairman, and then
11 Robin made a comment on the teleconference a couple of years,
12 some years ago, that the 600 can be the threshold for winter
13 hunt, stuff like that. I clearly remember that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin?

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Some people's memory's better
18 than mine.

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A good way to get corrected
22 in public.

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: No. The problem is, Mr.
25 Chairman, is that the Nushagak Advisory Committee closed
26 traditional hunting grounds in the Snake Lake and the head of
27 Lake Aleknagik in Sunshine Valley to the villages of
28 Manokotak, Dillingham, and Aleknagik,.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN:so we could get a
33 migration at that time of moose across the mountain range
34 over into Togiak Valley, and that area still remains closed
35 to these villages.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

38

39 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'd really stress that we
40 look at a management plan, because if we open up -- I'll just
41 save it for when we in the proposal. Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Well, that's
44 been a good refresher, Hans. We appreciate you talking. Any
45 other questions you might have, Council members? Thank you
46 very much for taking the time today to come and.....

47

48 MR. NICHOLSON: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And talk to us. At

00078

1 this time we're going to finish up with two reports before we
2 go to lunch. And get my agenda here. We would like to ask
3 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Bill Glick, who does
4 the commercial reporting for the Alaska Department of Fish
5 and Game, if you'd give us your name and a report, Bill, we'd
6 appreciate it.

7
8 MR. GLICK: My name is Bill Glick. I work
9 for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Dillingham here,
10 Commercial Fisheries Division. I'm the Togiak area salmon
11 biologist.

12
13 I'm just going to give a brief forecast here of the
14 fisheries for this year, starting with Togiak herring. The
15 1999 forecasted biomass is estimated to be 90,000 short tons
16 this year. And as usual, there would be a maximum of 20
17 percent allowable harvest on that biomass, which would be
18 18,000 tons. There's a fixed allocation comes off of that of
19 1500 tons for the spawn on kelp fishery. There is seven
20 percent that comes off of that for the Dutch Harbor food and
21 bait allocation, which would be 1155 tons. And then the sac
22 roe fishery would be 15,345 tons. Of that, 75 percent is
23 allocated to purse seine, which would be 11,509, and the
24 gillnet allocation of 25 percent would be 3,836 tons.

25
26 And one of the questions that's brought foremost by
27 fishermen on that forecast is that it's a reduction of about
28 26 percent from last year. And the question is are we held
29 to that forecast in season, and the answer would be no, we're
30 not held to that. If we have good weather and we aerial
31 surveys that reveal more biomass, then everything bumps up
32 and the allowable harvest moves up.

33
34 The chinook estimate for the Nushagak District this
35 year, the total run would be 214,000. The in-river goal
36 subtracted from that is 75,000, of which 65,000 is for
37 spawners and 10,000 is for the subsistence and sport users,
38 which leaves the common property harvest to the commercial
39 fishery at 139,000.

40
41 The sockeye forecast for this year, having used
42 different methodologies according to which river system, the
43 total run is estimated to be 26.2 million sockeye to the
44 Bristol Bay. Subtracting the escapement goals from that,
45 which are 11.1 million, and the South Peninsula quota of 1.3
46 million, leaves the inshore harvest estimate at 13.8 million
47 fish.

48
49 And again, there's -- if you read -- you have that
50 report, or that forecast I just gave you on the sockeye

00079

1 there. Bev Cross does mention at the bottom that there is
2 quite a bit of uncertainty to this. The last two years,
3 there's been quite a substantial reduction in production, and
4 scientists are continuing to look into the new information of
5 trying to find out why this production is decreasing, whether
6 that be environmental factors, or predictive models, a
7 combination of both of those.

8
9 Are there any questions?

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Committee members? Do you
12 have a question? Yeah, Robert? -- Robin, excuse me.

13
14 MR. SAMUELSEN: In the forecasting model,
15 Bill, because we have villages up on Iliamna Lake that are
16 having a tough time meeting their subsistence needs. I see
17 your -- you've got an 80 percent confidence level in the
18 forecast from nine to 43.4. Why did the Department pick kind
19 of on the higher end of 26.2 million? Was that based on the
20 three models?

21
22 MR. GLICK: Right. Right. The three models,
23 I'll go ahead, what -- how they use that is they did some
24 hind-casting to see which estimates fit which series of data
25 based on age. We have data going back to 1956 for the Bay,
26 and for each individual river system, they looked at
27 different segments of time interval, and tried to hindcast
28 which estimate applied to those age -- to that data series,
29 and then whichever fit best per river system, they would take
30 -- whether it was the oldest data, or all of the data
31 combined, or just the newer data, and they would take those
32 -- that information and try to fit it into hind-casting to
33 see which fit best. And then on an individual river system,
34 that was figured, and then when the total came out, the --
35 for the total bay run, then those individual river systems
36 came out with different amounts according to which time
37 series was used. And they felt that by hind-casting those
38 time series, they were able to increase their estimate a
39 little bit there.

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions? Bill,
44 I see they still have that bait fishery going on down in
45 Dutch on the Bristol Bay herring?

46
47 MR. GLICK: Excuse me?

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You have a bait fishery
50 going on still in Dutch on 1155.....

00080

1 MR. GLICK: Right.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tons?

4
5 MR. GLICK: Right. 1100 tons.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 1100 tons. Yeah. That's
8 just an established thing they do now?

9
10 MR. GLICK: That's part of the regulation
11 that they have seven percent of that allocation.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's pretty incredible that
14 they would take a resource long before ever know what's going
15 to happen inshore. And that's just a sore point.

16
17 MR. GLICK: Yeah. That question does come up
18 why that.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah.

21
22 MR. GLICK:is still in effect that way.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Been a long time in doing
25 that, and that's really unfortunate. Yeah, Robin?

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Concerning that issue,
28 Mr. Chairman, because of the concerns of providing forage for
29 stellar sea lion, the Department's going through a review of
30 the statewide herring fisheries at this point in time, and
31 we're hoping to get a report on the North Pacific Fisheries
32 Management Council.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN:from the State, as well
37 as recommendations from National Marine Fisheries Service.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we might see you next
40 year. You never know.

41
42 MR. GLICK: Yeah.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much for
45 your report. We appreciate you taking time today, Bill.

46
47 MR. GLICK: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We have a sports
50 report, too, from Dan Dunaway, if you're here, and, Dan,

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1 you'd like to talk to us on the sports issue? I imagine you
2 have something to say on the Branch today perhaps?

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, yester -- thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman, Dan Dunaway with Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game. I'm the area sport fish biologist for Bristol Bay and
7 Lower Kuskokwim. I'll try to keep it brief, because I know
8 that big game is your main focus here.

9

10 I have a couple of things here if you're interested,
11 and I can hand them out. I have the 1990 sport -- or 1999
12 sport fishing forecast for Bristol Bay. Briefly at this
13 point, I don't see any problems -- or I don't anticipate
14 significant problems at this point, and so we don't have any
15 preseason emergency orders. Well, there are some -- a couple
16 of fisheries we watch closely: Nushagak, King Salmon
17 fisheries got a management plan, and we kind of do things in-
18 season. We -- if the forecast comes out right, things should
19 be good for everybody.

20 The Nushagak coho salmon fishery is a little more of
21 a concern. We don't have a very good ability to predict
22 that, and based on prev -- parent year runs, that one could
23 be a problem. I'll be geared up and watching closely. If we
24 need to reduce bag limits, we will, according to the plan.

25

26 And I'm getting in the habit of watching the sockeye
27 fisheries pretty close over in the Iliamna area. I was about
28 two hours away from dropping the bag limit last year when the
29 fish showed up, and we were talking commercial openings
30 again, which kind of stopped my action.

31

32 That's the extent of the forecast. Unless you have
33 some questions?

34

35 I also have a short list of sport fish projects that
36 we'll be conducting this year, including investigations on
37 rainbow trout in the upper Naknek River. That began
38 Saturday. We plan to do a creel survey on the Naknek River
39 salmon, both king and coho through the summer, and then a
40 fall rainbow trout project. Hope to do a creel survey on the
41 Kanektok River king salmon, Togiak River coho salmon, Lower
42 Talarik Creek rainbow trout. We have an on-going Aleknagik
43 Lake pike project, and we hope in next winter to be reviewing
44 our rainbow trout management plan that the Board adopted, and
45 possibly coming up with more specific recommendations that
46 are a little more precise than just saying maintaining
47 historic size and age.

48

49 If anybody's interested, I did bring along some 1998
50 season summaries, but I believe I handed some out at the fall

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1 meeting, but I have some available.

2

3 I also have another copy of our 1997 annual
4 management report. It's the most recent one available, and I
5 could get a couple more. My supply's limited, but I have a
6 few if you think they'd be helpful, or if you'd like them.

7

8 Now -- And I also have some 1999 regulation books.
9 They just arrived. If you'd like them, I have them. Or
10 they'll be distributed.

11

12 There were some comments made about the Branch River
13 that raised a little bit of concern earlier, or the Alagnak
14 River it's also called, that I thought I ought to briefly
15 respond to. I would like to point out that at least in the
16 last three seasons, possibly more, we have had some state
17 enforcement activity over there. I myself have done some of
18 it. I've written a few tickets. Last year we had a bigger
19 operation coordinated where the Sport Fish Division paid Fish
20 and Wildlife Protection statewide \$100,000, I believe about
21 \$30,000 of that got spent in Bristol Bay, enforcing sport
22 fisheries. They made at least two enforcement trips on the
23 Alagnak River. In 1997 they also made a float trip on the
24 Alagnak River from one end to the other, and I believe
25 they've done some short visits for enforcement at the outlets
26 of Nonvianuk and Kukaklek Lake in the spring fishery. I'm
27 not positive of that, but I know I've talked to them and
28 asked them to drop by there, and I'm working on a plan for
29 summer enforcement bay wide, and actually in the lower
30 Kuskokwim right now.

31

32 Touching on biological issues, it's not my study, but
33 the Park Service has asked the USGS to conduct a rainbow
34 trout study and it's in their third season of it I believe.
35 I've been talking to their former project leader, Eric
36 Knudsen, who's since moved on, but the last time I had a good
37 discussion with him, he doesn't believe we have population
38 problem, we don't have a biological problem. There may be
39 other concerns, and the study isn't complete, so nothing's
40 final at this point, but indications are that we don't have
41 the population problem that we thought we had two years ago.
42 When we thought we had it, we had a -- we restricted the sport
43 fishery to catch and release in both '96 and '97, and then
44 the Board of Fisheries adopted a more permanent catch and
45 release regulation on rainbow trout for the whole drainage --
46 or for the whole river, pardon me, Alagnak River and
47 Nonvianuk, and so this will be our fourth season of catch and
48 release. We didn't have as many restrictions on the Naknek
49 River when we had a more clearer biological problem. It took
50 about five years of restricted sport harvest to have the

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1 fishery rebound. So I have hopes that we'll see some rebound
2 in the Alagnak River rainbow trout fishery.

3
4 I'd also like to point out that there were other
5 restrictions that affect sport fisheries on the Alagnak
6 River. The bag limit for char was reduced from ten to three
7 per day. The bag limit for grayling was reduced from five to
8 two per day. Guides are no longer allowed to harvest fish
9 while guiding. And all sport anglers in Bristol Bay are
10 restricted to a total of five fish annually. Five king
11 salmon annually. Some rivers are restricted more, but -- so
12 I think those restrictions will have some favorable impact,
13 should reduce the impact of sport fishing in that area.

14
15 We've also, to touch on some other joint projects,
16 the Department of Fish and Game and the Park Service
17 coordinated on creel surveys at the outlet of Kukaklek Lake
18 and Nonvianuk Lake. That report is still under review at
19 this point, but I don't think we found any real alarming
20 information, though an opinion survey seemed to indicate
21 feel- -- people found the fishery not as good as it had been.

22
23 We also in 1998 conducted a creel survey in the Lower
24 Alagnak River for the king salmon fishery. And I'm still
25 short-handed and I still haven't analyzed the data, but I
26 don't expect it to show us anything new or alarming from
27 previous years.

28
29 And the last thing I wanted to touch on is that I
30 have been in pretty close communication with Rick Clark of
31 the National Park Service, and I expect I'll be participating
32 in their river planning effort when it gets going.

33
34 And that's all I have. I'll be happy to answer any
35 questions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm the one who made the
38 statement no one showed up. So if that's a statement that I
39 need to make a correction, that you did show up on the Branch
40 and you did do enforcement, and your presence was there. And
41 I made the statement in the record earlier that, you know,
42 they just never showed up. So I appreciate that information
43 so we can make that correction.

44
45 And council members, do you have any questions?
46 Yeah?

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess I read in the paper
49 here about a month to month and a half ago that the over-all
50 sport licenses in the State is in a downward trend. Is that

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1 indicative of the Bristol Bay region?

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I haven't gotten a breakdown
4 from our supervisors. I've asked for some analysis and
5 they're combing it carefully, but I haven't got an
6 indication. And it can be really hard to tell, because many
7 people that fish in Bristol Bay probably buy their license in
8 Anchorage on the way out. But I really don't know. And
9 thanks for reminding me. I'm going to ask them ago.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Thanks, Dan.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions? Yes,
14 Robert?

15

16 MR. HEYANO: How is the recovery coming on
17 the Iliamna River?

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: That study, too, I'm -- boy,
20 that one I'm not as familiar with. We're not sure where we
21 are with that river. It was very difficult for us to -- when
22 we got in there with the two years of study in '96 and '97,
23 to establish that we had a problem. We have got I think it's
24 -- is it closure or catch and release only on char for that
25 river. But to establish a cause for it, or what we could do
26 to change it, I don't know, and we don't have any studies at
27 this point planned to review the status. I think it would
28 take a few years. I've talked to commercial biologists, the
29 Iliamna River is probably one of the most consistent rivers
30 for producing sockeye salmon, or getting their --
31 consistently is getting their escapement goal for that river,
32 so as far as the food supply from the salmon, it should be
33 consistent. Investigations in the subsistence fishery in the
34 area didn't seem to indicate that the harvest -- that they
35 were harvesting much out of that river. Of course, some of
36 them said that, no, there's not many fish over there, we
37 don't go over there any more. And as far as sport fishing,
38 we've tried to reduce the impacts significantly on that. But
39 there remains to be a question of whether the sport fishery
40 really had a significant impact to start with. So I don't
41 know how -- if there's a recovery or what the status of that
42 population is at this point.

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
47 Council members? Terry Christensen said that he seemed to
48 think there's a pretty big decline in the king salmon in the
49 Meshik. Is that your district down in the.....

50

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Alaska Peninsula?

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: That would be -- it's kind of
6 out in the edge there. It would probably be managed out of
7 the Kodiak office.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Kodiak or

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Lynn Schwartz.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Bristol (ph) District,
14 yeah. Uh-hum.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: And he probably depends pretty
17 heavily on the commercial aerial escapement assessments for
18 information.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anything else,
21 Council members? Well, thank you very much, Dan. We
22 appreciate you taking time today to come and talk to us, and
23 we'll make all the corrections of our comments, and the fact
24 that you did show up and do enforcement, and we appreciate
25 that a lot. We need.....

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it's a misconception, and
28 we're working hard to get better sport fish enforcement
29 around the Bay, and I think we're having real success.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY:with that. I think that
34 Bay Times here is going to have some interesting articles
35 this week, so.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Yeah?

38

39 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one comment, Mr.
40 Chairman. The last -- last year was the first time in
41 history since we had a local paper at least I knew that there
42 was more sports fishermen in the paper with violations than
43 commercial fishermen.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hallelujah now.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: And that was because of Dan's
48 efforts up in trying to clean up the fishery up in the
49 Nushagak.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Thank
2 you.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: That and you guys weren't
5 fishing, so the fish cops had plenty to do.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How about an hour and fif
8 -- coming back, an hour and 20 minutes okay for lunch? 2:00
9 o'clock: Get back at 2:00 o'clock.

10
11 (Off record - 12:37 p.m.)

12
13 (On record - 1:57 p.m.)

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're finishing up on
16 reports. I was talking to Jeff there. Okay. To Jeff
17 Denton, if you would like to give the court recorder your
18 name, and give us a report?

19
20 MR. DENTON: Yes, my name is.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now we're ready.

23
24 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff Denton, I'm a
25 biologist and subsistence specialist for the Anchorage field
26 office of the Bureau of Land Management. And I'll give you
27 kind of an agency report.

28
29 BLM hasn't been real active in the Bristol Bay Region
30 this last year, nor do we intend to do a great deal of work
31 next year. The on-going programs BLM has going on down here
32 are primarily focused around native allotments and that long-
33 term process that seems to be a never-ending process of
34 getting those things certificated to various folks down here.

35
36 There are some other realty actions, one is the
37 hazmat cleanup at the Red Top Mine site just upriver from
38 town here. There are still some folks working on that
39 project there.

40
41 From the subsistence standpoint, our biggest role
42 down here now is basically a financial one and a coordination
43 one with ADF&G biologists Jim Wellington for -- we provide
44 quite a bit of financial support for most of the radio
45 tracking studies for Mulchatna caribou. And that's what
46 we've been trying to coordinate and keep that active
47 participation. That's -- and the biggest reason for that is
48 the Mulchatna covers actually -- that particular herd of
49 caribou covers several subsistence regions, all of which fall
50 under the -- have BLM lands in the Anchorage field office

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1 region.

2

3 And then as you see every year, the brown on your map
4 back there seems to get a little bit bigger. That will
5 probably continue very slowly over time as State lands, State
6 selections of BLM lands are relinquished and they go back
7 into federal public land status. A lot of the white
8 interspaces between those are selected lands, and, of course,
9 they don't qualify right now for federal subsistence program,
10 but they are still BLM-administered lands, and as the over-
11 selections be- -- and all the native selections, all the
12 State selections are resolved, over-selections will return
13 back into the land base for federal subsistence. So that
14 brown on the map will probably continue to grow slowly over
15 the next few years as those lands settlements are taken care
16 of.

17

18 I guess I wanted to mention also that BLM lands
19 border the Branch River, Wild and Scenic River. Actually the
20 wild and scenic river is BLM lands, but it's under Park
21 Service administration. We are looking forward to working on
22 that plan, at least from the outside looking in. We have a
23 role to play. BLM lands border the majority of the wild and
24 scenic river corridor for several miles in each direction.

25

26 And also we are I guess encouraging the Park Service
27 also to work with us on the study dealing with ORVs. The
28 communities that are concerned about this, and that this is
29 -- this particular study involves, most of those folks have
30 to cross BLM lands before they ever get to the Park and
31 Preserve, and so basically BLM has a decision-making role
32 potentially associated with that study. So we are I guess
33 awaiting at least an initial look at the review of that study
34 plan. We have not had any involvement at this time, and I
35 guess we've covered that somewhat with the Park Service
36 informally, so that's kind of where we're at right now.

37

38 And I guess relative to also that study plan, because
39 some of those lands that are crossed relative to that ORV
40 study, the decision may involve the -- either the State of
41 Alaska or the native corporation that has lands selected that
42 are under BLM administration. Their concurrence for any
43 decision is necessary. That's a requirement of those kinds
44 of decisions are made, and so there's more players than the
45 Park Service in that study plan, and you folks need to
46 realize that as well, because there's important subsistence
47 access and means and methods involved here.

48

49 That's all I have for right now, other than next
50 year, looking at the -- down the road a ways, we're looking

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1 at doing all of the BLM lands on there and hopefully in
2 coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Service land cover
3 mapping that would cover basically the refuge and all the BLM
4 lands that are on your map there in the Kvichak and Kaliganek
5 and King Salmon areas. So that will be a major project in
6 coordination with Ducks Unlimited. BLM is -- has a goal
7 within five years to do all BLM lands in the state, and we're
8 half-way there now. But this particular work's associated
9 with the military operations areas, their training areas.
10 The Air Force is paying for a big portion of that, so we're
11 going to take advantage of that to get actually a first cut
12 at land cover, vegetation and habitat mapping for this region
13 down here.

14

15 Are there any questions?

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty neat you might do a
18 habitat study on your lands.

19

20 MR. DENTON: That's what the land cover
21 mapping is, probably the first level of inventory relative to
22 that, and that will tell us a great deal of where we need to
23 concentrate more detailed efforts.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And I think you've probably
26 seen more native allotments surveyed in this region probably
27 than any other region in Alaska.

28

29 MR. DENTON: Yeah. Bristol Bay is well ahead
30 of -- and also the resolving the village selections and that
31 sort of thing, Bristol Bay is a leader in the State for.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, absolutely.

34

35 MR. DENTON:resolving the lands
36 situation.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we did some pretty
39 creative contracting with BLM to get that done.

40

41 MR. DENTON: Yep.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, thank you very much.
44 We appreciate your report.

45

46 MR. DENTON: Okay. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Ted Krieg is
49 going to talk to us about the Bristol Bay Native Association.

50

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1 I don't know if Sellers, if he needs to have anything
2 in the way of props when you do your report, Dick, but -- do
3 you need an overhead of anything?

4
5 MR. SELLERS: Probably so.
6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Now we're going
8 to be entertained.
9

10 MR. KRIEG: My name is Ted Krieg, and I work
11 for the Bristol Bay Native Association, Natural Resources
12 Department. And I guess I'm just going to focus my report,
13 and it will be brief. I know, some of this may be covered
14 later, but I'm going to focus my report on, you know, what
15 we're planning to do, and mainly I suppose it will be me, but
16 there might be other BBNA Natural Resource Department staff
17 involved, but as far as trying to educate people or get them
18 up to speed on the Tier II process for the Northern Alaska
19 Peninsula Caribou herd. And it seems like education's going
20 to me -- you know, it's going to be a big part of that,
21 because there seems to be a lot of confusion about the Tier
22 II process and how to apply, and just some things about, or
23 maybe it's more the scoring, the rating system.
24

25 So as I see it, this is what's going to happen.
26 There's going to be -- it sounds like at the end of April
27 they'll have the Tier II applications done, and at that time,
28 we've talked to some people with Fish and Game, and they've
29 been -- they're willing to come out to some centralized
30 location on the Alaska Peninsula to put on a training or a
31 workshop, and we still need to work out some of the funding
32 parts of this, but if -- you know, if BBNA can come up with
33 funding, we can bring -- you know, working through the
34 village tribal councils, we'll bring in -- try to bring in at
35 least one person through the tribal council that can go
36 through this training. And it sounds like we can do it in a
37 day, because it will take a couple of hours. But, you know,
38 we'll try to set that up. And like I said, I mean, we still
39 need to work out the funding. This is something we hadn't
40 planned funding for, you know, in our budgeting for the year,
41 so it's -- you know, it's something we didn't plan on.
42

43 And then it sounds like the window of opportunity to
44 apply for Tier II is going to be the month of May, 'cause as
45 far -- as I understand it, the permits -- you have to have
46 your application in by the end of May. And it sounds like
47 it's pretty stringent, like if you don't sign your permit --
48 or you don't sign your application, it gets thrown out. If
49 you're missing information, it gets thrown out, I guess
50 because it's so cumbersome that, you know, they can't -- the

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1 whole process of applying is cumbersome. And I may be wrong.
2 It's just that's just what it seems like to me, but, you
3 know, it's pretty stringent. You get -- if you're not --
4 like I said, I mean, if you don't sign it, and a few other
5 things, if there's blanks left, it gets thrown out.

6
7 So as, you know, as you all know, I -- there are
8 people that fish herring at Togiak in May. There's going to
9 be some conflicts, but what I'm going to try to do is help
10 out the villages as much as I can. If I need to, I'll travel
11 to the villages, and that's what I've been saying that I'll
12 try to do, is go to the villages, help the person that's
13 there, or as many people as possible, and if we need to go
14 door to door to make sure that as many people as want to can
15 apply for those permits.

16
17 And I guess one other thing that I'm probably -- it
18 sounds -- it's still unclear, people don't need hunting
19 licenses to apply for the Tier II permit, but after that
20 point, I'm not sure if they need an Alaska hunting license,
21 but I guess I -- it sounds like it's a pretty easy process to
22 become a vendor, so I'd be willing to try to become a vendor
23 so I could, you know, if I'm travelling out there, could
24 actually sell hunting licenses to people.

25
26 And then the other part of this is that once you get
27 a Tier II permit, you have to report back whether you hunted
28 or not. You know, they need to know the numbers. And if you
29 don't report back, there's a chance that you'll be
30 blacklisted for the next year, so, you know, I can see that
31 as another trip around to the villages, making sure that
32 people report.

33
34 And if -- I don't -- I think I have this down, if
35 anybody has better information, we'll probably get it later.

36
37 And then, you know, I spent time at the Board of Game
38 meeting, you know, throughout all of this, and I learned a
39 lot. And one of the things that I learned, I, you know, did
40 just a little bit of research and I talked to somebody from
41 Perryville, and I think the situation is similar in other
42 villages, but, you know, we really need to work on a system,
43 if -- you know, I've heard a lot of times people saying, you
44 know, that there's -- the subsistence users out there,
45 they're not reporting. But what I found out is that in
46 Perryville, a person living in Perryville can't even buy a
47 hunting license there. There's no vendor. And I guess my
48 question is, how do you expect someone to send in, you know,
49 their report, if they can't even buy a hunting license, you
50 know, if the opportunity isn't there. And then I don't know

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1 where they'd get -- would, you know, get the permits, but --
2 and I know it something that Fish and Game at different times
3 has tried to do, but, you know, if we want good reporting,
4 we're going to have to do something to make this -- you know,
5 make the whole system work.

6
7 I guess the feedback that I've been getting already
8 is that -- and, you know, the feedback from the villages
9 before the Board of Game meeting was that, you know, people
10 didn't want to have to apply through this cumbersome process
11 to just be able to go out and hunt. And so, you know, I
12 don't know. We need to try to get something -- some system
13 that's going to work.

14
15 I guess the one other thing, you know, Terry
16 Christensen reminded me, you know, I think it's great that
17 nonsubsistence hunters are making the effort to bring in
18 quality meat to the villages, but like Terry said, you know,
19 that's not subsistence. And we can't substitute meat brought
20 in by, you know, nonsubsistence hunters, you know, for
21 subsistence. I mean, there's still the need in the villages,
22 and, you know, the rural preference under ANILCA.

23
24 You know, and then I guess the information that BBNA
25 and the cooperative agreement we had with Fish and Wildlife
26 Service, and then working with the Subsistence Division of
27 Fish and Game for those years, the regulatory years 1994/95,
28 95/96, and 96/97, I guess, you know, that system did work,
29 and I -- you know, I want to say that that -- you know,
30 people were reporting in those years, because when we went
31 into their homes, they told us, you know, how many animals
32 they took, caribou, moose and brown bear for those
33 subsistence harvest surveys, and that information has, you
34 know, come in pretty val- -- become real valuable here with
35 what we're facing for the Northern Alaska Peninsula.

36
37 So with that, I'll close, if there's any questions?

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions of Ted today?
40 Yeah, Robert?

41
42 MR. HEYANO: No question, just a comment.
43 You know, Ted, it's a fairly painless process to become a
44 license vendor, and I know this from first hand, and you'd
45 think with the -- you know, if it was the role of a village
46 administrator, it seems to me, stands right out to become a
47 license vendor. You know, he or she's employed, and probably
48 has an office in the community, and I think there's actually
49 some revenue that they get from selling license.

50

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1 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Maybe like dollar a license
2 or something like that.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman? Those --
7 you mentioned the ones got no vendors on them? The city
8 council of the village, the administrator can be a vendor, or
9 the postmaster can be a vendor, or just practically anybody
10 can be a vendor for the license. Any village that doesn't
11 have a vendor, you can get -- they can go through ADF&G and
12 get it.

13
14 MR. KRIEG: If -- yeah,.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. KRIEG:I mean, I agree, there's --
19 it's probably easy to do, but, you know, I guess my point is
20 it's a system that people aren't sure of, and they're not --
21 you know, they may be afraid of, and if -- you know, I guess
22 my point, too, was that the subsistence harvest surveys when
23 we went and talked to the people, you know, face-to-face, we
24 got the information, you know, and I -- you know, it's
25 reporting through putting things down on paper, you know, it
26 just -- it hasn't worked, and that's all I can say. You
27 know, I don't know why, but it just hasn't worked. And so if
28 we really want the information, we have to work out some way
29 to do it, to get it.

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete, go ahead.

34
35 MR. ABRAHAM: What we did in Togiak and some
36 other villages, we get a survey form with no names, you know,
37 how many animals that -- or ducks or geese, whatever, but not
38 mentioning their names, just go by the household. It goes,
39 like Perryville, if there's 20 households, will go out to
40 about 35 percent of that, or 75 percent of that, and then
41 subsistence (ph) can't count -- it's very simple. In fact,
42 the bird count was done by Cynthia Wendsworth, and then it's
43 very accurate. And -- because subsistence voice is so weak,
44 when commercial and sportsmens are very strong, because
45 subsistence is very weak, because there's -- it's not
46 documented. So somehow we've got to document, you know,
47 subsistence count to be strong. And that means not just one
48 village. I mean the entire state. We'll have a stronger
49 voice then.

50

00093

1 MR. KRIEG: Yeah, I agree. I agree. And
2 that's been one of things I guess we've been trying to do is,
3 you know, it's education or something, you know, that needs
4 to be promoted and carried through.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ted, there's two things.
7 One is the form of a question, the other one is in your --
8 when you're at the meetings, you met with Jim Fall, of
9 course, and you heard him testify, and he gave village-by-
10 village and moose and caribou by individuals, not names, but
11 just amount of harvest. He had a pretty good handle on what
12 took place in the way of harvest really. But the thing that
13 we don't know about, I don't have an answer to it, how long
14 do you have to report on the Tier II permit? Go a whole
15 year?

16
17 MR. KRIEG: As I understand it, I mean, it's
18 for the regulatory year, whatever the caribou season is, and
19 I don't know, you know, whether you have to report, like send
20 in your permit maybe immediately, or within five days, it's
21 probably one of those things. I don't know. But I know it's
22 just for that regulatory year.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We need to know the answer
25 to that, you know,.....

26
27 MR. KRIEG: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We need to know the answer
30 real, real soon. Like today. Maybe someone can find out for
31 us.

32
33 MR. KRIEG: Well, yeah, like I said, I'm not
34 the expert. I've only had information to go on that I could
35 read here, and this isn't even -- this is from, you know,
36 98/99, it's not.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There as five.....

39
40 MR. KRIEG:the new one.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:criteria, wasn't there
43 for.....

44
45 MR. KRIEG: Right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:for the hunt?

48
49 MR. KRIEG: Oh, yeah, that's -- yeah. Yeah.
50 The point scoring system.

00094

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

2
3 MR. KRIEG: There's five.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And Jim Fall said he was
6 going to go into the communities and helping them fill out
7 their forms?

8
9 MR. KRIEG: No, that was me. I mean, Jim
10 said he'd try to do what he could, but I don't.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So State of Alaska's not
13 going to go and educate those people on that Tier II?

14
15 MR. KRIEG: Well, you know, that's I guess
16 what I was saying, as I understood it, is that there's people
17 that, and not necessarily Jim Fall, there's -- I've got her
18 name, and when the permits are available, I'll contact her.
19 Susan Bollin, and she works in Wildlife Conservation with
20 ADF&G. She said that she -- I don't know whether it's her or
21 somebody from -- that she works with, could come out to the
22 Alaska Peninsula and put on a workshop.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum.

25
26 MR. KRIEG: But that's where, you know, they
27 said they'd have funding to come out there and put it on, but
28 the funding would have to come from somewhere else to get
29 people in to attend.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, thank you very
32 much. Any more questions? Appreciate that. We'll be
33 calling you as time goes on.

34 We have -- everyone has reported? Well, we have
35 finished with the agency reports, and we thank you for that.
36 There will be more information given as we go along on other
37 departments when we start dealing with some of these
38 proposals, because there will be some detailed information
39 given on each proposal by various departments.

40
41 I wonder at this time, Board, if it would be possible
42 to have -- to look at the next agenda item here, which would
43 be old business, Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd. And
44 it's not addressed in the proposals. Did you want to look at
45 that report, or did you want to deal with maybe the caribou
46 issue right now? Probably we should deal with the caribou
47 issue right now. That's the burning issue right now on the
48 table. And we have two gentlemen who can report to us, Dick
49 Sellers and Dave Fisher. And I guess the procedure we'd need
50 to follow is to have the report given to us? Okay. Which

00095

1 one of you gentleman are going to give us the report today?
2 We need to have both of you speak to us.

3
4 MR. FISHER: Well, I guess I'm not trying to
5 pass the buck, but I'd like to have Sellers go first. He's
6 the biologist there, and he's a lot closer to those animals
7 than I am, and if a question comes up that he can't answer,
8 I'll try and answer it, but I think he'll be able to answer
9 most of your questions. Plus I think he'll do an excellent
10 job -- Can you hear me okay? I think he'll do an excellent
11 job like he did during the Board of Game meeting -- Dan, you
12 were there, and, Jerry, you were there -- laying the
13 groundwork for these Proposals 32, 33 and 34 that we're going
14 to be dealing with. And so,.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Dick, if you're
17 ready, we'd appreciate you coming and give us a report.

18
19 MR. SELLERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
20 members of the Council. I'm not sure exactly how much
21 background you want to go through in terms of the biology and
22 the history of this heard. I'm prepared to show some
23 overheads and discuss the biology, although I know several of
24 you have seen this before, so I don't want to take.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, a lot of us haven't
27 seen it though. I think you just feel comfortable in what
28 you want to give us, because this is a hot issue on the -- if
29 we deal with this, moose, and c&t, we'll be doing very well.

30
31 (Whispered conversation, off record conversations)

32
33 MR. SELLERS: So for better or worse, you're
34 going to have a low-tech version of this. I had a computer
35 projector in the Board of Game.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah. Man, that was
38 big time. Yeah.

39
40 MR. SELLERS: In some ways, handier, but.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe some lights off a
43 little bit, Dick, will be better or.....

44
45 MS. McCLENAHAN: Do I need to move this up
46 there?

47
48 COURT REPORTER: No, he can move this one
49 here.

50

00096

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay.

2
3 MR. SELLERS: The range of the Northern
4 Alaska Peninsula herd is depicted here in three different
5 segments. The traditional calving area is in the southern
6 part of 9(E), and the polka-dotted section there is -- kind
7 of encompasses the core of the calving area. There are --
8 actually even within that area, there are two separate areas
9 that receive the bulk of the calving. One of them is at the
10 Cinder River/Hook Lagoon area, and the second one is down
11 from Ilnik down through -- past Sandy River.

12
13 The traditional wintering area has been from
14 basically the Ugashik Lake system north, and primarily north
15 of Becharof Lake up through the Naknek River, and at least,
16 you know, within the last, oh, three or four decades there
17 has been relatively little movement of this herd north of the
18 Naknek River into that northern polka-dotted area.

19
20 And the first time that we really started to see
21 major movements into that expanded wintering area was in
22 1987, when, oh, about 1,000 caribou crossed the Naknek River
23 and migrated up through that country that's in the Katmai
24 Preserve, and up as far as Lake Iliamna, which is at the
25 extreme northern. And this is Lake Iliamna up here. So that
26 expansion has been fairly recent, at least within the last 12
27 years.

28
29 The North Alaska Peninsula herd, like virtually every
30 other wild caribou herd in north -- in the northern
31 hemisphere has undergone pretty drastic cycles, and going
32 back through the old Orthodox Church records and other
33 records from explorers, a fellow named Ron Scube (ph) put
34 together kind of a history of the Northern Peninsula herd as
35 best they could from that early evidence, and as you can see,
36 at least twice in this century the herd has been at extremely
37 low levels, at 5,000 or fewer. The most recent was in the
38 late 40s, early 50s, and, you know, not -- a lot of the
39 background in terms of what caused these previous declines is
40 speculative. There's some speculation that volcanic activity
41 may have made food less palatable if it got coated with ash.
42 There's some evidence that extreme icing during the winter
43 where you've got a freezing rain that crusted over the tundra
44 and persisted for several weeks may have been involved. But,
45 you know, the bottom line is that there's probably getting
46 away from the nature of caribou herds. They seem to
47 fluctuate.

48
49 And our management objective was to try to dampen the
50 cycles here so that they weren't quite so extreme, and we

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1 were hoping to keep this herd in the range of 15 to 20,000.
2 That was the management objective, and that range was set
3 based on data from primarily Scandinavian domesticated
4 reindeer that had a long history of rather stable numbers,
5 you know. They were harvested for commercial uses, but based
6 on the long-term number of animals that a given piece of
7 country could sustain, that's what we used to project what we
8 thought at the time was a sustainable number of 15 to 20,000.
9 And that's based on a density of about two caribou per square
10 mile of habitat.

11
12 This is kind of the same information, but the recent
13 data is a little more detailed here. Two spikes on the left-
14 hand side are what we just saw from a previous graph.

15
16 It was pretty obvious that the herd expanded fairly
17 rapidly from about 1960 up through the mid 80s, and then it
18 was in a period of relative stability in that range of 17 to
19 20,000 from about '84 through 1991. But even by the mid
20 1980s we were seeing some indications that kind of threw up
21 some red flags. One of them was that expansion of the winter
22 range, kind of an indication that maybe their winter range
23 was being depleted. And it was real obvious even when I
24 first got here, I wasn't a caribou biologist by any stretch
25 of the imagination, but it was pretty apparent that that
26 traditional range north of Becharof Lake to close to the
27 Naknek River didn't have the same amount of lichen cover that
28 you would see on the north side of the Naknek River. If you
29 went up to Sugar Loaf or some of the hills, or even the flat
30 country around Naknek, the vegetation was very drastically
31 different.

32
33 So that -- you know, that was kind of the first
34 indication that we probably couldn't sustain that population
35 at 20,000, and by about the late 80s, we were already
36 convinced that we had to bring the herd down, and we were
37 hoping to have it come down to around 15,000 and then try to
38 hold it at that level.

39
40 And one of the things that was happening, of course,
41 at that time when the caribou started crossing the Naknek
42 River was that they became very available along the King
43 Salmon/Naknek road system, and some of the trails there, and
44 we had a real change in harvest patterns, because all of a
45 sudden, it became pretty attractive for somebody from
46 Anchorage or Kenai to come out to King Salmon, stay in a nice
47 warm building either on the Base or a bed and breakfast, or
48 whatever, rent a four-wheeler and be able to shoot up to four
49 caribou in a single day. So it turned out to be kind of a
50 winter meat hunt for nonlocals. And, of course, at the same

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1 time the locals were enjoying easier access to caribou, too,
2 but -- even though we got a lot of complaints from local
3 people about the sloppiness of a roadside hunt with a
4 multiple bag limit, you know, there were crippled animals
5 limping around, there were gut piles right along the
6 roadways, and the -- you know, we -- rather than try to
7 curtail the over-all harvest, we tried to work with the base,
8 the military base, and nonlocal hunters to kind of clean up
9 their act. But we needed that harvest during the early 90s
10 to try to bring the herd down. And by the winter of 1992/93,
11 it looked like we were being pretty successful. We were down
12 to about 16,000 caribou.

13
14 Unfortunately, the next winter, the winter of 93/94,
15 two things happened that probably caused this last drop here.
16 Over here. And that was that we had an all-time record
17 harvest during the winter. We had probably 1400 caribou
18 killed on the road system that one winter. And in addition
19 to that, we had much higher natural mortality of our radio-
20 collared cows than we had ever seen before. We lost 30
21 percent of our collared cows that winter. And it wasn't a
22 particularly harsh winter. They just seemed to be dying from
23 a variety of causes over a pretty widespread area. It wasn't
24 icing or -- it may have been -- well have been predation, or
25 at least a good part of it.

26
27 But by the summer of 1994, our post-calving count,
28 which is the count we do in late June and is our basis for
29 assessing what the herd size is, it was already down to
30 12,500. And that, of course, precipitated some pretty
31 drastic measures that a lot of you folks were involved in.
32 The most significant was that the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory
33 Committee asked the Board of Game to implement emergency
34 changes in the regulations which dropped the winter bag limit
35 to only one caribou per calendar month, and that was intended
36 to make it less attractive for somebody from Anchorage to fly
37 out to King Salmon if they could only shoot one caribou per
38 month, but people could accumulate up to the total bag limit
39 of four, if they were able to hunt, you know, one caribou per
40 month throughout the winter, so that local people still had
41 the opportunity to put more meat away. And that really
42 worked, because the next year the harvest was reduced by
43 about 60 percent.

44
45 And again we thought we were in relatively good shape
46 here. For a couple of years, we were estimating, oh, between
47 -- around 12,000 caribou in that post-calving count.

48
49 Then the next bad news came in the summer of '97 when
50 our post-calving count dropped from about 11,500 down to

00099

1 about 10,000. And if you'll recall, that summer of '97 was
2 probably one of the warmest that I've seen around here. And
3 we noticed that more of the caribou were up in the mountains,
4 up on snow fields, and so, you know, I didn't have 100
5 percent confidence that that drop was real. I thought maybe
6 we were just missing more caribou up in the mountain country
7 where in a normal year the bulk of them were out on the
8 Bristol Bay lowlands. So, you know, that count itself was
9 not enough really to convince us that we needed to do
10 something real drastic. And harvest levels seemed to be tap-
11 -- or levelling off.

12
13 So it wasn't under this past counts that, the
14 cooperative counts with the Refuge, that came up with only
15 9200 caribou this past summer that we knew we were in fact
16 continuing to have a pretty drastic decline, and that major
17 steps needed to be taken.

18
19 So I'd like to kind of go through some of the
20 evidence that suggests why we might be in this kind of a
21 decline.

22
23 This is -- two different lines here, boxes and
24 diamonds there, that the diamonds are the calf/cow ratio, and
25 that's the set of data that has that slanting line that is
26 what we call a trend line or regression line. And as you can
27 see, if you go back into the early 70s, this herd was
28 tremendously productive with about 50 calves per 100 cows.
29 And there's been a gradual decline so that now we're
30 averaging about 30 calves per 100 cows in the most recent
31 fall composition survey. Now, that's worrisome, but I have
32 another graph here that will throw a little more light on
33 that.

34
35 The other line with the pale-colored boxes there is
36 the bull/cow ratio, and you can see that our objective was to
37 try to maintain about -- at least 40 bulls per 100 cows, and
38 we were doing that pretty consistently up until this last
39 year, when we came up with only 31 bulls per 100 cows in our
40 October survey. And I will fully recognize that that might
41 be a little bias low, because the caribou that we found and
42 classified, we actually individually classified about 2,000
43 caribou as to their sex and age. Age being either calves,
44 yearlings or adults. And it dropped down to 31, but I think
45 that was partly because the group we looked at, or the
46 numbers of herds that we classified were out in the area
47 around Becharof Lake and had been subjected to most of the
48 hunting pressure prior to the survey. And some of the guides
49 were telling us that the caribou herds that they were seeing
50 back in the mountains east of Becharof Lake had a high

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1 percentage of bulls, and I tend to believe that. So I think
2 we're probably a little better off than 31 bulls per 100
3 cows.

4
5 As I mentioned, the calf production as measured in
6 October showed that decline, but we actually have quite a bit
7 more data on what percentage of the caribou that we look at
8 in June when we're doing our census, what percentage are
9 calves. So this is percent of the caribou that we count in
10 June that are calves. And contrast the Northern Alaska
11 Peninsula herd, which are the darker and taller bars, with
12 the adjacent Southern Alaska Peninsula herd, and as you can
13 see, if you go back here to the mid 70s, '75, they were both
14 extremely productive with between, well, about 27 percent of
15 all the caribou we saw in June were calves, newborn calves.
16 By 1981, just before the Southern Peninsula herd peaked, the
17 productivity was already way down compared -- about less than
18 half as good as what the Northern Peninsula herd. And you
19 can see that trend in general continues all the way through
20 to the '97 data. We didn't get any data down there in '98,
21 but I guess the encouraging news is that compared to the
22 Southern Peninsula herd, which underwent a drastic crash, and
23 now appears to have bottomed out and may be starting to
24 recover, the Northern Peninsula herd has never been as
25 unproductive, and that's probably some good news in terms of
26 the prospect for this herd to not continue on a drastic
27 decline.

28
29 In the last four years, we've intensified our
30 monitoring of this herd, and in cooperation with the Fish and
31 Wildlife Service have done a much more intensive job of
32 research and monitoring.

33
34 One of the things we did this past year was a calf
35 mortality study on the Northern Peninsula herd, and we went
36 out and collared newborn calves that were only a day or two
37 old, and weighed them. And those -- the weights of a brand
38 new calf is very sensitive to the physical condition of the
39 mother. If the mother's not getting good food through the
40 winter and early spring, the -- her calf is going to be
41 underweight. And again you can see all these other herds in
42 Interior Alaska are almost uniformly the same weight until
43 you get to the two bars on the right. Again, the Southern
44 Peninsula herd which we studied in 1998 when it was about the
45 steepest part of its decline, those calves were extremely
46 small, and right now, this past summer, the calves from the
47 Northern Peninsula herd were significantly smaller than the
48 Interior herds, but again were in much better shape than the
49 Southern Peninsula herd. But obviously nutrition probably is
50 the major factor that's causing that lower weight for the

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1 newborn calves.

2

3 We've also been looking at calves in the fall when
4 they're about four months old. And here's quite a difference
5 in various herds, but on the far right, the lowest herd is
6 the Western Arctic, but that's probably genetic, because
7 those animals tend to be very small bodied, very small bone
8 structure, and I think you can probably discount that. But
9 the next bar here, the Northern Peninsula here is an average
10 from the years '95 through '98, you can see again that
11 nutritionally these animals are stressed just based on the
12 amount of weight they've been able to gain from the time they
13 were born until October.

14

15 Interestingly, and I don't want to make any dire
16 predictions, but you'll notice the Mulchatna herd isn't at
17 the other end there. They weren't much bigger than the
18 Peninsula. Unfortunate-- let's see.

19

20 Oh, we do have the Nushagak herd from this past year,
21 and they were -- let's see here. This is easier to pick out
22 when it was on the -- color on the computer generated thing,
23 but the fourth one in. Let's see. That one there is the
24 Nushagak, which are, of course, transplanted from the
25 Northern Peninsula, so genetically they're identical, but
26 obviously they're on better nutrition than the parent herd,
27 the Northern Peninsula herd.

28

29 And finally, one other very sensitive measure of body
30 condition is what percent fat is in the bone marrow.
31 Obviously again the Northern Peninsula herd doesn't compare
32 very well with either the Nushagak or the Mulchatna herds
33 from our recent samples, so.....

34

35 This is the kind of evidence that points to over-use
36 of the range and poor -- oh, there's one more here I'll show
37 -- poor physical condition. One of the other measurements of
38 nutrition is at what age the cows will first give birth to
39 calves. And as you can see in the Delta herd, when it was
40 growing, about two-thirds of the two-year-old calves -- cows
41 gave birth for the first time. So far we have yet to see a
42 two-year-old produce a calf on the Northern Peninsula herd.
43 And you can see the three-year-olds, almost all the Delta
44 three-year-olds were in full maturity and producing calves,
45 whereas only about 25 percent of the three-year-olds in the
46 northern herd -- Northern Peninsula herd are having calves.

47

48 That pretty much covers the biological aspects. You
49 know, I think it's pretty clear that this herd is under some
50 nutritional stress, although compared to the Southern

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1 Peninsula herd and several others, like the Denali and the
2 Mentasta, both productivity and body condition aren't rock
3 bottom, so what we're hoping is that we can arrest this
4 decline fairly quickly without it going down as low as 5,000
5 or below.

6
7 We've some on harvest patterns. I won't -- this is
8 pretty pale. It's probably hard to see, but the point here
9 is that fall harvest increased and peaked during the mid 80s
10 at the same time the herd had increased, and the fall
11 harvest, which is primarily nonlocals, has declined somewhat,
12 and at the same time the winter harvest in the late 80s,
13 early 90s increased pretty dramatically.

14
15 If we look at using the household surveys that Ted
16 Krieg and Jim Fall were involved in for estimating what
17 percentage of the harvest went to local residents, you can
18 see that prior to the decline, about 45 percent of the
19 harvest -- yeah, 45 percent of the total estimated harvest
20 went to local residents. Other Alaskans, nonlocal Alaskans,
21 harvested 34 percent here, and nonresidents took about 21
22 percent. Now, since the first decline, the total harvest has
23 dropped off, but there's also been a shift in what percentage
24 of the harvest goes to these user groups, and you can see
25 that the percentage that now in recent years goes to local
26 residents has increased. That's not to say they're taking
27 more caribou, but proportionately they're taking a higher
28 percentage. The nonresident proportion hasn't changed at all
29 really, but the one user group that really has so far taken
30 the brunt of the regulation changes are the other Alaskans,
31 and that's for two reasons. One of it is because more of
32 those other Alaskans are shifting to the Mulchatna herd. And
33 the other reason is that that winter cut in bag limit has
34 made the winter harvest by other Alaskans much lower.

35
36 I guess of all the overheads I show today, this is
37 probably the crux of the whole situation. If we're going to
38 be successful in trying to prevent this herd from dropping
39 much lower, we have to be very candid about the factors that
40 are going to decide what this herd does, and really you can
41 boil it down to just two things: Adult female survival is by
42 far and away the most important thing that's going to
43 determine what this herd does. And there's basically three
44 things that kill adult females, only one of which we have
45 really any control over. You know, we've talked about
46 predation, and that's a very serious issue, but, you know,
47 given the political climate and the practicality of
48 controlling predators, that's probably not going to be a tool
49 that's going to be real effective.

50

00103

1 The one tool that we do have is trying to convince
2 people that until this herd starts to recover, that we can't
3 afford to have people killing cow caribou.

4
5 MR. SAMUELSEN: Dick, under predation, is it
6 primarily bears that are killing the animals, or is it
7 wolves, or can you -- in your flights over the
8 Peninsula,.....

9
10 MR. SELLERS: Well, bears are certainly most
11 effective at killing calves, and when we were doing our --
12 the calf mortality study this past June, we lost about 25
13 percent of the newborn calves were killed within the first
14 ten days they were alive, and the bulk of that was done by
15 brown bears. There was some eagle predation, and a little
16 bit of wolf predation. And then it was interesting, there
17 was a period of about a week there when we didn't lose any
18 caribou, the middle part of June. And we thought, well, you
19 know, if we get by with only losing 25 percent, that's not
20 too bad. That's actually fairly good. And then the last
21 week of June when we went back out to do our count, we had
22 another big rash of mortality of those newborn calves, and
23 that was -- almost all of that was disease related.

24
25 Now, and I think, you know, other studies have shown
26 that once calves get to be about two weeks old, they're
27 fairly good at avoiding bear predation. But then for the
28 rest of the year the wolves start to become more of a factor.

29
30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, you know, bears, we can
31 extend the seasons, we could issue permits every year. I
32 think it's -- what is it, every two years? Or whatever it is
33 now, one every five years, where a hunter could get. I think
34 there's a lot of areas that -- a lot of things that we could
35 do on predation within the confines without getting the
36 outside world all riled up.

37
38 MR. SELLERS: We do have.....

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'd like to see this
41 graph when we're in deliberation on this proposal,
42 because.....

43
44 MR. SELLERS: Yeah, there's another overhead
45 I have somewhere I need to dig out that addresses that very
46 point. And we'll get to that at some point.

47
48 Moving on down then, of course, the second factor
49 which is less important, but still the only other major
50 factor that's going to affect the herd's health is how much

00104

1 recruitment we get. Recruitment is just a fancy word for
2 saying how many calves are born and survive. And again you
3 can see the factors that influence that. Again, the only one
4 that we really have any hope of influencing is the bottom
5 one, and that's ensuring that we have an adequate sex ratio
6 so that breeding, the rut occurs in as narrow a window as
7 possible. We want cows to be bred the first time they come
8 into heat, into estrus, and that ensures that most of the
9 calves are going to be born in a very narrow window, within a
10 week. And that's a good thing, in that it makes it more
11 difficult for predators to take as high a percentage of them.
12

13 So our original bull/cow ratio is 40 per 100, as you
14 saw from that one graph. We're now recommending that we try
15 to maintain about 25 bulls per 100 cows. That's still enough
16 to ensure adequate breeding. And obviously what we're
17 getting at is trying to use up some of that surplus bulls for
18 subsistence use from here out.
19

20 So what's next? And actually some of this has
21 already transpired just at the recent Board of Game meeting,
22 but what we presented to the Board of Game is that there are
23 two measures that we need to do. And again by far and away
24 the most critical one is that first one. We need to try to
25 convince people that they need to target bulls only. You
26 know, it certainly is going to be hard to be selective. It
27 takes more effort, but it's crucial really.
28

29 Then the second factor is that we think we've
30 probably got about 600 bulls to work with between the
31 bull/cow ratio we have now, and going down to about 25 per
32 100 next fall, so we recommended to the Board of Game that
33 whatever regulation strategy they wanted to follow, that we
34 try to keep the harvest at 600 bulls.
35

36 That's all the overheads I have. And I guess we can
37 see if Dave has something else to add or.....
38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We may have some questions
40 here, Dick, if you don't mind?
41

42 MR. SELLERS: Sure.
43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dave, do you have any
45 overheads that you're going to do, or not?
46

47 MR. FISHER: No.
48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Committee members,
50 any questions of Dick Sellers? Yeah, Robert?

00105

1 MR. HEYANO: I see, Dick, that you had some
2 weight comparison with the North Peninsula calves, but you
3 didn't have any at birth with the Mulchatna?

4
5 MR. SELLERS: No. As far as I know, there
6 hasn't been a calf mortality study done with the Mulchatna
7 herd, and that -- you know, that's a fairly expensive
8 project. It -- I think our budget for this study we did was
9 funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service, was \$40,000, so it's
10 -- to do the full thing where you put radio collars on, you
11 monitored them twice a day so that you can get in there
12 within a few hours of the time they die. And that's the only
13 way you can have any hope of determining the cause of death.
14 So -- and you need a helicopter, obviously to get to them, so
15 it's a big project.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: I guess I didn't state the
18 question.....

19
20 MR. SELLERS: Oh, I'm sorry.

21
22 MR. HEYANO:or the comment clear
23 enough. You had comparisons I think between the North
24 Peninsula caribou calves in weight and Mulchatna at what, was
25 it four months? When they.....

26
27 MR. SELLERS: Right.

28
29 MR. HEYANO:were four months old?

30
31 MR. SELLERS: In October.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: Do you have any comparison
34 between Mulchatna and North Peninsula caribou at birth as far
35 as weight?

36
37 MR. SELLERS: No, we don't. And again the
38 reason is that you need to catch them with a helicopter and
39 -- you could do that relatively cheaply if you didn't want to
40 follow through and see how many died and what caused that.

41
42 MR. HEYANO: I thought they were doing that
43 here with helicopter in the spring, taking 20 or 15
44 calves.....

45
46 MR. SELLERS: Well, it.....

47
48 MR. HEYANO:and then checking them out,
49 but.....

50

00106

1 MR. SELLERS: Mike Hinkes or somebody, but
2 those are generally what we call short yearlings. They would
3 be nine months old in April. And we do that to look at -- to
4 kind of try to get a handle on what the winter range is. If
5 you catch a bunch -- or catch or kill them in October, and
6 then you catch another bunch in April, you can see if they're
7 gaining weight. They very rarely gain weight over winter.
8 What they usually do is grow bigger body size, but don't put
9 on weight.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: And.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

14
15 MR. HEYANO: And then you made a comment of
16 comparison -- I guess it was the four-month-old calves and
17 how close they were in weight to the Mulchatna, but isn't the
18 Mulchatna caribou healthy so far?

19
20 MR. SELLERS: Well, I'd probably defer to
21 somebody else, but, you know, they're still productive, which
22 is a good sign, but, you know, you start seeing indications
23 of expanding range and, you know, this year's outbreak of
24 foot rot and what not, it kind of throws up a yellow flag if
25 not a red one in terms of what the future's going to hold.

26
27 MR. HEYANO: One last question I guess. You
28 had some caribou population estimates that went back pretty
29 early in time and knowing how difficult it is to even do it
30 with radio collars and an aircraft, I guess how much of a
31 confidence level do you put in some of those early numbers?
32 It would appear to me that their focus would be on a small
33 area.....

34
35 MR. SELLERS: Yeah.

36
37 MR. HEYANO:of the caribou's range.

38
39 MR. SELLERS: Robert, that's a very good
40 question, and I don't mean to suggest that we have a lot of
41 confidence that there were 20,000 caribou back in the 1930s,
42 but, you know, the indications were that people were saying
43 caribou were as abundant as they've ever -- you know, they --
44 that anybody living can remember, so it's hard to say whether
45 there were 15,000 or 25,000, but there were a lot of them in
46 those years. At least that's the information that was coming
47 through in various historical documents.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dick -- Robert, go ahead if
50 you have any further question?

00107

1 MR. HEYANO: No, I think that's all for now.
2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions of
5 Council members? Is there somebody on line there? Go ahead.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just a comment I guess.

8
9 MR. WILD: Is Jerry there?

10
11 MR. BERG: Yeah, go ahead, Terry. We're --
12 actually we're right in the middle of a meeting.

13
14 MR. WILD: Okay. Well, I've got Keith on the
15 phone. Do you want him now?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, he can sit here for a
18 while.

19
20 MR. BERG: Okay. Yeah. Just plug him in,
21 and we're right in the middle of the caribou issue right now.

22
23 MR. WILD: Okay. Keith, you're there?

24
25 MR. GOLTZ: Okay. I'll go on hold.

26
27 MR. WILD: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Can you hear us,
30 Keith?

31
32 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin, go ahead.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Good system.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: My dad ran the Peninsula
41 during the war, and he told me -- on dog team from King
42 Salmon all the way down the -- below Port Heiden. That was
43 his stretch of beach to look out for Japanese I guess or
44 whatever he was looking out for. And then a little south.
45 And during the war, there was very few caribou in his
46 estimation. When he got down around Port Heiden, he wouldn't
47 see nothing on the upper end, but when he got down around
48 Port Heiden, he would start seeing them.

49
50 MR. SELLERS: And that was in the wintertime

00108

1 primarily or.....

2 MR. SAMUELSEN: In the wintertime, yes. By
3 dog team.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions,
6 Council members? Dick, could you just give us a little
7 report on what you told the Game Board about predation? You
8 talked about the bears, wolves, and eagles. Would you care
9 to mention that or not?

10
11 MR. SELLERS: That's the overhead I'm trying
12 to find here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay. Well, if you
15 don't -- you don't have to -- just maybe just a comment would
16 be -- I think would be fine.

17
18 MR. SELLERS: Well, you know, what I did was
19 looked at Interior Alaska where they've had some success with
20 predator control, and they've seen increased calf production
21 and survival. And if you look at the ratio of predators,
22 being wolves and bears, how many of those there were per
23 moose and caribou, they started seeing benefits when they had
24 reduced the bears and wolves down to a ratio of about one
25 bear or wolf per 50 moose or caribou. And currently our
26 estimates put the ratio at about one predator per 3 prey. In
27 other words, we've got.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A pretty high ratio.

30
31 MR. SELLERS:almost -- well, we've got
32 as many bears in Unit 9(E) as we.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

35
36 MR. SELLERS:have car- -- or moose.
37 More. So I -- the point being that, you know, if we were
38 going to reduce predation to the point where you could expect
39 to see some real increased survival, we may have to basically
40 annihilate the bear population. They've been trying to do
41 this in Unit 13, the Nelchina Basin, with extremely liberal
42 bear regulations. In fact, the Board of Game at one point in
43 this meeting actually authorized -- they voted and authorized
44 same-day-airborne bear hunting in Unit 13. And they
45 eventually reconsidered and put that on hold, but they were
46 talking about making sows and cubs legal, and, you know,
47 there's no tag fee, it's a bear year. They've got seasons
48 that run from September until June. And even with those,
49 they haven't seen the kind of response that they want.

50

00109

1 Now, they do have a very vastly expanded wolf
2 population which again they've been wringing their hands over
3 how to accomplish reducing the wolf population. I think
4 their objective is 150 to 160 wolves, and they've got about
5 500 now, so that's certainly part of it.

6
7 I don't know, at one point I was going to give a
8 brief overview of the Board of Game actions, but they did
9 liberalize bear season throughout Unit 9, although not
10 drastically. They added another week the first week of
11 October to all the unit except 9(B), and in 9(B) they needed
12 more. That's going to now start September 20th instead of
13 October 1st, so they did recognize that there was bear
14 populations probably at an all-time high, and there's more
15 opportunity, and while they didn't exactly declare war on
16 bears, they did emphasize that at the next meeting they're
17 going to by law have to explore the intensive management
18 bill.

19
20 As you probably -- at least many of you know that the
21 Legislature passed a bill that requires the Board of Game any
22 time they restrict human use of a caribou or moose
23 population, to explore intensive management, which means
24 either habitat improvement, or basically predator reduction.
25 So at the October meeting they have scheduled now, we're
26 going to -- somebody, maybe me or somebody else, is going to
27 have to lay out the feasibility of intensively managing Unit
28 9, especially the Northern Peninsula caribou herd, by either
29 predator control or habitat improvement. Now, obviously
30 there's not much we're going to be able to do for habitat,
31 so, you know, they -- they're looking at that. They are
32 going to -- we're currently managing brown bears under
33 guidelines that they set in 1995, and have reviewed several
34 times since then, but our directive is to manage for a high
35 quality bear population that provides high quality hunting.
36 And we've been very successful at that I'd say Some people
37 would say too successful, I'm sure. But they are going to
38 review those guidelines and decide if maybe it's time to put
39 less emphasis on bear management and see if something can be
40 done to improve ungulate calf survival.

41
42 But again, the figure that Dan wanted me to bring
43 out, the ratio that we're dealing with now, one predator for
44 every three prey is not -- can be very conducive for quick
45 turn-around.

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: So based on them ratios --
48 Mr. Chairman?

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead. Sure.

00110

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Based on them ratios, even if
2 we didn't have a limited subsistence hunt of 600 animals, you
3 know, to me it seems like we're still in trouble?

4
5 MR. SELLERS: Well,.....

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: If you're -- if you get down
8 to a two to one ratio, because the wolf population has
9 increased, and the bear population has increased, and we're
10 not harvesting -- even if subsistence wasn't harvesting them,
11 the herd would probably still be in decline, if you could
12 pretty much document a three to one?

13
14 MR. SELLERS: Well, it's -- our biggest fear
15 is to get into one of these conditions where the herd
16 declines down to somewhere let's say 5,000 or so, and then we
17 get into a ratio of one to two as you suggested, get into
18 what's called a predator pit where the predation is so
19 overwhelming that even if nutritionally the herd recovers
20 that the predation is prevented the herd from recovering, and
21 again the only way we can prevent that from happening really,
22 the only thing we have control over right now, is to give
23 maximum protection to the cows, and the models -- I'm not a
24 big computer modeler, but the models suggest that if we
25 continue with 30 calves per 100 cows which is the fall ratio
26 we've been seeing, and if we don't kill cows, that the number
27 of cows in the population will stabilize within the first two
28 years. And if that continues, you know, we could potentially
29 start to rebuild this herd, but that's the only hope we have.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions?

32 Robert?

33
34 MR. HEYANO: The one to 50 ratio represents
35 what?

36
37 MR. SELLERS: That was the level -- they had
38 reduced predators to that level, and started seeing
39 improvement in calf survival. I'm not sure where they
40 started with, what the original ratio was, but it was
41 probably somewhere around one per 30, and they reduced it to
42 one to 50, and started seeing improvement.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, if the.....

45
46 MR. HEYANO: So, if I may,.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead. Yeah.

49
50 MR. HEYANO:Mr. Chairman? You don't

00111

1 think you're in a predator pinch situation now at one to
2 three?

3

4 MR. SELLERS: Well, if you look at the calf
5 ratios in the fall, again we're at about 30. And if you go
6 up to the Mentasta or the Denali herd, they were having like
7 five calves per 100 cows. In fact, I think last year they
8 classified the entire Mentasta herd, and I think they had
9 like three calves in the whole herd, and the herd was only
10 1,500 or so, but -- so we're -- you know, we still have the
11 level of recruitment that should allow this herd to
12 eventually stabilize and start recovering.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I guess I've seen some
17 information at one point in time at a Board of Game meeting,
18 and it was a pie chart, and it was a bar chart. And the
19 essence of the graphs were, if you looked at all the
20 predators and -- or you looked at the preys I guess, the prey
21 animals in the State of Alaska, they attribute 80 -- I think
22 it was 87 percent of all the mortality if you take moose,
23 bear -- I mean, moose, caribou, you know, sheep and goat, 87
24 if you could add them all up in a given year in the State of
25 Alaska, 87 percent of that mortality was directly attributed
26 to predation. I think they had 12 percent was attributed to
27 human harvest, and if my math is right, and memory correctly,
28 one percent was attributed to other natural type mortality.
29 Is that a -- I think it was a Department chart, and.....

30

31 MR. SELLERS: Yeah.

32

33 MR. HEYANO:a Department graph. Did I
34 -- is my memory correct, and are.....

35

36 MR. SELLERS: That.....

37

38 MR. HEYANO:those figures fairly
39 accurate?

40

41 MR. SELLERS: That sounds correct, and that's
42 the kind of information that spawned the intensive management
43 bill that came out of the Legislature was a desire to give
44 human consumption a bigger piece of the pie.

45

46 MR. HEYANO: So is there any reason for me to
47 believe that 87 percent of the mortality on the North
48 Peninsula caribou herd isn't done by predation?

49

50 MR. SELLERS: Well, that's a good question.

00112

1 I -- you know, we're probably seeing a higher incident of
2 disease mortality, at least among calves than has been
3 documented anywhere in the State, not to say that it isn't
4 occurring. It's just a hard thing to document. But
5 certainly I wouldn't argue that predation's having a major
6 influence.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I guess that's all I have,
11 Mr. Chairman. I think the problem I'm having, wrestling
12 with, you know, is -- you know, we can curtail all the human
13 harvest we want, and go down to zero, but if that isn't going
14 to help, or that isn't the cause, it's like sticking your
15 hole in a boat that's leaking and the transom's gone or
16 something.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Well, we have a
19 year I think to look at it again, Dick. You know, it's too
20 late this year for the Board of Game or even the Federal
21 Board to take a drastic step on what they want to do as far
22 as reducing predation on the animals. We can hope that maybe
23 the nice cold winter has produced some good results as far as
24 saving animals. Maybe more water and better habitat next
25 year. So I don't think there's much we can do except look at
26 the numbers that you suggested that we deal with as far as
27 harvest goes, and then go from there. Do you have a
28 comment,.....

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:Robert -- Robin? Go
33 ahead.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Dick, not putting the blame
36 on anybody, but, you know, we've had the subsistence users of
37 the Lower Peninsula come in and talk to us a number of times.
38 We've had them on a teleconference. We've made
39 recommendations. Where did we go wrong in the management end
40 of things? Because we go from a full-blown hunt for
41 everybody into a Tier II. And, you know, looking back, we
42 seen the trends, but we did -- you know, the State did some
43 pretty drastic action. And they can't even meet the
44 subsistence needs 1200 animals are needed, and we need to
45 reduce that down to 600. As a State regulator, and looking
46 at the federal regulators on the Alaska Peninsula, where did
47 we go wrong? And when did we go wrong?

48

49 MR. SELLERS: Well, of course, -- yeah.

50

00113

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Because, you know, I myself
2 am not too happy with this Tier II, and I blame myself
3 sitting up here as well as anybody.
4

5 MR. SELLERS: Of course, hindsight's pretty
6 good. I think part of the problem was in '97 when we counted
7 10,000, I didn't -- I wouldn't say I did not believe that
8 number, but I didn't have 100 percent faith that that was an
9 accurate reflection of another decline. You know, if we had
10 acted a year ago, we'd be in obviously better shape than we
11 are now.
12

13 The other factor, and again, I don't want to point
14 figures at people, but in 1994 we restricted the bag limit in
15 9(C) to not more than one cow, and we didn't do anything 9(E)
16 at all in terms of resident seasons. And I guess if I had it
17 to do over again, I probably would have, you know -- I did
18 try to get the word out that -- to the extent that we could
19 that people should target bulls, but if I could go back to
20 1994, I would probably intensify that effort to try to
21 redirect the harvest away from cows.
22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you. That's a good,
24 honest answer.
25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wasn't there a time when
27 you did a closure in the Naknek section there, kind of like a
28 November/ December hunt.....
29

30 MR. SELLERS: That was in.....
31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:on the emergency.....
33

34 MR. SELLERS:in '94, and.....
35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
37

38 MR. SELLERS:you know, we took some
39 pretty drastic action as I know Robin will recall, that I --
40 you know, I was faced with the only tool available at the
41 time was a total closure of areas, and I did issue an
42 emergency order in September which closed the Naknek -- or
43 9(C) by emergency order to take effect -- I think it was
44 going to take effect the end of September. And to the credit
45 of the Naknek/Kvichak Committee, you know, they weren't happy
46 with that action, because obviously it was going to impact
47 them more than anybody else, and we did work out that change.
48 They petitioned the Board, and they had an emergency meeting
49 and went to the one caribou a month, and not more than one
50 cow for the entire season. So, you know, that was I think a

00114

1 red flag, and those guides that have suffered so much this
2 year, you know, I sympathize with them to that extent, but
3 those that were -- had their heads up should have realized in
4 1994 that things were not looking good. And.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other questions?
7 Yeah?

8 MR. HEYANO: I don't have a question, just a
9 comment.

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I just -- I just
12 appreciate the answer,.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that is.....

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN:because sometimes, you
17 know,.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN:the problem sitting
22 around a table, not necessarily out in the field, and I think
23 we're all part of the problem.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, you know, I'd -- you know,
26 if I look at the information, you know, in my opinion, the --
27 you know, and hindsight is 20/20, I guess the mistake was
28 made, you know, by allowing that herd to get as big as it
29 did, because apparently, you know, that had impacts on the
30 habitat, and then as a result of that, we tried to increase
31 the harvest, you know, and got the harvest up there, and I
32 guess the other mistake we made, and we're probably all
33 guilty right here is allowing the green groups to take away
34 the most effective tool, same-day-airborne taking of wolves.
35 So, you know, it's not -- I think it's a combination of
36 things.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. Okay. Well, thank
39 you, Dick, for the report, and I don't know what your time
40 frame is going to be like, but it would be kind of nice if we
41 had you around when we acted on the proposal, but if you
42 can't stay, we certainly do appreciate you taking time to
43 come and talk to us today.

44
45 MR. SELLERS: I'll be around through
46 tomorrow. I do have the overhead on the Tier II scoring
47 thing if sometime in the future you want to look at that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, how about that
50 proposal time, would be great. Yes?

00115

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: When are you leaving
2 tomorrow, Dick? Tomorrow morning?

3
4 MR. SELLERS: No, the evening flight back.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll be done with
7 this proposal by then, I guarantee.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman,
10 with Dick here, this should be the first proposal that we
11 tackle.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN:once we get on
16 proposal.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

19
20 MR. SAMUELSEN:because it's going to be
21 the most complicated.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we -- yeah, I think,
24 you know, we're going to deal with proposals and all kinds of
25 reports, can take their time and they can write to us if they
26 want, but.....

27
28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:we're going to finish
31 the really critical issues of caribou, moose and c&t.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: Could Dick give us an update on
34 what the State Board of Game did?

35
36 MR. SELLERS: On caribou?

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

41
42 MR. SELLERS: Well, maybe some background
43 first. You know, it was pretty apparent by this fall that we
44 were going to need to do something drastic, and the staff
45 proposal that we submitted basically outlined two options.
46 The first option was to try to avoid a Tier II hunt by some
47 pretty drastic reduction in season length and bag limit. And
48 then we also realized that the likelihood of a Tier II hunt
49 was very substantial and so that was the second option. And
50 during the course of the winter meetings with advisory

00116

1 committees in 9(C) and (E), we outlined those two options,
2 and actually there was pretty uniform desire by the
3 committees and local folks to do almost whatever it took to
4 avoid a Tier II hunt. And the Lower Bristol Bay Committee
5 came out with a proposal that I think would have probably
6 brought us close to that 600 bull limit. They suggested a
7 winter only hunt, state hunt, that started December 1st and
8 ran till April with a one bull limit -- no, two bulls, only
9 one of which per calendar month. And that -- you know, that
10 would have basically eliminated any nonlocal use of that
11 state hunt just bey the timing of it. And then they
12 anticipated that for fall hunting, that if there was a fall
13 federal season, that they could get onto federal lands and
14 hunt. So that was kind of the most viable proposal that we
15 went to the Board of Game with.

16
17 But the trouble was that in 1992 when the Northern
18 Peninsula herd was near the peak, the Board of Game by law
19 again was forced to go throughout the State and document what
20 level of use was necessary to meet subsistence needs, so the
21 level of use that was documented from previous household
22 surveys was somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000 to 1200 by
23 local users, and then when you threw in that winter harvest,
24 again this is 1992 when that winter harvest was high, the
25 nonlocal use was somewhere around 700. Nonlocal Alaskan. So
26 the findings were that the Board needed to provide a harvest
27 of somewhere between 1200 and 1900 caribou for Alaskans for
28 subsistence. Now, you know, we can say that's an appropriate
29 level, or we can say that level was at the time when the herd
30 was at a near all-time high, but regardless, those were the
31 numbers that they had to work with.

32
33 And maybe some of the other folks that were at the
34 Board of Game meeting would like to characterize the
35 discussions that they had. I mean, it was an outstanding
36 showing by local people. They really had a lot of good input
37 and I guess the bottom line was that when it came right down
38 to it, they weren't willing to endorse reducing the lower
39 level of 1200, you know. They felt that was the number that
40 they wanted to try to maintain on the record. And again,
41 somebody maybe want to correct my thinking on that, but
42 that's what I got out of it, that it came down to protecting
43 that level of use, and the only way to do that is to go to a
44 Tier II system.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think that's very
47 accurate. I was sitting there, and we had a committee
48 meeting at the evening time, and, you know, we kept wrestling
49 and wrestling. Finally somebody stood up and said, well, you
50 can't take a magic wand and make more animals. Let's go to

00117

1 Tier II, and we all went home. And that's what we did. So
2 you're right.

3
4 If you could save your overhead until we get to the
5 proposal, Dick, and that will be fine. And we'll go ahead
6 and take a ten-minute break. Thank you.

7
8 (Off record - 3:20 p.m.)

9
10 (On record - 3:38 p.m.)

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good afternoon, Keith.

13
14 MR. GOLTZ: Hi, Dan.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Counselor, it's nice to
17 have you. I'm sorry we put you on hold there.

18
19 MR. GOLTZ: No problem.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Treat him like a
22 red-headed stepchild, but we were -- we had several things
23 going there that we just had difficulty with.

24
25 If we could have you help us with a definition of
26 c&t? Remember, we struggled through that when we met several
27 times in Anchorage as a committee?

28
29 MR. GOLTZ: Right.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And the second thing is if
32 you feel comfortable dealing with maybe some information on
33 Tier II,.....

34
35 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:would you feel
38 comfortable dealing with that for a little while?

39
40 MR. GOLTZ: Sure.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We're listening,
43 thank you.

44
45 COURT REPORTER: Could you state your name
46 for the record, please?

47
48 MR. GOLTZ: Oh, you want me to just speak
49 extemporaneously?

50

00118

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, you're the counselor.

2

3 MR. GOLTZ: Oh, okay. For the record, my
4 name is Keith Goltz. And, Dan, I'm not sure exactly what
5 your questions are at this point.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let me restate it
8 then. Okay.

9

10 MR. GOLTZ: The -- I didn't hear?

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'll restate the one on
13 c&t.

14

15 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could you give us a
18 definition as perhaps -- I don't know whether it's in ANILCA
19 or the State of Alaska has given a definition of customary
20 and traditional use.

21

22 MR. GOLTZ: Well, we took over the State's
23 definition, and the way it's working right now, c&t seems to
24 be sort of a statewide zoning. Tier II is really the second
25 part of the ANILCA statute. What the State calls Tier II is
26 what we call customary dependence. We've never really used
27 that portion of the statute, but in times of shortage, the
28 way the statute is supposed to work, is that the people
29 closest to the resource, and most dependent on it should be
30 the ones to get preference over all other users, including
31 other subsistence users.

32

33 The problems we're having, and I think what we're
34 going to have to face in the near future is what happens when
35 a subsistence user from an adjoining region wants to come in
36 and do subsistence on a resource that we've already got sport
37 use on, and we've never really grappled with that yet. It
38 seems to me the statute makes it clear that the sport use
39 would have to recede in face of a legitimate subsistence
40 user. But that -- we haven't gotten to that point in our
41 proceedings as far as I know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

44

45 MR. GOLTZ: It's an awkward system. The c&t
46 is frankly, and we've discussed this, Dan, in other meetings,
47 c&t as originally conceived was designed to make subsistence
48 small enough so that all of the users could be accommodated.
49 And that design does not really fit very well with ANILCA.
50 C&T was not -- ANILCA gives us no indication that c&t is

00119

1 supposed to restrict subsistence, but to the contrary, ANILCA
2 says that subsistence is supposed to be assisted. That's the
3 whole purpose of Title VIII.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's very important.
6 Yeah, I -- okay. So it's supposed to be assisted, not
7 diminished.

8
9 MR. GOLTZ: Right.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Well,
12 that helps a lot. Anything else on c&t that you think might
13 be helpful to us?

14 MR. GOLTZ: I don't have anything really to
15 add at this point. I thought you were going to be asking me
16 pointed questions, kind of putting me on the spot, Dan. I
17 thought you liked to do that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah, we'll wait
20 another time for that.

21
22 MR. GOLTZ: I wasn't really ready to give a
23 speech.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, that basically
26 is what I wanted to hear was the -- how c&t come about, the
27 difference between c&t and what subsistence is going to have
28 to deal with, and an example is our caribou herd here on
29 Alaska Peninsula. And so I think that's been pretty helpful
30 to me.

31
32 We are going to give, Pat and I, McClenahan, and I
33 will give a report on what we have found struggling through
34 the meetings we had, trying to determine c&t use for the
35 regions, and from -- with what you've told us and I think
36 what we have in the way of a report, this Council will
37 probably come up with a recommendation.

38
39 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And the other thing that we
42 thought you might want to -- if you had any comments on Tier
43 II, which is what the Game Board has come up with on their
44 Proposal 55, and our's Number 32. If you had any comment or
45 have any knowledge or anything you want to offer on Tier II,
46 you certainly.....

47
48 MR. GOLTZ: Well, the State's Tier II is our
49 customary and direct dependence. And we've never -- we've
50 never really given that much meaning, because we've been

00120

1 working through this so-called c&t process. But the c&t
2 process is regulatory. That doesn't come out of ANILCA.
3 Customary and direct -- I mean, it doesn't come directly out
4 of ANILCA. You can search ANILCA forever, and you'll never
5 find something called a c&t study. When the State talks
6 about Tier II, you'll find something we do have, and that's
7 customary and direct dependence. And in terms of shortage,
8 it would make me a lot more comfortable if we started talking
9 about that, because that's right out of the statute.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. All right.

12
13 MR. GOLTZ: And that's when things get
14 harder.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good.

17
18 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions that Council
21 members might have? Yes, Robert has a question for you,
22 Keith.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Yes, this is Robert.....

25
26 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

27
28 MR. HEYANO:Heyano. I guess in
29 listening to your dialogue with Dan there, do I understand
30 correctly that the federal subsistence process doesn't have a
31 Tier II, and that's actually a State?

32
33 MR. GOLTZ: We don't have those words. What
34 would be our Tier II is Section 804 of ANILCA, customary and
35 direct dependence.

36
37 MR. HEYANO: And.....

38
39 MR. GOLTZ: People who live closest to the
40 resource and are most dependent on it get priority. That
41 portion of the statute applies only after all other uses have
42 been taken off. Once you've dropped any commercial use, any
43 guiding, dropped any sport use, then you talk about customary
44 and direct dependence.

45
46 MR. HEYANO: How do we deal.....

47
48 MR. GOLTZ: And that's.....

49
50 MR. HEYANO:with the -- how do we deal

00121

1 with the situation where all other uses has stopped and we
2 still don't have enough animals for the.....

3
4 MR. GOLTZ: That's it, that's Section 804.
5 And it -- and the statute and the regulations give you a
6 series of steps to go through.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Oh, okay.

9
10 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah. Primarily there you're
11 dealing with personal custom. When we talk about customary
12 and traditional uses, we're talking much more generally, just
13 in the way animals have been captured and processed in the
14 past. That's what we're calling our customary and
15 traditional use. But when we -- the words are not very good
16 here, because we're using the same word, customs, in two
17 different senses. One is a refer- -- is an adjective
18 referring to uses, the other, the Tier II refers to users.
19 And people who have been contact with the resource the
20 closest for the longest period of time, should be the ones to
21 get privilege under a Tier II or an 804 process.

22
23 MR. HEYANO: So basically it won't be
24 community-based, it would be individually based?

25
26 MR. GOLTZ: Right. Under Tier II you're not
27 talking broad. You're talking about people who have the
28 highest degree of dependency, but we shouldn't even be
29 talking about that until all other uses have been taken off.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They've all been taken off.

32
33 MR. GOLTZ: If there is any -- Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They've all been taken off.

36
37 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

40
41 MR. HEYANO: One.....

42
43 MR. GOLTZ: Then we're taking basically --
44 basically, to make it simple, we're talking about those who
45 need it most. Who are most dependent on it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Robert has another
48 question there, Keith.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Could you define.....

00122

1 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

2

3 MR. HEYANO:dependence for us?

4

5 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah, sort of. I'm reaching for
6 the statute. The statute actually sets out some standards.
7 Basically people who live closest, are local, and don't have
8 alternative resources. And I don't -- since we've never
9 gotten to this, I don't really remember if we did anything
10 more in our regulations. I don't think so. And if we
11 haven't, it's pretty much up to you it seems to me. You're
12 closest to the ground. ANILCA is designed to be a local
13 statute, and.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert?

16

17 MR. GOLTZ:I think that's one you are
18 both privileged and burdened to wrestle with.

19

20 MR. HEYANO: Does -- boy, I don't know how to
21 say this. Does the individual's financial situation bears
22 any input into this process?

23

24 MR. GOLTZ: Sure. I would think so. I would
25 think so. Statute says they're dependent, and if they don't
26 -- if they don't have the resources to get something through
27 the cash economy, it would seem to me they're dependent on
28 the natural resources.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You still have the floor.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You still have the floor,
35 Robert, go ahead.

36

37 MR. HEYANO: I need to think on that response
38 a little bit, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Counselor, we have
41 another one here. Robin wants to talk to you.

42

43 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'd like to rephrase the
46 answer. I don't know if you know Lance Nelson. We just went
47 through this, the Department had asked him a question, and
48 they'd get the answer back since Wednesday, and I said, no, I
49 think this is the way you want to answer that question, and
50 then he gave me a total different answer, so -- it depends

00123

1 how you ask a lawyer a question you get the answer I guess.

2

3 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah. Well, like.....

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: My interpretation of what
6 Robert was asking you was if a person makes \$100,000 is he
7 going to -- is that going to affect his customary and direct
8 dependence?

9

10 MR. GOLTZ: Well, I think so. I think so,
11 but, remember, we're talking about here the 804 process.
12 We're not talking about subsistence generally. If we're
13 talking about subsistence generally, then all you have to be
14 is rural, and I don't care how many millions of dollars you
15 make. You qualify.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right.

18

19 MR. GOLTZ: But if we're talking about 804
20 now, and making distinctions between subsistence users, then
21 it would seem to me that it would make a difference. The
22 statute says dependence, and before I get too deep into this,
23 maybe I should reach for the regulations here. See, this --
24 you guys are making me feel more comfortable now. Now you're
25 starting to embarrass me. That's generally why.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. While you're
28 looking,.....

29

30 MR. GOLTZ: No, I don't -- we haven't defined
31 that in the regulations.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, while you're
34 think-.....

35

36 MR. GOLTZ: We haven't defined dependence.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. While you're
39 thinking, Robert Heyano has another question, okay, Keith?

40

41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

42

43 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

44

45 MR. HEYANO: I guess the thing that bothers
46 me is that I never viewed a subsistence priority to be a
47 welfare program, and I think that's.....

48

49 MR. GOLTZ: Well,.....

50

00124

1 MR. HEYANO:what you're alluding to
2 even under this special situation.

3
4 MR. GOLTZ: I suppose there's room in the
5 statute for defining dependence, but how would you look at
6 it. If somebody's financial situation doesn't come into it,
7 then how would you explain the part of the statute that says
8 customary and direct dependence?

9
10 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess the first -- you
11 know, the first thing that comes to my mind is I'd go back
12 and look at his past history, and if he was -- if the
13 individual was 60 years old and he had documentation or he
14 had some proof that since he was 12 he's been eating eight
15 caribou a year versus somebody who at the same age maybe took
16 ten caribou in that lifetime. You know, that's a clear cut
17 to me as far as dependency goes on, in this particular
18 instance, caribou.

19
20 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah, I think you could work that
21 into it.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Keith, in the federal.....

24
25 MR. GOLTZ: That could be part of it.

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: In the Federal Register,
28 22.956, determining priorities for subsistence uses amongst
29 rural Alaskan residents. It goes on to state in (b) the
30 priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations
31 based on the application of the following criteria to each
32 area, community or individual determined to have customary
33 and traditional use as necessary. So this advisory council
34 could base it on the area, we have an option of basing it on
35 a community, or we have an option of basing it on the
36 individual.

37
38 MR. GOLTZ: What section are you referring
39 to? What section of the regulations?

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: 22.956.17

42
43 MR. GOLTZ: Seventeen. Okay. I'm
44 getting.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Been a long time since we
47 heard a lawyer groan. Pardon me?

48
49 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr Chairman, if I can,.....

50

00125

1 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD:just to help Keith,
4 that's the subpart (a), (b) and (c) regulations from 1992.

5

6 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah, I've got it.

7

8 MR. BRELSFORD: And it's in the reference
9 handbook that the Council members have, so this is Section 17
10 on implementation of the Section 804 criteria.

11

12 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah. Okay. I've got it in
13 front of me now. That's right out of the statute. It's
14 talk- -- at least the current stuff is right out of the
15 statute, and I assume yours is current, too.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Keith, there's a little
18 lull here. Let me give you kind of a for example. This is
19 Dan speaking.

20

21 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's say that we've
23 gone down to 600 animals and you have Perryville, Ivanof,
24 Chignik Bay, Lake and Lagoon, Port Heiden, Pilot Point,
25 Ugashik and Igiugig, and then the next big population at 1500
26 people would be Naknek/King Salmon/South Naknek. I'm sure
27 that we would probably be within our rights to give a
28 priority use to these lower villages,.....

29

30 MR. GOLTZ: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:since the 1500
33 population of Naknek would have access to a degree to the
34 250,000 caribou in the Mulchatna area that might come down
35 our way. Or the people down in that -- those village regions
36 where they might not have access to what we would have in our
37 stores or otherwise,.....

38

39 MR. GOLTZ: Right. Right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:might -- I don't think
42 it would be totally unfair if we looked at it from that
43 viewpoint. Do you?

44

45 MR. GOLTZ: No, and I think that's where
46 you're ultimately going to get to on this. You're going to
47 have to be rational and you're going to have explain in some
48 ways that seem intuitively fair to people.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a matter of

00126

1 common.....

2

3 MR. GOLTZ: And that.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:common sense.

6

7 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah, I think so. And you can
8 see how certain the writers of the regulations were when you
9 go down to (d) in that same section, it says the Board shall
10 solicit recommendations from the Regional Council in the
11 area.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

14

15 MR. GOLTZ: I think there's a lot of room in
16 here. And when a statute or a regulation gives you that kind
17 of room, your job then becomes one of explaining it on the
18 record.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Rob-.....

21

22 MR. GOLTZ: What did you do and why did you
23 do it?

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin has a comment.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. And explaining on the
28 record, if we go to Section 16, the customary and traditional
29 use determination process, and go through the eight.....

30

31 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN:cri -- and use that as
34 just -- as our guiding principles, I guess, when we make a
35 determination, using the eight criteria. Can you.....

36

37 MR. GOLTZ: I don't like that.

38

39 MR. SAMUELSEN: You.....

40

41 MR. GOLTZ: I would recommend against that.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, you've got 200 and.....

44

45 MR. GOLTZ: Once you're in Section 17, you've
46 already decided what the uses are. Seventeen has to do with
47 uses. Excuse me, 16 has to do with uses. Seventeen has to
48 do with users. And I would be careful you don't confuse. I
49 kind of like the approach where you say what makes sense?
50 We've got a certain kind of terrain, and we've got a certain
kind of population, what makes sense? Human population.

00127

1 What makes sense on -- based on these facts.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions
4 for.....

5

6 MR. GOLTZ: And you're talking about users,
7 not the way it's used. You've already -- you wouldn't be in
8 17 if the questions of 16 hadn't already been answered.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: How do we make a
11 determination on customary and direct dependence upon a
12 population as a mainstay? What criteria do we use?

13

14 MR. GOLTZ: I think you use criteria that
15 makes sense and then you explain it. And I don't think -- I
16 don't think I can give you any more on that. You're the guys
17 closest to everything out there.

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Is it the intent of the
20 framers of this to have -- since we have 12 regional councils
21 throughout the State of Alaska, to have 12 different criteria
22 being used?

23

24 MR. GOLTZ: Could. It's possible.

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Wow.

26

27 MR. GOLTZ: I don't think it's necessary
28 though. You've got the three factors, and the one that seems
29 to be causing you trouble is customary and direct dependence.
30 I think that for the purposes of a record decision, you --
31 what you have to be careful of is that you decide what that
32 means, and then you apply it fairly across the board, whether
33 you like the people or you don't like them. That's a
34 requirement of the law.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We like them all, for the
37 record, okay?

38

39 MR. GOLTZ: Okay. All right.

40

41 MR. HEYANO: I guess, Mister.....

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's crazy.

44

45 MR. HEYANO:Mr. Chairman?

46

47 MR. GOLTZ: It's not going to be easy. This
48 is when things get tough, and that's why the last portion of
49 that says when prioritizing, ask the local people.

50 That's.....

00128

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert has another.....

2

3 MR. GOLTZ:basically what it says.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:another comment.

6 Robert?

7

8 MR. HEYANO: So if I understood your response
9 to Robin earlier, is that it is possible to have, what is
10 there, 12 regional councils in the state? That each regional
11 council has a little different twist in applying this portion
12 of the regs, correct?

13

14 MR. GOLTZ: Yeah. Yeah, I think so.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what.....

17

18 MR. HEYANO: Let me go one.....

19

20 MR. GOLTZ: It.....

21

22 MR. HEYANO:step further. Is it
23 possible within that regional council to have a little
24 different twist depending on what animal or what fish species
25 we're referring to?

26

27 MR. GOLTZ: If there's a rational distinction
28 between the resources, I would say yes.

29

30 MR. HEYANO: Well, we're always rational, so
31 -- thank you.

32

33 MR. GOLTZ: Okay. You like everybody and
34 you're always rational. That's.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, can't beat that.

37

38 MR. GOLTZ: why you haven't been sued yet.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Quit complaining.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, any questions there,
45 Council members? Yeah, Robert still has his hand up.

46

47 MR. HEYANO: One follow up I guess, Mr.
48 Chairman, is.....

49

50 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

00129

1 MR. HEYANO:it might be helpful if we
2 decide to go -- if the Council decides to go to the Tier II
3 route to have access to this gentleman.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tomorrow?

6
7 MR. HEYANO: Well, is that when we're going
8 to be discussing the proposal? If that's a possibility,
9 because there's a lot of things that.....

10
11 MR. GOLTZ: It's a possibil.....

12
13 MR. HEYANO:I wasn't aware of.

14
15 MR. GOLTZ: I'm accessible. I'm -- I can be
16 in stand-by tomorrow, and if you need me, you just give me a
17 call.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20
21 MR. GOLTZ: I have to be out for about an
22 hour sometime around noon, but.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

25 MR. GOLTZ:other than that, I think I'm
26 all right.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And we apologize for
29 putting you on hold. We just -- it was hard to get through
30 the agenda.....

31
32 MR. GOLTZ: No, no, that's.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and get to that.

35
36 MR. GOLTZ:no problem.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. So even
39 if.....

40
41 MR. GOLTZ: That's no problem.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, Keith, even if we
44 got to a decision tomorrow, and we didn't necessarily act on
45 it, we could always run it by you before we did the final
46 motion, is that okay?

47
48 MR. GOLTZ: Right.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anything else?

00130

1 MR. GOLTZ: Right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much for
4 your time.

5

6 MR. GOLTZ: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We hope we made your day.

9

10 MR. GOLTZ: Okay. You always do.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. All right.

13

14 MR. GOLTZ: I'll talk to you later.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 'Bye.

17

18 MR. GOLTZ: 'Bye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well,.....

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've got to get this blown
23 up for tomorrow.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's that?

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've got to get this section
28 blown up for tomorrow.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We probably need to go
31 through a little bit of old business here, and then maybe
32 dive into the caribou issue. If Jerry could help us with the
33 Ekwok Village Council wanting to increase the membership of
34 our Advisory Council for open seats. Could you help us out
35 with that a little bit there, Jerry, if you would please and
36 give us -- that's Tab Number Q?

37

38 MR. BERG: Yes, Mister.....

39

40 COURT REPORTER: Swing that microphone
41 towards you, please?

42

43 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair, actually that's
44 under Tab P on my -- yes, so that's under Tab P. Yes.

45

46 Last fall we received a letter actually addressed to
47 the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board from the Ekwok
48 Village Council with a proposal that the Bristol Bay Regional
49 Council increase their size from the seven member current
50 council to a nine member council, and the reasons that they

00131

1 stated was there was a greater consumption of meat used for
2 subsistence on the Nushagak River villages than there is in
3 the Dillingham area. Also that the Nushagak River villagers
4 have no representation and no input regarding decisions that
5 are made in their own back yard. And three, their third
6 point, was to increase -- was that there's a greater increase
7 of outside hunters on the Mulchatna River, which made it
8 difficult for the people on the Nushagak River to provide for
9 their subsistence way of life.

10
11 So basically -- oh, and then the next page, there was
12 also a letter of support from the City of New Stuyahok,
13 basically writing in support of the proposal that the folks
14 from Ekwok made.

15
16 In response to that, the Chairman of the Federal
17 Subsistence Board responded to the Village Council of Ekwok,
18 and said that they would forward the request to the Regional
19 Council, and let the Regional Council deliberate on that
20 point, whether you wanted to consider increasing the size of
21 the Council from seven to nine.

22
23 And as you know, something to keep in mind is that
24 you guys -- this Council did approve their charter, which is
25 a biannual charter, last fall, so it would not be up for
26 renewal until the year 2000, and that's where it is stated
27 how many council seats there are on the Council. And so the
28 increase in the size, if it were to be forwarded as a
29 proposal, would not be addressed by the Board most likely
30 until the year 2000, unless you specifically stated that
31 you'd like to see it addressed sooner than that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comment from the
34 members of the Council?

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman?

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes?

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: I believe all the villages
41 within the Bristol Bay region have a c&t finding on caribou
42 and moose as well as all fish species in the eyes of the
43 State, and if I remember the subsistence harvest surveys when
44 the Board of Game and the Board of Fish were making their
45 determinations, that Dillingham consumed far above the state
46 average. I'm not going to say that we -- the community of
47 Dillingham consume less or more of subsistence species than
48 Ekwok or New Stuyahok, but we all met the criteria. It isn't
49 -- it doesn't matter how much you eat, it matters whether you
50 met the criteria to become eligible for a c&t determination.

00132

1 On number two, in their own back yard, look at the
2 upriver villages. There's very little federal land up in the
3 upriver villages area. Primarily that's state land. Very
4 little federal land, whereas you look at the Alaska
5 Peninsula, about two-thirds of it is federal land.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Forty percent.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Forty percent. And you go
10 west, a quarter mile behind my house, you're into the Togiak
11 Wildlife Reserve. And they have representation on the
12 Nushagak Advisory Committee.

13
14 In addressing number three, a greater increase of
15 outside hunters in the Mulchatna River has made it difficult
16 for people on the Nushagak River to provide for their
17 subsistence way of life. I won't argue with that. But look
18 -- again looking at the map and the Mulchatna, very little
19 federal land up in that area. I look at the representatives
20 sitting around this table, and I personally believe that if
21 we're going to increase -- I have no problems with increasing
22 the Council, but, you know, we're looking at a Tier II
23 situation along the Alaska Peninsula that's going to affect
24 many villages' lives, and if we're going to add any -- if
25 we're going to expand the Council, in my eyes, we need to
26 hear from the people that are participating in lands that are
27 affected and resources that are affected by this Council. So
28 with that, I'd like to defer to the other advisors sitting
29 around. But.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: If we're going to expand it,
34 I'd just like to see more people affected that use federal
35 land.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other Council
38 members want to have any comment on this? Robert?

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess, you
41 know, looking at the letters, I concur with the comments
42 Robin made. You know, in the Dillingham and Nushagak River,
43 we're all in one Game Management Unit, it's just that there's
44 different subunits, and I'd point out, you know, Dillingham,
45 Portage Creek, Ekwok, and New Stuyahok are actually in the
46 same subunit. Koliganek is in 17(B). Any my originally
47 desig -- when I got put on this committee or council, it was
48 as a representative from the Nushagak Advisory Committee,
49 and, you know, we have designated seats from all these
50 communities, and we do review federal subsistence proposals

00133

1 and provide comments. So -- you know, and I think that, you
2 know, number three is valid, and I think that, you know, part
3 of that's the reason why I -- when we make decisions on
4 federal land for nonsubsistence hunters, I'm always cautious
5 and conscious of number three, because, you know, those
6 people don't necessarily quit hunting. They just find a new
7 location to go hunt.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: And, you know, I think we need
12 to -- I always approach it with a broad view of things to
13 make sure it's, you know, it's absolutely necessary that we
14 either have to restrict them or eliminate them, because, you
15 know, we're going to impact some other subsistence hunter in
16 a different area.

17
18 And I concur with the land status, you know, it's
19 fortunate and unfortunate I guess. It depends on what your
20 point of view is, but, you know, the Nushagak/Mulchatna/Wood
21 Titchik Lakes areas, you know, we're surrounded predominantly
22 by state land, so, you know, if the Council did decide, you
23 know, I'd like the opportunity to hear from some of those
24 communities that are -- have a lot more federal land that
25 impacts them, so.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Two big river systems that
28 really are state dominant, and that's the Kvichak and the
29 Nushagak, and the Titchik Lakes, and they're all State.
30 Peter, did you have a comment?

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. Does the advisory council
33 member has to be, you know, close to the federal land? I
34 mean, we need all the information that we need, or -- I mean,
35 as far as, you know, animals, even though the people in that
36 area are -- there's no federal land, there's some BLM land.
37 Somebody needs to represent them, because they have a lot of
38 concerns like we do have here. They have concerns of their
39 -- you know, of their animals around them. They can voice
40 their concerns on this table over here, but someone else can
41 represent them, like the State? But like I said, we need all
42 -- we need all kinds of in- -- you know, information as we
43 can.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you saying that you
46 want to support their letter or what? What are you saying?

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, I'm just asking question.
49 I mean, I'm just asking questions. Does they have -- I mean,
50 the council have to close to the federal land?

00134

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know the answer to
2 that, yeah. I would think that the best way to handle this,
3 since we're right in the middle of the method by which you
4 would handle the proposal, or change in this particular
5 situation, is to wait for the year 2000 and put in a
6 proposal, and then let it go through the natural channels,
7 you know. I don't think I want to start right now in the
8 middle of the process. Tim?

9
10 MR. ENRIGHT: I think we should put it off,
11 defer it until next year this time.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The year 2000?

14
15 MR. ENRIGHT: The year 2000.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could we -- could they make
18 a proposal in the beginning of the fall season of '99 and
19 then become a viable thing in the year 2000?

20
21 MR. BERG: Sure. Actually we could probably
22 just keep this same request on the books, since this doesn't
23 actually go through our normal proposal cycle. This is --
24 it's not part of setting regulations or seasons or bag
25 limits. It's just a request actually on the nominations
26 process on the size of the Council, so we can just put this
27 on hold and defer it if that's what you wish to do.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's just a suggestion.
30 I don't know -- we don't -- we've got to vote it up or down,
31 one of the two, you know, because we -- I don't think we need
32 to spend a great deal of time on it. I don't think it's
33 timely, and there's a place for it to come into, a sequence,
34 and I think that's what we ought to do.

35
36 MR. ENRIGHT: I'll make a motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

39
40 MR. ENRIGHT: I make a motion that we defer
41 it until the year 2000.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Second?

44
45 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I'll second it.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any further -- did
48 you want to speak to your motion?

49
50 MR. ENRIGHT: No, that's.....

00135

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any discussion? Question?
2 All those in favor say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed?

7
8 (No opposing votes.)
9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you. At this
11 time we have a gentleman who needs to testify before us,
12 because he's going home at 5:00 o'clock. And Joe Klutsch has
13 put in a request to address the Advisory Council on a few of
14 his (ph) proposals, so we'd like to ask Joe to come forward
15 at this time. State your name for the record, if you would,
16 Joe, and thank you for coming before us today.

17
18 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my name is
19 Joe Klutsch. I live in King Salmon. I've had the pleasure
20 to testify before you before. I think most of you know a
21 little bit about me.

22
23 At the onset, I'll mention that we've submit- -- I
24 submitted written comments by the January 3 deadline. In
25 addition, the Alaska Guide Association, APHA, submitted
26 comments that were drafted by a biologist that we now have
27 contracted for the Association. His name is Vic Barnes.
28 He's a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, did
29 most of his work on Kodiak Island related to brown bears,
30 although he's got a good grasp of ungulate animals as well.
31 And he's just really well-respected by his peers, and can
32 give you a good credible analysis. We determined that it
33 wasn't necessary to have him here for the purpose of this
34 meeting given the pretty cut and dried situation with the
35 caribou. But if you have any questions regarding his
36 comments on our behalf, he'd be glad to get on line and
37 answer.

38
39 I'll comment briefly on the caribou. I guess they
40 say when the handwriting's on the wall, it's up to you to go
41 ahead and put it in the books. It looks like given the Tier
42 II situation that you're faced with, that we are faced with
43 on State lands, that you're probably going to decide to
44 eliminate nonresident hunting opportunities on federal land.

45
46 I really appreciated Dick Seller's presentation and
47 your line of questioning on the history of the herd, and the
48 biology of it. Just an over-view comment, and it kind of
49 relates to something that -- a question Robin raised about
50 what could we have done as managers to prevent this from

00136

1 happening. I'm not confident a heck of a lot really. When I
2 got my guide license, I was required to read a book by the
3 Canadian Fish and Wildlife Service called The Caribou, and
4 it's like a bible of caribou biology, and it's the nature of
5 the critter. They go up and down, the population cycle,
6 whether they're hunted, whether they're unhunted. Sometimes
7 predation plays a bigger factor, sometimes natural disasters
8 like drownings and going through the ice play a factor, or
9 the freezing conditions on the tundra. Sometimes disease.
10 Sometimes over-hunting pressure. Sometimes a combination of
11 all of them. But I wouldn't be -- I don't think that anybody
12 necessarily has to shoulder a tremendous amount of blame for
13 what happened really. I think this is really a conscientious
14 group, and I think the State people as well have been that
15 way, and what's important is to do what's necessary to try
16 and get this herd back as productive as it can be to be
17 sustained.

18
19 Last comment on the caribou is that like most of you,
20 I'm sure the commercial fishermen, you know first hand and
21 very well the effect of the low fish runs and what that means
22 economically. This caribou closure is a significant impact
23 for a lot of guides and their families, and they're real
24 people, too, and they're taking a pretty good hit on this.
25 And there won't be any economic disaster aid for them.

26
27 I'll move on to discuss the -- primarily the Unit
28 9(E) proposals that relate to closures of moose season.
29 Moose seasons. Last year at this meeting, you charged the
30 Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife
31 Service, respective agencies, to get their act together and
32 get out there and get some survey data. They worked in
33 conjunction with each other, came back with the data that
34 basically indicates that the moose population in 9(E) is
35 stable. There were some -- at least from my perspective,
36 some somewhat surprising information in that survey, and that
37 was the bull to cow ratio showing over-all area-wide about 67
38 bulls per 100 cows. Some areas on the Pacific side as high
39 as 90 plus bulls per 100. A calf ratio that is pretty much
40 similar to what was evident in the surveys in the 70s and
41 early 80s, the last surveys. I don't think we've ever really
42 had high calf production down there. The brown bears and
43 wolves have always been a factor.

44
45 During our spring bear hunting seasons, and I
46 testified this to the Board of Game in Anchorage, State
47 Board, a couple of my hunters every year will take brown
48 bears that have killed a calf and a cow, or are in the
49 process of trying to do so. You don't like it. It's not
50 pretty a lot of times, but it's part of the process, and it's

00137

1 just what brown bears do.

2

3 And it's -- I'm not sure that you could ever harvest
4 off in reference to the questions about predation, that you
5 could ever eliminate enough of the brown bears to really make
6 a measurable difference in calf mortality. I'm not
7 confident, and I think that's something that we've got to
8 approach with some caution.

9

10 The Board did liberalize the bear season, the State
11 Board. It's going to reduce -- or result in an increase in
12 bear harvest on State lands primarily. On federal lands,
13 keep in mind that any of us who guide on federal lands are on
14 a fixed number of hunters that we can take under the terms of
15 our permits and operations plans. So at least as far as
16 guided effort on -- and harvest on the federal lands, I
17 wouldn't anticipate too much increase.

18

19 Back to the moose. Good bull to cow ratios, as good
20 a calf ratios as could be expected given the circumstances
21 there. The State Board liberalized the December season for
22 general residents, extending it, the dates from December 15th
23 through January 20, better opportunity to move around, a
24 little bit length in season, so we've got an increased
25 opportunity there. They also reduced the -- or deleted the
26 requirement for a 50-inch minimum in the earlier moose
27 season. It can be a spike fork or 50 inch, so there's some
28 increased opportunity there for moose hunting.

29

30 There's one letter that was in the -- your booklets
31 from last year, and I cited it in my comment letter. It's
32 from Chairman Demientieff to you and to respective village
33 councils and tribal councils regarding the special action
34 requests for closures. And in that letter Mr. Demientieff
35 states very clearly that he did not think, given the data
36 available, that the status of the moose populations in Unit
37 9(E) generally speaking, and on the Pacific side, warranted a
38 closure. However, he said, you could take it up at this
39 meeting, and that certainly it was advisable to get more
40 current data.

41

42 Two of the tests to justify a closure are, they call
43 it the healthy population test, and the opportunity test. It
44 doesn't appear that in terms of those closure proposals,
45 either of those -- the health of the population I don't think
46 it can be shown that their -- the health of the population is
47 jeopardized by current levels of effort. And that the
48 opportunity to satisfy subsistence needs cannot be shown to
49 be jeopardized.

50

00138

1 And that doesn't mean that we're not sensitive to it,
2 speaking from the guiding perspective. We really are, and
3 every one of us that's down there, we want to see this thing
4 work, and we want to see everybody be able to take care of
5 their needs. This isn't a combative finger-pointing type of
6 an attitude that we have. We really want to work with
7 people, and we'll be right up front with you. It's one of
8 the reasons we got Vic Barnes on board. We'll work with the
9 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, and this Council
10 in any way possible to reach understandings, reduce conflicts
11 and make sure there's good healthy populations there for us.
12

13 Maintain the existing moose seasons. There was some
14 discussion about later, earlier, the subject of when the rut
15 actually occurs, and I know after having talked to Robin that
16 I better not bring up the subject of rut any more, but.....
17

18 I think also it's going to be really important to
19 monitor the harvest carefully. The better harvest data we
20 can get from general, local residents, anything in terms of
21 the guiding effort is absolutely wired to the animals.
22 Specific location, specific name of hunter, all that
23 information is available from the Fish and Wildlife Service
24 for any guided effort on federal lands, because that's the
25 way our permits are structured, and we have to file those
26 reports. And that's all available.
27

28 Let's see what the results of the fall bear season
29 are, the harvest data. Just stay right on top of this as
30 close as we can. Those would be my -- the recommendations
31 that I'd like you to take up for consideration.
32

33 And with that, I'll conclude.
34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you very
36 much, Joe. Questions, Council members? Robert?
37

38 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Joe, do you have a
39 recommendation for us or an opinion if we wanted to increase
40 the brown bear harvest on federal land, what approach we
41 should take?
42

43 MR. KLUTSCH: Robert, I think in this cycle
44 it would be important to monitor, to see what the results of
45 this extended fall season are before we make any
46 recommendations for increasing effort on the federal lands.
47 Let's get through this fall season and see what the net
48 result of that is. My guess is you could see a ten to 15
49 percent increase in harvest, you may see a higher percentage
50 of harvest of sows. Bears are slow to reproduce.

00139

1 Again, if we're operating on the assumption that
2 harvesting more bears is going to result in more moose calf
3 survival, and caribou calf survival, I think we've got to
4 watch that carefully. I'm not sure given those predator/prey
5 relations that Dick Sellers related, you have to kill an
6 awful lot of bears out there. I also think your point about
7 the effective means of hunting wolves is very significant.
8 That one got by us, and I don't think there's a heck of a lot
9 we could do about it.

10
11 If the Council and the Board decided at some point,
12 at any point that you favored an increase in bear harvest,
13 recommendations could be made both to the State Board, and
14 you could also request the Fish and Wildlife Service
15 liberalize the terms or conditions of our operations plans on
16 federal lands to allow for a greater harvest.

17
18 But, again, my gut feeling is approach this bear
19 thing with caution. I'm -- it seems like everybody's got
20 predatoritis now, and I do know there's too many mergansers
21 out there.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, did you have
28 another question?

29
30 MR. HEYANO: No, I didn't.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The moose situation
37 actually could be dealt with by some other method than what
38 this Advisory Council would do. And by that, Ron Squibb and
39 Ms. Deb Liggett and the Park Service could determine a number
40 of permits are going to be issued to you guys anyway. Like I
41 think Butch King last year killed 18 moose. That's an awful
42 lot of animals to take home. That's more animals than I can
43 sit with comfortably, to be honest with you, and I don't know
44 what.....

45
46 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:you took, and you
49 don't have to say, because, you know, you.....

50

00140

1 MR. KLUTSCH: No, I don't mind.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:don't have to go on
4 record, but

5
6 MR. KLUTSCH:at all. Three on federal
7 land in the -- at this end in Unit 9(C) and four on federal
8 land in Unit 9(E).

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that 9(E) Meshik
11 River, or Aniak-.....

12
13 MR. KLUTSCH: And, yes. Uh-hum.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aniakchak Preserve?

16
17 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes. Reserve.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And then 9(C), was
20 that above King Salmon River?

21
22 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. On federal.....

25
26 MR. KLUTSCH: Western boundary of Katmai.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On federal lands up in
29 the.....

30
31 MR. KLUTSCH: Federal lands, that's correct.

32
33 MR. KLUTSCH:Becharof Refuge?

34
35 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Big Creek.

38
39 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah. I would in the case of
40 -- you mentioned Butch King. Daryl Lons, the Refuge manager,
41 submitted a list of all the guides permitted in Unit 9(E) and
42 showed their authorized number of hunters by species and
43 their actual harvest by species. Under Butch's permit, on
44 federal land in the Cinder River, or at Wild Man Lake, he was
45 authorized four and he took four. You've got a tough one
46 here. Most of those moose are probably being taken on or
47 near adjoining state land.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, that's true.

50
MR. KLUTSCH: It doesn't.....

00141

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The over-all number.....

2
3 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:of animals taken
6 registered out of his camp whether on state of federal
7 lands.....

8
9 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:in '97 I believe it
12 was,.....

13
14 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:talking to a
17 protection officer, was 18 animals, and that is just.....

18
19 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:a tremendous amount of
22 animals to give to a guide.

23
24 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's just a comment.
27 And.....

28
29 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So I really have no other
32 questions.

33
34 MR. KLUTSCH: May.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

37
38 MR. KLUTSCH: We were talking about other
39 options. While I -- the guiding industry, members of the
40 guiding profession, pressed full steam ahead in the wake of
41 that Osachek ruling on guide areas, to get -- we had a
42 Governor's task force, worked for two years in the
43 Legislature to get a new guide area system restructured, and
44 the Fish and Wildlife Service took the lead, built that
45 system. We had a competitive process. Our number one
46 objective was to limit the number of participants, limit
47 access, control access. That was done.

48
49 When it comes to allocating the animals, I would
50 prefer that be done by you guys and by the State Board of

00142

1 Game, not the -- I don't think that the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service and the Park Service can't play a role in the process
3 and make recommendations. I know that at least in terms of
4 the intent of a number of the provisions in ANILCA, it wasn't
5 the intent of that law to give those federal management
6 agencies the authority to allocate species, hunting
7 opportunity.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We appreciate that
10 comment. I don't think I have anything else. We sure do
11 appreciate you taking time to come and help us out on --
12 comments about the bears is very important, and the moose,
13 too. You know, we think in terms of the caribou has gone
14 away, we're going to be a little more -- try to help out with
15 the subsistence issue a little bit more on moose, and that's
16 exactly what our -- my thinking would be, you know, and yet
17 we've got to work with.....

18
19 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:the guides as well.

22
23 MR. KLUTSCH: I might make.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You had a big reduction in
26 money with the caribou by.....

27
28 MR. KLUTSCH: I might make one last comment
29 if I may, Mr. Chairman, and that is that we've held meetings
30 with key Legislators in Juneau over the last month, and we
31 basically submitted, or are in the process of developing the
32 text of a bill that would authorize -- re-authorize the State
33 Guide Board, and direct the Department of Natural Resources
34 to adopt a system, some type of a scheme to regulate access
35 on state land. We fought like hell to get that done in the
36 Legislature the last go-around, but they were all hung up on
37 this constitutionality stuff, and everybody should be able to
38 go do what they want when we -- when they want, and we told
39 them, went on the record and said, you're going to be sorry.
40 You're going to have conflicts with local users. You're
41 going to disrupt traditional subsistence activities, the
42 quality of experience is going to go downhill, and it's going
43 to get messy. And that's exactly what's happening. I'm
44 listening to the testimony on the Upper Nushagak and
45 Mulchatna. We've even got Senator Halford now thinking that
46 this might be a pretty good idea, and he fought us tooth and
47 nail every inch of the way on the last go around. So
48 hopefully within the next year, or two years at the longest,
49 we'll have a system to rank, evaluate, limit the number of --
50 the scale of guiding operations on state lands.

00143

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you ever address the
2 issue of drop-off hunters?

3
4 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah, and it's tough.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I know it is. And --
7 but.....

8
9 MR. KLUTSCH: Very tough.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But I mean, big numbers.
12 Big,.....

13
14 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:big numbers, like
17 hundreds.....

18
19 MR. KLUTSCH: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:of drop-offs.

22
23 MR. KLUTSCH: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you very much.
26 We appreciate your time.

27
28 MR. KLUTSCH: Thank you all very much.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Let's see, Sid, I
31 think you had a comment? If he's still here?

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's gone.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He's gone. How about Randy
36 Alvarez? He had one more issue that I think is pretty
37 important, if we could take that, and then we'll do the
38 caribou proposal. Then we'll go to lunch -- dinner. Work
39 after dinner?

40
41 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Which caribou.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: (Indiscernible --
44 simultaneous speech)

45
46 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Which caribou.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 32. Okay. At least you
49 didn't say.....

50

00144

1 Name, please?

2

3 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, my name is Randy
4 Alvarez. I sit on the Igiugig Village Council, and I'll be
5 representing out point of view on -- I -- this morning I was
6 representing our advisory committee on some different issues,
7 but I'd like to talk about an issue I didn't bring up this
8 morning, and that was brought up on the Alagnak River.

9

10 We're concerned and.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me. Donald? We're
13 going to need Ms. Deb Liggett for this testimony. This is
14 the expressed purpose of having this.

15

16 MR. MIKE: (Indiscernible, away from
17 microphone)

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She'll have to talk about
20 moose.

21

22 (Off record conversations)

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Randy, you have
25 some issues to deal with on the Branch, representing.....

26

27 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:representing Igiugig
30 and Levelock. Okay.

31

32 MR. ALVAREZ: I travel usually every year, go
33 up the Branch, and I've got relatives and friends. Well, you
34 know, the issue is private land and use of the Alagnak, and
35 it was talked about this morning about how much use the
36 Alagnak is getting. And as you all -- most of you know that
37 there's a lot of private land on the Alagnak, pretty -- from
38 Levelock, the corporation there owns quite a bit on the lower
39 end, and you go all the way up and you get allotments from
40 people from Levelock and Igiugig and Naknek also, and my --
41 I've got relatives that have allotments. I'm not old enough.
42 I wasn't old enough to apply for an allot when -- in '71, but
43 I go up with my uncle, and he's got -- way -- or he's got
44 some allotment of his and some of his brothers' allotments
45 that has since passed on, but we've been seeing more and
46 more, particularly rafters coming down. And it was brought
47 up his morning about how much use this is getting.

48

49 And I -- last fall when I was up there, me and my
50 uncle and my son, we stopped at Nick Apakadok's allotment,

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1 and he was there, which is right below the bridge, about as
2 far as you can go in the lower unit. And then he was there,
3 and he was also talking about that, you know, and one thing
4 he wasn't very happy about was that, you know, the Park
5 Service was patrolling, which is a good idea, they should be
6 up there patrolling, but he was saying or asking why they
7 were so far down river, because the preserve land was
8 probably about I'd say 15 miles above from where they were
9 camped. And I didn't know, so it's -- he was concerned about
10 that. But he more -- he didn't like the idea of that, and he
11 thought they were following him around, and which I didn't --
12 I couldn't say if they were or not, but.....

13
14 And another -- he was -- another issue was brought
15 up, was that Charlie Andrew which has an allotment there,
16 which he's got his father's, he had problems with rafters
17 coming down before and staying at his father's allotment
18 there, or camped out and it -- somebody burned his cabin
19 down. And it wasn't even five years later that after the
20 cabin had burned, they started the allotment on fire and
21 burned the whole section of hill and part of the trees down
22 on it.

23
24 And it's -- the local sentiment is that there's
25 getting to be -- it's getting too commercialized, and it's
26 with so many people on the river besides what the lodges --
27 the lodges are there. They're using not only -- or they're
28 not on -- not only state and federal land, but allotments
29 that people -- because people, they -- one thing they don't
30 know -- if they're not marked, staked, they don't know
31 they're even on somebody else's land and allot- -- and these
32 things are happening, you know, because of their cabins
33 getting burned, or their property, or are getting trampled
34 down, because there's -- you know, people are just staying in
35 one spot day after day after day.

36
37 That was one concern that was -- I just wanted to
38 bring up, because I felt that no one else was available to
39 bring this issue up, and I just -- we just need to -- we just
40 needed the Park Service and the Council to know about this
41 issue, because it is getting to be -- the Alagnak is a wild
42 and scenic -- is categorized as a wild and scenic rivers, and
43 it's in all the magazines that people from all over the world
44 hear about it, and they come up here, and they think it's
45 open to everybody, which most -- some of the land is and some
46 of it isn't, so the people are getting pretty -- are getting
47 more and more concerned about how many people are utilizing
48 it, and it's -- they're -- the Park -- there was talk this
49 morning that limit -- about limiting or doing something about
50 how what to do about the amount of people that utilize it,

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1 for permits or whatever, and I just wanted to comment on
2 something should be done on limiting it, or getting a permit
3 to -- and those that do should know where they can camp or
4 can't camp. And that's about it, thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council
7 members? Thank you, Randy. We appreciate you going on
8 record on that, and we'll certainly keep that in mind. We
9 appreciate you taking time to do that. Okay.

10
11 Let's see. We're getting toward the end of the
12 evening here, and I think it's kind of the feeling of some of
13 the Council members that we'll work until about five this
14 evening, and then start tomorrow morning. We probably should
15 start about eight tomorrow morning. And it looks to me like,
16 Dick and Dave, that we'd be interested in taking up the
17 caribou issue tomorrow morning, and if you could be
18 available.

19
20 We do have time now to handle a couple of agenda
21 items, unless there's something that the Council wanted to
22 bring to the floor right now?

23
24 MR. BERG: One thing, I should make an
25 announcement on applications for council seats.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Why don't you do
28 that? Ask Jerry Berg if he would like to address a couple --
29 council seats at this time.

30
31 MR. BERG: Yes, Mr. Chair. I left out the
32 point under 7.B. that, as all the Council members are aware,
33 about a third of the Council seats come open every year, and
34 the application deadline for this year's open seats ends this
35 Friday, and so I just wanted to make an announcement that
36 there are three open seats, or they will be open as of
37 September this year. And those seats this year are Seat 1 is
38 Alvin Boskofsky of Chignik Lake, Seat 2 Andrew Balluta of
39 Iliamna, Seat 3 Robert Heyano of Dillingham. And we do have
40 applications over at our table, and there's also an
41 application under Tab P of everybody's book. And we
42 certainly encourage all residents of the region -- the
43 requirements are to be a resident of the region and to be
44 knowledgeable of subsistence uses and needs, and we certainly
45 encourage anybody interested to apply, as well as the
46 incumbent Council members. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any comment of
49 Council members?

50

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1 Another item here that we need to take care of
2 probably is the -- I'll save the annual report until later
3 on, but the request for -- let's see, fisheries management.
4 Taylor. Is Taylor here today? Would you like to address the
5 fisheries at this time? We probably have time now if you
6 wouldn't mind.....

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:talking to us on that?
11 Brelsford. And if you could state your name for the -- oh,
12 you need an overhead. Okay.

13
14 (Indiscernible, away from microphone)

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like a little
17 darkness?

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Maybe so.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could we turn the lights
22 down there, please? You need to focus it, too. That's okay.

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD: Let's see.

25
26 (Off record conversation re overhead)

27
28 MR. BRELSFORD: Maybe I can speak from back
29 here a little easier. Mr. Chairman, my name is Taylor
30 Brelsford, and I'll make a very brief presentation on the
31 status of the federal fisheries timeline. And the meeting
32 material on this topic is found at Tab Q as in queen. But I
33 think probably a simple way to look at that is just talk
34 about some milestones, a few things that will come up in the
35 months to come. And then if there are some more detailed
36 questions, we could answer those in a few minutes time.

37
38 But the big issue is that at this point the
39 regulations have in fact been published. They are valid in
40 law. They were published on January 8th, 1999. Copies of
41 those were provided to the Council members and there are
42 additional copies on the meeting material table in the back.
43 While those are legally binding regulations, they don't come
44 into effect until October of 1999, so there's a nine-month
45 delay here, ten-month delay, still to allow the Alaska
46 Legislature one last opportunity to come up with a solution,
47 a resolution that would avoid the federal expansion.

48
49 In the months starting now, February through May, the
50 Alaska Legislature is in session. We are watching the

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1 newspapers the same as you to see what proposals or possible
2 solutions are being taken up by the Legislature at the
3 initiative of the Governor or of the legislative leadership.
4 We will watch. We don't have any inside news, any inside
5 channel on the prospects of a legislative solution, so we're
6 watching it in the news the same as you guys are, but it's
7 obviously critically important to monitor developments in the
8 Alaska Legislature, because the whole question of federal
9 fisheries hinges on whether the Legislature takes action or
10 not.

11
12 In February and March of this year, we will provide
13 this update to the Regional Councils.

14
15 From February through September, our office is
16 involved in pretty intensive planning work, because we think
17 October's coming pretty soon. The responsibilities are
18 pretty massive following that dates, and we can't start on
19 October and be ready in time to operate an effective and a
20 responsible management program in the fishing seasons next
21 year in March.

22
23 I want to touch on three aspects of that planning
24 process that are of real importance to you. First of all is
25 the organizational chart and the staffing effort. And as you
26 know from earlier discussions, a lot of the new staffing is
27 going to focus on fisheries biologists. That's not a current
28 skill area that we have within the Federal Subsistence
29 Program. That really has to come into the federal program
30 almost from a standing start. And that will be one of the
31 major job classifications that will be involved in the new
32 staffing. There will be some law enforcement people from
33 what we understand. There will be some folks involved in
34 support to the Regional Councils. How much of this will be a
35 field staff based in the refuges and the parks and the
36 forests, and how much in the Anchorage office, that's still
37 under discussion. But the field capacity is critical in this.
38 I think that's recognized by everybody.

39
40 The second topic that we're addressing from now until
41 September is another one that you've heard of, and that is
42 this crucial element of coordination with the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game. I think we want to say again
44 and again and again that the federal fisheries program cannot
45 operate in a vacuum. It will not be a stand-alone program
46 that just pays attention to little segments of river systems.
47 The experience of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
48 run forecasting and in-season management, in comprehensive
49 management of the fisheries is critical. None of us are
50 going to replace that in a few years time. We need to

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1 cooperate and take full advantage of that historic
2 experience, and the expertise within the Department of Fish
3 and Game.

4
5 There are continuing high-level discussions between
6 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Commissioner and the
7 Board of Fisheries to talk in great detail about a protocol,
8 some kind of nuts and bolts on how to cooperate in sharing
9 data, making sure that we're all using the best scientific
10 information possible, and then, secondly, in how to work
11 together to make quick responsive decisions in in-season
12 management. When the runs are coming in, and there are
13 variations in run timing and run strength, somebody has to be
14 able to make a decision without going through 15 layers of
15 bureaucracy. The federal program recognizes that that's been
16 a strength of the state program, and it is necessary in the
17 nature of fisheries management. So having some arrangement
18 for in-season management that will be coordinated between the
19 state biologists and the federal managers is a critical task
20 that we're addressing through these consultations with ADF&G.

21
22 The third thing that I've highlighted there has to do
23 with Regional Council structures, and that's not so much a
24 concern in the Bristol Bay area, because you -- your
25 responsibility, your jurisdiction for Bristol Bay kind of
26 coincides with major fisheries. But on the Yukon River,
27 within the same watershed there are three different regional
28 councils from the mouth to the Canadian border, and it's
29 crucial to have unified management, unified public
30 involvement. You can't have upriver and downriver arguing
31 with each other about escapements and about allocations. So
32 some way or another we need to come up with a council
33 structure that will allow three councils to work with
34 coordination or with unity in the advice that they give to
35 the Federal Board.

36
37 The Kuskokwim River also has two councils through the
38 run of the river, and so this coordination problem will arise
39 there. There may be some other areas. The Copper River
40 Basin, for example, has users from the Upper Tanana Basin in
41 Eastern Interior Region, as well as the Southcentral Region,
42 so there may be some coordination issues in the Copper River
43 area that we need to look at.

44
45 That's something that we don't want to just guess at.
46 We actually want to do some consultation with groups like the
47 Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, or Yukon River Drainage
48 Fishers -- Fishermen's Association, with the Division of
49 Boards, some of the folks who have worked with advisory
50 councils over the years, with the council members themselves,

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1 and come up with a way of coordinating among these regional
2 councils where they all have a role in a single watershed.

3
4 The next milestone date noted is June 1st. That's
5 the first day on which money starts to flow on this. Under
6 the appropriation bill passed last October, \$11 million were
7 set aside for federal subsistence management. It comes in
8 two lumps: \$1 million is available in June of '99, and then
9 \$10 million is available in September of '99. But,
10 critically, if that -- who that money goes to depends on what
11 happens in the Legislature. So that if the Alaska
12 Legislature has taken action to put a ballot measure on the
13 ballot -- a constitutional amendment on the ballot and
14 resolve the subsistence dilemma, if they're done that by
15 June, the first million dollars goes to the Department of
16 Fish and Game, not to the federal agencies. If the
17 Legislature has taken no action, then it goes to the federal
18 agencies and kicks off the staffing and the planning effort
19 in earnest. The same thing in September. If the State has
20 in special session of some other, you know, urgent measure,
21 urgent action taken steps to resolve the noncompliance with
22 the ANILCA requirements, if the State's done the right
23 things, then the \$10 million goes to the Department of Fish
24 and Game. If the State is still at ground zero on this
25 question, then the \$10 million goes to the federal agencies,
26 and really commences an on-the-ground fisheries program.

27
28 On October, the regs go into effect if there has been
29 no State action. In September and October, we will have a
30 much more detailed briefing with the Councils about the
31 operational procedures, the operational structure for the
32 fishing seasons. Things like how the managers going to
33 cooperate on in-season management. Those sorts of questions
34 will be hammered out by October, and we will provide detailed
35 briefings to the Council at that time.

36
37 Then I think most people realize that the first
38 actual fishing seasons affected by the new regs if all of
39 this goes forward will be in March of 2000. That's when the
40 fisheries regulatory year would start. So the new seasons
41 under federal regulations would start next spring, not this
42 spring coming up. Not in the next few weeks.

43
44 And let me say also that in the winter council
45 meetings next year, that would be the first opportunity for
46 the regional councils to look at these federal regs and to
47 say, we need some changes, we need to propose changes in
48 these federal regulations for the year 2001. New proposals,
49 new fish regulation proposals would be submitted in the
50 winter 2000 meetings. We will implement the baseline

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1 regulations next year, but you can start the process of
2 making further changes in the federal regs, you can start
3 that process in March next year, and it takes effect in the
4 year after.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 2001.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct. So in very short
9 form, I think that kind of summarizes where we are and what's
10 coming. The briefing materials provided to you have a little
11 quick summary of what's in the rule, but I believe we've been
12 through that a couple of times with the Council members, and
13 I would, you know, welcome questions either in general
14 session or individually, and we'll go through the details,
15 but I think it might not be the best use here to go back over
16 it again. And most of these upcoming steps down on the
17 bottom of the briefing statement are included in the timeline
18 that I've provided there. So I think this is kind of the
19 core, the essential information of it, and I'll stop and
20 entertain any questions that you might have.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, any
23 questions? Could we turn the overhead off and talk to you
24 for a little then.

25
26 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There you go. All right.
29 Thank you, Taylor for that report. Any questions that you
30 might have, Council members? This is going to be the last
31 item we're going to deal with tonight.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: One question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert?

36
37 MR. HEYANO: I guess, Taylor, what's the
38 chances are if the Alaska Legislature maybe comes up with a
39 proposal that isn't quite cut and dried as if it meets the
40 standards? Do you think there would be some time allowed to
41 work that through? Or how would a situation or a scenario
42 like that, do you think would be handled?

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Let me answer with a concrete
45 example that we've had in the last few weeks, and that was
46 kind of a suggestion and a very initial idea floated by
47 Representative Porter, and that went all the way up the line
48 to the Solicitor in Washington for something of a technical
49 evaluation. Is it workable? Would it solve the problem?
50 And the Solicitor, John Leshy (ph) actually sent word back

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1 down that that idea was not adequate.

2

3 So what I would say is that there's pretty close
4 scrutiny at the National level, the Cabinet level, for these
5 new ideas, and the test is fairly high. The scrutiny is
6 close. And I think they have to be serious proposals.

7

8 There may be some new creative ideas out there that
9 haven't been thoroughly run out yet, so I wouldn't close the
10 door on some new ideas coming up, but it looks to me like the
11 oversight and the standards, the threshold's pretty high, and
12 any new suggestions separate from the Governor's Task Force,
13 some of these others that have been given a lot of
14 consideration over the earlier years, it would have to be
15 pretty compelling, pretty persuasive in order to bring about
16 any change in these deadlines.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, the Alaska
19 Federation, AFN, of which we're a part of, you know, the
20 corporation you and I are in, and the big corporations of
21 Alaska are not buying off any changes in ANILCA, Title VIII.
22 And unless the Legislature can bring up a constitutional
23 change, it's going to be federal. And I think it's pretty
24 plain, just to guess, that enough politics has taken place
25 with this censure of the President, that they're not
26 interested in, the Secretary of Interior, unless Senator Ted
27 has a lot of power, to amend ANILCA, and they've promised to
28 veto from the Administration. Unless the State of Alaska can
29 come up with a constitutional change, we're going to be doing
30 fisheries on federal lands come the year 2000, October. And
31 our side of it is, look, if I were to take my half and put
32 myself in the native community on this issue, we don't want
33 -- we don't want Porter's idea of you can have the resource
34 when it drops down to a certain level, because that didn't
35 buy it in ANILCA.

36

37 MR. BOSKOFISKY: It's October 1999, isn't it?

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's right. And then
40 we'll be into it in Year 2000.

41

42 MR. BOSKOFISKY: You said October 2000.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, I meant -- well,
45 that goes to the year 2000. That's when it kicks into place.
46 So there's a lot of posturing right now politically to make
47 sure that this is going to -- not going to be watered down,
48 come with a clear definition of what the State's going to do,
49 period.

50

1 MR. BRELSFORD: I think on that point, if I
2 may, Mr. Chairman, it is important to reiterate Secretary
3 Babbitt's remarks to say when he announced -- he held a press
4 conference announcing these regulations, and said that he
5 will recommend a veto to the President of any legislation
6 that would erode the Title VIII protections. So to the
7 extent that the Secretary has sort of made his policies
8 known, and asked that we continue to communicate those with
9 the public, that was a very strong position, one of the three
10 or four most compelling points that he made in his press
11 conference announcing these regulations.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: However, he and Senator Ted
14 did a good job of changing things around about the time we
15 went to our convention, too, in October, which didn't make us
16 very happy.

17
18 If I were to get a bumper sticker, I would say, you
19 know, a rural preference with state management. That's my
20 platform. If they can change that by October, God bless
21 support (ph). If not, we'll go ahead.

22
23 MR. HEYANO: I guess one other question, and
24 maybe that might not be quite fair to ask you this, but since
25 you're there, I will, I guess, is what conditions or why is
26 the situation different this time that we should believe this
27 timeline and not the timeline that was proposed a year or two
28 ago?

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Since 1980.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: I would say the only firm
33 difference that I can point to in this, in the legislative
34 action is that for the first time the \$11 million is set
35 aside, and the regulations are valid in law. It takes no
36 further action by the Secretary or by the Congress to move
37 into implementation. That is different. But whether other
38 things can intervene, your judgment, your reading of the
39 history is as good as mine. The Secretary has represented to
40 his staff, to the Alaska Native community, and to the general
41 public that these are concrete steps and no going back.
42 Publishing the regulations means the laws on the shelf at
43 this point, and that the \$11 million that Senator Stevens
44 went to bat for is real money available to run a program, and
45 that in the previous periods we have not had those res- --
46 those concrete tools to work with.

47
48 But the politics of it, I can't offer you an opinion
49 in the public session on that.

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1 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other comments,
4 Council members on this fisheries report from Taylor? Okay.

5

6 Tomorrow morning I'll give you a very brief report on
7 the annual report. We'll have c&t comment by Pat McClenahan,
8 which is not too lengthy. We've already had some little help
9 from the Solicitor. And then we'll jump right into caribou.
10 At 8:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. Is that okay? Recess
11 until such time. And can we leave our books here or not?

12

13 MR. BERG: Yeah, we have the room all right.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right. Good.
16 Then we'll meet tomorrow morning at 8:00 o'clock.

17

18 (Off record - 5:04 p.m.)

19

20 (MEETING RECESSED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
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BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC
MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the 23rd day
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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
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1999.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00