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1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3

4 City Hall Assembly Chambers
5 Dillingham, Alaska
6 March 25, 2000
7 8:30 o'clock a.m.
8
9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
11

12 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chairman
13 Peter M. Abraham
14 Andrew Balluta
15 John Christensen
16 Timothy M. Enright
17 Robert Heyano
18 H. Robin Samuelson
19
20 Clifford Edenshaw, Regional Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good morning. Back to the agenda. We have some fresh meat here today that we can pick on. Tom it's nice to have you with us today and talk to us and we'll talk to you.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, thank you. I'm going to have several folks from our office speak to you on a variety of subjects today all surrounding the implementation of our fisheries program.

I think about a year ago we identified a number of planning items and we developed a framework plan for addressing those items. We kind of referred to it as the 14-point plan, you may have heard that. Some of the key issues, and I won't list them all centered around coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the State in general, in-season management is a key issue. Obviously getting staffing and budget lined out was a big item on that planning effort. Data and information gathering is another issue. Tribal and Native involvement, extraterritorial jurisdiction. The regulator process for fisheries. And then training, getting people up to speed on where we are. And obviously one of the items under training that we actually have already implemented was the January orientation session.

I don't intend to talk about all of those topics today, we're going to highlight four of them for you to talk in more detail because those are what we're moving in front of all of the Councils during this cycle of meetings.

As our planning has evolved, I think the Chairs of the 10 Regional Councils appointed two Chairs to sit alongside the Board as these action items were developed and many of the action items, I mentioned, you were fortunate -- your Council was very fortunate to have Mr. O'Hara represent, in a way represent you, but also represent in a broader sense all of the Councils, along with Mr. Willie Goodwin from the Northwest Arctic Council. We've had a number of meetings, I think over the course of the last four years, since the Katie John decision. We've tried to keep all of the planning and the issues in front of all of the Councils as this has moved along. Obviously, as time has gone on we have a lot more information and a lot more planning that's evolved. And so we've tried to keep this in front of you through the Council meetings as well as through mailouts and tried to seek your input as we have developed our thinking and our planning on the implementation of fisheries.

So today, we want to highlight four of these action items

00119

1 and bring you up to date and see your comments. And those are
2 the Memorandum of Agreement that we are currently developing with
3 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Where we're going with
4 in-season management. An issue that has arisen early this year,
5 tribal involvement in the program, it's not an issue that has
6 arisen this year but one that we've sort of kept in front of us
7 as we've moved along. But there were some things that came up
8 early this year that I want to share with you. Then there was
9 unified resource monitoring, our approach to data management and
10 data gathering in our resource monitoring program.

11
12 And I have sort of several people that are going to
13 address these items and let me turn to my list to see who's up.
14 Okay, well, the first item would be the draft Memorandum of
15 Agreement and Greg Bos is going to step forward and brief you on
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

19
20 MR. BOS: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council
21 members. I'm Greg Bos with the Fish and Wildlife Service in
22 Anchorage. And I've been of a joint Federal/State work group
23 preparing a draft Memorandum of Understanding, now, we're calling
24 it a Memorandum of Agreement. I'll just refer that as the MOA.
25 Between the Federal and State agencies and the regulatory boards.

26
27 I think you have copies of the current draft of the MOA
28 in Tab P in your book. I might say that you'll probably recall
29 that the MOA is being developed to provide a foundation, a
30 written commitment by the State and Federal agencies and the
31 Boards to work together and coordinate in subsistence fisheries
32 management. So the MOA calls for the development of protocols,
33 protocol agreements on specific major management issues dealing
34 with dual management. And there are five identified in the MOA
35 and there may be others as we go along. Those five were; in-
36 season management, coordinating between the State and Federal
37 managers. The one for information management, management of a
38 data base of fisheries information, subsistence use information
39 and how that information would be shared between the agencies and
40 with the Regional Councils and other affected subsistence
41 interests. A third topical area is the development and review of
42 fishery management plans. A fourth would be developing a process
43 to identify the amounts of fish and wildlife that are needed by
44 subsistence users, and that could be then used in the development
45 of fishery management plans and in-season management. And
46 finally, the fifth one is the coordination between the State and
47 Federal regulatory processes. Improving coordination between the
48 boards on issues of mutual concern and, in particular, improving
49 the interaction of the Fish and Game advisory committees with the
50 Regional Councils, and with advisory bodies and the regulatory

00120

1 boards.

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4 An earlier draft of the MOA was discussed in the January
5 training session that many of you attended in Anchorage. And we
6 received some comments from the Councils. We very much
7 appreciate the comments that we received, given the very short
8 time frame you had to review those, and the Councils unanimously
9 called for additional time to review the document. So we have
10 included a revised draft in your books and we have been receiving
11 comments and suggestions from the Councils in this current round
12 of meetings.

13

14 The comments we received from the Councils in January
15 were carried back to the Federal Board. And they basically dealt
16 with concerns about the process that was used to develop the MOA.
17 There were desires by the Regional Councils and tribes to
18 participate more fully in the implementation of the MOA and the
19 development of protocols. And finally there were questions about
20 who the signatories to the MOA should be. The Board considered
21 these comments and endorsed a greater role for the Regional
22 Advisory Councils in the review and implementation of the MOA as
23 well as more specific recognition of the tribal roles in these
24 management processes.

25

26 The current draft then shows a number of changes that
27 were made in response to the Council comments. There is new
28 wording that is shown in brackets and in bold type. And the
29 wording that's going to be removed is underlined. I'll quickly
30 then summarize the changes.

31

32 Again, the terminology MOU has been changed to MOA, and
33 you'll see that throughout the document, that's to Memorandum of
34 Agreement. There are numerous specific references now to
35 Regional Council involvement, participation of tribes and other
36 subsistence interests in many aspects of management. The
37 Regional Councils will have an important role in the development
38 and implementation of the protocols. We're calling for having
39 Council representatives actually sit with the working group and
40 develop these protocols. There's also reference to include
41 cultural principles as well as scientific principles in
42 management planning and decision making and use of cultural
43 information and local traditional knowledge as important parts of
44 the information base used for management.

45

46 The next steps will be to take the comments we receive
47 from you folks and from the other Councils to the Federal Board
48 to consider those in a revised draft and to have the Federal
49 Board and the State Department of Fish and Game and State
50 regulatory boards initial the MOA.

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00121

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'm sorry to interrupt Greg but
6 maybe we could start with number 1 and structure our comments to
7 number 1 and then move on to number 2 or how do you envision
8 this, Greg, walking us all the way through and then come back and
9 starting all over?

10

11 MR. BOS: However way -- I was just going to
12 summarize, I'm about finished.

13

14 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

15

16 MR. BOS: But we can go back and go through the
17 draft.....

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, just go ahead and go.

20

21 MR. BOS:in detail if you want or if you
22 just had general comments, however you would like to do it.

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Finish your summary and then
25 we'll go back.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

28

29 MR. BOS: With the initialization of the MOA by
30 the State and Federal signatories, we will then begin work on the
31 specific protocol agreements. The first one out of the gate will
32 be the in-season management coordination. Fishing season is fast
33 approaching and we have to work out the processes by which we'll
34 mutually be involved in inseason decisions.

35

36 The second one we feel is urgent would be the information
37 management protocol. We need to develop our information
38 structure for technical support to decision-makers in the
39 inseason as well as the regulatory process for fisheries.

40

41 That ends my summary, Mr. Chair, and we certainly would
42 welcome comments or questions.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council members.

45

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have one, Mr. Chair.

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49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

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00122

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Under number 1, in the bracket
2 providing for public participations through advisory committees
3 authorized in the state's laws and regulations. I had written a
4 paper on how I viewed things to flow when the State -- for
5 management of Federal lands of land mammals, and one component
6 that we had in place, prior to that, that seemed to work pretty
7 well, was the State's regional council process as far as flow of
8 information. You had your -- I'm trying to envision how this is
9 going to work dealing with advisory committees and RACs and
10 sometimes we're -- we've got to step up to the plate inseason.
11 Well, I can tell you right now, you're not going to get me off my
12 Bristol Bay drift boat on July 4th for any management problem.
13 So if anybody's in a commercial fishery at that time, maybe Danny
14 will get off his boat.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, you're on your own.

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: You know, but to expect RAC
19 members or Regional Councils or any input from any of these user
20 groups, whether they're commercial fishermen or subsistence
21 fishermen, that's a busy time of the year. And that's, you know,
22 that's unheard of of going to a meeting at that time.

23
24 Have you guys explored the possibility of starting up, I
25 know, Rich has vast experience with being the Department --
26 former Department of Fish and Game employee, dealing with the
27 regional councils from the State side of things. Have you guys
28 thought through any plans of incorporating the regional councils
29 in the decision-making process as far as subsistence proposals
30 go?

31
32 MR. BOYD: You mean the local advisory
33 committees, Mr. Samuelson?

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: No. No, under the State
36 structure before we.....

37
38 MR. BOYD: I see.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've got the advisory
41 committees.

42
43 MR. BOYD: Right.

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: And then the next step up from
46 the advisory committees is a regional council comprised of chairs
47 of them advisory committees.

48
49 MR. BOYD: Right.

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00123

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: And from there it went on to the
2 Boar of Fish or the Board of Game. And I'm trying to see the
3 structure on how are proposals going to flow from the subsistence
4 user to the advisory board to the regional council to the RACs,
5 to the Board of Fish or Board of Game and to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board. And it's not clear in my mind, the steps that
7 are going to be taken on how that proposal is going to flow in
8 this inner-jurisdictional issue.

9
10 MR. BOS: I think this is one of those topical
11 areas that we want to develop a protocol agreement to lay this
12 all out in detail. If you recall last year we helped to bring
13 some of the advisory committees before you to get a more
14 structured involvement of advisory committees providing
15 information to the Councils to help you in your recommendations
16 and we're starting to see an increased effort to bring Council
17 Chairs or representatives to the Board of Fish. These are the
18 kinds of things that we'd be looking at but our regulatory
19 processes are going to remain separate. We're not anticipating
20 changing the relationship and the process of proposal submission.
21 On the Federal side, of course, you're very familiar with the
22 wildlife process and it's going to be the same fisheries, except
23 for a six month set off so that this Council will be reviewing
24 and making recommendations to the Board on proposals for
25 fisheries this fall as you're doing now for wildlife for the
26 summer Board meeting. So we don't see a change in that process.
27 But we do see good opportunity to get Regional Councils to
28 benefit from the information that local advisory committees can
29 bring before you and to perhaps formalize or at least structure
30 a better involvement of the Regional Councils with the Board of
31 Fisheries. After all Federal management is only going to have
32 jurisdiction of about 50 percent of the state's waters and we
33 need to have a voice, an influence on the State Board of
34 Fisheries decisions on waters where we don't have direct
35 jurisdiction but we need to work in tandem to accomplish the
36 purposes of a Federal program in providing for subsistence uses
37 because those fisheries move through those waters between
38 jurisdictions. I think the role of the Regional Councils
39 providing information and recommendations to the State Board of
40 Fish will be a very important need for this program.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did that answer your question?

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, in a way it does, Mr.
45 Chairman. But the advisory councils, they meet whenever.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's kind of the call of the
50 Chair and the membership throughout Bristol Bay and I think we

00124

1 have, what, five or six.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You talking about the State
4 advisory committees?

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: State advisory committees.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: And for them to interact with us,
11 the RACs, the Bristol Bay RAC is going to be pretty hard so what
12 I'm thinking of is that when there is a proposal that is dealing
13 with a subsistence shortage, and that's where we kick in when a
14 proposal for subsistence fish species becomes a concern, that the
15 local advisory committee would deal with that proposal if Togiak
16 -- if Pete decides to put in a proposal, he could submit a
17 proposal to the Federal -- on the Federal side and he could
18 submit a proposal to the local Togiak Advisory Committee, the
19 same proposal and watch it start working through its channels.

20

21 I would assume the first people that would deal with that
22 proposal would be the Togiak State Advisory Committee. When the
23 RAC -- we get involved in the spring and in the fall meetings.
24 The RAC will look at that proposal at that time. The advisory
25 committee already looks at the proposal, it goes to the RAC
26 committee, then I think there should be a spot there where the
27 RAC and the State regional council process, where you sit down
28 with five chairman or six chairman from the -- how many advisory
29 committees do we have in Bristol Bay, five?

30

31 MR. HEYANO: Six.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Six, okay. Our counterparts to
34 the State, we formed regional councils and then six of their
35 chairman sit there so all watershed districts are represented in
36 Bristol Bay and that's where our RAC will interact with the
37 State's counterpart, the regional councils. We could discuss the
38 issue, the shortage, the method and means that we're going to try
39 to ensure that subsistence uses are going to be met and then
40 forward them on to the -- the State regional council could then
41 forward it on to the Board of Fish, our RAC group could forward
42 our response on to the Federal Subsistence Board. And that was
43 kind of what I was envisioning.

44

45 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, I think that's an excellent
46 approach. Unfortunately, the State no longer has regional
47 councils. They did away with the regional councils. So on the
48 State side, the advisory committees, the Fish and Game advisory
49 committees provide their input directly to the Board of Fish.

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00125

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, isn't that what you're
2 talking about?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: What?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They still have -- the State
7 still has their advisory committees.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

10
11 MR. BOYD: Right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then that's the people
14 that.....

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: But they don't have regional
17 councils.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

20
21 MR. BOYD: Right.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, they don't.....

24
25 MR. BOS: They no longer have the regional
26 councils.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:but we would still with
29 the chairs of that advisory council.

30
31 MR. BOS:when they did have them, you're
32 correct, in that the regional -- the State regional councils were
33 composed of the chairman of the advisory committees in that
34 particular region. And I think when we start to address how we
35 can better involve the local advisory committees with the
36 Regional Councils, I think your suggestion is to bring the
37 chairman of those committees before you to work with you on
38 proposals that deal with issues that both Federal and State
39 programs are addressing.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, you still have the
42 floor.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, go ahead.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Pete.

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, go back to MOA
49 over here, it says coordinated fisheries, wildlife management,
50 public lands and under that U.S. Fish and Wildlife along with

00126

1 these people over here, Department of Fish and Game, why can't we
2 add tribal representatives from some various places because those
3 are the people that will be making noise if we don't include them
4 on this MOA over here. The process will be -- if they start
5 making noise, the process will take twice as long as we're doing
6 it right now.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11
12 MR. HEYANO: I guess, Mr. Chairman, if we could,
13 and I think that's an item we're going to be discussing later on
14 here, Pete, is tribal involvement, if we could wait and deal with
15 that issue then.

16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay.

18
19 MR. HEYANO: Is that correct, we're going to have
20 a discussion on tribal involvement?

21
22 MR. BOS: Yes.

23
24 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

25
26 MR. BOYD: Perhaps not in the context that Pete
27 is stating, Mr. Heyano, but we might want to try to address that
28 within the context of the MOA because one of the comments or not
29 one but it was one of many comments that we received at the
30 January orientation session. And I'm not exactly sure what Pete
31 is suggesting here with regard to the MOA.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: And I don't mind doing it, I just
34 don't want to jump from the issue that's before us to this issue
35 because I think we're a ways off on the first issue.

36
37 MR. BOYD: Sure.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's talk a little bit more
40 about this process here that Robin has started off with.

41
42 We, last year, had some of the chairs of the State
43 advisory committees come meet with us in this big meeting here
44 and that was okay because they just came and they testified
45 before us but they were still a part of all the people that were
46 sitting out there, we did not sit down with them as who they are,
47 and last year when we went before the Game Board for the first
48 time, a Council Chair showed up before the Game Board, it was
49 Hazel and others who helped us with the Tier II situation or else
50 we wouldn't have gotten that far. Now, Robin's point is very

00127

1 good. If you take this Council and sits down with the chairs of
2 the six regional advisory committees from State of Alaska and
3 they looked at our proposal, that say Pete made to them and then
4 that Pete made to us, that same proposal, and then we walk with
5 those people to the Fish Board or Game Board, it's a lot
6 different than me coming in with four other people and saying I'm
7 going to sit down and testify before you today, if we got that
8 support from regional councils who are our very own people,
9 they're just State of Alaska people, we're Federal people, if we
10 walk hand in hand with that proposal it's going to make a lot of
11 difference to that Game Board or that Fish Board. As the
12 Chairman of the Regional RAC, walking before the Fish Board, I'm
13 just another foreigner who comes in from someplace else. But if
14 we got that support of the committees, knowing that the pre-
15 season management is about the only tool you have on making any
16 difference on what's going to be happening with subsistence
17 because once inseason starts, they've got 30, 40 and 50 miles of
18 State management that's going to be gone, and the first issue is
19 getting escapement and then commercial fishing and sports and
20 then at the tail end of the dog is the subsistence issue with two
21 percent. I could be wrong, I don't know.

22
23 MR. BOS: No, I think you're absolutely right.
24 And that's one of the reasons we want to bring the advisory
25 committee process, link it in with our Regional Council process
26 so that we can get on the same sheet of music on particular
27 proposals and then jointly go to the Board of Fisheries. And I
28 think you're right, it would be much better received.

29
30 I think, too, though, through the development of a
31 protocol on regulatory coordination, one of the things we would
32 hope to achieve is a process where a Regional Council Chair going
33 before the Board of Fisheries is not going to just be another
34 member of the public, but they're going to recognize your
35 important role in subsistence fisheries management.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, Dr. White didn't bow down
38 before me the other day when I went before the Fish Board in case
39 you didn't notice, Tom.

40
41 MR. BOYD: That's a totally different subject.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. He was very nice to
44 you, however, and he gave you the, oh, Mr. Boyd, thank you for
45 coming and everything.

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, you know,
48 what concerns me is there's already a rift, let's not kid
49 ourselves between State management and Federal management.

50

00128

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, absolutely.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: When you have a proposal coming
4 in from a subsistence user whether it's on the Yukon, whether
5 it's in Togiak and there's a shortage, you're bumping against
6 sustained yield. If subsistence users can't meet their need
7 there's something happening to that stock and that stock's in
8 trouble and it needs the help of the Federal managers.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's exactly what they're
11 talking about there.

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN:as well as the State
14 managers and what I'm trying to do is find a key where we will
15 all work together. No one will have an in over the other user
16 group. We all have our mandates, we could structure the MOA that
17 the ACs are involved, we'll have the RACs involved, the local
18 RACs for every region, and then we have this regional council,
19 the State regional council just comprised of chairmans sitting
20 over here that also has them, and I think that will alleviate a
21 lot of these fears of the State, I think it will alleviate a lot
22 of the fears of the Federal people that are new to this type of
23 approach. Because I've seen the RACs in action when they were a
24 group funded by the state of Alaska, and once you get the
25 advisory committees together, a lot of good things came out of
26 there. Just communicating with different areas was positive.
27 And I think we ought to take a real hard look at it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the time frame of doing
30 this, I mean are we bound to make a decision today, say this is
31 cast in iron now?

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: We're just making
34 recommendations.

35

36 MR. BOYD: I think that's what we're about right
37 now is making recommendations. If I can just sort of parrot
38 back, what I'm hearing is that we need to -- first of all this
39 MOA is sort of a statement of guiding principles, if you will,
40 and it will be followed by, as Greg has explained, a series of
41 detailed protocols on how we're going to implement certain
42 aspects of our coordinated actions. And what I'm hearing you
43 say, Mr. Samuelsen is that we need to -- need to come up with
44 some mechanism for integrating the involvement of the local --
45 State local advisory committees and the Regional Advisory
46 Councils, bring those systems together in some fashion to ensure
47 that there's some sense of coordinated effort or wholeism in
48 what's going forward to the respective decision-makers, the Board
49 of Fish and the Federal Subsistence Board. Is that sort of.....

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1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BOYD:capsulate it?

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've got six advisory committees
6 in Bristol Bay.

7

8 MR. BOYD: Right.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: On an average they meet two times
11 a year so that's 12 meetings.

12

13 MR. BOYD: Right.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: This RAC cannot meet 12 times a
16 year with advisory committees. So I'm saying, let's look at an
17 option of putting the RCs, the regional councils, an option of
18 developing chairman of these advisory committees, these six
19 advisory committees, they will sit down and go through
20 subsistence proposals and list their concerns with this Board
21 before we make our recommendations up to the Federal Subsistence
22 Board. Those RCs, State RC chairmen will also make a
23 recommendation to the State Board of Fish. And I think we'll be
24 tied in at that process by sitting down before.....

25

26 MR. BOYD: Before, right.

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN:because -- before the
29 proposals reach the final decision-making process.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, otherwise it's history.
32 What are the six advisory committees? We have Iliamna,
33 Naknek/Kvichak Advisory, Lower Bristol Bay, Nushagak, Togiak,
34 who's number 6?

35

36 MR. HEYANO: Chignik.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Chignik, they're part of us.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Iliamna.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Iliamna, yeah. Chignik is part
43 of us.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair.

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00130

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

2
3 MR. HEYANO: You know, I don't think anybody
4 disagrees that it's got to take some cooperation and coordination
5 just for the interest of the resource. And I think we need to
6 spend some time and develop a mechanism that's going to ensure
7 that. And you know the intensity when you're dealing with fish
8 far outweighs the intensity when you're dealing with game in my
9 experience, especially in this area. So, you know, I think the
10 honeymoon for the Federal Subsistence Board is about over, if
11 there ever was one, when they get into the arena of fisheries.
12 You know the workload is going to increase, the intensity of the
13 participants is going to increase tremendously. So my concern on
14 that is to try to develop a system that's going to streamline
15 what we're trying to accomplish here and not overload, whether
16 it's the RACs or the Federal Subsistence or the State Board
17 system, but still allow meaningful participation on the local
18 level. And I think what Robin is suggesting, it's beginning to
19 make sense to me, and I could see how it could work and reduce a
20 lot of the workload.

21
22 The way I envision it, you have the issue on the local
23 level. Take Bristol Bay, and the first person -- or the first
24 body that would deal with it would be that local advisory
25 committee in that area, that's where the attention would probably
26 first surface. So whatever that issue is, after they looked at
27 it, it would be elevated to whether it's a RC and a RAC system or
28 an advisory committee and the RAC system and hopefully with those
29 two bodies meeting together, if not 100 percent consensus on what
30 the solution is, maybe 80 percent of it is, and if that
31 recommendation went forward jointly, to the State and to the
32 Federal regulatory bodies, you know, you've reduced the workload
33 tremendously. And I think, you know, they could focus on, you
34 know, if it's not 100 percent, at least the part that's in
35 dispute.

36
37 To me that's a pretty good system, I think.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Greg.

40
41 MR. BOS: You're right on track with the way
42 we've been thinking of approaching this, and it's perhaps the
43 most important aspect of the regulatory coordination issue that
44 we'd address through a protocol agreement.

45
46 Mr. Chair, you and Mr. Samuelson identified also another
47 difficulty and that is the participation of the Regional Councils
48 during inseason activities and also perhaps at other times, pre-
49 seasoning planning and post-season evaluation. But particularly
50 critical, during the season, because many of you folks are out

00131

1 fishing. Yet the Regional Councils have expressed strong desire
2 to participate.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who did?

5
6 MR. BOS: The Regional Councils, in general, have
7 repeatedly told us that they want to be fully involved, fully
8 engaged in decision-making processes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, they want to sign the
11 agreement, too, and so that might be differences that.....

12
13 MR. BOS: Yeah, I guess what I'm suggesting is
14 one of the things we hope to get from you is an indication of how
15 you want to be involved in inseason -- in reviews of inseason
16 fisheries information, decision-making, if you can identify any
17 of your members that can serve as representatives of this Council
18 that are fishery managers and the State managers can bring into
19 the network of communication for inseason decisions and when
20 necessary, you know, can be consulting and advising on the nature
21 of the decisions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robin. Robert.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's been my
26 experience, and once again, in Bristol Bay here, things happen
27 very quickly. Within 12 hours you can lose probably 50 percent
28 of your entire salmon run. I think we got to remember RACs are
29 advisory and that's all we are, we're advisory. You know, I
30 think if the Federal system wants us to be something more than
31 provide us with some seats on the Federal Subsistence Board, but
32 that's basically what we are. My solution and it's going to take
33 some time to inseason management input, meaningful, for what I
34 think the local people is, is to develop management plans that
35 sets triggers and those triggers demand some type of management
36 action. And then what that allows, whoever is managing or
37 responsible for that fishery, he's responsible for implementing
38 that plan and it takes away a lot of this need for making
39 inseason decisions because we would have spent all winter
40 defining what we want done based on certain conditions or
41 whatever the numbers are or whatever the issue is and then we
42 review that decision in the off season when we all have time and
43 the public's involved to see how well they did do it. And I've
44 personally have had some experience on these plans in the State
45 level when we addressed subsistence -- we addressed the resource
46 first, we address subsistence, sportfish and commercial. And
47 what people get reduced or take the first hit in the management
48 actions and we review that during the winter months and critique
49 it or change it or whatever. To me, it's a real successful tool
50 that doesn't mandate that we all get involved in the middle of

00132

1 the season when we're off doing other things.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Tom.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: But I guess that's my preferred
6 option for inseason management.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom.

9

10 MR. BOYD: This is still a work in progress. And
11 I think the suggestions that I'm hearing might be taken up when
12 we develop the protocol for -- I'll turn you to Page 5 under Item
13 5, scope of individual protocols, number 2, perhaps, looking
14 through here trying to figure out where we would focus this
15 comment on the MOA. I'm not sure this is it but I'm going to
16 suggest this is it. The language in here is pretty broad and
17 general. And I think it hints at, at least, the concerns that I
18 hear both Mr. Heyano and Mr. Samuelsen raising with regard to
19 integrating the two systems, the two advisory systems in advising
20 on regulations and management plans and other things, sort of the
21 things you're talking about, Mr. Heyano, the pre-season stuff.
22 What we do to get ready before we implement a management action
23 and taking the advice of the respective council and -- Regional
24 Councils on the Federal side and local advisory committees on the
25 State side and hopefully getting them channeled so that we come
26 to a common end with a common direction.

27

28 Am I saying it correctly? I see puzzled looks on your
29 faces.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know. Go ahead,
32 Robert.

33

34 MR. HEYANO: Well.....

35

36 MR. BOYD: But our hope here is to develop a
37 protocol that will address what you're saying. And what I'm
38 hearing you do is putting some flesh in here that doesn't exist
39 right now, putting some additional language in here that doesn't
40 exist right now. You're telling us, make sure you figure out a
41 way to build a bridge between the local advisory committees and
42 Regional Advisory Councils and you're also saying we want a way
43 to make sure that we have a mechanism in place to reconcile any
44 potential conflicts that might go the two different directions
45 with regard to developing regulations on the State side and the
46 Federal side.

47

48 Is that sort of what I'm hearing?

49

50 Figure out a way to coordinate this so we come to a

00133

1 common end.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: How many dollars you got, 11
4 million dollars?

5

6 MR. BOYD: Well, that's the ultimate question.

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Six million or 11 million, was is
9 it?

10

11 MR. BOYD: Well, we have -- you know, we were
12 given a total of 11 million dollars this year but that's not
13 really our base budget. We don't know what our base budget is
14 yet and.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It better be 21 we hope.

17

18 MR. BOYD:we won't know until somewhere
19 toward the end of the summer perhaps when Congress gets through
20 with it.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I think taking 500,000 of
23 that or whatever it's going to cost to institute the regional
24 council concept because the State's flat broke.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Division of Board, Subsistence is
29 being cut down in Juneau.

30

31 MR. BOYD: Right, we know.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: If we could take 500,000 of those
34 dollars and incorporate it into a regional council concept it
35 will pay dividends in the process. There is no question in my
36 mind.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think you answered
39 Robert's question, not according to my mind thinking, though,
40 because Robert said, don't call me on July the 4th.....

41

42 MR. BOYD: Right, I understand.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:when we're putting in
45 20,000 pounds in 24 hours. We're not going to be talking to you.
46 Our Native Corporation Board BBNC meets the 27th of May, Tony
47 Gagorio's into his first part of his pre-season fishery, the
48 first run is coming in then. Here he's got to go from all this
49 fishing, all the way to Anchorage to sit down with the BBNC
50 Board, they deal with a lot of money, at a busy time. I don't

00134

1 even want to go in there in May and the run hasn't even started
2 yet, because we've got a lot of things to do between then. When
3 we set up our program here in the winter time and we give it to
4 you and the State of Alaska, that's pre-season. Inseason, I
5 don't think I'm going to have a whole lot -- want a whole lot to
6 say to you between when that fish start from the Kvichak to Lake
7 Clark. We're just not going to have time in the summer time,
8 maybe August. It's over with then. So something has to be put
9 in place where you got some guidelines and the Federal Board's
10 going to have to say, State of Alaska, you know, the fish aren't
11 going up the Kvichak, you're going to have to do something now to
12 make sure we get some fish up into Lake Clark; that's your job.
13 If you want to call me on the boat on a cell phone and say, what
14 do you think, I say go for it. That's about the length of my
15 participation on what's going to happen during inseason
16 management.

17
18 Robert, do you have more.

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Tom, it seems to me
21 we're dealing with two issues.

22
23 MR. BOYD: Okay.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: One is to provide a mechanism for
26 how do we do inseason management, the other issue is, you know,
27 what procedure do we use or what system do we develop that's
28 going to streamline the operation, provide, what I think is
29 important is meaningful local input and reduce the workload for
30 everybody, you know, us included.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: So, Tom, I think addressed the first
35 part of it fairly well, is that, you know, we do it through a
36 dual system on the local level, step up it. And I think the
37 ultimate goal is at the end, whatever goes to the Federal
38 regulatory board and the State regulatory board is hopefully
39 going to be a consensus, so basically they could deal with just
40 that one issue and a lot of the work would already have been and
41 you don't have, you know, 10 days of public testimony at the
42 Board level or three days or whatever it is. That type of a
43 system and I think that provides for a lot of local input on both
44 sides of the process for the two different regulatory bodies as
45 it gets up.

46
47 MR. BOYD: That's what I was addressing, Mr.
48 Chair, exactly.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are we going to take an hour on

00135

1 each one of these four things we're dealing with?

2

3 MR. BOYD: Well, I think we're getting some good
4 input here with regard to where we need to go next with some of
5 the protocols and it's really up to you how deep you want to go
6 into this.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think the biggest
9 controversy was the MOA that we had for the Councils in
10 Anchorage, so this is probably going to be the most thorny issue
11 we're going to deal with.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: This is a very important
14 document.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17

18 MR. HEYANO:I think, for a long time to
19 come. You know, in my opinion, it's just my personal opinion, I
20 think we're moving way to fast on the Federal side on this
21 management fishery issue. And I see a lot of merit of developing
22 a good solid base before we take the next step and start making
23 regulatory proposals and how that all comes about. So I think we
24 need to take the time now, so hopefully we have that good solid
25 base that we continue to work off of and build off of. And
26 whether we get -- I don't think we'll get it right the first
27 time, 100 percent. It should be something we're all comfortable
28 with.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Council members, the way
31 I look at it, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game makes a
32 projection, I think this year, 25 million harvest is what they're
33 talking about for Bristol Bay, about the same as last year. With
34 that advice, the proposals start flowing in from everywhere and
35 the Board of Fish meets and fin fish comes to various regions
36 over a period of what, four or five years, Bristol Bay, I think
37 is up next year. So, you know, that's going to be -- they
38 haven't dealt with Bristol Bay mostly for the last three or four
39 years and next year it's going to be Bristol Bay and so they have
40 their public -- they have their meetings with their advisory
41 committees in the fall, all the proposals flow in and then they
42 go to the Board meeting, wherever they're at and they sit down
43 with the Board and the Board of Fish, after the advisory
44 committees, State of Alaska, deals with those people. They come
45 up with the final proposals. Robin has been on the Fish Board,
46 he knows how the whole process works. Then that Fish Board tells
47 the managers, Steve and others, this is the way it's going to
48 work from now until we come back and see you in October. And
49 that advisory committee and the Board, actually you never see
50 them anymore. Then they go to emergency procedures and the

00136

1 biologists have the power to open or close or do whatever
2 necessary to get the fish up there to make the commercial,
3 sports, subsistence user all happy or as happy as they can make
4 them.

5
6 And I don't think they're calling Randy Alvarez on July
7 4th, saying, Randy we're really in a desperate situation here,
8 how are we going to handle the fish up the Kvichak, too, late,
9 that's up to the biologists. What are you going to do to talk to
10 the biologists or State of Alaska, the bureaucrats in that
11 Department, I mean, to ensure that you get fish to Lake Clark;
12 that's something you're going to have to do inseason. Now, I
13 guess if you got to call us, I guess call us, unless -- I think
14 it's all in place by then, the way I see it, however we work that
15 out between Point A and Point B is what we're doing right now.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: Well, my comment is we need to work
18 that out during the winter.

19
20 MR. BOYD: Right.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It will be worked out during
23 the winter, yeah, we will, we'll do that. Go ahead.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, that's the flow
26 that I was envisioning there. You get a proposal from a local
27 subsistence user, it goes into the advisory committees, whether
28 it was -- let's take Bristol Bay for example, we'll use Togiak or
29 Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee debates the issue, out of
30 there it comes to the Regional Council, which is us, in the fall,
31 it bumps up to a level when we meet, of all the RCs chairmen,
32 from there it goes up, that square box should be split in half,
33 that's kind of the staffing box, and from the staffing box it
34 goes over to the Federal Subsistence Board or the Board of Fish
35 for final action.

36
37 Under the structure that we're operating when I read the
38 MOA, the most important thing is hearing from the local
39 subsistence user. I can't identify how a proposal from a local
40 subsistence user is going to converse to the RACs and to the
41 Board of Fish because it's going to take action on the Board of
42 Fish's part as well as the Federal Subsistence Board to protect
43 that resource for the local subsistence user. And I haven't been
44 able to figure out that bridge on how -- and if -- how the local
45 subsistence user and the resource is going to be protected at
46 that time. Under the current situation, the Feds are going to be
47 going to the left and the State Board of Fish is going to be
48 going off to the right, especially in this proposed MOA, I mean
49 it's not even signed yet, I don't know if it's ever going to be
50 signed.

00137

1 But the underlying theme here is that we need to protect
2 the resource so we have a sustainable resource and we got to make
3 sure that the subsistence needs are being met. And that should
4 be the driving force of everything, everything else is secondary.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: As far as our charge goes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that enough to think about.

11
12 MR. BOYD: Uh-huh.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't have to stop here but
15 let's take a five minute or 10 minute break.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And if somebody will draw a
20 line across the middle there.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, that's the staff box, okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, we'll take a 10
25 minute break.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (On record)

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom and Greg, do you have any
32 more that we should thrash out here. Any thoughts or ideas.

33
34 MR. BOYD: Well, let me just quickly summarize
35 because I think some wise words were said during the break and
36 even before the break, obviously. But to summarize, what I'm
37 hearing you say, a couple of things. One, we need to figure out
38 a way, build a process that deals with subsistence issues at the
39 lowest possible level very early in the process before they get
40 elevated to the respective Boards, and to figure out a way to
41 resolve those issues, if there are conflicts, maybe there are
42 none, but resolve those conflicts very early in the process. So
43 I'm hearing that. I don't -- we have a design for a process,
44 there are other designs that are out there and obviously it's
45 something we're going to have to adapt with other Councils in the
46 rest of the state as well as with the State system. So that's
47 one item, figure out a way to build that mechanism.

48
49 The second item was, this particular Council does not see
50 direct involvement inseason when we get to that level of

00138

1 decision-making. Is that a fair summary?

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We shouldn't have to.

4

5 MR. BOYD: Right.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We should not have to do that.

8 Robert.

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think it takes us a step
11 further, Tom, is that, you know, this RAC makes decisions based
12 on a vote with input from the public.

13

14 MR. BOYD: Right.

15

16 MR. HEYANO: I think if you allow a RAC, without
17 going through that process, you're either leaving it up to one
18 individual to make a decision or two individuals to make a
19 decision and I think that's -- you know, to me you're kind of
20 setting up the RAC for failure. Because the RAC is going to come
21 out like, well, the RAC agreed with it.

22

23 MR. BOYD: Well, I don't think we're trying to
24 set up.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we've heard that before.

27

28 MR. BOYD:a process that creates another
29 RAC meeting at the time we're making inseason decisions. I think
30 there are a number of people throughout the State that simply
31 want to be consulted and have an opportunity for input.
32 Ultimately, I think the design is that the decision-making role
33 rests with the Federal Subsistence Board, and as delegated by the
34 Board to a local field manager. Because all -- it's very similar
35 to what the State does.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There you got it.

38

39 MR. BOYD: Because at that time, during inseason,
40 as you well know, the information is coming in rapidly, there's
41 very little time to do a lot of consultation, but I think the
42 idea of consultation is what we're trying to build in here, not
43 necessarily creating another opportunity for the Regional
44 Advisory Council as a whole or even a committee as a whole. But
45 the idea is we want to do consultation to the extent that time
46 allows and to get input in order to help facilitate better
47 decisions but not to call it a RAC meeting or a RAC decision.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are there other areas we need
50 to deal with now or are you fairly comfortable with what we've

00139

1 come up with? Okay.

2

3 MR. BOYD: My question is, do we need to
4 strengthen the language in MOA? I think we, very generally,
5 accommodate the concept that we're going to try to figure out
6 ways of coordinating the respective regulatory processes. And
7 what will follow from this MOA is a protocol that gets into the
8 specifics of how that will work, and that has yet to be
9 developed. And what I'm getting is input on how to develop that
10 protocol.

11

12 So if there's no comment on the MOA itself, I think what
13 we've gotten is a little bit further down the road and it's very
14 helpful for us to hear that.

15

16 MR. HEYANO: So you're looking for specific
17 comments to the language?

18

19 MR. BOYD: To the language, if there is any. And
20 I'm not necessarily hearing that there is any but I don't know,
21 I will leave that to you. This is still draft, see.

22

23 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess in that
24 light, can somebody explain to me the difference between a MOU
25 and an MOA?

26

27 MR. BOYD: We're calling it an MO.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, there's a line under it.

30

31 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, the reason for that change,
32 a number of Councils at the January training session felt that
33 Memorandum of Agreement suggested a stronger commitment by the
34 signatories than a Memorandum of Understanding.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh, we like stronger
37 language. I like that. Tom, a question that I'd like to ask is,
38 if we come up with maybe kind of a flow chart like you have over
39 here.....

40

41 MR. BOYD: Right.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:or some of the suggestions
44 that we've given to you as one of 10 Councils, what are you going
45 to end up with, maybe if the other nine are going to say, well,
46 that's not the way it's going to work? This may be the way we
47 want it to work, maybe we don't have any say so over it but this
48 is -- I don't necessarily think that -- and we don't have to have
49 an attitude about it, it may work best for us this way and the
50 next Council next door to us, it may not work best that way, so

00140

1 is there a possibility of considering what we have, what's best
2 for us or are you going to have 10 different ideas or are you
3 going to incorporate into one?

4
5 MR. BOYD: I don't know.
6

7 MR. BOS: Well, I guess I'd respond by saying
8 that in the discussions we've had in the joint Federal/State MOA
9 working group, we recognize that there are regional differences,
10 not just with respect to the regulatory advisory process that
11 we've been talking about here, but inseason management processes
12 are very different on the Yukon than they are in Southeastern
13 Alaska and Bristol Bay, and a number of these areas we recognize
14 that one size won't fit all and what we're going to need to do is
15 develop protocol with perhaps language specific to different
16 regions where they are different to accommodate those. And
17 that's where we're going to really rely on advice from the
18 Councils to help us properly recognize those differences.
19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When you go to the Yukon and
21 it's a State fish and a Fed fish and a Native corporation fish
22 and a State fish and a Fed fish and a Canadian fish, that's
23 really different than 52 million fish going up Bristol Bay to
24 seven or eight different river systems. So that's right, we
25 would need to, I think -- it's nice if everything could be
26 uniform but it may not be that way I guess is what I'm saying.
27 Robin.
28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN: But I think the underlying thing,
30 Mr. Chairman, is that under State constitution it's -- they need
31 to manage the fishery for sustain yield, under the Federal
32 program, we need to manage that fishery for a healthy stock. The
33 next step up is providing for subsistence. A subsistence
34 priority, that's why we're here, the subsistence priority in the
35 State constitution. What my plan does is bridge a gap between
36 the Federal and the State system early on before it gets to the
37 State bureaucrats, before it gets to the Federal bureaucrat
38 level, which in my estimation is going to drift further apart
39 over time as the Federal government progresses down this avenue
40 of managing the fisheries. And I think that it gives the maximum
41 participation to local subsistence users. I'm a subsistence
42 user, I'm also a commercial fisherman. In Bristol Bay we
43 recognize conservation of the resource first ever since the
44 Japanese wiped out our sockeye salmon runs, subsistence second.
45 That's no problem with nobody I know in Bristol Bay.
46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
48

49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Same with you.
50

00141

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

2
3 MR. SAMUELSEN: You're a commercial fisherman and
4 a subsistence user. But in this abyss that we're in, management,
5 you know, we don't know where it's going to end up but we got to
6 look at our charge and our charge is to provide for a healthy
7 stock and provide for a subsistence harvest so subsistence users
8 will have a reasonable opportunity to meet their subsistence
9 needs. And reading everything I've read, I think that model
10 there, unless I could be convinced different, gives the maximum
11 participation to a local subsistence user through both processes.
12 You know, a lot of people now -- are local advisory committee
13 because of State budget cuts, can't even have meetings, you know.
14 I got home last night and the legislature cut another \$70,000
15 out. We couldn't have a meeting, a local advisory committee
16 meeting so we decided to take the upriver villages, we had Tim
17 Monhola testify yesterday and teleconference the upriver villages
18 in, and the question was asked, who was going to pay for the
19 telephone call, I mean that's how broke the State is, which I
20 think is criminal.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'm just trying to find a
25 bridge here to make sure that local subsistence user's concerns
26 are addressed in a fair and equitable manner before it gets to
27 the grown ups that make the final decision. And, you know, with
28 this 11 million dollars, I would like to see a cost benefit
29 analysis done on instituting the RC's. It may be in our best
30 interest to take part of that 11 million dollars and give it to
31 the State and say, okay, this money is to develop an RC, a
32 regional council that you guys haven't funded. Incidentally the
33 RCs were funded by Federal dollars, I believe, to begin with.

34
35 MR. BOYD: That's correct.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: And then discontinued, you know.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's our final answer.

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What else, yeah, go ahead.

46
47 MR. HEYANO: The other thing I thought of what
48 this model would do is it would provide us, on the local level,
49 as being the catalyst for cooperation and coordination between
50 the State and Federal system, and if we're not smart enough to

00142

1 figure that out then maybe we deserve the results.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One more storm and we'll have
4 it figured out.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Right. Then I have some questions
7 on some of the language in the MOA.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go for it.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Page 2, guiding principles. The
12 first sentence, ensure management of fish and wildlife resources
13 for sustainable populations and continuous subsistence uses; what
14 does that mean? I guess when I read it it means to me is that
15 we're going to have sustainable populations for continued
16 subsistence uses.

17

18 MR. BOS: That's correct, Mr. Chair. I think the
19 message here is that we want to ensure that health of the
20 resource is maintained, sustained, and that subsistence users --
21 subsistence use opportunities are continued, you know, which is
22 the mandate for the Federal program. So both things are
23 occurring. I mean you have to have healthy resources to support
24 the subsistence uses and other uses.

25

26 MR. HEYANO: Okay. Does sustainable populations
27 mean that management actions will provide for continued use of
28 all users of that resource or is sustainable populations just for
29 continued subsistence purposes?

30

31 MR. BOS: Well, the State's mandate is to provide
32 for all beneficial uses, but to have a priority for subsistence
33 use. Federal mandate is focused on subsistence uses. So the
34 answer to your question is is to provide for subsistence first
35 and other uses as allowable harvest -- as the surplus allows. So
36 the first consideration is making sure we've got healthy fish
37 stocks. Secondly, that subsistence needs are met. And then if
38 there is excess surplus to that, as provided for other uses.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: And maybe we're saying the same
41 thing but I'm just not getting it. To me, is that, we --
42 sustainable population to me is there's enough resources for all
43 users to participate in, recognizing that there's a subsistence
44 priority. If this statement means that all we need to be worried
45 about is enough population to sustain it and provide for only a
46 subsistence use, then I'm going to have to take exception with
47 that.

48

49 MR. BOS: Well, the intent here is not only to
50 provide for subsistence uses, this is one of the guiding

00143

1 principles of this MOA subscribed to by both the State and the
2 Federal program. And the State has a mandate to provide for a
3 variety of beneficial uses.

4
5 MR. BOYD: I might point you to Page 3 under IV-
6 3, which might help you resolve your concerns.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Which one?

9
10 MR. BOYD: Number three under IV. It says to
11 provide -- the signatories mutually agree to provide a priority
12 for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources as set forth
13 in the relevant State and Federal law and to allow other
14 beneficial uses of fish and wildlife resources, et cetera.

15
16 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I read that.

17
18 MR. BOYD: Okay.

19
20 MR. HEYANO: But does this statement say the same
21 thing?

22
23 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes.

24
25 MR. BOYD: Yes. Well, I think it highlights the
26 two areas of priority, conservation and subsistence, it doesn't
27 -- it's not dismissive of other uses. If you have suggestions
28 for language changes we can accommodate those or try to.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: No, it might just be me not
31 understanding and everybody else understands.

32
33 MR. BOYD: Okay.

34
35 MR. HEYANO: The other thing I had, Mr. Chairman
36 is, is that on that same thing. Promote coordination and
37 cooperation between State and Federal agencies, regulatory bodies
38 and advisory groups, bodies, regional advisory councils and
39 advisory committees, local organization tribes and other
40 government entities. It's the same paragraph.

41
42 MR. BOYD: Right.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: It seems to me under the State and
45 the Federal systems, it's ACs and RACs and because we participate
46 at a local level all these other organizations have easy access
47 to us. Now, does this put us all on a level playing field with
48 equal input or exactly what -- and it's not only in this
49 paragraph, it's kind of throughout the document in reference, and
50 I guess.....

00144

1 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, I think the intent here was
2 to be inclusive of all affected interests that would be
3 participating in management in one form or another. In this
4 case, in this particular, No. V., it promotes the exchange of
5 information so that everybody knows why decisions are being made
6 and what the basis of those are. It doesn't mean that they all
7 have an equal voice. Certainly under the State system, the Board
8 of Fisheries considers recommendations from many groups. On the
9 Federal side, of course, the Regional Advisory Councils is a
10 preeminent advisory to the Federal Board, and you've seen that in
11 the wildlife program, that the Board gives great deference to the
12 Council's recommendations and that's not going to change. But we
13 do want to involve other people, consulting with them and, you
14 know, obtaining information, to help the Council make
15 recommendations to the Board.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Robert?

18
19 MR. HEYANO: No, I don't know if I agree with the
20 comment.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else under the MOA
23 that we need to deal with here, Council members. What's the next
24 step or did you have something Robin?

25
26 MR. SAMUELSEN: On Page 4 under XI, cooperative
27 review existing State management plans providing an opportunity
28 for Regional Advisory Councils, advisory committees and others,
29 to participate. In Bristol Bay, we have a number of management
30 plans that over the years have been developed and evolved, fine-
31 tuned, every regulatory cycle. So I guess what this paragraph is
32 telling me is you'll use that -- you'll use existing management
33 plan as kind of the -- as kind of a road map on how you're going
34 to react to a regulatory decision in inseason; is that correct?

35
36 MR. BOS: That's correct. We do recognize the
37 need to review existing plans to see that Federal subsistence
38 needs are properly addressed and we'll be relying on your advice,
39 you know, with regards to that and then there are many -- well,
40 there's quite a few fisheries in the state that don't have
41 management plans that address subsistence needs, specifically and
42 so we want to look at opportunities to develop plans there,
43 jointly, with the State.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, anything else. At this
46 time we have -- yes.

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Yes, I guess, you know, thinking
49 about it and when I read this -- these paragraphs where you say
50 you reference local organization, governments, tribes, Native

00145

1 groups, to me this MOA is telling the public that somehow they're
2 going to have more of a role than they currently have today and
3 I think that's wrong because they aren't just by the fact that
4 you're mentioning them. I mean that's the way the system works,
5 local governments could go direct to the Federal Subsistence
6 Board or the State Board or directly to Staff, tribes do the same
7 thing. And it just seems to me that -- and if that's not what it
8 says, then we're putting out some -- what I perceive to be false
9 expectations to the public, that under this system, somehow --
10 under this MOA it's somehow going to be different.

11
12 MR. BOS: We've heard from many areas of the
13 state, particularly that local users feel that they don't have
14 full involvement in management decisions and in the management
15 process. And the focus of the Federal program is to fill from
16 the bottom up as much as possible, to provide full involvement of
17 the affected subsistence users in these processes. Some of the
18 management plans, for example, have been developed largely
19 through presentations of information by the Department to the
20 Board of Fisheries, recommendations of advisory committees but in
21 many instances, rural local communities have not felt fully
22 enfranchised in development of those policies and plans and
23 regulations.

24
25 So the attempt here is to provide an opportunity where
26 it's needed to involve as many affected interested groups as
27 possible in a joint management process. The specific wording
28 that was developed for this paragraph that was added here was
29 added at the suggestion of the Regional Councils who felt that
30 they wanted to be more explicit about who we're referring to when
31 we spoke about subsistence users or other organizations. They
32 wanted to know who are we talking about, and that's why we
33 specified those.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess my fear being from
36 Bristol Bay is being a tribal member and being active in the
37 Native community throughout the state of Alaska, it's always been
38 our goal to try to do as much as we can in region. We have, I'll
39 use the example, the Kiaska (ph) Walrus Commission that's formed
40 here by people from the villages that have traditionally hunted
41 on Walrus Island for walrus, local control. And then we have a
42 sea otter commission that is headquartered in Anchorage. To me
43 that isn't local control. We have the mechanism and means to
44 develop in-region or regional structure as well as -- and that
45 regional structure is directly inputted by the tribes and members
46 of the community. So when we took over game, none of this stuff
47 was around. It only came out after 11 million dollars was
48 appropriated to you folks for implementation. And then all these
49 statewide organizations started jumping on the band wagon to get
50 their little piece of cheese of that 11 million bucks. And I

00146

1 would hope that you would look at our regional organizations, I
2 would hope that you look at our village corporations, our tribes
3 in our region before you look at these statewide organizations
4 that want to carve off a subsistence living off of that 11
5 million dollars on our behalf. Because you get the most bang for
6 the buck when you spend it in the region, not when you spend it
7 in Anchorage.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And all the people said.....

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know how to be more
12 direct.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then there was silence.
15 That's okay. You've heard that story before, haven't you?

16
17 MR. BOYD: I wish I could comment on that, Mr.
18 Samuelson. With regard to the MOA again, I'll try to refocus.
19 I think I'll probably repeat some of the things that Greg just
20 said. There's no intent here to change the role within this MOA.
21 We couldn't if we wanted to because it's not a legally binding
22 document. The role of the Councils is spelled out very clearly
23 in Title VIII, and that's not going to change. I think what
24 we're saying here in Item No. V for example, under the guiding
25 principles III, is the focus should be not on the list but on
26 sort of the action item, which is to encourage the exchange of
27 information between, and that's all it is, we just agree to do
28 that. To try to do a better job of facilitating that because
29 we've been -- frankly, being bombarded by people saying, you're
30 not keeping us informed, you're not giving us a chance to
31 participate, and what we've been telling them is that we have
32 been trying to do that but obviously there's something missing
33 here. So that's all we're saying in this case.

34
35 I can certainly understand the uneasiness with regard to
36 the idea that some of these entities will be completing with the
37 Council for the role, and I don't think we're trying to say that
38 here at all. We're trying just do a better job of involving all
39 of the folks in the process but also pointing them to what the
40 process is or how to get involved. We're saying very clearly
41 that the Councils is where the action is.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But you see.....

44
45 MR. BOYD: If you want to be involved in the
46 process get involved with your local Regional Advisory Councils.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But that's what Robert is
49 saying, you see, you're spreading us a little thin. You're
50 spreading us so thin that it doesn't make any difference anyway.

00147

1 But if you can take your money and get feedback if you want to
2 from all these people, more power to you, because no one else has
3 been able to do that or else no one's taken the interest of
4 getting to the tribal councils, village councils and all the
5 other groups to do it.

6
7 But I guess the point would be, too, if all these voices
8 have to come to us, then we're just going to be spending gobs of
9 time of doing over and over again and reinventing the system and
10 we're not interested in doing that at all.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't see no change, Mr.
13 Chairman, we've gotten proposals from tribal organizations,
14 tribal members, non-tribal members that came in -- I think what
15 they're doing is just putting it down in words, and maybe they
16 should have used some different words but what they've got down
17 on paper is exactly what's happened in the past.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, this is the perfect place
20 right here for testimony to come forward, I see it right here,
21 MOA, Hazel Nelson who works for a local government, why not let's
22 have her talk. She'll fill in all the gaps and we'll be on our
23 way, Hazel. We've certainly said enough information to set
24 ourselves up for a big time fall, I guarantee you that, right
25 Tom. Okay, Hazel.

26
27 MS. NELSON: Well, I'll do my best.

28
29 MR. BOYD: Do you mind if I sit here?

30
31 MS. NELSON: Oh, no. Well, I was looking at your
32 agenda and trying to change around the different portions of my
33 statement and maybe what I should do is start off with the MOA.

34
35 MR. ABRAHAM: Excuse me, ma'am, state your name.

36
37 MS. NELSON: Oh, sorry, I'm Hazel Nelson and I'm
38 representing the Lake and Penn Borough and I'd like to speak to
39 the Memorandum of Agreement, inseason management and tribal
40 involvement.

41
42 In regard to the Memorandum of Agreement on Page 3,
43 number VI, you have promote stability in fish and wildlife
44 management and minimize unnecessary disruption to subsistence and
45 other beneficial uses of fish and wildlife resources. I work
46 with the fishermen down in the Chignik region, which is the sixth
47 advisory committee that was mentioned earlier, and their concern
48 was that they would be able to have a part in the process of any
49 subsistence concerns coming up. The State process had allowed
50 them that opportunity in the past and they want to make sure that

00148

1 that continues. So we strongly recommend that the affected users
2 be allowed a clearly recognized opportunity to settle any catch
3 and harvest disputes before the Federal government takes action.
4 This is basically what they're asking for in Chignik. And they
5 wanted to emphasize that many subsistence users are also
6 commercial fishermen and they would be glad to workout problems
7 first rather than let the Federal government solve the problems
8 for them.

9
10 They also want to make sure that the Subsistence Board
11 does not take that opportunity away from them before allowing
12 them to try and solve it themselves.

13
14 In regard to tribal involvement, the Lake and Penn
15 Borough strongly encourages that the RAC weigh their
16 recommendations very heavily on proposals that are strongly
17 supported by the affected villages. The assembly feels that the
18 recognition of individual community proposals are important for
19 several reasons. Number 1, because the locals proximity to the
20 resource is the most important to identifying subsistence needs.
21 Two, most local knowledge is current on any changes in available
22 resources in the area. Three, locals will be most directly
23 affected by any conservation measures. And four, most locals are
24 capable to do field work and should do the administration
25 themselves, if possible, to ensure accuracy to the situation and
26 to maintain direct contact with the Federal managers themselves.

27
28 The other point in tribal involvement is that we would
29 like to remind you or the Federal Staff who is sitting here that
30 the subsistence fisheries have existed for centuries and we
31 believe that it's more important at this point to develop the
32 criteria and establish a process that will identify projects
33 through sound decision-making in order to build integrity in the
34 process.

35
36 In the back, regarding tribal involvement on the Federal
37 subsistence management program, in the second paragraph, this
38 whole page references the different tribal organizations who
39 want, as Robin says, a piece of the pie, but in paragraph II
40 under number 1.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What page?

43
44 MS. NELSON: It's not numbered but it's titled,
45 tribal involvement in the Federal subsistence management program,
46 and it's towards the back of the MOA.

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's right after inseason
49 management.

50

00149

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thanks.

2

3 MS. NELSON: The second paragraph has three
4 points. The first point identified was in the process for
5 identifying resource monitoring projects for the year 2000 or
6 developing the process for identifying monitoring projects for
7 2001, I would definitely like to reiterate our concerns that the
8 process we believe is more important at this point and that you
9 guys build one that's very sound. I understand that there is --
10 you know, that there was a pretty fast-track funding for some
11 projects but I hope that that doesn't continue. I don't want to
12 see people responding to pressure at this point when we're
13 building the foundation, the foundation is more important.

14

15 In regard to the process for identifying resource
16 monitoring projects. The Borough would like to speak to criteria
17 in accepting research proposals. We recommend requiring a
18 problem statement from each proposer that directly relates to an
19 existing subsistence need. The research funding could otherwise
20 be spend on perceived problems. I think that some folks in our
21 community ourselves have responded to perceived problems and it's
22 going to continue all around the state. It's a learning process.
23 But we don't want to see the research funding spent on perceived
24 problems or on otherwise potentially allocated research to close
25 a commercial fishery down and misusing the subsistence priority.

26

27 I had a recent example of that in the hallway at the
28 Board of Fish just this past week when one of the representatives
29 of a fishing organization that we have had a long history of
30 fighting with because of their fishery directed on targeting
31 Bristol Bay stocks passing through the area.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Intercept fisheries, yeah.

34

35 MS. NELSON: Yes, he came up to me and expressed
36 that, you know, we have a weak stock in our backyard and anybody
37 who knew about this information could come in and tell the Feds,
38 well, we're really concerned about that weak stock and here's a
39 proposal that we're going to submit to you so that you guys could
40 direct this problem and it was mentioned earlier that, you know,
41 the honeymoon is just about over. That you guys are going to see
42 a lot of allocated proposals and the Borough doesn't want the
43 research funding to be spent in that manner.

44

45 In regards to the Memorandum of Agreement, there's two
46 items that we would like to see clarification on. Number 1 is
47 definitions. We recommend that the key Federal definitions in
48 fisheries management be defined for the managers and the public
49 so that we work from the same understanding. I guess some
50 examples that we need clarification on is what a healthy stock

00150

1 is, what that definition means. What a mixed stock fishery is.
2 What the migration corridor is. It's terms like that that could
3 be hot button items when it comes to allocated fights between the
4 regions.

5
6 And then the last thing in the MOA is we would like to
7 see the boundaries laid out. I know that there is, you know, a
8 map on the wall, a map in each of the book, but when I was --
9 when you brought me up to -- to the realty office, the map that
10 I was given includes a bunch of bays in the Alaska Peninsula
11 National Wildlife Refuge and those bays are included in the
12 Refuge and I'm not sure if you're aware of that already but if
13 you're not aware of it, I would like to see a map that shows all
14 the boundaries in the Bristol Bay area so that the Borough will
15 have a clear understanding of what we're dealing with when it
16 comes to subsistence needs in the Chignik area for the people
17 that I need to work with. And from what I understand there's --
18 the State is disputing, I don't know if it's some of those bays
19 or all of those bays, but there's bays that you guys have to
20 manage for subsistence priority and I would like to know which
21 bays they are, which ones are in dispute, which ones are not. I
22 think that the public deserves a clear status on that issue, it
23 needs to be clarified.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions Council
26 members. I have one, you said something there that -- earlier in
27 your presentation you said we should -- you could do the
28 administration by themselves and maybe that's just taking a
29 little section of your sentence out, to me you're saying that the
30 Lake and Penn Borough should be involved in part of the
31 administration of this fisheries?

32
33 MS. NELSON: Well, while I was at that meeting in
34 January and it was clear to me and I didn't like seeing how all
35 the different groups of representations were trying to get a
36 piece of the cheese, as Robin said. And I was not there to do
37 that, I was there to find out how the process was going to work.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

40
41 MS. NELSON: And in fact, our Borough, the last
42 thing our Borough wants to do is try to do something for the
43 communities that they can do themselves. But when Becharof has
44 asserted that, as you know -- most of you know I wear two hats,
45 I also work for my village corporation and we had asserted that
46 we want to be able to do our own research projects and we asked
47 the Borough to support us in this. And then our assembly turned
48 around and said, well, maybe it's not Becharof, maybe it's others
49 so they made the policy statement that number 1, the communities
50 should do it themselves because of their proximity to the

00151

1 resource, because they're going to be the ones most directly
2 affected because they want to make sure that community
3 representatives stay in contact with the Feds themselves, rather
4 than having another organization represent their concerns because
5 they're going to be the ones that have to live with it. So, yes,
6 we are assisting -- or we stand ready to assist the communities
7 within our Borough, there's 17 of them, and most of them are
8 surrounded by Federal lands. It would probably be me that winds
9 up doing the technical work and I'd certainly be seeking a lot of
10 help from the Federal agencies that we would be working with,
11 but, no, we don't want to do it for them, we'd rather them do it
12 themselves and we'd be glad to help them if they're going to.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. No other questions
15 -- oh, yes, Robin.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: So I guess what I hear you
18 saying, Hazel, that on research you would like to see criteria
19 developed that if the Lake and Peninsula Borough could match the
20 criteria, they'll be awarded dollars to do the research? You --
21 Lake and Peninsula Borough submits a proposal, we as a RAC will
22 sit down and go through the criteria, close proximity to the
23 resource, amount of people it's going to employ, the benefits,
24 the peer review and make a judgment call -- or recommendation
25 rather to Tom and his shop, whether they should -- and list the
26 priorities of projects, and if Lake and Penn's in there,
27 University of Washington's in there, if the State of Alaska's in
28 there, whoever that wants to do the research, as long as they've
29 matched the criteria.

30
31 MS. NELSON: As long as it matches it the
32 criteria, but once again our concern is that we want your
33 recommendations in regard to research weigh heavily on what the
34 community wants. And the Borough doesn't plan on stepping in and
35 saying this is what you guys need, here, we'll help you write it
36 up. It needs to come from that community and I think that in
37 this process each of the communities need to understand that
38 their subsistence concerns needs to come from them because
39 they're the ones who are going to be living with any potential
40 changes in allocation. That was the assembly's greatest concern.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, follow-up.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: A lot of times on the fish
47 migratory path, the fish are intercepted somewhere. It's the
48 documentation of that interception that keeps the Board of Fish
49 from making a ruling a lot of times. We don't have the
50 biological information before us. But based on preliminary data,

00152

1 based on run timing, primarily, it clearly shows that let's use
2 -- let's use Dillingham as an example, along the migratory path,
3 them fish swim by Dillingham, our stocks usually arrive September
4 15th but in July 15th we are harvesting these fish stocks -- the
5 same coho stock July 15th, we know that based on historical data
6 and run timing, they are not ours but we don't know where they're
7 going and we go to Togiak and they're expecting a pretty good run
8 and for some reason Dillingham has nailed a humongous amount of
9 coho and the run doesn't show up in Togiak. What you're saying
10 is that you want to see Federal dollars identify who's stock that
11 is?

12
13 MS. NELSON: No. I believe that that's important,
14 that that kind of work be accomplished because it would be
15 important to the communities on the receiving end of that, what
16 I'm saying is that when you guys recommend funding for very
17 allocated proposals that the communities that are impacted have
18 a lot of say in that.

19
20 MR. SAMUELSEN: But we'll never award based on
21 allocation. We can't award -- our charge as a Federal body and
22 Tom's charge as a Federal body, cannot make an award based on a
23 supposed allocation. What we would be doing is trying to figure
24 out who's having an impact on that stock along its migratory
25 route, that's what I would look at doing. Gathering the
26 information based on run timing, scale analysis or whatever.

27
28 MS. NELSON: Then it would be based on whether or
29 not subsistence needs are being met?

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me take another stab at it,
34 too, because I didn't get -- I don't feel satisfied on the answer
35 you gave me because I might be missing something here. I think
36 there's a project going on up at the Branch, on the Alagnak,
37 Alagnak River where, possibly BBNA and I may be speaking out of
38 turn but maybe just for example, is going to contract with the
39 Park Service or the Feds, whoever they are, to do some research
40 to find out what's happening with subsistence on the Branch.
41 That's an overcrowded system and a very troubled area. I think
42 they're going to maybe contract with the local community to do
43 that research and get the information back so we can do, I hope,
44 a better job of subsistence on the branch. There's no sense in
45 us taking RuralCap coming in here and do that. BBNA is a big
46 organization taking it down to a very local level to -- actually
47 putting the money into the community really and finding out
48 information for us that we can make a better decision on what is
49 not happening with subsistence in the -- you mentioned that
50 Chigniks does not want us to do a proposal on Black Lake or

00153

1 Chignik Lake without the Chignik people saying, hey, who are you
2 to impact -- who are you to make a proposal who are you to make
3 a proposal when we could make the proposal and channel it through
4 you, and even if it took local hire from the Borough or BBNA or
5 village council or whoever it's going to be to make that proposal
6 a workable situation so that subsistence is better and commercial
7 fishing is not impacted either because we all got to make a
8 living, all commercial -- we're all commercial, because we all do
9 the commercial fish. That's just my thoughts.

10
11 MR. NELSON: Oh, I didn't think that was a
12 question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, it wasn't a
15 question. Anything else? Thank you, Hazel. You'll be back a
16 little later on long-term.

17
18 MS. NELSON: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you very much.
21 Okay, where are we at Tom?

22
23 MR. BOYD: If we're ready to move beyond the MOA,
24 I can -- we can have -- I don't know who's next, it's Greg again.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, do you want to do more
27 on the MOA? We could spend all day on the MOA.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: I've got questions on inseason
32 management.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Where does inseason
35 management come in Greg.

36
37 MR. BOYD: Right, here we are, inseason
38 management. I think we've already had that discussion but I'm
39 not sure. But Greg will do a briefing on where we are in our
40 planning thinking.

41
42 MR. BOS: Mr. Chair, we have already talked quite
43 a bit about inseason management one way or another, but I'll just
44 try to be brief here and explain how we're approaching this
45 coming season, which is rapidly approaching.

46
47 The Federal Subsistence Board wants to have a smooth
48 transition into the fisheries management arena. And in that
49 regard it would want to minimize disruption to established
50 fisheries. While Federal managers will be involved this season,

00154

1 we're not prepared to fully implement the Federal program. For
2 one thing the information management structure is not in place.
3 We haven't developed specific agreements with the State yet on
4 how to coordinate inseason management processes, obtain or
5 exchange information and the consultation procedures and so on.
6 And perhaps the most importantly, we don't have the key field
7 positions, the Staff hired yet, it was just last week it got
8 approval to move forward on that hiring and thus getting
9 underway. So we'll be managing with existing Staff for the most
10 part and they already have full-time jobs.

11
12 The Federal Board will be developing some guidelines for
13 the Staff to operate this year. For one thing the Board needs to
14 decide whether and to what extent they might delegate authority
15 to field managers to make a decision in the field and if they do
16 there'd be guidelines on that. What process would be used to
17 review special actions, special action requests or reacting to
18 State emergency orders. Certainly we would be consulting with
19 the Regional Advisory Councils and with the State in any actions
20 the Federal Staff may be considering. And if any Federal
21 decisions are made it's important that they be made in a timely
22 way and that affected subsistence users and others be notified
23 very quickly on that.

24
25 As I said, the Board wants to avoid disruptions to
26 establish fisheries and minimize intervention with the State's
27 management process. We would be involved only in cases where
28 there's a serious conservation concern or where there's
29 significant interference with subsistence use opportunities. The
30 emphasis the Board is taking is to focus on pre-season planning
31 and consultation and then during the season, to be able to
32 consult with Federal managers before State inseason decisions are
33 made through emergency orders. And to the extent possible, to
34 involve the Regional Advisory Councils in these management
35 processes. And we've already heard from you that you feel that
36 it won't work very well for you to be involved during inseason
37 decisions but to really focus on the pre-season planning process,
38 and you're right in line there with the way we're approaching
39 inseason management.

40
41 So just to sum up, we're going to rely on existing field
42 staff, the Board will decide who and what areas of
43 responsibilities it would have and whether or not to delegate
44 authority or how much authority to delegate. We'll defer special
45 action requests as much as possible to the annual regulatory
46 cycle. The emphasis is on prevention of inseason conflicts and
47 that is through involvement in the pre-season and pre-decisional
48 aspects of management.

49
50 That's it, Mr. Chair, if there's a questions or comments.

00155

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council members.
2 Robin.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: The inseason management during
5 the 2000 fishing season, end of the first paragraph, the
6 potential for intervention and emergency order in management of
7 salmon fisheries varies over the state; high risk, Yukon; medium
8 risk, Kuskokwim; low risk, Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound. I
9 would like to see that thrown out, that section thrown out. Your
10 decision to intervene should be based on salmon stocks that do
11 not meet the sustained yield or healthy stock definitions. A
12 subsistence king salmon in the Egegik River is just as important
13 to a subsistence user on the Yukon River, and if both are not
14 meeting the healthy stock sustained yield clause or the
15 subsistence needs, they should be treated equally. And I think
16 that we realize that with the multiple disasters on the Yukon,
17 plus the international treaty that Yukon does warrant probably
18 additional people on there but when you boil it down to the
19 importance of the resource, the Yukon -- because they're having
20 trouble systems -- with six of their tributaries and Bristol Bay
21 is having trouble with four, the Yukon shouldn't get preference.
22 That stock and those subsistence users should get preference,
23 river by river, species by species.

24
25 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair, you're correct. And we
26 weren't suggesting that subsistence uses in some areas are more
27 important than subsistence uses in others. I think what we tried
28 to do is look at the state as a whole and determine where the
29 highest likelihood of requests for special actions may come forth
30 from subsistence users. And looking at that, we looked at where
31 the Federal program can be effective in those inseason processes.
32 The factors we considered is whether or not we have jurisdiction
33 in those waters. For most of the Yukon River we do have
34 jurisdiction but in many of the rivers in Bristol Bay where most
35 of the fishing occurs, we don't have jurisdiction. The second
36 factor was where the commercial uses occur, which are the primary
37 competitor, if you will, or the areas of conflicts with
38 subsistence uses. In the Yukon, the commercial users are in-
39 river, in areas that we have jurisdiction. In this area, there
40 -- it's in marine waters primarily outside of our jurisdiction.
41 And then a third factor, where do the subsistence uses occur.
42 Again, it's a matter of whether we have jurisdiction in those
43 waters where subsistence uses are occurring and in Bristol Bay,
44 for the most part, the subsistence uses that are in fresh water
45 are still outside of the Federal jurisdiction, they're under
46 State jurisdiction.

47
48 And so we look at the different regions of the State with
49 regard to these factors, the number of subsistence users, the
50 level of subsistence harvest, potential conflicts with other

00156

1 uses, the jurisdictional boundaries to look forward to this
2 coming season as to where we might receive the most requests for
3 Federal action. It's not to say that there aren't specific
4 fisheries or areas within the other regions that will need
5 attention and will, you know, we'll respond to those concerns
6 when they're raised.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, it's just about like you're
9 saying a battle's going to occur and you're picking the field on
10 which battle you're going to do business by listing them out and
11 I, personally, think it should be stock by stock, species by
12 species, regardless of geographic location.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions or comments
15 Council members. Robert.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: A couple of comments, Mr. Chairman.
18 I think, you know, the statements, that strategies to reduce
19 Federal intervention with ADF&G emergency orders are needed. I
20 find that to be a very key statement. Proactively managed to
21 reduce direct involvement with inseason management is an
22 important approach for Federal subsistence fishery management to
23 adopt. I think that's another key statement. You know, when
24 it's crunch time you basically need to determine before the
25 crises arrive, who's going to be responsible for what action,
26 similar to when you're on a fishing boat and you're in a tight
27 situation, you can't have the crew deciding, you know, the
28 skipper has to decide. The only arena that I have any experience
29 with the way it works, somewhat is in a marriage, it's not very
30 smooth at times in that operation either but -- you know, I think
31 that looking at the need for inseason management and whatnot, you
32 know, and looking at the State system, you know, they have to
33 provide a subsistence priority for a lot more subsistence users
34 than we do than the Federal system, just by definition. And in
35 trying to think through this, you know, if they're doing their
36 job correctly in managing for a subsistence priority, in most
37 cases there should be a lot more resource available to the
38 Federal subsistence users because they're mandated by their own
39 definition to provide more.

40
41 I guess we'll just have to go through a summer to see how
42 all this plays out as inseason. But it seems to me just stepping
43 back and looking at the big picture, the need shouldn't be that
44 great. If the roles were reversed, you know, it paints a
45 different picture for me. They're out of compliance because of
46 the definition not because of not providing for a subsistence
47 priority. It's the definition that throws them out.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments.

50

00157

1 MR. HEYANO: Just a comment.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other Council comments. I
4 wanted to just bring up a couple of point here that you
5 mentioned, Greg. You said that, and maybe I didn't hear you
6 right, but you said that -- are you struggling with delegating
7 authority on an emergency basis for in-field management or am I
8 putting something in there that shouldn't be there?

9
10 MR. BOS: Well, no, that's correct. I mean it
11 hasn't been decided yet, the Board is going to be considering
12 that in early April. There will be recommendations from the
13 Staff, I think, moving forward to delegate authority because of
14 the short time frames involved in those decisions. It's going to
15 be difficult to get a quick turnaround if the requests or the
16 consideration of an action has to go back to Anchorage and
17 involve a higher level. So it's important but the Board has not
18 made a decision yet.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's help you a little bit on
21 that because I really have a strong opinion on that. You look at
22 the Federal Board and you see the people on the Federal Board are
23 various Federal Departments, you know, BLM, and I haven't a clue
24 what they do in fish and BIA, and then we won't get into that but
25 they're all salaried Board members sitting there. They can just
26 walk from their office right over to the Board meeting and it
27 just doesn't change a thing at all. Those that sit on the State
28 Fishery Board are people appointed by the Governor who have
29 salaries from some place else and take days and days upon end and
30 come and make a decision. Now, the second part of this is this,
31 when July the 23rd -- I mean June 23rd, okay, rolls around, that
32 first Monday after Father's Day, it's an emergency order. Tony
33 Knowles has nothing to say about that fishery supposedly from
34 that point forward and neither does the Commissioner. Slim,
35 Keith, other people, that's their job to get those fish up that
36 stream with the returnable, sustainable yield, that's a good
37 word. And they don't have to -- I don't think they need to sit
38 around, they cannot sit around on a 24 hour period with two or
39 three million fish in the system and decide, well, should we call
40 all these big -- these guys over here with these blue suits to
41 sit down here now and decide what's going to happen in this
42 inseason -- not going to happen. You're going to have to give
43 somebody authority.

44
45 MR. BOYD: Right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But it's kind of contrary to
48 what the Federal government does and that's one of the fears that
49 we have about the Federal government taking over any part of
50 fisheries, you know. The minute somebody screams boy the red

00158

1 flags go up everywhere. If I started calling you guys, I bet you
2 anything, you don't think Slim, Dick Russell, Don and those guys
3 didn't get a few -- everybody who had a phone called those guys,
4 every fisherman had a cell phone them, they turn the phone off.
5 You know, they got to get the fish up the river. It is really an
6 intense time. I mean these guys go through agonizing times and
7 the Commissioner of Fish is breathing down their back because the
8 Governor's breathing down his back. These guys don't have an
9 easy time. And it's a very short period of time in Bristol Bay
10 in which that fish is going to go up there. So we would really
11 encourage you that you may have to do something a little
12 different. You may have to do something a little different about
13 giving an emergency authorization to somebody to deal with -- you
14 may have to call up and say, hey, we are not getting the fish up
15 the Branch here, State of Alaska, we're going to have somebody,
16 your biologist is going to have to come to you, Tom, and say,
17 we're going to see that biologist because we're just not getting
18 the fish there, this is affecting subsistence right now. That's
19 going to be a difficult thing to do. That's my view on and how
20 the system is going to work because it's going to be all over in
21 three weeks.

22
23 Did you have a comment, Robin.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. I think all of your
26 comments, Mr. Chairman, if you read the State subsistence harvest
27 information and I've been talking to people -- I was out at the
28 BBNA Board meeting talking to different people from different
29 villages asking them if by and large their subsistence needs on
30 the sockeye were met and by and large in Bristol Bay, we're
31 blessed that we have big runs. And all of the stuff that I've
32 read I don't know of a shortage in any one river system where
33 subsistence users are not meeting their subsistence needs on
34 sockeye salmon.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty close in '97 and '98.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think when you get into coho
39 and chinook salmon that's a whole different arena because of the
40 diminished volume of them species. And I think that that's when
41 the bells and whistles are going to start going off in Bristol
42 Bay, not during the sockeye run.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's a good point.
45 Anything else Council members. I have someone who wants to
46 testify when the long-term fisheries management occurs, where is
47 that going to fit into the testimony part, later? Okay.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess when are you people going
50 to have the Staff in place to monitor this. Commercial fisheries

00159

1 have already started in Southeast Alaska. We're damn near at
2 April 1.

3
4 MR. BOYD: I think we're looking at overlapping
5 the season before we have them, maybe even beyond the season,
6 Robin. I'm not going to pull any punches here, we've been
7 delayed in getting this approved and we're moving out smartly now
8 to get it done. But recruiting is a time consuming process.

9
10 MR. SAMUELSEN: So probably for the 2000 season
11 you'll be in an observing mode, basically, all your Staff?

12
13 MR. BOYD: I think observing and learning. I
14 mean we still got to figure it out, you know, how we're going to
15 -- we've got some tentative -- we got some plans, we've got some
16 concrete plans but I think it's going to evolve over time. And
17 we do have some ideas of where we're going to place resources,
18 where we're going to put people to be essentially coordinating
19 with the State managers on the ground, but I think that's going
20 to evolve over time as we begin to get used to what the issues
21 are and how we're going to be involved. We've made some
22 preliminary cuts at it but we're going to learn as we go, I
23 think.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

26
27 MR. BOYD: But I think in 2000, you're absolutely
28 right, we're going to be in an observing mode for the most part
29 and try to defer, you know, decisions until we really get a firm
30 grasp on what we're doing. I think the three things we're doing
31 now is obviously getting Staff on board and getting them in
32 place. We're also working on a protocol, starting to work on a
33 protocol for inseason management with the State on how we're
34 going to coordinate and interact -- I said, three -- well, I
35 forgot the third thing but there are things rolling to get us
36 there.

37
38 And, Dan, if I could speak to your concern. I couldn't
39 agree more, there's no way the Board is going to sit in Anchorage
40 and make these decisions and they're well aware of that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, that's good. Along with
43 what Robin said here, the other day when we went to the Fish
44 Board, if I might use a word picture, when King Nebik threw the
45 three Hebrew children into the firey furnace, there was one guy
46 that was missing, his name was Daniel, he just wasn't available.
47 At the Fish Board meeting the other day, there was a seat that
48 was empty also, did you notice that?

49
50 MR. BOYD: Oh, yeah.

00160

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. And you're working
2 on that?

3
4 MR. BOYD: Yes. That's one of those positions
5 that we're going to fill.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, not that we have any say
8 so but I'll tell you that's a very key position.

9
10 MR. BOYD: Exactly.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, whoever goes -- they had
13 the Staff sitting there like that and in your time, and I'm sure
14 you'll do a good job, there's one Federal person that needs to be
15 sitting there and they haven't been there yet. But we're brand
16 new at it and granted, get someone that you think is going to
17 carry a lot of weight to be there because they got to be pretty
18 knowledgeable.

19
20 MR. BOYD: I'm very concerned about your metaphor
21 of the firey furnace, so.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that's -- I'll tell you
24 what, it's kind of like being thrown to the lions when you go to
25 that Fish Board meeting. Yeah.

26
27 MR. HEYANO: I guess, Mr. Chairman, maybe before
28 the end of the meeting, a follow-up to a request is that, can you
29 provide us a map where Federal management will apply in Bristol
30 Bay waters? I think we discussed it a previous meeting. I think
31 that would be helpful for all of us to focus on.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Chigniks in Kodiak.

34
35 MR. HEYANO: Exactly what bodies of water are we
36 talking about when we consider Federal management.

37
38 MR. BOYD: I could provide what we have and I
39 think if you look at that map on the walls, I don't know if it
40 outlines those waters, but anywhere except the gold up there.
41 All waters within the exterior boundaries. I'll tell you what at
42 a break we can go up and I can describe it for you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's going to take place
45 right now for 10 minutes.

46
47 MR. BOYD: Okay.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: Well, Tom, I was just looking for
50 something we could take home with us or you could mail them to us

00161

1 in the mail.

2

3 MR. BOYD: Maybe that's the best thing.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Color-coded, these are Federal -- as
6 we know today where it would apply.

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Sorry it's taking so long, Mr.
9 Chairman, we need to get all this stuff right out on the table,
10 you know.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, this is important.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom, we've finished inseason,
19 let's go on to point number 3.

20

21 MR. BOYD: Well, I'll talk about tribal
22 involvement a little bit if you're ready to go.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we're ready, we're on
25 record.

26

27 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, basically giving you a
28 quick overview of some of the things that have occurred earlier
29 in this year and up until early February with regard to some
30 correspondence that we received from the three statewide Native
31 organizations, AVCP, Association of Village Council Presidents,
32 those letters came to us toward the end of January basically
33 requesting more tribal involvement in our preparatory process for
34 fisheries implementation. And we shared them with the Councils
35 at the January orientation session and we got quite a bit of
36 feedback with regard to those letters.

37

38 Subsequent -- I don't know if you want me to go into any
39 of the detail of the contents of the letters or to -- or that
40 sort of thing, but just briefly, they asked that -- they
41 basically made the charge that there was an absence of tribal
42 participation in the process for identifying resource monitoring
43 projects or in developing the projects for the out years 2000 and
44 beyond. They also said that there was a lack of tribal
45 participation in the preparation of the Federal/State Memorandum
46 of -- at that time it was called a Memorandum of Understanding.
47 And thirdly, the drafting of the operational strategy for
48 information of management. And they provided six recommendations
49 on how to remedy those problems, they're included in that third
50 paragraph on that page. And we did receive comments from the

00162

1 Council caucuses during the January orientation session and we
2 summarized those and mailed them out to you. I did have a copy
3 of that but I didn't put it in my -- I should know them off the
4 top of my head.

5
6 In general the Councils said, don't interfere with the
7 current regulatory process, the door has always been open for
8 Native or tribal involvement, primarily through the Regional
9 Advisory Councils. It was also suggested and we already heard
10 about the MOA and the protocols that we'll be developing
11 subsequent to the MOA. That we strengthen the role of tribes in
12 the MOA but keep the program moving forward as it's currently
13 structured. We heard that State and regional organizations do
14 not necessarily represent tribes in all cases. In some of the
15 comments that I heard earlier from this Council sort of mirrored
16 that. Some felt that the letters were very decisive but did not
17 -- and did not recognize Alaska Native and tribal membership on
18 the Regional Advisory Councils. That consultation does occur.
19 That opportunities are available and that tribes just need to get
20 involved with the process. This was sort of a theme that sort of
21 came through in all of the Council comments. And I think the
22 bottom line was that the Councils, for the most part, there were
23 varied opinions on this, but the Councils for the most part want
24 to see tribal involvement working within the structure of the
25 process as it's currently structured and that is, come to the
26 Councils and be involved in the process. And you wanted us to
27 bring this subject back up at the winter Council meetings and so
28 that's what we're doing now to see if there's additional thoughts
29 or comments or direction from the Councils.

30
31 I might add that the Board, Federal Subsistence Board met
32 with representatives of AVCP, AFN, AITC and RuralCap on February
33 3rd. Dan, you were to be there but I guess you had flight
34 problems.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was there for the second half
37 of the meeting.

38
39 MR. BOYD: The second half of the meeting.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And when the Board was looking
42 at that Willie and I were there.

43
44 MR. BOYD: And again, the Board emphasized the
45 role of the Councils and their contributions and to the success
46 of the Federal subsistence program. I think we were clear about
47 how we have tried to include the tribal entities in our
48 information sharing and encouraging them to get involved with the
49 Councils. And I can just sort of speak off the cuff, I believe
50 that there was a recognition on the part of the representatives

00163

1 of these four organizations of what we were trying to tell them,
2 and a high degree of contriteness and conciliation on their part.
3 I think the reaction of the Councils at the January orientation
4 was somewhat of a surprise to some of the statewide organizations
5 and I think they began to recognize the strength of the Council
6 process and how it's been very effective in the Federal program.
7 I'm starting to repeat myself. But that's sort of the upshot of
8 what's happened as a result of.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we don't allow repeating
11 by the way.

12
13 MR. BOYD: Okay. But that really is an overview
14 of what's occurred to date.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that basically your
17 report, Tom?

18
19 MR. BOYD: (Nods affirmatively)

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members. Robin.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: When did the State come out of
24 compliance with Title VIII of ANILCA and the Feds took over
25 management of land mammals, Tom, what is that six years ago?

26
27 MR. BOYD: Ten years ago.

28
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: Has it been.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, 1990.

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

34
35 MR. BOYD: Yeah, we took over on January 1, 1990.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: 1990. So from 1990, ten years
38 ago, I have never seen AFN, AITC, RuralCap at any of the meetings
39 when we were dealing with land mammal issues. I've seen
40 organizations such as BBNA from day one work with the tribal
41 governments in developing proposals, travel to the villages, have
42 community meetings, not only with tribal members but non-tribal
43 members that resided in that community. It was only after that
44 you were awarded the 11 million dollars that everybody seemed to
45 be coming out of the woodwork. I think that we need to look to
46 the day that under the current circumstances, your presence, our
47 presence is going to diminish over time, hopefully, and the State
48 of Alaska will have come into compliance and we will disappear.
49 So who's left out there, it's going to be a State regulatory
50 system and it's going to be our communities. So I think that as

00164

1 we go down this road, that we need to have our communities
2 included in this process to the maximum extent possible. And
3 that includes gathering information. That includes the decision-
4 making process, through us, whatever.

5
6 But, you know, I can't urge you in the strongest sense
7 possible that the statewide regional organizations should not be
8 involved in what happens in the Chigniks. They have a forum, you
9 know, it should be the Chignik people as a whole with tribal
10 involvement, with city involvement, with their borough
11 involvement, with the BBNA involvement coming to a conclusion on
12 a local level and putting forward proposals. Those people should
13 be gathering resource data information. There should be training
14 programs involved so when that day comes when we back off, that
15 our presence in a short time has provided beneficial benefits to
16 those tribal entities that are out there on the coastline.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, very good. All right.
19 Robert.

20
21 MR. HEYANO: My comments on the tribal
22 involvement, Mr. Chairman, is going to be in reference to Title
23 VIII of ANILCA, which my understanding is that's the reason why
24 we're here today is because of Title VIII. I have read it, and
25 I have read it again and I see no place in there where it gives
26 preference based on race. And until somebody can tell me
27 different or show me different, our decisions can't be based on
28 race or shouldn't be based on race. That's one thing we need to
29 be very careful about. And I've always maintained that in my
30 statements in some of the actions that we've taken. To me
31 they're to be treated like a borough, like a city government,
32 like a village corporation, any other entity that comes before
33 us, no more/no less. And as a race of people that's how we need
34 to deal with them on the issues. I know and we all should know
35 there's people that are non-Native that live and reside in these
36 communities for years, subsistence to them is just as important
37 as it is to a person that's qualified as a Native. I mean that's
38 an individual basic right when you live in a small community. If
39 we allow subsistence to be race-based, we're going to tear the
40 heart and soul out of all the communities because it's such an
41 important issue.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

44
45 MR. HEYANO: And I know on the news there's been
46 -- the Secretary of Interior making statements about working with
47 tribes or alluding, in my opinion, to giving tribes and Natives
48 a preference, it doesn't do justice to this system. And, you
49 know, I think it just leads people to false expectations or to
50 operate outside the boundaries which we're obligated to operate

00165

1 on.

2

3 You know, I would hope that message gets clear right from
4 the Federal -- maybe from the Secretary of Interior and work the
5 way down because some of this problem has arisen from some of his
6 statements in my opinion. And just the fact that the population
7 in rural Alaska is predominately Native people, but we still
8 can't overlook the individual who is not and treat him any
9 differently or her any differently.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you, Robert. Any
12 other comment Council members. I think it's good that you get
13 this kind of support when you're dealing with the Secretary of
14 Interior because he looks at it from the streets of Washington,
15 D.C., you know, so those are good comments.

16

17 What is the next step we have here, Tom?

18

19 MR. BOYD: It's.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Because under the agenda it
22 talks about after you finish inseason management, tribal unified
23 fishery resources monitoring, where does that come in?

24

25 MR. BOYD: This is a very important topic,
26 basically the monitoring program and Rich Cannon is going to step
27 forward and provide a briefing of where we are in regards to the
28 2000 projects and where we're going with 2001 projects.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Tom. My name is Richard
33 Cannon and I'm working with the Office of Subsistence Management,
34 Fisheries Information Service. I'd also like to recognize Mary
35 McBurney who is working with the National Park Service. Mary and
36 I have been working with an interagency team of resource
37 specialists and fisheries biologists and scientists who have been
38 looking at the various projects for the FY 2000 process and
39 providing technical and other recommendations to the
40 investigators and to the Federal Subsistence Board on trying to
41 set some priorities for those projects.

42

43 I'm going to try to help you organize the materials that
44 you have in front of you today with regard to this subject. You
45 should have two documents, one has a cover memo from Tom Boyd and
46 it's a document that I'll primarily be referring to. If you turn
47 two pages into it it's titled unified fisheries resource
48 monitoring programs.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: Could you hold on a second until

00166

1 we.....

2

3 MR. CANNON: Certainly.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: You kind of lost me here, anyway.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: It's right here.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Were those put up here on the
10 table?

11

12 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MS. LAUBENSTEIN: There's some here, do you guys
15 need some.

16

17 MR. CANNON: Okay, thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right, now, we're on
20 the same page.

21

22 MR. CANNON: Got it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thanks, Richard.

25

26 MR. CANNON: Okay. And the second document is
27 one that has a title page, it says, fisheries resource monitoring
28 projects for Spring 2000, second round, review draft. There are
29 copies over on the table if you don't have one.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me.

32

33 MR. CANNON: When I see everybody looking up I
34 know you've found that document.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've got them all stapled
39 together.

40

41 MR. CANNON: Oh, they are?

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay.

46

47 MR. CANNON: I need to basically make a few
48 clarifications on what is contained in these documents. I'm also
49 going to be, at the end of the presentation referring to a
50 document that was given to you yesterday by Bristol Bay Native

00167

1 Association. I think you have that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, k we have that.

4

5 MR. CANNON: First of all, we'll do a little data
6 management here. The title page or the memo and the errata sheet
7 refers to this other document, okay, for the FY2000 April
8 submissions that the Federal Subsistence Board will be looking at
9 in April, okay.

10

11 Now, I would like to draw your attention to that part of
12 the first document that I mentioned that talks about -- that has
13 the title unified fisheries resource monitoring program status
14 report, Bristol Bay area. Everyone on that page?

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

17

18 MR. CANNON: My presentation is divided up into
19 three sections. The first section will deal with projects that
20 have been identified for FY2000. Those are projects that will
21 use funding for this fiscal year, they're projects that the
22 Federal Subsistence Board wanted to get out in the field to help
23 deal with some of the questions, the important subsistence
24 questions that we know are out there. These projects are
25 primarily those that had quite a bit of planning done for them
26 already and there was also a fair amount of consultation with
27 local groups, communities already in place.

28

29 Those projects -- then the second part of this
30 presentation will deal with the selection process for 2001, some
31 of the criteria that will be used by the Regional Councils, I'll
32 go into that. And the third section will deal with actually
33 beginning to implement the 2001 process and that is to look at
34 those issues and needs that will need project support for the
35 coming years.

36

37 Okay, everybody with me?

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.

40

41 MR. CANNON: Okay. I'm going to try to go
42 through this in a fairly summary fashion and if you have specific
43 questions then just stop me and we'll get into more of the
44 details of any of these sections.

45

46 We go, first of all, if you turn the page, that first
47 section talks about projects for the spring of 2000. Following
48 that are one page summary sheets for those basically giving a
49 brief overview of the projects, it's objectives, project
50 description for each of the projects that have been looked at for

00168

1 this coming -- to be funded for this coming field season. So
2 Project number 10, this one has already been given approval by
3 the Federal Subsistence Board in February and that is funding for
4 the Togiak River salmon weir. And you can see it's in two
5 phases. If you look down at the cost part of the document at the
6 bottom, is everybody on that page, Project 10?

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.

9
10 MR. CANNON: Okay. You'll notice that both Fish
11 and Wildlife Serve Staff and BBNA will be involved in that
12 project. Project 11, turn to the next page it says stock
13 identification of char on the Togiak River. This is a
14 coordinated project with some of the interests for identifying
15 genetic markers for Arctic char throughout the Bering Sea. I
16 know the Northwest Arctic Council was real interested in this and
17 they have a project that will be starting this year to begin to
18 develop those markers for specific char stocks. And we also have
19 a project up in the North Slope Borough to look at markers for
20 that area. And this project will look at the southern part of
21 the range of char to provide more of a comprehensive look at the
22 -- in terms of developing genetic markers for char stocks.
23 That's what this project is about.

24
25 Okay, turn to the next page, which is Project 12. And
26 this project has also been already approved, this traditional
27 knowledge of fish in the Bristol Bay area. In this project, the
28 objectives are basically to begin to compile and provide in an
29 electronic format a lot of information on traditional knowledge
30 from this area so that the information is more available to all
31 interests. And as well, there'll be some training that will be
32 done by Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division,
33 working with BBNA to help them understand how these kind of
34 projects actually can be done in the future. So there's training
35 here, capacity building as well as trying to make some important
36 informational subsistence that was obtained through traditional
37 knowledge, more available to people.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Richard, this is all done for
40 \$39,600?

41
42 MR. CANNON: Yes, it is. It's a fairly modest
43 budget but very important. The next project is Project 31 and
44 these are projects that I'm going to be talking about now that
45 are going to be going to the Federal Subsistence Board in their
46 April meeting. So these are new projects and you may or may not
47 have had a chance to see them before.

48
49 Project 31 is sockeye salmon escapement estimation,
50 Alagnak River drainage and it basically involves both BBNA and

00169

1 ADF&G. And if you can look down you can see how the funding is
2 broken out. The objective is basically to estimate the
3 escapement of sockeye salmon over a two year period into this
4 important river system. Okay, it's basic biological salmon
5 enumeration project. Get some data on stocks up in that system.
6

7 The next project is related to that and it's also for the
8 Alagnak River. And there's been an issue that's been identified
9 about the growth of sportfisheries in this area and this project
10 will help get better angler effort information to help assess the
11 potential for conflicts with the subsistence use in that area.
12 And again, BBNA and ADF&G are involved and National Park Service
13 are all participating in this project. And from our inter-agency
14 group standpoint, this is the -- and the direction we've been
15 given by the Federal Subsistence Board, these are the kinds of
16 projects that we hope to see funded where we see these
17 partnerships developed where people and the local staffs in this
18 area are all sharing their resources and collective knowledge
19 about the resources and working towards a common goal.
20

21 There's an additional project that will be coming before
22 you and it doesn't have a project number yet but we're
23 anticipating it will be coming before the Federal Subsistence
24 Board in their May meeting and it's population assessment of Lake
25 Clark, sockeye salmon. I know that your Council is aware of this
26 project and we've gotten letters of support and there's been a
27 lot of interest in it. Again, the objectives of this study are
28 to begin to take a look at Lake Clark sockeye stocks to
29 understand their distribution. They're going to do some radio
30 telemetry and then to begin to develop genetic fingerprints for
31 that specific stock to help answer questions about where they're
32 going and how they're being utilized. Carol Woody is here and I
33 think she has a presentation to give you if you have time to
34 entertain that later in your meeting.
35

36 Those are the projects that our committee has developed
37 for this coming fiscal year. And I'll stop now and let you ask
38 questions about that process and the work that we essentially are
39 bringing before you.
40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members. Robin.
42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, Rich, under unified
44 fisheries Project 13 and 33, recommended four to six -- what does
45 that four to six mean?
46

47 MR. BOYD: That's the date.
48

49 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's the date?
50

00170

1 MR. CANNON: Yeah.

2
3 MR. BOYD: April 6th.

4
5 MR. CANNON: That's just the date it will be
6 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I guess, you know, we
13 talked earlier in the meeting about all these projects and had a
14 pretty good lengthy discussion in January and because of the time
15 constraints, kicking off these projects, pretty much everybody in
16 the meeting said move forward with these projects. There was
17 very little input. We have a number of proposals from BBNA, the
18 proposal book that you held up earlier, I know the Bristol Bay
19 research is interested in submitting some proposals. But it's
20 not clear to me, as a RAC member, and I think it's not clear to
21 the public out there exactly the process of it. IT seems like
22 the only qualification or the only deadline you need to meet is
23 get it in before the RAC meeting and it will be considered. And
24 I think we need to tell the people out there and the different
25 agencies, whoever they may be, Lake and Peninsula Borough,
26 University of Washington that want to conduct research, that
27 we're going to have a deadline date. And what I'd like to do is
28 set up a structure or process, I guess, that would inform the
29 general public and we do a call for proposals for doing research
30 and then in that process there'll be a time frame when we meet in
31 the fall to make the preliminary decision and then the final
32 decision in our spring meeting.

33
34 MR. CANNON: Right. Mr. Chairman, Robin. That's
35 a good introduction to the second part of the presentation. And
36 I could, if the Council is ready to move off of section one.....

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

39
40 MR. CANNON:turn over to.....

41
42 MR. HEYANO: I'm not ready to move off section
43 one.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait, just before they do.....

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Wait, no, no.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:let's -- we'll be with you
50 in a second. Go ahead, Robert.

00171

1 MR. CANNON: Okay, I'll wait.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, go ahead.

4
5 MR. HEYANO: What criteria was used in
6 establishing these projects or selecting these projects?

7
8 MR. CANNON: There were nine criteria that were
9 given to our committee by the Federal Subsistence Board and I
10 don't have them sitting right in front of me but they basically
11 were the -- there was a definite connection to a subsistence
12 concern or potential concern. Another important consideration
13 was that there had been some technical planning development --
14 thank you, this is very helpful.

15
16 I can make you copies or just read them off to you very
17 quickly.

18
19 MR. HEYANO: Both, please.

20
21 MR. CANNON: All right. Number 1 was direct
22 association between a rural subsistence fishery and Federal
23 conservation units. Number 2, level of risk to the viability of
24 species and populations that support subsistence fisheries and
25 conservation unit purposes. Number 3, was the level of risk to
26 conservation unit purposes. So there had to be a connection and
27 then they'd look at the level of risk. Number 4, is the amount
28 of subsistence harvest needs not being met or where anticipated
29 demand for resources will exceed supply in the near future.
30 Amount of information available to support subsistence
31 management, higher priority would be given where a lack of
32 information exists. Number 6, importance of a species to a
33 subsistence harvest. Things like number of villages affected,
34 pounds of fish harvested. Number 7, was level of rural
35 subsistence user concerns over subsistence harvest. For example,
36 allocation, upstream and downstream concerns. Number 8, was the
37 level or extent of local and rural consultation and support for
38 the project. And 9, was the -- gives -- an idea project would
39 build on previous comprehensive planning efforts and support
40 existing partnerships.

41
42 MR. HEYANO: Okay. And then if we could go to
43 Project 31. My first question, is there an escapement goal for
44 the Alagnak River?

45
46 MR. CANNON: I'm not aware of one.

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Neither am I. So then I got to
49 assume that the community of Levelock has raised the issue that
50 there isn't enough salmon to meet subsistence needs?

00172

1 MR. CANNON: I can't -- I don't know, Robert.
2 I've not -- what we've had -- what our committee had to do,
3 basically was rely on the Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service
4 and Department Staff out in that area to do that kind of leg work
5 for us. And when the project came to us, you know, we're
6 assuming that there was a need and that it would meet some of
7 these criteria. Remember, not every project is going to meet
8 every criteria, you know, at some level.

9
10 MR. HEYANO: And I realize that but I'm just
11 trying to get a handle on how this is flowing.

12
13 MR. CANNON: Yeah.

14
15 MR. HEYANO: Because, you know, we've heard
16 concerns and problems with this river but it's always been, in my
17 experience, with the amount of use that takes place and that
18 potential impact to the resource, not that people weren't meeting
19 subsistence needs. And I think that -- that brings me back to
20 the point is why is it so important that we have to fast-track
21 these projects and spend the money without first setting down --
22 establishing how we're going to select them. Is it because the
23 money is going to disappear if we don't spend it? I think we're
24 working ourselves -- we're approaching this thing the wrong way.
25 And to take a system like this that doesn't even have an
26 escapement goal, to me the first thing -- that's a big concern.
27 The first thing that needs to be established is what is the
28 correct escapement goal and then does that escapement goal
29 provide enough resource for the subsistence user? And, you know,
30 I don't know where you folks are going with this but there's a
31 lot of smaller streams, not necessarily primarily streams that
32 support salmon spawning activity. Now, are we going to go
33 through all of Bristol Bay and identify them and make sure X
34 amount of salmon makes it to that particular stream?

35
36 Those are some of the concerns I have.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could we help you with that
39 one, Robert, for just a second, if we could?

40
41 MR. HEYANO: Which one?

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On the escapement goals of the
44 Branch. Slim is sitting in the back there and I don't know if
45 you feel comfortable and talking to us or.....

46
47 MR. MORRISTAD: Well, I can give you a.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, the front table with a name
50 and scales.

00173

1 MR. MORRISTAD: No, I'm not comfortable.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Scales analysis comes with it.
4 Okay, Slim, thanks. Give us your name just for Tina, please.

5
6 MR. MORRISTAD: My name is Slim Morristad with
7 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in King Salmon.

8
9 Mr. Chairman, Robert, our escapement goal, we have an
10 aerial index and I fly the surveys on the spawning systems after
11 the season and basically it's 187,000.

12
13 MR. HEYANO: Hundred what?

14
15 MR. MORRISTAD: 187,000 is our index goal, is
16 what we shoot for. You know, if that system is not managed, they
17 Kvichak -- Naknek/Kvichak district is managed on on what goes by
18 the Kvichak tower -- this year my aerial index in the fall is for
19 489,000, which is probably roughly better than a million fish in
20 those systems for 1999.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And in for how many systems?

23
24 MR. MORRISTAD: Which ones?

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many systems?

27
28 MR. MORRISTAD: In all the streams up there.
29 This is my first season there so.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're talking about 400,000 in
32 the Branch?

33
34 MR. MORRISTAD: Into the spawning which is
35 probably well over a million by the time -- when you apply for
36 your index, you're not seeing and counting every fish inside the
37 systems plus I had large numbers of schools on the lakes itself
38 that haven't made it to the systems yet to spawn, so roughly
39 based on some work that we did in the Sound, yeah, roughly
40 probably in the magnitude of those numbers, you're seeing less
41 than half, so my rough guess is it's over a million that we had
42 spawn in those systems this fall during 1999.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wow. Wow, that's an incredible
45 answer.

46
47 MR. MORRISTAD: It's a large system. But our
48 goal is 187, is what we look for.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robert, you've got

00174

1 the floor.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I think we
4 -- everybody here in Bristol Bay has the responsibility to try to
5 maximize limited amount of dollars and get the best bang for the
6 buck and until we have some type of a rating system where we can
7 do that, this shotgun approach is not the correct approach. You
8 know, I don't think that those Federal dollars are going to be
9 there forever for research, they're going to be like every other
10 program and get dwindled down. So I guess my -- back to my
11 original question, which is why do we have to identify projects
12 and spend money without first setting the criteria for ranking
13 them?

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you have any more questions
16 for Slim?

17

18 MR. HEYANO: No.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you for.....

21

22 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:helping us with those
25 numbers. Now, you can answer the question, Richard.

26

27 MR. CANNON: I can presume that the local folks
28 that brought this proposal forward wanted to have a more hard
29 number from a tower weir project to base an escapement objective
30 on.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When you say local folks, now,
33 what are local folks?

34

35 MR. CANNON: These projects basically were
36 developed and brought forward from people out in the -- you know,
37 in this area.

38

39 MR. SAMUELSEN: Levelock.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I would imagine.

42

43 MR. CANNON: I'm not -- not necessarily local
44 meaning non-agency, a lot of them were developed by agency
45 people.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was going to say it's
48 probably the Park Service and people like that.

49

50 MR. CANNON: Yes.

00175

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're calling that local?

2

3 MR. CANNON: People who actually are working out
4 in this area not sitting in an office in Anchorage.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right, okay.

7

8 MR. CANNON: And they bring them -- they brought
9 them to this group. The people who are sitting on our group are
10 folks who are, you know, have Department Staff where people like
11 Jeff Bromegin, who's a regional -- they're looking at technical
12 issues, you know, are these projects that look like they've had
13 some technical merit. That's the kind of review that they were
14 given. And the only way this is going to work is that you have
15 to have people out in the local area, people like Slim involved
16 in these things that really know what's going on in the fisheries
17 and then they need to talk to the folks in the communities.
18 Because they have a relationship. The folks, you know, sitting
19 in Anchorage don't. And that's what we tried to do is make sure
20 that we have kind of local input when it came before us.

21

22 Again, as Tom said, this is a work in progress. And, you
23 know, I think that if we get into the second phase of my
24 presentation, you'll see how we're going to try to do a better
25 job, use a longer period of time, more -- certainly more
26 involvement of the Regional Councils in making these calls. And
27 that's, you know, why we're here, is to try to make that process
28 better.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council members.
31 Okay, we'll go on with your presentation.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe one more.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, go ahead.

36

37 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess on the criteria what I'd
38 like to see added is how many people it's going to employ. My
39 comments earlier was trying to get the respective community --
40 people in the communities involved in resource management. And
41 I think that ought to be one of the criteria that you look at
42 when you submit projects. In the past it's been a tendency to
43 exclude village participation. Go in and give them a
44 presentation, get the interns and whatnot from Seattle up here,
45 outside the region, do the work, and mail in a report. And I
46 think that, as we develop the criteria, that we need to make sure
47 that part of the criteria is not only -- net benefits back to the
48 subsistence users in the form of resources but in training and
49 employment opportunities.

50

00176

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, go ahead, Tom.

2
3 MR. BOYD: I want to try to, very succinctly,
4 address Robert's question and comment regarding whether -- and I
5 wish everyone had the attitude that Mr. Heyano is bringing to
6 this with regard to what we're trying to do here. We screened a
7 number of projects to whittle them down to, I don't know what the
8 number is.....

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: Over 150.

11
12 MR. BOYD:over 150 down to -- right now I
13 think we got 19 approved and we're looking at another 22 in front
14 of you right now. And this year, I think we need to get out and
15 establish some credibility. And we've tried to do that with
16 these projects, I don't believe that it is a shotgun approach.
17 Obviously in the first year we didn't have the planning time to
18 start with -- you know, start from just the conceptual phase,
19 identifying the issue and then getting out with the project and
20 then designing that project and then implementing it. That's
21 something that we're looking forward to to 2001. However, we did
22 identify projects that have some planning basis already and
23 cooperators identified, they just didn't have the funds. And you
24 know, they had meaning and purpose behind them, and they fit
25 within the -- we try to get them to fit within the context of an
26 overall management scheme that's currently ongoing with the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and how we want to interact
28 and coordinate with that management scheme.

29
30 So we haven't taken the approach of just getting projects
31 on the ground for the sake of getting projects on the ground. I
32 anticipate we're going to carry a little money over to next year
33 to do that. But the political pressures that we're dealing with
34 are very real, too. I mean there is a need to show several
35 things, one, that, you know, we have the capacity to do this.
36 Number 2, that we are engaging with the local communities out
37 there because there's a tremendous amount of pressure that's been
38 created by the very comments you're talking about, the
39 expectation, that we're going to get out there and engage with
40 local communities. And that's something you just mentioned, we
41 have really worked to try to do that and build that into this --
42 even this years set of projects. I think we're going to do
43 better as time goes on.

44
45 But I believe that most, if not all of these projects,
46 are very meaningful and will contribute to the overall data base
47 that we need to help manage.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

50

00177

1 MR. BOYD: So we're reacting to the pressures to
2 get us moving and we're trying to do it with -- you know, do it
3 the best we can. And I agree, we don't want to identify projects
4 that don't answer management questions. Those are first and
5 foremost. The policy goal of employing people is important but
6 it's not as important as making sure that we've got good
7 information to make good decisions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

10
11 MR. HEYANO: So I guess in a nutshell, Mr.
12 Chairman, what I'm hearing is that you hear more voices say do
13 something, spend money on projects and not slow down and develop
14 good criteria first, so you're reacting to those demands.

15
16 MR. BOYD: Well, I think we have developed good
17 cri -- well, there's a history to this that I don't know if time
18 will allow us to get into.

19
20 MR. HEYANO: Well, that's all right.

21
22 MR. BOYD: I think our goal all along is to build
23 a systematic approach that answers management questions. I think
24 the criteria that we're using do that, if I could defend our
25 process to-date. And we'll get better.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Richard.

28
29 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like
30 to move into the second part of my presentation.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Unless there's some burning
33 issues here with Council members, okay, thank you.

34
35 MR. BOYD: Let me also add, that I appreciate the
36 comments that Mr. Heyano had with regard to this one project.
37 Those are the hard questions that I really want you guys to ask
38 us and to evaluate. You know these issues locally better than we
39 do at times. And I would appreciate your challenging us on those
40 things. Because if we've got a project in front of you that
41 isn't appropriate, doesn't answer the management questions that
42 you guys want answered and it's spending money foolishly, who
43 better flag it. I mean we will try to flag it as well but if we
44 don't catch it you're our sieve. So I appreciate the challenge
45 on those.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Robin.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I can see that happening
50 next year. I don't want to comment on any of these projects

00178

1 because what criteria as I, as a RAC member, am I to use.

2
3 MR. BOYD: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. SAMUELSEN: We haven't developed, I think --
6 and this is is where Robert's coming from, we could pick out all
7 the proposals but we feel very reluctant, I, as a RAC member,
8 feel very reluctant on commenting on them because I don't know;
9 what tool do I use to gage.

10
11 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

12
13 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I think that in this process
14 we got to develop the criteria and the goals and the objectives
15 that, not only this RAC but all RACs could use throughout the
16 state of Alaska. And from what I understand because of the time
17 constraints in funding these projects, you had to move forward in
18 the January meeting. At that January meeting, by and large, most
19 of the RACs said move forward, leave us out of the picture for
20 this year, so them projects -- so these projects are all moving
21 forward. I'm saying is next year at our fall meeting we come
22 back and we work on -- between now and then we develop criteria
23 that will be used consistently throughout all of the RACs
24 throughout the state to judge whether a project moves forward or
25 not. That way everybody's treated fairly regardless if it's a
26 Native association, a tribe or Lake and Peninsula Borough,
27 University of Washington or whoever; we'll have criteria that
28 will judge a project.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will help you considerably
31 Richard as you continue on.

32
33 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the
34 Council will then turn to that first page of that second section.
35 I think this is kind of the area that it sounds like your Council
36 would like to focus on because it outlines what the Information
37 Services group is envisioning as a process. And again, this is,
38 definitely, a work in progress and we are very interested in your
39 comments on this.

40
41 If you look at the page that's titled the resource
42 monitoring projects selection process for spring 2001, it
43 outlines a time frame with steps along the way. And at the
44 beginning of that process actually is the winter Regional Council
45 meetings. And at that meeting we're hoping to have -- using that
46 meeting to begin to identify issues and information needs that
47 will have been brought to you by the various interests in your
48 region. And in prioritizing those needs and issues, and I'll get
49 to that in a minute, I'm not going to leave that out but I'm just
50 kind of step you through the process first because we do have

00179

1 some interim or some suggested criteria to do that. And then the
2 second phase, as we move into the April through June period of
3 time, then the Staff get to work and we begin to prepare those
4 preproposals. Those actually will come in from agencies and
5 other groups, it could be tribal groups it could be communities
6 to identify kinds of projects that could address those needs.
7 Now, this will occur when the Federal Staff with Office of
8 Subsistence Management will put out sort of a call for proposals.
9 We'll accumulate this information and provide a listing of
10 information needs for the regions. Then the projects will be
11 developed.

12
13 A one page, preproposal will be produced. That will be
14 evaluated and then for selected projects, a more detailed
15 proposal will be requested. It will get into the details of the
16 budgets and methods and everything else. And our Staff then will
17 evaluate those proposals for their technical quality, we may ask
18 for a peer review in some cases, and when that process then is
19 done for each region, when we actually have some fairly well
20 developed proposals, that will be combined into a report for the
21 Federal Subsistence Board called the Annual Resource Monitoring
22 Plan, and that's that third step on this process chart that we're
23 going through. That report then will come back to the RACs
24 during your fall meeting. And you'll be able to evaluate the
25 proposals in terms of them meeting the intent for -- and meeting
26 the issues that were identified by the various interests that you
27 had talked to -- or tried to address during your winter meeting.
28 Those recommendations from the Regional Councils then move on to
29 the Federal Subsistence Board and they'll make a final
30 determination in December at which time an approval will be given
31 for those projects that have been selected to move towards
32 implementation.

33
34 Now, in the page that follows, at the top, under question
35 one, there are some criteria and I'll just go through those with
36 you. Under question one, okay, what are the criteria for setting
37 priorities for management issues and information needs? First
38 criteria will be direct association with subsistence fishing on
39 Federal lands; do you have jurisdiction? The second criteria
40 would be what are the risks to conservation of healthy fish
41 populations as well as risks to conservation unit purposes. The
42 third criteria is what are the risks of failure to provide a
43 priority to non-wasteful subsistence uses? The fourth criteria
44 are, is the risk -- the inadequate information is available to
45 support sound management. And the final one is the significance
46 to subsistence harvest.

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: Rich, under the two -- second
49 bullet, as well as risks to conservation unit purposes; what does
50 that mean?

00180

1 MR. CANNON: One of the things, I think, each
2 Federal conservation unit manager will look at is also things
3 like importance of that stock or the stock of fish to other
4 purposes for the unit. In some cases it might be as a food
5 source for other resources of the unit. Things like genetic
6 diversity will also be looked at that are important consideration
7 in really -- it's all sort of contained in this idea of what a
8 healthy stock.

9
10 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know, my gut's telling he
11 that's a red herring, maybe we need to spell it a little further
12 in definition.

13
14 MR. CANNON: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Could you explain the third
19 statement.

20
21 MR. CANNON: The risk of failure to provide for
22 non-wasteful subsistence uses. Basically that one is to ensure
23 that subsistence uses are being provided for in that area.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: What's the importance of non-
26 wasteful?

27
28 MR. CANNON: I think.....

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's regulatory language.

31
32 MR. CANNON: Pardon.

33
34 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's regulatory language.

35
36 MR. BOYD: Statutory language.

37
38 MR. CANNON: I understand it's apparently
39 required in terms of regulatory language that's used, it must be
40 in ANILCA.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Umm.

43
44 MR. HEYANO: First time I've seen it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions.

47
48 MR. CANNON: Okay, the other area where -- I'd
49 also like to draw your attention to the part of the process where
50 the Regional Councils will be reviewing the draft and the

00181

1 resource monitoring plan, that would be at your fall meeting.
2 And if you look on question five on this second page, there are
3 ranking criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals, and
4 I'll go through those as well with you.

5
6 The first one will be is the proposal responsive to
7 identified management issues and information needs? So you're
8 really trying to evaluate it, has the process worked, have we
9 really hit the mark with the proposal in terms of the need that's
10 been identified. And the second criteria will be technical
11 quality of the project design for information collection,
12 compilation or reporting. And I would imagine the Regional
13 Councils will want to know from the Staff, you know, if this has
14 been reviewed by peers, are the methods that are proposed, are
15 they meeting the standards for the type of project that is being
16 proposed. The third criteria is demonstrated technical and
17 administrative expertise of the project proponent to complete the
18 work. And as part of the detailed resource investigation plan,
19 each investigator will be asked to essentially provide
20 information about their experience and their technical and
21 administrative expertise so that the Council could review that
22 and evaluate if the person or the group that's proposing it could
23 actually do the project. And then the last was, extent to which
24 the project includes appropriate partners and contributes to the
25 capacities of agencies, local communities or residents to
26 participate in fisheries resource management. This is an
27 important goal for this program.

28
29 And I think I heard a number of the Council members
30 express this, is that, we're trying to get more of the expertise
31 and opportunity for involvement down to the local level. Down
32 and out to the region. And one of the reasons that the Federal
33 program is trying to hire on various -- some expertise is so that
34 we can participate with the groups out in the regions to help
35 them develop that expertise here locally, so that eventually most
36 of this work -- a lot of this work can actually be done out here
37 in the region.

38
39 That's all I have to say -- to provide to you about the
40 process so I'll just throw it open for general questions. That's
41 where we're at essentially with this process.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members.

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I guess I do have one on
46 the technical oversight on the second page there. Again, the
47 Alaska Native tribal organizations, I would assume that that's
48 statewide organizations and I would again say that local
49 participation means in-region.

50

00182

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, Richard.

2

3 MR. CANNON: That's all I have on this section of
4 the presentation. The third part of the presentation then
5 actually looks at prioritizing management issues and information.
6 And if you'd turn into that part of the.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Richard.

9

10 MR. CANNON:section of the document.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Richard.

13

14 MR. CANNON: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long will this take?

17

18 MR. CANNON: This part of the presentation is
19 really -- will depend on how deeply your Council wants to get
20 into this process.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long does it take you to
23 make your presentation?

24

25 MR. CANNON: I can do this very quickly in terms
26 of just summarizing what -- the information that's available here
27 in this section.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we were just thinking
30 that some of us need to check out at noon.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Certainly.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What would be the possibility
35 of taking an our break, starting now, we may want to take
36 testimony on the long-term fisheries if that's going to be
37 appropriate, after that. We do have Proposal 61 on moose that
38 deal with -- you will be here at the top, and then after that
39 we're going to have agency reports. So I think probably just for
40 the purpose of getting us squared away on some things that we
41 have to do, if you don't mind, we'll take one hour.

42

43 MR. CANNON: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then we'll be back on
46 track. Is that okay with the Council, okay, lunch time.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

00183

1 MR. BOYD: While we're waiting for Rich there's
2 one quick item we can cover on the fisheries stuff if you don't
3 mind.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, sure.

6
7 MR. BOYD: Are you ready to go back on record?

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're back on record.

10
11 MR. BOYD: We're on record. At the end of Tab P,
12 there's a set of notes from the orientation session.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What tab?

15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: What -- Tab what?

17
18 MR. BOYD: P.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

21
22 MR. BOYD: Right after the tribal involvement
23 paper.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

26
27 MR. BOYD: It's just a set of notes that goes
28 from there to the end of that tab. And I'm not going to talk
29 about.....

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: P.

32
33 MR. BOYD: P.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: At the end?

36
37 MR. BOYD: At the end, there are several pages
38 that start just after tribal consultation.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. BOYD: These are the notes that we're giving
43 you from the Council caucuses at the January orientation session.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. BOYD: I'm just citing those, that they're
48 here. I'm not going to relive that for you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

00184

1 MR. BOYD: We are looking forward to doing
2 additional regional level training, not the statewide training.
3 I guess we're looking forward toward the fall but sometime in the
4 future. And we, I guess, at this point, would like to see any
5 comments you might have about how we might structure that
6 training, what the contents might be in it if we did it at the
7 region level, along the lines of what we did at the orientation
8 session. Who might participate and that sort of thing.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. You don't need that
11 today but you will need that over a period of time, okay. Did I
12 see Richard walk in.

13
14 MS. HILDEBRAND: He stepped back out.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: He walked back out, I don't
17 blame him. I don't know if the people who will be giving reports
18 have -- do you have written, the reports in written form? That's
19 not very good, is it, when we ask you that question. Some of
20 them can't be in written form, I realize, because there are
21 presentations. And the only thing we're concerned about is, I
22 think the flights are fairly full today and if you wanted to be
23 out on the flight we kind of wanted to make a provision for you
24 to try to be there if you want. Orville.

25
26 MR. LIND: We were told to check in at 4:00.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think that will work. Let's
29 see we're on number 3, right.

30
31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Richard, if you'd
34 continue please, we appreciate it.

35
36 MR. CANNON: Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's all right.

39
40 MR. CANNON: I ask the Council to turn to that
41 third section of the handout. What's been provided for you here
42 are some information that you could choose to use to go through
43 a process of identifying information needs and issues. The
44 materials that are in this section were prepared by Federal
45 agencies over the last year. And this could be used as sort of
46 a guide to begin the process that's being asked of this program.
47 If you look at that first sheet, that has National Park Service,
48 Bristol Bay preliminary needs assessment, I think, provides a
49 very good set of categories of types of things that need to be
50 identified for us to do our work.

1 For example, we need some specifics. We need to know
2 about specific water bodies, specific species, issues identified,
3 data gaps that relate to that issue. In order to do an effective
4 job of developing projects, we also have to know what's already
5 available, the existing data. Then a prioritization has to occur
6 so that good decisions could be made about the use of the funds,
7 and then important comments from the Regional Councils are needed
8 to give direction to this process. So this -- the way this table
9 is set up, I think, contains all the elements that will need to
10 be considered.

11
12 This is going to be a very involved process to go through
13 this for each area. And if you move through this sheet there's
14 a fairly long list of potential water body -- or waters and
15 species and it will be up to the Council to determine how you
16 want to proceed with this. Mary McBurney and I are available to
17 help you through a process of discussing priorities and needs but
18 there's another option and that was provided to us through the
19 work of the Bristol Bay Native Association, which, actually I was
20 very impressed when I looked through this document. Where they'd
21 actually gone out and had meetings in these communities and
22 pulled together comments from the agencies as well as the local
23 people in these areas and have come up with a list of some
24 projects, potential projects for the FY2001. That's another
25 option you may take is to take a look at that work as you begin
26 this process of focusing in on the needs and issues that this
27 region needs to bring forth in this process.

28
29 At this point I'm going to just turn this back over to
30 you, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council members
33 or comments. Yes, Robin.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess going through the list of
36 projects here on the third page, Lake Clark sockeye species,
37 issue stock by stock management may be required to prevent stock
38 extinctions and to sustain harvest. I know in Southeast Alaska
39 the Department of Fish and Game has numerous streams that they
40 manage down there and they manage in the aggregate, so primarily
41 by aerial surveys. Lake Clark is measured at the Kvichak River
42 by sonar and there's no stock by stock differentiation within
43 the tributaries in the lake. But it looks like you guys want to,
44 under this proposal, is take it a step further and manage stream
45 by stream. Is that what I read, stock by stock?

46
47 MR. CANNON: I think the idea is to begin to look
48 at -- I would not infer from this any specific management
49 direction. I don't believe that that's the intent. But I think
50 the interest is to begin to look at what we don't know about

00186

1 stocks and fisheries needs in the area and there's a lot we don't
2 know. And now it's -- the tough job is to prioritize those
3 things that -- and there's many things we don't know and figure
4 out what we need to put the money into to deal with some of the
5 major issues. So a lot of this represents, you know, just
6 question where we don't -- we have major data gaps with regard to
7 our fisheries stocks in this region. I don't think there's,
8 necessarily, a specific management intent in every case with
9 every one of these things that have been identified.

10
11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members. Robert.

14
15 MR. HEYANO: Just to follow up, it's fairly clear
16 to me what the issue is, stock by stock management may be
17 required to prevent stock extinction and to sustain harvest,
18 that's the issue. Now, if it isn't, then that needs to be
19 rewritten. It's very clear to me what that statement says, and
20 if that isn't the intent, somebody needs to rewrite it or
21 somebody needs to acknowledge that is the intent.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Richard.

24
25 MR. CANNON: Yeah. I realize that we don't have
26 the information to do that. What I'm saying is that I don't know
27 that somebody has a specific regulatory proposal in mind or an
28 idea to manage the fishery in a way that's different, ahead of
29 this process. I think what people are trying to do is get
30 information so that they can make determinations in the future
31 about if there is a problem.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think it's a great idea.
34 That's exactly how you find out where you're at and where you're
35 going to go. You know, you don't want a system dying off
36 somewhere or being hurt to the place where it's not going to have
37 a sustainable yield.

38
39 MR. CANNON: You won't know until you have the
40 information.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's right. Robin.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, the letter that you
45 called on and wrote in support of the project, you know, I just
46 want to go out -- wherever that sockeye -- studies need to be
47 taking place along the Lake Clark's migratory -- salmon migratory
48 path. Now, it's one thing to go in there and do stock by stock
49 management. Hypothetical situation, I don't fish the Kvichak,
50 but you go in there and one stock is down in Lake Clark, does

00187

1 that mean just closing the Kvichak River to commercial fishery in
2 hopes of getting fish into that stream? Does that also include
3 going down to the North Peninsula and Stroganof and closing off
4 that fishery that we know that 78 percent of that fishery is
5 Bristol Bay bound fish, primarily east side fishing districts?
6 Does that mean going down to the Shumigans in the Unimak Island
7 fisheries and cutting off the 8.3 allocation for Bristol Bay
8 sockeyes if them people have an allocation? And I think that's
9 what I'm looking for, if you're going to go down this path, it's
10 got to be along the whole migratory path not just making a
11 decision that we have a system in Lake Clark and the cause is
12 Kvichak River.

13
14 MR. CANNON: Right.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think you need to take the
17 whole picture into consideration.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Samuelson. Yes,
20 we've heard that concern voiced from other Councils that there is
21 a concern about salmon throughout the migratory pathway, it's
22 been a consistent comment.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comment. Robert.

25
26 MR. HEYANO: The other concern I have is, you
27 know, how far is this going to be taken. You're doing Lake
28 Clark, now, in Southeast are you going to every spawning stream?
29 You know, that's the thing I see, is that, how far do we go? Do
30 we go to every spawning stream in Lake Clark and assure that X
31 number of fish reaches there or what are we doing here? Those
32 are the types of things I think that need to be clearly
33 understood by the public. And I say if you're going to do it up
34 here then you got to apply the standard throughout the rest of
35 Alaska.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Richard.

38
39 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Heyano. I think
40 you're asking the right questions. And I don't know that, you
41 know, that Staff can give you those answers, that's really why
42 the Regional Councils are involved in this process. Those are
43 the right questions, where do we go, what do we want to focus on
44 with regard to the issues and how we'll solve those issues with
45 better information.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments Council
48 members. Good questions. Robert.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Let me see if I could word this

00188

1 correctly. In order to support a project or prioritize a
2 project, to me, we need to know what we hope to accomplish by the
3 information.

4
5 MR. CANNON: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. HEYANO: And I read this and I get mixed
8 signals.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments, Richard.

11
12 MR. CANNON: Yeah, just I'll take one more run at
13 this. I don't believe that there was -- somebody had a
14 regulation and a specific regulatory action in mind, but what I
15 do think this indicates that people would like to assess the
16 basic situation with these stocks. Where are they, where are
17 they going, you know, at different times of their life history.
18 Obtaining that information then may lead to regulatory action but
19 it doesn't mean that we're presupposing that we're going to take
20 some specific action, just getting more information at this
21 point. I know that there may be a concern that, you know,
22 sometimes ignorance is bliss. But I don't think the intent is
23 to, you know, close a fishery down or anything else by going out
24 and getting some information about stocks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess one of the concerns we
27 should have as an Advisory Council, would be to say, okay, you
28 have a project before us here today, but tomorrow we might say
29 there might be something else that we would rather have. What
30 jurisdiction or what power would we have to say we want to go in
31 another direction? Tom. Are we cast in stone on these things or
32 are they year by year or what?

33
34 MR. BOYD: Well, I think what we're trying to set
35 in place is an annual process to develop a monitoring plan. And
36 we want to work from the bottom up, i.e., from the public and the
37 Councils to help us identify, first of all, management issues
38 that can be crafted into getting the information that needs to be
39 brought to bear on that issue to make those decisions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

42
43 MR. BOYD: We're not trying to set out a formula
44 for that now. We want to get your involvement as Rich has been
45 saying to help us develop that formula. I think where we're
46 getting, possibly, confused is that what Rich has presented you
47 here is simply an inventory of information needs as we saw it a
48 few months ago. And the purpose for doing that was different
49 from what we're doing now but we found it to be a valuable tool
50 as we moved into the resource monitoring plan. What we developed

00189

1 that for was to sort of get a sense of budget and staffing plans.
2 You know, it's really kind of getting us in the ball park, if you
3 will, not necessarily saying that these are areas that we're
4 actually going to go out and study. But once we started looking
5 at it, it also became sort of a template for us to then maybe
6 launch into the resource monitoring and provide a -- I don't
7 know, sort of a document that would give you some of our
8 preliminary thinking to help maybe get you started or jump start
9 it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

12

13 MR. BOYD: But it doesn't mean that we're going
14 in this direction. We're asking for you to build it from the
15 bottom up.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, on Page 1, Lake Clark
18 issue, population decline over the last several years, 1996
19 Newhalen River escapement was 2.3 percent of eight year average
20 causing severe hardship in local subsistence fisheries a shortage
21 of bear food and an increased bear/human interactions. That's a
22 snapshot for 1996. What happened in 1998? What happened in
23 1999? Was subsistence needs met, even in 1996, was the first
24 question, was subsistence needs met and was the 2.3 percent of
25 the eight year average the lowest of the mid-years?

26

27 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, I can't give you those
28 answers. There may be staff here that actually worked on these
29 particular projects or this particular area that could but I
30 don't have that information.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Because Mr. Chairman, I think
33 that was we look at these proposals our -- you could take a
34 snapshot of a river system and paint a picture of a river system,
35 I guess they call it justifying the means. What I'd like to see
36 is when these -- when these assessments come in is to see trends
37 over time. If there's been -- this might have been an anomaly,
38 but we could see the stocks over time, and if we see a downward
39 trend, we know that there is -- then there's chronic problems in
40 that river system and if we've been hearing from subsistence
41 users who are not meeting their subsistence needs, we know we
42 have to do something. But as in any resource management, you get
43 these things and you get these things. You get the valleys and
44 the peaks, and that's -- you know, instead of just seeing
45 assessment -- this may be the worst case scenario for Newhalen
46 River in the last 50 years, I don't know that. Or maybe 1996 is
47 reflective of today. Maybe they're having severe chronic
48 problems on meeting their escapement. I don't know just by
49 reading the assessment.

50

00190

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Carol.

2

3 MS. WOODY: I'm not sure what the procedure is
4 but I could make a couple of comments on this.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You need to come up and talk
7 and put your name on the record.

8

9 MS. WOODY: How about if I get Lee go first since
10 he's sort of the main person in charge.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

13

14 MS. WOODY: He had a couple of comments on....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. This is where we start,
17 at the microphone.

18

19 MS. WOODY:just Lake Clark and why it was
20 established.

21

22 MR. FINK: Mr. Chairman and Council members. Lee
23 Fink from Lake Clark National Park. Maybe I can address a couple
24 of the issues that are on the table here regarding the salmon
25 project that Carol Woody is working on.

26

27 I think an important thing for us to remember is a major
28 mission statement in our enabling legislation was to preserve and
29 protect sockeye spawning habitat in Lake Clark National Park and
30 Preserve. And there's very little baseline -- detailed baseline
31 data known on salmon populations in the Lake Clark proper. And
32 that was the impetus for developing this study several years ago,
33 and now it has been funded to a certain level and Carol Woody
34 started the work last year. And more detailed work has been
35 throughout the Kvichak and Lake Iliamna system but very little
36 detailed work has been done on stock assessments in the Lake
37 Clark drainages. And I also think that, as you pointed out, Mr.
38 Samuelson, the numbers for 1996 were probably a low, you know,
39 those were a low point but it showed concern and there was
40 concern in the local region. To my knowledge, I still believe
41 the subsistence needs were predominately met and Andrew Balluta
42 can probably give as much expert testimony to that as anybody in
43 this room can. But we were concerned and to help fend off any
44 declining or unmet subsistence needs in the future, we felt we
45 needed to know, you know, what is coming into Lake Clark and what
46 the escapements are out of the lake.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions, Council members.

49

50 MR. FINK: If I could just -- one more point that

00191

1 was made a couple times. I mean I don't know that we're -- you
2 know, the intent was not that we're going to do be doing a stream
3 by stream stock management, you know, for the Kijik or the
4 Tlikakila River or some of the small tributaries into Lake Clark,
5 but the idea is, we just don't have a really good handle on that
6 information to know when the stocks are in trouble, and that is
7 the headwaters of the Bristol Bay system so I think it's, you
8 know, it's a good area to have definitive information on stocks
9 because, you know, that's about as high up as Bristol Bay fish in
10 the Kvichak System run.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think Carol Ann Woody is
13 edging her way toward the -- if you don't mind -- did you have
14 something pertinent to this, Carol Ann to.....

15
16 MS. WOODY: Yes. I thought I could clarify some
17 things.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, to the microphone.

20
21 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, if I
22 may, you know, the explanation that Lee just gave makes a lot of
23 sense to me, and that's what I thought this project was going to
24 do. But when I read the language in here I get a completely
25 different picture on what this project's supposed to be doing.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Carol Ann, what did you have to
28 offer that might be a little more enlightenment?

29
30 MS. WOODY: My name is Carol Ann Woody, and I'm
31 a research fishery biologist with the USDSBRD in Anchorage,
32 Alaska. And I am doing some research in Lake Clark and I'll have
33 a presentation later on which will probably clarify a lot of
34 questions people have.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe.

37
38 MS. WOODY: Maybe?

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe.

41
42 MS. WOODY: Well, you can grill me all you want.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, no, but I mean timewise
45 you may want to say some of those things now because of the.....

46
47 MS. WOODY: Oh, okay. Anyway, what I.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what I meant.

50

00192

1 MS. WOODY:there's a couple things I wanted
2 to clarify here. The first thing is on this information sheet
3 where it says existing data, which you got from the subsistence
4 group, it says that there are aerial and ground escapement data
5 from FRO and Fish and Game. There's just some aerial escapement
6 data from Fish and Game. And then the Fisheries Research
7 Institute has used -- had kind of trained young students to count
8 fish there, and that's what some people are saying is escapement
9 data. There really is no good escapement data for the Newhalen
10 system, so I just wanted to clarify that.

11
12 And there are a few walking surveys, et cetera. But
13 there's very little information on many of the populations. It's
14 just known that in some of the clear water systems, there are
15 estimates of fish from aerial surveys. Most of the system is
16 glacial and we don't know much about the populations in the
17 glacial regions.

18
19 In regards to subsistence users in the area, I have some
20 data that I got from Molly Chythlkak, and I'm not sure if I said
21 her name correctly, she's here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Chythlkak.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Chythlkak.

26
27 MS. WOODY: Chythlkak.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

30
31 MS. WOODY: And anyway, she sent me some numbers
32 because I was trying to figure out how much -- how subsistence
33 users are impacted in this region. And I have some information,
34 there's a blue folder on the table over here that has a proposal
35 that I put together that -- there was a little confusion so it
36 didn't get into the last review group for subsistence but it's
37 over here and you can look through it. But one of the things
38 here are numberwise -- and I have some averages here, residents
39 of Newhalen, Iliamna, Nondalton, Port Alsworth annually harvest
40 an estimated 4,042 fish which is about 200,000 pounds of sockeye
41 for subsistence needs, although not everyone reports their
42 harvest. Salmon are the most important subsistence resource in
43 the region and it comprises up to 75 percent of their total
44 subsistence harvest. In 1998, these same towns reported 1998
45 subsistence harvest of 31,979 fish, and that was about 40,000
46 pounds less than the 1988 to 1997 average annual harvest. And
47 those are also information from there.

48
49 So also in my work talking and visiting in the villages
50 and talking to people that have lived there a long time, there is

00193

1 a perception of the people that lived and fished there their
2 whole lives that the populations are declining. That there
3 aren't as many fish returning to Kijik system or to some of the
4 beach areas and that they aren't seeing the numbers they used to.
5 We don't have hard numbers for this system so I can't give you
6 that information but there is that general perception.

7
8 And Andrew Balluta can help clarify some of that. But
9 for some of the really hard numbers you might need, I don't have
10 that, but I have some general ones there.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

13
14 MS. WOODY: That's all.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Carol. Richard, do
17 you have anything else that you'd like to confuse us with today
18 here or make us all get awake? We're not being confused, it's
19 just good information.

20
21 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, yes, I think that
22 you're engaging in the discussion that will be needed to begin to
23 sort out some of these priorities. And again, we're willing to
24 work with the Council in any way that you would like to, either
25 going through this list or another approach.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I'm not interested in
28 going through the list unless the Council wants to take time to
29 go through the list today. But I would venture to say by fall
30 time I'd be real interested in going through the list.

31
32 MR. CANNON: What we.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council, did you have some site
35 specific things that you wanted to deal with?

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, no.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I don't.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

44
45 MR. HEYANO: No.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. Anybody else. It's not
48 like it's going to not be back, I guarantee you.

49
50 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, if I may, who's all

00194

1 funding these projects? Who's all the funders in the Lake Clark
2 project?

3
4 MR. CANNON: You go to the project description
5 that's provided for you, the USDSBRD.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is it in this handout you gave
8 us?

9
10 MR. CANNON: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Under 33.

13
14 MR. CANNON: Oh, no, there's an extra sheet, did
15 you get that?

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I don't think we did.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Okay, that's probably why. They're
20 over on the table. Sorry, about that Mr. Chairman that we did
21 not have the one page summary for you, we do have it for you now,
22 when we put the packet together.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That would be on Lake
25 Clark sockeye salmon project; is that the one?

26
27 MR. CANNON: Yes. The one page summary will
28 probably give you a quick idea of what's involved with the
29 project. And under the last paragraph there is a cost breakout
30 of the project. It's a two year project BRD is asking for
31 \$150,000 for the first year and \$75,000 for the second year of
32 the project.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else on that subject,
35 Robin.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think it's justifying the
38 means, Mr. Chairman. In 1998 Bristol Bay had a disaster run, a
39 total collapse, we're all well aware of it. Now, here I see this
40 2.3 percent for the previous eight year average. And I'm just
41 very uncomfortable by taking the worst case scenario and plugging
42 it in to justify doing research and I hope that those people that
43 are looking at these projects look at the long-term before they
44 award the monies out. Number 1, are the subsistence users
45 meeting their subsistence needs. Everything I have read and
46 talking to people up in that area, by and large, they're all
47 meeting their subsistence needs. Do we need a genetic thumbprint
48 of Lake Clark populations, I think we need a genetic fingerprint
49 of all our populations. I'm sure it would help in the management
50 of them.

00195

1 But I don't know, it's one to watch I think.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't think we have any say
4 so over the funding of it anyway at this stage of the game,
5 that's up to the Federal Board. Anything else.

6

7 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, if I may.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

10

11 MR. BOYD: I think, a couple of things, dealing
12 with the recommendations of the 2000 funding, there's still some
13 22 proposals that have been put out statewide, some within your
14 region, and I think you're looking at one of them right now. We
15 are in the middle of the process for developing or soliciting
16 your recommendations to the Board. They're going to be meeting
17 in early April to finalize the 2000 funding, okay, so that's one
18 item.

19

20 The second item we're looking for very broadly is sort of
21 your sense of what the issues are, looking forward to 2001. And
22 again, the 2001 process is just getting started and we want to do
23 it with a little longer -- much longer term planning than we did
24 for 2000 obviously. So there's two things we're doing. Approve
25 -- getting your thoughts on and your recommendations on projects
26 for 2000 funding out of the package that we put before you, and
27 secondly getting some sense of what you think the issues are for
28 2001 so we can start that process early and develop then projects
29 to try to address those issues for 2001.

30

31 So we do it all the time in our office, too, is get the
32 two processes confused, but I'm sensing that's what's happening
33 here.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do we have until the fall to do
36 the 2001?

37

38 MR. BOYD: On the 2001, we will be coming back to
39 you time and again, we'll have specific projects by the time we
40 come back to you in the fall.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

43

44 MR. BOYD: All we need right now from you is some
45 sense of what the issues are. And what we've put before you on
46 the table was, I think, more trying to plant some ideas than it
47 was to say that these, were, in fact, proposals. This was an
48 inventory of issues that the agencies came up with for planning
49 purposes. But it was not to suggest that these are the only
50 issues or even that they are good issues.

00196

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, the question I have, Tom,
2 is do you want us to take these projects today and tell you, one
3 through five? This is going to take about the next.....

4
5 MR. BOYD: For the 2000, you mean, or the 2001?

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, 2001.

8
9 MR. CANNON: 2001.

10
11 MR. BOYD: Right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 2001.

14
15 MR. BOYD: For 2001?

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, in some of the other
20 RAC meetings the Chairman has set aside a period of time to have
21 that kind of discussion with their Councils.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

24
25 MR. CANNON: And, again, it would depend on where
26 you're going with the remainder of your meeting and the time.
27 But, yes, that's one of the things that would be very valuable
28 for this process is for your Council to have that kind of
29 discussion. This was simply to give you a point of departure,
30 some things to talk about based on some of the work that had
31 already been done.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Because what we could do,
34 Council, we could either, you know, extend through tomorrow to do
35 it or we could reschedule another meeting later on in the next
36 two or three weeks to come back and give them some priorities if
37 we want because we're not going to have time. If we're going to
38 plan on getting these people out of here today we're not going to
39 have time to do these. But there's nothing wrong with taking
40 time for those who can stay through tomorrow to do it or come
41 back sometime this spring and do it.

42
43 Yeah.

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I'm not -- I think
46 we need to develop criteria to judge a project or not as well as
47 the funding.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before we start this, yeah.

50

00197

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it goes along with funding
2 the project. And I think, as I stated earlier in a meeting, that
3 I, as a RAC member, pretty much gave Tom my blessing to go ahead
4 in January, along with the other people at that meeting.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For 2000 but not for 2001.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: But not for 2001.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's the time frame I'm
11 looking at now, what we need to do; what is that time frame, Tom?

12
13 MR. BOYD: 2001.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When do we come back so we can
16 address these issues with criteria?

17
18 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman, if you could go back
19 to.....

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: At the fall meeting.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fall meeting?

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: The fall meeting.

26
27 MR. CANNON:that second session.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think I got the answer, he
30 said fall meeting, is that timely?

31
32 MR. BOYD: For projects, however, we need to know
33 if there are management issues that you want us to address fairly
34 soon.

35
36 MR. CANNON: Right. What's important is that
37 we're going to try to put a call for proposals out based on
38 information needs.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's fairly soon, Tom?

41
42 MR. CANNON: We're talking -- the tentative time
43 line is we're looking at having most of the input for issues and
44 needs from the Councils by the end of this month. And then we
45 begin the process to.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Today is the 25th.

48
49 MR. CANNON: I know. But that's the schedule
50 that's being laid out. And we're hoping -- we were kind of

00198

1 hoping to get some of this input from the Councils at this
2 meeting. Some of the other Councils, they've taken the time to
3 do this and others we've done -- we're doing a mailout to try to
4 get some input from people beyond just a Council, that's what
5 they asked us to do.

6
7 Again, these aren't cast in concrete, okay. It's
8 important to us that we get some input on these questions about
9 needs from the people in this area. And I think we're willing to
10 work with you on trying to be creative about how we can do that,
11 but, you know, we have to get something done over some reasonable
12 period of time. Because what has to happen beyond this is that
13 we have to let people know what the needs are, proposals have to
14 be developed, then we get into technical evaluation. The
15 objective then is to bring something back to you in the fall that
16 actually has a budget, methods, and very specific research or
17 study objectives for you to take a look at. And then you'll make
18 a recommendation on which of those projects you want to see move
19 forward for funding.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I guess we can make up
22 our minds here what we want to do on that then. Do you want to
23 let them go ahead and do it or should we come back here the first
24 of the week and have a workshop with the Council and key Staff to
25 tell you what we want. Council, what do you think? I'm
26 available, if you want to do it. And we don't need this crowd
27 here to do that but we need you and somebody else to do it.

28
29 MR. BOYD: We could also.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or else we're going to give it
32 to you and you can go with it and we'll come back next fall and
33 see what we think. That's the alternatives that we have, we have
34 two.

35
36 MR. BOYD: And again, this initial step is simply
37 -- it's probably more than just simply, but it's not going with
38 developing full-blown proposals, it's just getting an idea of
39 what the issues are that we need to be addressing in those
40 proposals. So it's not as in-depth as what you're going to see
41 next fall.

42
43 What we wanted to do was start out with a process that
44 identified the management issues that we could then build
45 projects around. And I don't know, maybe this is a good baseline
46 that you could look at because it is bottom up, it's what the
47 folks in your -- some of the folks in your region have brought to
48 your attention.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was handed to me when I

00199

1 walked in the door today.

2

3 MR. BOYD: Yeah, I know.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How do you address an issue
6 like that. Robin.

7

8 MR. BOYD: You know, Mr. Chair, we could convene
9 you either -- we could probably reconvene you in a fairly short
10 time period, even by teleconference if that's possible to talk
11 about these things.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't really like
14 teleconferences but if we have to I guess we could.

15

16 MR. BOYD: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So Robin, you had some
19 thoughts.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think, Mr. Chairman, what we
22 need to do is list this -- put notice out to the public that
23 we'll be accepting proposals, deal with them in our fall meeting
24 when we have the criteria and go through them. What do I have on
25 the proposals that BBNA -- the book that BBNA put out, everyone
26 of them proposals are good proposals. But what criteria do I use
27 to say that they're good proposals, you know.

28

29 You know, should I make a motion that any proposal put in
30 by BBNA is a good proposal and any one that's put in by any other
31 organization or agency we shouldn't finance? That isn't the
32 proper way to do things. So without a criteria I'm not going to
33 sit down next week, Mr. Chairman, if you call a RAC meeting
34 together because I have no way to judge them proposals. Until
35 that process and that criteria is put in place, I think we'll be
36 taking a shotgun approach.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be done in the fall
39 meeting then. Okay. That's the answer, if that's okay with the
40 Council members.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know, I'll listen to.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

45

46 MR. SAMUELSEN:other suggestions, but I'm
47 very uncomfortable.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think that's fine and it's
50 a statement that we've said over and over. But for a suggestion

00200

1 for a potential proposal which I've gotten loud and clear serving
2 on this Board is the amount of use and the impacts to the Alagnak
3 River. Habitat and.....

4

5 MR. BOYD: That's one we're looking at.

6

7 MR. HEYANO:to the fish populations. I
8 mean, you know, you go back and you read our reports to the
9 Secretary of Interior, I think it's in almost every one of them,
10 if not every one of them, that problem. I think that's one clear
11 message that I've heard as a concern from the subsistence users.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So what do you say?

14

15 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess if I heard them right
16 they were looking for ideas for potential proposals for the next
17 cycle and I think as a -- if you agree, that that's something
18 that we've always heard and always is a concern and we address it
19 in our annual report. Maybe that's one that should be put on the
20 list.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A very troubled area, yes.

23 Okay, any other Council member comments. I think this is
24 probably going to go forward anyway in the form of a proposal
25 anyway, isn't it, the BBNA document, they wanted to. And we'll
26 come back fall time and take a look at it, too. Anything else,
27 Richard.

28

29 MR. CANNON: No, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32

33 MR. CANNON: Okay.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Well, one thing.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: Who's going to be responsible for
40 setting the criteria to judge those proposals? Is that something
41 we have to do, is that something the Federal Subsistence Board
42 has to do?

43

44 MR. CANNON: You have the opportunity to comment
45 on the criteria that we're working with right now and make
46 suggestions for changes. We're very open to those suggestions.
47 And I'm sure the Federal Subsistence Board would want to know
48 about that, if you would want to emphasize one particular
49 criteria for identifying information needs and issues. Remember,
50 that's the step we're at right now. The proposal part of it will

00201

1 follow that. Once we know that there is a concern for, let's
2 say, Lake Clark, there's a concern raised through the RAC. We
3 need information of some type. We may need better escapement
4 numeration. Then we begin to hone in on the specifics, and then
5 it's a matter of looking out there to see who would want to do
6 that project, an agency or a local group or a partnership.
7 That's how the process would work in development of the proposal,
8 that you will then look at during your fall meeting.

9
10 Right now the focus is on what are the issues and the
11 needs so that proposals can be developed to address those needs.

12
13 MR. SAMUELSEN: But I think we, as a RAC, Mr.
14 Chairman, we could pass that down to the villages. Black Lake on
15 the Chignik side, for example, has been demonstrating chronic
16 problems for a number of years. Togiak coho, that's Federal
17 land. Their coho runs have been diminishing. I think we need to
18 go talk to them people, we can't just sit up here and try and
19 remember what different villages have raised issues. It's pretty
20 hard to do, Rich.

21
22 MR. CANNON: I understand.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And this is not representative
25 of the whole region, either. This is more maybe site specific
26 and, you know, what they've been able to do -- you know, get
27 information on and even then, that's more than we've been able to
28 do so I give them credit for that.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: Excuse me, I don't think the issue
31 is getting the word out to the public to submit proposals because
32 we've got plenty of proposals. Where the shortfall is I see as
33 a body, we need to have criteria so we could spend the time to
34 judge the -- or make a recommendation on those proposals. So I
35 think we ought to charge you, as the Chair, and you as the vice
36 Chair, to have that criteria for us at the fall meeting. And
37 I'll put that in the form of the motion.

38
39 MR. ENRIGHT: I second it.

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: With Robert as secretary.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, you got a motion on the
44 floor and that's all you can address right so is there a second
45 to that.

46
47 MR. ENRIGHT: I seconded it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right, now, speak to
50 your motion if you want.

00202

1 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, that's
2 where I see the bottleneck for us in reacting to the information
3 that these folks are asking us to provide. We're awful reluctant
4 to make recommendations without having criteria where we could,
5 at least, have some justification other than to personal
6 preference as to why we, as a group, put that proposal forward.
7 So to me that's the key, that's what we need to focus on. We
8 have plenty of proposals to deal with once we have that in place,
9 somebody needs to take charge of that and make sure that the next
10 time they come around and ask for our input, we have that
11 criteria available so we can go through the proposals.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're feeling is that would
14 prevent the shotgun approach.

15
16 MR. HEYANO: Uh-huh.

17
18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead, Robin.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think a good place to
23 discuss this is at the Federal Subsistence Board level when all
24 RAC Chairman are present at that meeting.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In Anchorage, okay.

27
28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Because it isn't just Bristol
29 Bay. We've got 11 million dollars, which isn't a lot of money
30 for -- how many projects you said you had, 150 or whatever it is,
31 and I think the RAC from Norton Sound ought to be singing from
32 the same sheet of music as the Bristol Bay RAC as they go through
33 and develop this criteria.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Plus I think that ought to be a
38 point that should be brought up at the Federal Subsistence Board
39 level while all you RAC Chairman are sitting in there.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In fact, the RACs, Tom, come a
42 day early, don't they?

43
44 MR. BOYD: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Not just an evening meeting, we
47 want a day meeting. Sometimes we get together for an evening,
48 that's not.....

49
50 MR. BOYD: And a half a day.

00203

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll need -- then we'll
2 have to have the input from us for me to pack something back
3 there. That's fine.

4
5 MR. BOYD: I think that's an excellent idea, Mr.
6 Chair, that you've come up with.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Deb, did you want to come up
9 here, did you have something that's really going to help us out
10 here?

11
12 MS. LIGGET: Deb Ligget, Superintendent,
13 Katmai/Lake Clark. I guess I just wanted to join my brethren at
14 the table. But it seems to me that as an agency administrator,
15 the best guidance that the RAC could provide for me would be
16 longer range guidance. You know, as a manager, I hate managing
17 only one year out. You know, I'm always wishing that I had a
18 crystal ball that went two or three years out. And so if you
19 engage at the Federal Subsistence Board level to help us paint
20 the bigger picture and those criteria, that might save you
21 getting bogged down in the details of each and every proposal.
22 But if you communicate to the agencies what those larger criteria
23 are, and then subsequently all those proposals address that, that
24 you would help us look one or two years out as the experts on the
25 resource.

26
27 So I just kind of put that in, if you could help us, you
28 know, envision where we should be in two years or three years,
29 five years, in my personal opinion, is too far out, but if we
30 could administer two or three years out, this gets out of the
31 problem that I know fish faces and the Park Service faces, is,
32 we've got this money now, we have to spend it now on a one year
33 spending cycle. And so it allows us to just look a little
34 further out. And so that would be a role that the RAC might want
35 to consider and the Federal Board might want to consider.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

38
39 MS. LIGGET: Are you okay with that Tom?

40
41 MR. BOYD: I'm fine with that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you very much. Did
44 you have something else, Robert.

45
46 MR. HEYANO: No, I just want to make sure that
47 you and Mr. Samuelsen are clear on what your charge is.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call for the question.

50

00204

1 MR. HEYANO: Question.

2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

8
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Overruled, six to one. I'm
12 going to have to make a special trip over here and see you before
13 the first part of April.

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: You still got a long ways to go
16 Robert.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. That's his first
19 step.

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: We'll volunteer you pretty soon.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you have anything else, Tom?

24
25 MR. BOYD: Well, what I heard is -- I'm going to
26 make sure criteria are on the agenda as a discussion item for the
27 Chairs meeting in early May. And I've also heard you say that
28 you would like to see that meeting take up a full day as opposed
29 to what we've done traditionally, a half day, I don't know how
30 hard.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't see how when you get
33 those 10 Chairs together, they're not going to spend three hours
34 to do that, it's going to be probably.....

35
36 MR. BOYD: Well, as we develop this agenda.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:bringing some people up to
39 speed on educating them on the issue.

40
41 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And then trying to get a
44 consensus of 10 people who have a lot of directions they're going
45 in. So maybe you can judge it on -- I know if I said April, I
46 meant in May.

47
48 MR. BOYD: Well, we're building an agenda now, so
49 we'll see what we've got but I'm taking what you're suggesting to
50 heart.

00205

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I assume that Robert and Robin
2 already have criteria in place that they're just going to give me
3 a list of. It's easy to make a motion.

4
5 MR. HEYANO: That's right.

6
7 MR. BOYD: Well, I would suggest again that you
8 look at the criteria that we have used in the year 2000 process
9 and maybe throw away what you don't like and add to what you want
10 to add to or change.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

13
14 MR. BOYD: We feel pretty good about those but
15 maybe we're off base.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, maybe if Rich could provide
18 us with those written criteria before he leaves or leave them
19 with Staff and we'll build on them.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or fax them to us.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Rich, is there anything else
26 that you wanted to discuss.

27
28 MR. CANNON: No, Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, are you
31 satisfied now with this. Richard, thank you very much for
32 attacking a very difficult job, we appreciate it a lot. Before
33 we take a break, I'll ask Hazel if she would like to come up and
34 talk to us on long-term, she had just maybe about two or three
35 minutes, mention something, I think, that the Federal management
36 people should hear before they leave.

37
38 MS. NELSON: It's probably less than a minute,
39 Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That'd be good.

42
43 MS. NELSON: Hazel Nelson with the Lake and Penn
44 Borough. And one thing that I wanted to mention, at this point,
45 was that this is in regard to the criteria for accepting research
46 proposals. The Borough is recommending that the Staff provide
47 all available subsistence harvest data that correlates to that
48 project to the RAC and to the Federal Subsistence Board and we're
49 concerned that -- well, this is first of all, similar to what the
50 State process uses and all the Board members have to have, all

00206

1 the data that correlates to each specific issue, which -- to
2 maintain the integrity in the process. And in looking at the
3 document that shows the criteria to address proposals and the
4 process and all that stuff, I hadn't been able to clearly
5 identify where it says you guys will supply all subsistence data
6 pertinent to the research proposal.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

9
10 MS. NELSON: And I think that it's important to
11 speak to
12 why the project should be funded, why action needs to be taken,
13 because verifications of changes in management are certainly
14 going to be important to the subsistence users themselves.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you.

17
18 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I think after the break
21 we'll come back and do 61 unless there's something else you had.
22 Robin.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just got a question for Hazel,
25 I don't know when she's leaving but I know the other day she
26 expressed concern that the Federal regs came out affecting a
27 number of communities in Lake and Peninsula Borough on the south
28 side of the Peninsula as well as the north side all the way up to
29 Egegik because of steller eiders, was it?

30
31 MS. NELSON: Yes. It was steller eiders and I
32 think speckled eiders.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: I am going to ask, Mr. Chairman,
37 ask Staff, in our fall meeting, which will probably be in King
38 Salmon, because we alternate back and forth, that we bring in the
39 -- I'll call them the bird people, and give us an update on where
40 that's at and I think that will be a good one for your villages
41 that you represent if the Chairman and the other committee
42 members agree with me.

43
44 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

45
46 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Pete.

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Are you talking about steller

00207

1 eiders in your area down there?

2

3 MS. NELSON: Yes, I believe that the public
4 comment period is open until May 12th in regard to.....

5

6 MR. ABRAHAM: Do you see many down there?

7

8 MS. NELSON: No, actually I don't. I think maybe
9 some of the guys have but apparently the status that they've been
10 declared it's pretty hard to see them.

11

12 MR. ABRAHAM: They're very rare, I think in your
13 area. The most populated area is up north around the mouth of
14 the Yukon -- between the Yukon-Kuskokwim area. And I think two
15 or three years ago they found, not steller eiders, speckled
16 eiders in the wintertime in the nowheres out there, you know,
17 because that's where they winter. A majority of those steller --
18 I mean speckled eiders are moving toward Russia over there to
19 nest. But I don't know about stellers, I know the decline is
20 there. But they're not in James' -- they're very rare in this
21 area, both species, expect for when they're passing through
22 toward north, you see them a lot then. In Egegik area you will
23 see them a lot when they're passing through, they don't stop
24 there except for feeding.

25

26 MS. NELSON: I hear that in this area they can be
27 found as well. I'm pretty sure Nushagak Bay should be
28 identified.

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: They don't fly around here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, probably in a museum
33 somewhere, yeah. Okay, when we come back, Andy Aderman, Aaron
34 Archibeque, Tim Woolington, number 61. Following that we will go
35 right into reports and we're moving right along. Ten minute
36 break.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, we're looking at Proposal
43 61 and we'd like the audience to quit your talking. Dave Fisher.

44

45 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple items
46 here, it looks like the wildlifers are getting kind of run over
47 by the fisheries people and I had another story to tell but I'm
48 going to save it until next meeting.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good, thank you.

1 MR. FISHER: Moving on, Mr. Chairman, Proposal 61
2 was submitted by Mr. Gary Carlos from Togiak, Alaska. This
3 proposal would establish a winter harvest moose season for
4 Federal public lands in Subunit 17(A). The season would be
5 December 1st through December 31st, one antlered bull. The
6 customary and traditional use for 17(A) would be residents of
7 Unit 17, Goodnews Bay, Platinum and Kwethluk, they all have a
8 positive C&T.

9
10 If you'll recall, prior to mid-1996, there were several
11 special actions submitted to establish a fall hunting season in
12 Subunit 17(A). These were all denied by the Federal Subsistence
13 Board due to the fact that there was a low moose population.
14 However, in 1977 the Alaska Board of Game established a fall
15 moose hunting season, August 20th through September 15th, one
16 bull with State registration permit. The Federal Subsistence
17 Board also opened the same season with a special action. At that
18 time you'll recall the Bristol Bay Council specified that when
19 they approved this special action for this fall season it was
20 with the understanding that no additional moose hunts would occur
21 until a minimum population of 600 moose was achieved in this
22 subunit. So as a result, the Federal season only lasted one
23 year, however, the State season has continued.

24
25 It was at that time that in mid-1996 that the Department
26 of Fish and Game and the Refuge, they developed some moose
27 management objectives and this was the start of the -- actual
28 start of the moose management plan. And also, Mr. Chairman, if
29 you'll recall there were two other proposals submitted to
30 establish a fall season. These were submitted by the Togiak
31 Refuge. One proposal was rejected by the Board, the other
32 proposal was deferred by the Board pending completion of a moose
33 management plan.

34
35 And the Refuge and Fish and Game will discuss that plan
36 once we finish with this proposal here today.

37
38 Fish and Game started surveys back in 1971, I came here
39 in '81 and I remember doing surveys with Ken Taylor. That first
40 survey in '81, I think we only saw three animals. '83 through
41 '87 it was about the same, we didn't see a lot of animals.
42 However, in late 1989, 1990 the population did start to increase
43 and in 1994, there was 84 animals and in 1999 there's an estimate
44 of over 500, 510, 515, something like that. Andy may want to
45 touch on that. So you can see the population has dramatically
46 increased.

47
48 As I mentioned earlier there were three years where there
49 was hunting seasons and there were registrations and permits
50 issued. In '97 there were 44 permits issued, 15 animals were

00209

1 harvested. In 1998, 48 permits with 10 animals harvested. In
2 1999 57 permits issued with 10 animals harvested.

3
4 The Staff recommendation on this was to defer the
5 proposal. The Staff felt that establishing a winter moose season
6 was a little bit premature at this time. Being the fact that the
7 current population is below the 600 that we wanted to establish
8 before we went in and established any -- a limited fall and a
9 limited hunt [sic]. And yet we wanted to maintain -- felt as
10 though 600 was needed to maintain the reproductive capacity of
11 that herd. We also felt that the management plan should be
12 reviewed and approved by the Regional Council before any
13 additional seasons are or harvest limits are set up for the
14 Federal season.

15
16 Deferring this proposal is also in line with what the
17 Federal Subsistence Board has done on previous occasions.

18
19 That's all I have right now, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions of Dave, Council
22 members. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

23
24 MR. WOOLINGTON: As far as on the.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Your name, please.

27
28 MR. WOOLINGTON: Jim Woolington. Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham. Don't have much of a
30 rundown to go on over the proposal but Staff does agree with Fish
31 and Wildlife Service's recommendation on this proposal for most
32 of the same reasons.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yours would be to defer
35 then?

36
37 MR. WOOLINGTON: Defer, yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Jim, I don't know who
40 would be able to answer the question, maybe Andy or Aaron, have
41 we had any predators increased in the area or just the moose
42 population continued to grow?

43
44 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman. Togiak National
45 Wildlife Refuge. I think both are occurring. We know that the
46 moose are increasing or have increased up until the last count,
47 and I believe that trend is continuing. We don't have good
48 survey information for bears but reports of locals in the
49 villages and around the area would indicate that bear numbers
50 have increased. Same matter for wolves. We don't have good

00210

1 survey information for wolves but I've noticed increased
2 sightings through doing moose tracking -- moose radio tracking
3 both, of individuals and tracks in the Togiak area.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. There's been an
6 incredible amount of increase in moose population, there's just
7 been a tremendous story as far as success goes, I've seen the
8 animals increase and that's good.

9
10 Council members, do you have any questions for the State.
11 Yes, Pete.

12
13 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, Andy. What's the
14 ratio on moose cow ratio right now?

15
16 MR. ADERMAN: The bull/cow ratio?

17
18 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

19
20 MR. ADERMAN: As best we can determine it's about
21 an equal number of bulls to cows or 100 bulls to 100 cows, is the
22 ratio that's usually expressed, the number of bulls to 100 cows.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Calf success.

25
26 MR. ABRAHAM: So in other words, if we have a
27 winter hunt, the impact on the resource wouldn't be in danger
28 because of the ratio?

29
30 MR. ADERMAN: A hunt on bulls you're talking
31 about?

32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: A hunt on bulls, yes.

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: It depends on the level of the
36 harvest but I think we would want to target bulls starting out.
37 But, yeah, you're not going to lower the reproductive potential
38 of that herd by targeting bulls within reason.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Calf success rate is what?

41
42 MR. ADERMAN: Based on radio collars for 1999, we
43 had about 40 percent survival up to February which is pretty
44 decent.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The year before.

47
48 MR. ADERMAN: I'm sorry.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The year before.

00211

1 MR. ADERMAN: The year before we had, I believe,
2 about 45 percent.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

5
6 MR. ADERMAN: We have began some moose surveys
7 last week over in that area. We didn't get a complete count.
8 Preliminary numbers indicate we have about 12 to 14 percent
9 calves of the total population that we counted thus far.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, Council
12 members. Did I leave any agencies out that need to talk?
13 Written comment.

14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there weren't any
16 written comments.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We have public comment,
19 gentlemen, thank you very much. Gary Carlos would like to
20 address this here. Thank you, gentlemen.

21
22 MR. CARLOS: My name is Gary Carlos, Chairman
23 Togiak Advisory Committee. I submitted this proposal on behalf
24 of the advisory committee and the people in Togiak. We've
25 discussed it at our advisory committee meetings. I heard a
26 couple comments here from Staff that proposals were submitted and
27 that in '97, that a special action request by the Bristol Bay
28 Regional Advisory Committee stated that there would be no
29 expanded hunt until 600 was achieved.

30
31 We, in Togiak, are having a hard time with these numbers
32 that seem to be placed in here. I don't know how you want to --
33 what the Board's discretion is here but are you going to talk
34 about the moose management plan along with this proposal or are
35 you going to keep it separate? The reason I ask is because the
36 comment by one of the Staff was that any further hunting is being
37 held hostage and deferred until a moose management plan is in
38 place. And the problem that I'm having and a lot of people in
39 Togiak are having is that a lot of the data that I've seen was
40 supposed to be the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory
41 committee but for some reason subsistence has been taken out of
42 this equation when I see your guys name as BBRAC now or as you
43 call RAC. And we're having a problem here determining whether
44 we're looking at a subsistence priority or if we're being held
45 hostage to other factors.

46
47 And I guess my first question is, as the Staff stated,
48 600, was the number agreed upon and we disagree with that quite
49 venomously. Because we have data from Larry Van Daele and others
50 in their management draft when they were doing their collar

00212

1 studies that stated there would be a hunt when 100 was reached.
2 We waited for that 100. We waited annually for every count that
3 they had. When 100 was reached we then submitted a proposal
4 which was deferred by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
5 Committee. In '96, we again, the number at that time -- the
6 first time -- 137 were in the area. The next time we submitted
7 it it was almost 200 or give or take, I can't remember the exact
8 number. That time we were absolutely out and out denied. We
9 then went ahead and submitted a proposal to the Board of Game and
10 they approved a hunt. Subsequently the Regional Advisory
11 Committee put together a special action request, the only
12 difference being that the State had put no number of restriction
13 on it, the Subsistence Advisory Committee did limit our hunt to
14 10, or their attempt. That was the only difference we could see
15 between their special action and what was going on. So at that
16 point we quit putting in any proposals further to the Bristol Bay
17 Regional Advisory Committee.

18
19 This one came up because now we're climbing in on close
20 to 600, we may not make quite that 600 number but we've far
21 exceeded the 300 number that we were told that we would have an
22 expanded hunt. And this proposal is to allow that to happen. We
23 do not know where 600 came from.

24
25 We were recently introduced to the moose management plan
26 and there's a lot of numbers in there that the advisory committee
27 doesn't know anything about, where they came from, we aren't
28 getting exact answers as to where some of these numbers came
29 from. But we're having a problem with subsistence being held
30 hostage to this moose management plan. We're trying to get a
31 subsistence priority in the Refuge land in 17(A) in Togiak, and
32 this is open to all C&T users and the residents of 17(A) and C&T
33 users are the Nushagak villages and as stated, Goodnews,
34 Platinum, Kwethluk, Togiak, Twin Hills. So we're not trying to
35 exclude anybody we're just trying to put this forward for
36 discussion and see why we're not getting one.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that all?

39
40 MR. CARLOS: Are you going to have additional
41 discussion on the moose management plan or I didn't quite follow
42 on the agenda how you were.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, we will.

45
46 MR. CARLOS: We did have a meeting to discuss it,
47 I don't know if the minutes were presented, but the advisory
48 committee did support the hunt.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: State of Alaska Advisory

00213

1 Committee?

2

3 MR. CARLOS: Yes, State of Alaska.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

6

7 MR. CARLOS: We did get concurrence from the
8 traditional council on the proposal, they didn't like the wording
9 in the moose management plan and wanted some further discussions
10 and so did we on that.

11

12 Okay, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members, you
15 have any questions. Robin.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Using the 100 moose that we have
18 a subsistence hunt here, you said you were promised a moose hunt
19 when numbers reached 100?

20

21 MR. CARLOS: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Then you submitted a proposal.
24 Then it reached 200, you submitted another proposal. And then
25 finally Togiak residents got fed up and went to the State Board
26 of Game, submitted a proposal and got a hunt. So now that we're
27 at 600 animals, by the way I believe you do have C&T findings on
28 moose over there.

29

30 MR. CARLOS: Right.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: As well as all other Bristol Bay
33 villages. But now that we're at 600, Gary, so do you want --
34 based on what you said, we'll have a subsistence hunt for the
35 local users of Togiak as well as any State resident and also non-
36 resident hunters, now that we're up to 600?

37

38 MR. CARLOS: Well, I asked the question earlier
39 where the 600 came from and I still don't know. We don't
40 consider that as a number that should be used. We've been told,
41 and I've got someplace in my papers here, a letter to the
42 Nushagak Advisory Committee was on the draft of the moose
43 collaring proposal management plan, and basically the guidelines
44 which they were using was 100, and I -- for a hunt, which we did
45 get, it took a while but we got it, 300 for an expanded hunt.
46 Now, to me, expanded would be if we're considering a subsistence
47 priority, would be a subsistence hunt. And the logical thing is
48 winter.

49

50 The moose population in Togiak at this time -- well, the

00214

1 last one was a little over 500 they're estimating, but still
2 under 600, on this count. But one of the most important things
3 that we keep coming back here and Pete raised the question,
4 you've got a one to one, in fact it's a little stronger than one
5 to one, bull/cow ratio and I've seen some models where if you
6 draw 20 to 30 bulls off of this herd, you're still going to reach
7 1,000. I think they had proposed numbers within five to six
8 years, way over what there is now. You're not going to adverse
9 -- the difference between taking 20 to 30 bulls and taking none
10 was about two years to three years. On top of the shack --
11 container van in Togiak, they got two bulls locked horns
12 together, they just got the heads sitting there, and that's
13 basically what's happening is the bulls are destroying each other
14 and the people -- the subsistence people are not allowed to
15 harvest them.

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, why is 1,000 a magical
18 number?

19
20 MR. CARLOS: I didn't say it was.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

23
24 MR. CARLOS: Just that that was a model that
25 somebody had put together.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions.

28
29 MR. CARLOS: So what I'm saying is a hunt doesn't
30 adversely impact the growth of this herd, it may delay it a
31 couple years but what are we saving the animals for?

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know if we have an
34 answer for 600 or not but that's what we thought was a good
35 number of animals in order to keep the population is what I
36 thought. Any other questions, Council members. Thanks, Gary,
37 appreciate it.

38
39 Where do we get into the management part of this, are we
40 going to act on the proposal and then come back and deal with it
41 on the management part of the moose, Dave?

42
43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Andy.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy handles this?

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

50

00215

1 MR. FISHER: I guess maybe we'll -- you would
2 want to hear the plan and then maybe act on the proposal would be
3 -- because you would have that data to help make the decision.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, sure.

6
7 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Andy
8 Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'll give you an
9 update on the management plan. I think at our last meeting -- the
10 last fall meeting we reported to you that we did have a meeting
11 over in Togiak last April, Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife,
12 Nushagak Advisory Committee, you know, Robin and Pete were there
13 at that meeting, representative from Manokotak, representative
14 from Twin Hills, members of the Togiak Traditional Council were
15 present at that meeting. And the draft plan that I handed out
16 and I have copies here if you need, is what resulted out of that
17 plan or out of that meeting.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you going to summarize this
20 for us?

21
22 MR. ADERMAN: We've been over this, I certainly
23 can. The front part is just an introduction, a little bit of the
24 history behind the plan, the history of the moose population and
25 then it goes into principles identified about moose in 17(A), and
26 then it goes right into the goals and objectives. And I can go
27 over those if you wish?

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

30
31 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Goal one is to ensure the
32 health, continued growth and viability of the moose population in
33 Unit 17(A). The first objective under Goal one was to have a
34 minimum resident population of 300. A bull/cow ratio not less
35 than 30 bulls per 100 cows and to allow a conservative annual
36 harvest that would allow that population to grow. The second
37 objective, under goal one, was to increase the moose population,
38 the carrying capacity which we estimate at 1,100 to 1,750 based
39 on our habitat work that we've done this far. And objective two
40 goes on to state that that carrying capacity estimate may be
41 adjusted as we learn more about the habitat over there.
42 Objective three is to monitor the moose population, things like
43 sex and age composition, numbers, distribution and doing
44 population counts. The fourth objective was to maintain 20 radio
45 collared moose to get some of this information under objective
46 three. The fifth objective was to maintain a close working
47 relationship among the planned participants. And six was to
48 consider and implement other research as necessary.

49
50 Goal two is to maintain and protect moose habitat and

00216

1 other necessary components of the ecosystem in Unit 17(A) upon
2 which the moose population depends. The first objective is to
3 continue to describe, quantify and map the existing vegetation
4 cover types through the aid of satellite imagery and computer
5 aided analysis. And that part we have done. The second
6 objective is to monitor a moose browse condition and trend in
7 winter concentration areas to ensure the moose population doesn't
8 exceed its carrying capacity. We have not done any moose browse
9 monitoring to this point. The third one is to determine the
10 nutritional qualities of the browse that moose depend on. Fourth
11 is to work with the village corporations and the private land
12 owners to minimize impacts to moose habitat in Unit 17(A).
13

14 Goal three is to provide for a regulated harvest in a
15 manner consistent with Federal and State laws and the goals and
16 objectives of this management plan. The first objective is to
17 allow a fall August 20th to September 15th harvest of bulls by
18 State registration permit. When we have met that minimum level
19 of 300 and/or the ratio of bulls to cows is greater than 30 to
20 100. It goes on further to state that State registration permits
21 would be available in Togiak and aircraft access other than a
22 State maintained airstrips would be prohibited. The second
23 objective under goal three is when the population exceeds 600
24 moose, provide a greater opportunity for harvest, such as, a
25 limited Federal registration permit winter hunt in the month of
26 December and/or liberalize fall hunt registration permit
27 distribution and restrictions. And I want to point out that
28 these are just two examples. The key words under objective two
29 are, such as, it doesn't say that these things will or will not
30 happen. We were considering providing greater opportunity when
31 that population reaches 600.
32

33 The third objective is that hunting regulation proposals
34 and recommendations consistent with the management plan would be
35 developed cooperatively with the planned participants and
36 submitted to the appropriate board, Federal Subsistence Board or
37 Board of Game. The fourth goal is to encourage cooperative
38 management and communication between the planned participants in
39 developing and carrying out the management research and
40 enforcement programs and with the public by exchanging knowledge
41 about moose in Unit 17(A).
42

43 The objectives under goal four is that the plan
44 participants would meet annually to update the plan and discuss
45 issues involving moose in 17(A). The second objective was that
46 the plan participants would cooperate in reviewing management
47 programs, where we get our information on the moose. The third
48 objective is that the plan participants would coordinate to the
49 extent possible, enforcement activities, that are to be conducted
50 in Unit 17(A) and adjacent areas. And the fourth objective was

00217

1 that planned participants will provide information to local
2 residents and conduct programs in the school and village meetings
3 on the importance of protecting moose and the significance of the
4 management plan.

5
6 That is a summary of the goals and objectives of the
7 plan. At that meeting last April in Togiak, it was identified
8 that, you know, possible signatories to this plan would be the
9 two advisory committees, Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game and the
10 Regional Council.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When you say Fish and Game, is
13 that Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

14
15 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, sir.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

18
19 MR. ADERMAN: Since that meeting, last April,
20 we've presented it at both the Nushagak and Togiak Advisory
21 Committees a couple of times. I know the Nushagak Advisory
22 Committee had some problems under goal three about the aircraft
23 access and also in relation to the specifics under which a winter
24 hunt would occur. The Togiak Advisory Committee had concerns
25 about the plan, where some of the numbers had been coming through
26 and I think Gary may have mentioned it, when we had this meeting
27 back in April, the Togiak Advisory Committee was not active at
28 that time, they have since become active and they became aware of
29 the plan last fall.

30
31 I've received two things to-date, one just recently from
32 the Togiak Advisory Committee.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Same comments that Gary had to
35 say today?

36
37 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, I believe so.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

40
41 MR. ADERMAN: And then they identified some
42 changes in the principles of the plan and that is as far as, I
43 believe, they have gotten.

44
45 The other item I received was from Robert.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the same thing that
48 Gary said? I'm only kidding.

49
50 MR. ADERMAN: The Togiak Advisory Committee, you

00218

1 know, indicated that they did have some problems with the
2 management plan that I just went over, that they would like to
3 meet with the traditional council to go over each of the
4 principles and each of the goals and objectives. To my
5 knowledge, that meeting hasn't occurred and thus, we have not
6 been able to get the five signatories back together in one room
7 and meet and discuss the moose management plan.

8
9 Jim, did you have anything to add to what I said?

10
11 MR. WOOLINGTON: Jim Woolington, Fish and Game.
12 No, not a whole lot to add.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you, Jim. I guess
15 we have the information from written comments that came in from
16 Andy, Cliff? Cliff, we have them here? Was there any written
17 comments that you received?

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't have any request for
22 public comment on the management plan. So thank you very much,
23 gentlemen, and we'll turn it over to the Council at this time.
24 Council members, what are your wishes on 61? Robert.

25
26 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think, you
27 know, the adoption of a management plan and Proposal 61 sort of
28 go hand in hand. I think if you adopt Proposal 61 without
29 adopting a management plan, I don't know if there's much need to
30 further explore the need for a management plan. It's been the
31 position of this group that our preference would be to have a
32 management plan in place before we allow any additional hunting
33 to take place.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you happy with the
36 management plan that's been given to you today?

37
38 MR. HEYANO: I am happy with the management plan
39 as it was presented today, Mr. Chair, with the exception of goal
40 number 3.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to speak to that?

43
44 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think the
45 principles are very clearly laid out and clear. The goal of
46 number 1, I think, is clear. The goal of number 2 is clear and
47 well written. The point to number 3 where it pertains to
48 harvest, I think, is where I would like to see a little more
49 clarity. And the sheet of paper that Andy passed out is what I
50 propose we substitute for item three, with the following numbers.

00219

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You want us to put numbers in
2 here?

3
4 MR. HEYANO: I have numbers to offer, Mr.
5 Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

8
9 MR. HEYANO: The first block would be 300 or
10 less.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's fall hunt?

13
14 MR. HEYANO: No. No hunting.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No hunting, okay.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: Second number would be 301 to 600.
19 Second number would be 601 to 1,100.

20
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Which way are you going, straight
22 down?

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Straight across.

25
26 MR. HEYANO: Straight down.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought you were going
29 across.

30
31 MR. HEYANO: No straight down.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: What was that number 600 to
36 1,100?

37
38 MR. HEYANO: 601 to 1,100.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

41
42 MR. HEYANO: Third number would be greater than
43 1,100.

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: 1,100 or greater.

46
47 MR. HEYANO: And what that does, Mr. Chairman, if
48 you go back and look at goal number 1, it says to maintain a
49 minimum resident population of 300 moose with a 30 bull to 100
50 cow ratio. That's what that does. And this plan also says we

00220

1 want to see a -- the habitat should support a conservative effort
2 of moose between 1,100 and 1,750, and that's what the upper
3 number does. But I think what this does is lay out more
4 specifically when other users are allowed to participate in the
5 hunt and on the backside of it, if the population should start to
6 decline, it lays out who gets cut when and it still allows
7 maximum flexibility when you want to allow, as far as the length
8 of season, the area you wish to hunt, whether you want to have an
9 antler restriction on those other users. It gives you a whole
10 host of options to try to fulfill your obligations here,
11 according to the plan, which is when you have a viable moose
12 population and still comply with Federal subsistence.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council members
15 with Robert's numbers on the management plan?

16
17 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'd like to hear from the
18 managers on the numbers.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: And the consistency with the
23 management plan.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you care to comment on
26 numbers Robert just has given us for these plans? Hey, we're
27 given a piece of paper all the time to speak off of just as soon
28 as we get here so here you are.

29
30 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque. Refuge
31 Manager for Togiak Refuge. I guess my single biggest concern
32 with Robert's numbers, the way he lays this out is that greater
33 than 1,100, he's identified a fall hunt for non-residents in the
34 area and I would rather see that, as to be determined, as opposed
35 to laying it out at that point. We don't know -- we have a rough
36 idea of what the carrying capacity is for the area. We don't
37 know at that population level what the needs or what the use is
38 going to be at that point for the subsistence users. And rather
39 than leave false expectations that there may be a non-resident
40 hunt in there, I'd rather see a to be determined.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: By Staff?

43
44 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: We have the ability to deal with
45 it as we get to that population objective level. But I think
46 some folks would see that at that point that's a trigger to allow
47 a non-resident hunt. And I don't know if we can forecast that
48 far in advance.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: And I realize that. But their best

00221

1 guess at the carrying capacity, conservatively, remember it's
2 conservatively is between 1,750 and 1,100. I think that as long
3 as that information stays the same and that's not reassessed to
4 a different number, we need to kind of use those numbers. If
5 you're uncomfortable with 1,100 let's put 1,500 in there or put
6 the 1,750.

7
8 Part of this plan is that if we go along in five or six
9 years and reassess the habitat and somebody says, gee, no, way we
10 were wrong, it can't even support 1,100, then I would assume that
11 we would go through and adjust the numbers. What this prevents
12 is not only that false expectation but I think it puts people at
13 ease that there won't be a non-resident hunt until it reaches --
14 a non-resident hunt won't be considered until it reaches 1,100
15 also. That's the flipside of it. And if you think that number
16 is too low, then, you know, I don't have any problems with
17 bumping it up.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jim.

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, I think one thing to
22 keep in mind on these numbers and according to this plans, is
23 that, when we get into those different blocks, move from one to
24 one, proposals would be submitted to either board, either the
25 Federal Board or the State Board. The merit of whether an actual
26 regulation change would be widely debated at that time, we could
27 look at the actual -- you know, we're looking ahead here but when
28 we go to make the actual regulation changes we can see what we
29 have right then. So I think it's important to keep that in mind
30 when we're thinking about these numbers and different
31 possibilities.

32
33 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robin.

36
37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Do you make that into a motion?

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Do I make what?

40
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: These numbers.

42
43 MR. HEYANO: Did I?

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

46
47 MR. HEYANO: No, I didn't.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Are you going to?

50

00222

1 MR. HEYANO: When we have a little more -- I
2 would like to after we have a little more discussion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Jim, did you have more,
5 okay, we'll get that shortly.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Well, it's not in front of
8 us, that's all.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

11
12 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, one other.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me, go ahead.

15
16 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, Jim Woolington, Fish
17 and Game. One other, on this -- for State residents on that 301
18 to 600, you know, that's basically the population estimate that
19 we're in now, and we do have an existing hunt. I think a
20 management plan would have to recognize that. The other thing
21 that I think is important to keep in mind on this in thinking
22 about the differences between a Federal hunt and State hunt is
23 the amount of land and land distribution over there of where
24 Federal regulations would be -- the land in an area where it --
25 which would be under Federal regulations and the amount of
26 private land and corporation land and things like that would be
27 under State regulation. And I think a fall hunt is probably more
28 important to keep that in mind than.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How much land, State versus
31 Federal land over there?

32
33 MR. FISHER: If you look on 61 in your book, it
34 shows the -- there's a land status map there, it's on Page.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There it is, yeah, 89.

37
38 MR. FISHER: It's on Page 89. That's Unit 17(A),
39 the Refuge land is in grey and the.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The State land is in white.

42
43 MR. FISHER: Yes. And selected lands but not
44 conveyed lands is the checkered part there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, all right. Jim, go
47 ahead.

48
49 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, there's also, going
50 up the Togiak River from -- you can't see it on this map but

00223

1 going up the Togiak River, there are numerous private allotments
2 and private lands going up the corridor going up the river.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Which is managed by the State
5 of Alaska?

6
7 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: As managers, do you have any
10 other comments on what Robert's numbers might represent here
11 because we're just about to do action on this proposal but we'll
12 give you an opportunity. Jim, go ahead.

13
14 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, Jim Woolington. I
15 think a lot of these came directly out of the plan that we worked
16 out when we were in Togiak and I think it just puts it in a more
17 concise readable and understandable manner.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you very much,
20 gentlemen. We'd have Gary who'd like to address the moose
21 management plan at this time. Come on up, Gary. Just take the
22 microphone and go on the far side there. Tina, can you hear him
23 when he speaks from where he's sitting?

24
25 REPORTER: Yes, I can.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Give us your name again,
28 Gary, and go ahead.

29
30 MR. CARLOS: My name is Gary Carlos, Togiak
31 Advisory Committee. Specifically addressing the management plan
32 and there was a handout here I saw with a letter that I had faxed
33 over to Andy along with the list of the principles as we had
34 discussed in Togiak. We've gone through the moose management
35 plan and actually if you want to take a look at it we've got
36 probably 40 to 50 highlights that we don't agree with certain
37 aspects of it and we'd like to have changed.

38
39 When I tried to find out how everybody wanted to proceed,
40 the best thing we could come up with was if we could address the
41 principles giving a subsistence priority to these Federal hunts,
42 that as it's written here, would start to address what we are
43 trying to do. We felt that if the subsistence could be the
44 principal goal of this management plan and that the principles as
45 outlined there, specifically, the introduction and one through
46 four are different than what is listed in the draft, that we
47 could start to talk about the other problems that we're having a
48 problem with. When I spoke with Moses Critz and others this is
49 where they felt we should be going with this whole plan.
50 There's a lot of problems that Togiak people have with the plan

00224

1 at this time.

2

3 The numbers, for one, where you're coming up with these
4 numbers. They're not anything that's been discussed in Togiak.
5 so we find it interesting that numbers are being thrown out for
6 Togiak but don't involve Togiak.

7

8 As this draft is written here, the Togiak people cannot
9 support it. There's just too many different things that have
10 been put in there. If we could start as a basis using the
11 principles as a starting point for further discussions and
12 whether these are all that we end up with or whether they get
13 change, at least it will be a starting point for discussions from
14 the Togiak perspective.

15

16 At our meeting -- our last meeting that we had, the
17 minutes, I did fax over to Andy and to the State. We have a list
18 of the participants who were at that meeting. And there's six
19 people, including Pete who were at the meeting from Togiak, one
20 from Twin Hills, and the one in Twin Hills moved to California so
21 he's no longer involved in the process. But one of the comments
22 that we had -- one of the participants at that meeting, one of
23 the six from Togiak made a comment that I'd like to read and I
24 think this is where, if you guys decide that you're going to take
25 action, you need to be aware of it, because Togiak has sort of
26 been left out of this process.

27

28 The person made the comment, it's in our minutes and I'll
29 leave the name out for -- commented that this person was at the
30 meeting of April 15th, 1999 which discussed the moose management
31 plan, however, that there were not many residents from the
32 village and there was no discussion from Togiak residents. No
33 input on wording. The draft was definitely worded at the meeting
34 and even though that person was there, that person did not input
35 the plan. So here's one of six. I've talked to two of the
36 others and I'm getting similar responses from them on that. I
37 can't locate the others.

38

39 So, yes, there was a meeting in Togiak and supposedly
40 from that meeting came out the words of this draft but it needs
41 much more scrutiny than what has been allowed to this point for
42 Togiak.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before you leave, Gary. Is
47 there a Federal advisory over there in that Togiak area that.....

48

49 MR. CARLOS: A Federal Advisory?

50

00225

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:like Pete -- yeah, Pete,
2 is there a -- we have up at Lake Clark, an advisory group that
3 sends information in and Orville has one down in Chigniks that
4 deals with input, do you have anything like that in Togiak?

5
6 MR. CARLOS: We have the Togiak Advisory
7 Committee which tries.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the State of Alaska, I'm
10 talking about Federal.

11
12 MR. CARLOS: Well, we do input feelings in with
13 the people there in Togiak want and what they do want is
14 subsistence priority.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That is not the question. I
17 said is there a.....

18
19 MR. CARLOS: There is no Federal, other than us.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, State of Alaska,
22 which is fine, that's the same people.

23
24 MR. CARLOS: Right. And at various time because
25 to address that point we've had meetings with the Togiak
26 Traditional Council.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. Orville, did you
29 have something.

30
31 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, I believe you're talking
32 about Refuge information technicians.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

35
36 MR. LIND: Orville Lind with the Fish and
37 Wildlife Service out of the Alaska Peninsula Becharof Refuge.
38 He's referring to the RITs and I believe there are some RITs in
39 Togiak.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There are? Who are they?

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: I'm it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're it, okay, well, that's
46 our input. Plus the State of Alaska advisory committee, too.
47 And I don't mean to say that lightly because the State of Alaska
48 advisory committee people out of Togiak is the same people as --
49 would be the Feds really, they're just subsistence users in that
50 area. Do you have any questions of Gary, Council members?

00226

1 Thanks, Gary, appreciate it.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: I got a question for Staff.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Andy or Aaron, numbers not
8 discussed in Togiak, not many residents, no input into plan.
9 Gary just leveled against the plan. Do you have a copy of them
10 minutes that you could share with us that showed who was in
11 attendance. I remember signing up a piece of paper.

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: I don't have a copy with me,
14 possibly Mr. Carlos does. I know there was at least five of us in
15 this room that were at that meeting, yourself included.

16

17 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I gave that copy, I
18 think to you, or to somebody to bring back right after that
19 meeting.

20

21 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: We can get that copy and provide
22 it to you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Gary was holding up a piece of
25 paper back there, maybe it's the same.

26

27 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: I'd like to point out that's not
28 the only time we've discussed this in the village of Togiak. The
29 village of Togiak has what they call a joint meeting. They try
30 to do this on a monthly basis where they get the Togiak
31 Traditional Council, the city of Togiak and the corporation and
32 any other entities that are interested into a joint meeting to
33 discuss issues. We regularly get invited to attend that meeting
34 and at that meeting we have brought up this moose management plan
35 in the past and we've talked about it. So Mr. Abraham can verify
36 that, but we have had those discussions outside of this meeting
37 that occurred in April.

38

39 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

42

43 MR. ABRAHAM: The joint meetings, anything that's
44 got to do with U.S. Fish and Wildlife I do report. And anything
45 that happened in here on these discussions over there pertaining
46 to Togiak, I do report to the joint meeting because that's my
47 business. And let's get back to the numbers for a little bit
48 while I have the floor here.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

00227

1 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, Robert had mentioned or
2 talked about the numbers and what around 1,100 or so?

3
4 MR. ADERMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Andy and I and the pilots know
7 where the moose population hangs out in the winter time in groups
8 of 30s, 20s and those particular areas, their hanging out areas
9 are just about every winter, right?

10
11 MR. ADERMAN: (Nods affirmatively)

12
13 MR. ABRAHAM: So the habitat in those areas are
14 -- you know, I'm always concerned about because those hanging out
15 areas are the primary food choice right there. When you mention
16 like 600, 1,100 my first concern is their habitat. Of course
17 there is others that are hanging out, maybe two's, one's in some
18 areas. I think if we go beyond 600, the habitat area over there
19 is going to be depleted and then the moose are going to start
20 moving out of there. That's what I've been thinking about every
21 time we start talking about numbers. So when you target the
22 number up to 600, and wait for winter hunt by that 600 number and
23 you get your winter hunt proposed you won't have any more moose
24 over there, they'll be going off where their habitat is at.

25
26 That's my concern, thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Council members.
29 Robert.

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think I'd like to have the
32 Staff comment. I think if I heard Pete's concern is that 17(A)
33 moose habitat could only -- can support 600 moose and that should
34 be the limit.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anyone on Staff want to address
37 that? Andy.

38
39 MR. ADERMAN: Sure. Andy Aderman, Togiak
40 National Wildlife Refuge. When we did our vegetation work over
41 there, we came up with an estimate of 560 square miles of what we
42 consider winter habitat. Using the range of two to three moose
43 per square mile, which we feel is conservative, that that habitat
44 can support -- that's where we come up with the range of 1,100 to
45 1,750.

46
47 And I'd like to agree with Mr. Abraham, we're very
48 concerned about the habitat as well, and that's where we hope to,
49 as identified in the draft plan, continue monitoring the browse,
50 look at the nutritional qualities of that habitat and refine that

00228

1 carrying capacity estimate if we have to.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you're not agreeing with
4 Pete because he says 600 and you say 1,100.

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: Well, I'm agreeing with him that
7 everybody should be concerned about the habitat.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, well, we're concerned
10 about numbers right now. Okay, thank you, Andy. Jim.

11

12 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, Jim Woolington, Fish
13 and Game. One of the things that we look at when we're trying to
14 assess condition of range and things like that is calf
15 productivity and twining. And last -- a year ago, our count was
16 511 and that's a minimum number over there because that's what we
17 actually counted as we were flying. But yet, we're seeing fairly
18 high calf numbers. High calf proportion. I think if, when you
19 start getting into habitat problems or browse -- limited browse
20 conditions for moose, you'll see a decline in -- especially in
21 twining. I don't think, you know, if we counted 511 a year ago,
22 we're still seeing good calf productivity and I don't have an
23 exact number on twins right now because we don't -- when we look
24 at twining we do it right at the calving time when they're
25 dropped. We have to get an estimate on them then. We don't have
26 the ability to do that here. We do see a fair number of twins
27 when we're out doing the surveys though.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you. Any
30 questions, Council members. Dave.

31

32 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, I have just a couple
33 comments here on the chart. If you take a look at it, under 301
34 to 600, under the Federal Subsistence program, there is no fall
35 hunt now, however, there is a deferred proposal that is pending,
36 that was 98-59 that would establish a fall hunt and that was
37 deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board.

38

39 Moving over to the next column there under State
40 resident, it looks like no fall hunting season has been crossed
41 out, there is a current State fall hunt now.

42

43 I just wanted to point that out, those two items.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On State lands? On State
46 lands?

47

48 MR. FISHER: Yes, on all lands.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, on all lands, okay.

00229

1 MR. FISHER: Yes, there is a fall season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anything else,
4 Council members.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Just a question, I guess, Mr.
7 Chairman, then since we don't seem to have the numbers as -- on
8 April 15th when you folks had the meeting in Togiak, can you
9 recall offhand how many people were in attendance when this
10 document was being prepared?

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have the list right in front of
13 me, Mr. Chairman. Those people in attendance were Moses Critz,
14 Togiak. Dan Anlook, Sr., Togiak. John Dysuk. Pete Abraham,
15 Togiak. Moses Toyakuk, Manokotak. Aaron Archibeque. Mike
16 Hinkes. Andy. Myself. Jim Woolington. Hans Nicholson,
17 Nushagak Advisory Committee. Joe Chythlook. David Nanlook.
18 Olga Sutton. Fritz Sharp. And George, I think Arkinakiak.

19

20 MR. ABRAHAM: Arkinakiak.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Arkinakiak. The spelling was
23 bad, Pete.

24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: My spelling.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know, is that your
28 handwriting?

29

30 MR. ABRAHAM: Nope.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, I think we're
33 ready for either a yes or no here. We've got three people that
34 are.....

35

36 MR. HEYANO: Well, to put it on the table, I
37 guess, Mr. Chairman, I would move for adoption of the draft 17(A)
38 management plan with the inclusion of the chart for goal three.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second to the
41 motion.

42

43 MR. ENRIGHT: I'll second it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Tim seconded it. Would
46 you like to address the motion?

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think this
49 lengthy process has been going on, correct me if I'm wrong, for
50 what, three years, four years now, and if you recall it's been

00230

1 the position of this Board anyway, that since this was an area
2 where moose have just recently been expanding into that we would
3 like to see a moose management plan being drafted. And that was
4 the reason why we allowed the hunt the one year in hopes that a
5 plan could be drafted for the next regulatory cycle. Well, it's
6 been a while. We haven't -- we don't have a moose plan currently
7 in place and I think some of the principals are going and asking
8 State for a hunt, which, in my opinion is circumventing the
9 process in developing a moose management plan.

10
11 I heard the accusation that as a Federal subsistence,
12 we're not providing for that priority so I think it's time to
13 decide if we're going to have a moose management plan for that
14 area or not and then vote it up or vote it down and carry on.

15
16 But I think a management plan is very important.
17 Yesterday we had discussion on another plan and I think some of
18 the important factors and how well it's worked is why I'm in
19 favor of developing a plan. And none of this is set in stone, if
20 conditions change or use patterns change there's always an
21 opportunity to tweak it, but at least everybody's playing from
22 the same -- or reading from the same sheet of music basically.
23 And I think, you know, further is that maybe for some of the new
24 members who aren't aware of it is there's subsistence users in
25 17(C) who voluntarily ask for winter closures to provide moose
26 into 17(A).

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: So it's not just the 17(A) resident
31 moose issue.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other discussion, Council
34 members, on the motion we have? Pete.

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, since we have that moose
37 thing over in Togiak with 17(A), I have pushed for a management
38 plan and after disappointment here and disappointment there, I
39 think I'll agree with this plan right here as it is because as we
40 go along, you know, we can modify it as we see fit.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robin.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: I just have a question of Staff,
45 I guess. 300 nobody hunts. 301, we have a subsistence fall hunt
46 and a State resident hunt happening at the same time. It's my
47 understanding in providing for a subsistence priority, that the
48 two can't start together. Subsistence users need to -- are the
49 last in pecking order -- the first ones, I guess, to have a shot
50 at the resource and what we're doing is making resident -- State

00231

1 resident subsistence users on the same level field as a Federal
2 subsistence user on Federal lands.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who do you want to address that
5 question to?

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Any four of them.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10
11 MR. FISHER: We had a season in '97, both a
12 Federal hunt and a State hunt and that was handled with a State
13 registration permit and to my knowledge that hunt came off fine,
14 we didn't really have any problems. I think the concern was at
15 that time that you would probably get an influx of hunters from
16 outside, that didn't happen, and in order for a State resident
17 person to hunt he had to come to Togiak to get a permit and then
18 once he got to Togiak he had to have some way to get up and hunt
19 the area. I don't know if that answers your concern or not.
20 Maybe the other fellows want to.....

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, it's the same thing we have
23 up the river here. We have an August 20th hunt for -- on State
24 land for all State subsistence users because all State residents
25 are classified subsistence users. But it seems like we have to
26 have a step up approach here. It seems like there's no hunting
27 at 300, which I could agree with. But having a State subsistence
28 hunt and a Federal subsistence on the same time, do the State
29 people get to go over to the Feds and hunt on Federal lands?
30 Yeah, you said they did, it didn't matter if it's -- so it seems
31 like the local subsistence users, 17 -- in Game Unit 17 that have
32 a C&T on that moose stock should be afforded an earlier hunt or
33 whatever or hunt when there's less animals than 301. I'm just
34 having a fundamental problem here or am I building something into
35 this that I shouldn't be building into it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll get to you in a second,
38 Robert. Go ahead if you want to address that.

39
40 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, Jim Woolington, Fish
41 and Game. I guess it's just pointing out one of the real
42 fundamental differences between State and Federal subsistence
43 management and I don't know how to resolve that. I think it is
44 important to keep in mind, you know, we already -- we're already
45 at the -- we already have a State registration hunt over there.
46 And I guess by State law, all State residents are considered
47 subsistence hunters.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Equal access, yeah, okay.

50

00232

1 MR. WOOLINGTON: And the other thing I think we
2 need to keep in mind on this is I think we have to be realistic
3 -- I understand the problem or the issue, but I think we have to
4 be realistic, in that, if we have only a Federal hunt at whatever
5 level of the population, it would only be Federal land and if you
6 look at the map, a big part of the area where people would be
7 hunting would be on State managed lands.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, the Togiak
10 people would be hunting on State lands, I mean that's what.....

11
12 MR. WOOLINGTON: Correct.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:that's what they have
15 access to. Dave.

16
17 MR. FISHER: The Federal season could be open on
18 Federal land for subsistence users like we did in proposal -- for
19 9(E), I don't remember what the proposal was, 36 or 38 or
20 something, but we did open the -- the Federal land open sin 9(E)
21 earlier than the State season.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that could be done.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: When does the State season open
26 over there?

27
28 MR. FISHER: August 15th, I believe.

29
30 MR. ADERMAN: 20th.

31
32 MR. FISHER: August 20th through September 15th.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other discussion on the
35 motion. Robin are you satisfied there or do you need to do
36 something different?

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know, personally I think
39 we need to do something different. I'm looking at these guys
40 to.....

41
42 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Aaron Archibeque, Togiak Refuge.
43 I'll offer up a suggestion. Maybe if you looked at it, less than
44 100 there'd be no hunting season at all. From 100 to 300 you'd
45 have a fall subsistence registration hunt, Federal hunt, no other
46 season. 301 to 600 what we currently have would be a Federal and
47 a State fall hunt, and then just keep the rest the way it is.
48 It's irrelevant right now, there is no Federal hunt and there is
49 a State hunt. We need to get that in order. But as the
50 population -- if it went back down, then that would take care of

00233

1 that.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: I can't offer that as an
4 alternative, Mr. Chairman, sitting on the moose management plan
5 in them discussions. That's contrary to what the participants in
6 the moose management plan said.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, I see
11 what Robin's getting at and there's some other issues in here
12 just because of the land structure. You know, we could very well
13 go to say 300 to 600 only Federally qualified subsistence hunters
14 but that would mean, then, for those folks over there that that
15 private land, that village corporation land which is governed by
16 State regulation would be closed for them also. And I don't know
17 if that's what we want to do.

18

19 Maybe looking long-term, we could leave it as it is, and
20 what are we, a year away from the State regulatory process, is --
21 try to convince the State to adopt a State resident hunt that
22 would start the 5th to the 15th and have the Federal start the
23 15th and give them the extra 15 days or something. And then that
24 would still afford, I think, those people at the latter part of
25 the season, anyway, to hunt on private lands.

26

27 I don't have any problem with supporting what you want to
28 do but I think it's going to preclude them people from legally
29 hunting on village corporation lands, I guess that's the issue
30 that raises a little concern. Maybe we could ask Peter, how
31 important is it to be allowed to hunt on those private lands.

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: When moose season opens over there
38 everybody gets excited because they wait for that. I guess the
39 two programs we had before worked well over there, why not keep
40 it that way like before. I don't care whether it's the
41 corporation land or Refuge land, the moose doesn't know the
42 boundaries.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin.

45

46 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's all I'm concerned with,
47 Pete, is that the Togiak people have sat back -- we've been able
48 to convince them not to go hunt moose during the winter, thanks
49 to your efforts, we're building this plan up, I like these
50 numbers, but I want Togiak to have the first shot at them moose

00234

1 over there. The problem is is that the State has a season with
2 all Alaskans being subsistence users, State resident hunt. When
3 we had a hunt -- we got an August 20th moose hunt up river here,
4 and before, from the Mulchatna down it used to be all local
5 hunters in that area. We've been really working hard to try to
6 protect that. Under the disguise of all Alaskans are subsistence
7 users, we're seeing people flying in, what Timmy was talking
8 about and hunting now under as a subsistence user in that area.
9 In Togiak, I would like to see the people of Togiak have the
10 first shot at the moose, early as possible, but I can't get there
11 from here because of the State season in place, current State
12 season in place.

13
14 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17
18 MR. ABRAHAM: For the fall hunt, I'd like to see
19 it the way it is but for winter hunt, the Feds can open -- the
20 Feds can operate that only but not a State. This way -- because
21 in winter time, you have more access from anywhere else, you
22 know, than you have in the fall time. If you have winter hunt --
23 if the Feds who runs that opening, only Togiak and surrounding
24 areas can be eligible for that hunt only.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

27
28 MR. HEYANO: And if you read the document, Mr.
29 Chairman, it doesn't allow for a winter hunt other than Federally
30 qualified subsistence users.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Up to a certain number.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: No, forever.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Forever.

37
38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Forever.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I didn't see that.

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Let me ask the Staff, what's the
43 moose population over there now, 511?

44
45 MR. ADERMAN: 511 was our count last year and
46 based on the number of calves we observed with radio collared
47 cows and through our recent counts, I estimate that population to
48 be around 570.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Whoa.

00235

1 MR. ABRAHAM: See we got more moose than Unit 18.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: So with adoption of this plan
4 there's a good likelihood that the 600 number may be hit where
5 you could have both a fall moose hunt and a winter moose hunt.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh, next year. Next year.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, a proposal would have to go
10 in.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Jim.

13

14 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, just to kind of point
15 out the number of permits, for the State registration hunt this
16 last fall, unlimited number of permits were available, however,
17 there were 57 people signed up for the permits, of those 57,
18 there were three that were not with a Togiak address. One from,
19 I believe, Quinhagak and one from Dillingham and one from
20 Tuntatuliak.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Good them are good residents. We
23 don't mind about them residents.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Qualified subsistence user
26 residents, uh. Okay, guys, we got a motion on the floor here, do
27 you want more some discussion on it or.....

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, no, no.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:do you want to vote it up
32 or down. Okay, somebody call for the question.

33

34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Question's been called
37 for. All those in favor say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, passes. Thank you,
46 gentlemen. Orville Lind. Excuse me, go ahead.

47

48 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida Hildebrand,
49 BIA Staff Committee. You just adopted the management plan, you
50 did not vote on Proposal 61.

00236

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Doesn't that take in 61
2 with the numbers and everything.

3
4 MR. ENRIGHT: No.

5
6 MR. HEYANO: I would think it would. We said 600
7 for the.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought it did.

10
11 MR. HEYANO:unless she wants to make it
12 formal.

13
14 MS. HILDEBRAND: It wasn't in his motion.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The management plan takes in
17 the 600 number.

18
19 MR. HEYANO: For clarity, Mr. Chairman, I vote
20 that we oppose Proposal 61 based on our previous action.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second.

23
24 MR. ENRIGHT: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Discussion. Would you like to
27 -- yeah, go ahead Staff.

28
29 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, I have another comment
30 here. We have a deferred proposal 98-59, that would establish a
31 fall hunt. That was deferred.....

32
33 MR. HEYANO: Point of order.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, go ahead.

36
37 MR. FISHER: Do you want to act on that.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the point of order?

40
41 MR. HEYANO: We have a motion on the floor.

42
43 MR. FISHER:and that would approve the fall
44 hunt.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, we have a motion on the
47 floor, if they want to take it off they can. What do you want to
48 do, Robert, that's your motion.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Well, from what I understand where

00237

1 we're going with this is that we need to act on this proposal,
2 and based on the adoption of the plan, it says, you know, we will
3 consider at 600, so I think we need to move that and then Dave
4 has a deferred proposal we need to take action on.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: That's how I see it going.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further discussion on the
11 motion on the floor.

12
13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Nay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

24
25 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's dead.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Go ahead with your
28 deferred proposal there and then we'll take a break.

29
30 MR. FISHER: Yes, that was deferred proposal 98-
31 59 and that would establish a fall hunt and align Federal
32 regulations with State regulations. It would be similar to what
33 the Federal hunt was in 1997 and it was deferred by the Board
34 pending the completion of the management plan. Now, you've acted
35 on the management plan, I wondered if you wanted to approve that
36 proposal and that would establish a fall hunt for this coming
37 fall.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Can you read the proposal into the
40 record?

41
42 MR. FISHER: No, I don't have the proposal with
43 me.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't either. Where do
46 we.....

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Do we have it?

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you find it by the end of

00238

1 the day?

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just look in the State
4 regulations, they'll mirror the State regulations.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Well, they'll actually be in the
7 Federal regulations because.....

8

9 MR. FISHER: I can generalize the proposal for
10 you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Dave, call the office and have
13 them fax it to you.

14

15 MR. FISHER: Yeah, I'll call the office and get
16 it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It will be at the tail end of
19 the day when we handle it.

20

21 MR. FISHER: Pardon.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It will be at the tail end of
24 the day when we handle it.

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Jim, do you have it, the reg
27 book?

28

29 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, I would move that we
30 open the Federal -- a moose hunt on Federal lands, the one bull
31 moose by permit, August 20th through September 15th.

32

33 MR. FISHER: That's basically what the proposal
34 was.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second to the
37 motion.

38

39 MR. ENRIGHT: I second it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did you -- Jim.

42

43 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair, Jim Woolington. I
44 think in the original proposal or in the deferred proposal it
45 says by State registration permit, is that your wish or do you
46 want the Federal Subsistence Board to establish a separate
47 Federal registration permit?

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dave.

50

00239

1 MR. FISHER: I -- the original proposal was a
2 State registration permit because it was to align Federal
3 regulations with State regulations.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that the
6 understanding of this Council then? Okay. Any other discussion.
7 Call for the question.

8
9 MR. ENRIGHT: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Five minute break and then
20 reports will start. Thank you.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll be getting into reports
27 at this time. We'll ask the Refuge, Orville Lind to -- did you
28 have more?

29
30 MR. ADERMAN: I think we were on the agenda next,
31 Togiak Refuge.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

34
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just one clarification, Andy, on
36 the numbers that we just adopted in the plan, you're pretty close
37 to the 600 number, it depends on what your count is this winter
38 so I guess when you go out there and you see 610 animals out
39 there, you will notify the people of Togiak that it's time for
40 them to submit a proposal for a winter hunt also, right?

41
42 MR. ADERMAN: That's my understanding.

43
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy, we went one below there
47 to deal with the moose management plan so I apologize for getting
48 you out of order there. So you're next under Refuge.

49
50 MR. ADERMAN: Okay, I'll be very brief. Again,

00240

1 Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm sending
2 around two handouts. One is a Refuge bulletin that lists some of
3 the projects that the Refuge has been involved with. The second
4 is at the request of Mr. Samuelson at the last meeting to provide
5 some information on walrus numbers.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

8
9 MR. ADERMAN: And I guess that's all I have
10 unless you have questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's your report?

13
14 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We like you a lot. Any
17 questions, guys. We've hardly been able to digest this, you
18 know, though. Okay, thanks.

19
20 MR. LIND: I'm hiding.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're gun shy now, I'll tell
23 you. We've called you so many times.

24
25 MR. LIND: Orville Lind with the Alaska Peninsula
26 Becharof Refuge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council members.

27
28 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, Alaska Peninsula Refuge.

29
30 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to go ahead
31 and go down the list and folks if you want to follow it's under
32 Tab Q. The first item is Refuge planning.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: Tab what, Q?

35
36 MR. LIND: Q, yes. As you know we're in the
37 process right now of a revision of our comprehensive conservation
38 plan, known as CCPs. We've been out to the communities and have
39 traveled to 10 communities so far so we have accomplished having
40 our public meetings and getting public input by going to those
41 communities.

42
43 The next item, Alaska Peninsula caribou. The '99 post-
44 calving counts of the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd,
45 it's a cooperative effort between the Alaska Department of Fish
46 and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They have done
47 the counts along the Bristol Bay coastal plain and up on the
48 mountains and upper reaches of the drainage of Refuge lands
49 including the Pacific coast. Those numbers, using radio
50 telemetry came up to 6,000 caribou in late June. And the total

00241

1 count in June and July was about 2,600 caribou resulting in the
2 '99 estimate for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd count, about
3 8,600 caribou and with about 19 percent calves down from a count
4 of 9,200 with 24 percent calves in '98.

5
6 The third item, plant communities of the Alaska Peninsula
7 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges in relation to caribou
8 utilization. This is in its second season and with the help of
9 Refuge Staff we went to Ivanof Bay and Nakchamik Island and Wide
10 Bay and data collection identifies an abundance of vascular and
11 non-vascular plants, soil samples and topography. This gave
12 indication of likens where they were abundant on Nakchamik Island
13 and where the studies proved to be not so abundant on the main
14 land that was on the caribou range.

15
16 The next item, early calf mortality in the Southern
17 Alaska Peninsula herd, again, it's the same type of study with
18 the Izembek Refuge and the Becharof and Peninsula Refuge along
19 with ADF&G. And the same study was done in '98. The work
20 involved the calf weights in determining reproductive success
21 among the caribou. And two weeks in June, biologists captured
22 and radio collared 49 newborn calves near Caribou River, Trader
23 Mountain and Black Hill, which is down past the 9(E) area.

24
25 Caribou movements in boundary area of Game Management,
26 Subunits 9(E) and (D). Again a cooperative project with Izembek
27 and ADF&G. They were looking for the interchange between the
28 Northern and Southern Peninsula herds. And satellite collars
29 were put on adult females in Port Moeller area during October and
30 continued to transmit locations weekly for one and a half years
31 and it started in '98. Mortality among the cows have been
32 substantial. Three of six caribou from the Northern Alaska
33 Peninsula Caribou Herd and two of eight from the Southern
34 Peninsula Caribou Herd were dead by April 1999. A recovered
35 collar was redeployed on the Southern Herd, female, during
36 October of '99. And another, of course, Southern Herd caribou
37 died in December '99.

38
39 The general movement patterns with the Northern Peninsula
40 Herd moved northeast along the Bristol Bay coastal plan during
41 fall and back west to calving areas during spring. And the non-
42 migratory among the Southern Peninsula Herd animals stayed within
43 40 miles of the captured sites.

44
45 The next item, the moose trend areas. The surveys of
46 moose trend areas in 9(E) and (C), again, with a cooperative
47 effort between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sellers,
48 and the National Park Service were carried out in late November
49 and early December before the bulls dropped their antlers. And
50 the Refuge Staff helped do the surveys, three areas in '99

00242

1 including the Ugashik Lakes trend area as well as Black Lake and
2 Anchor Bay and Ivanof Bay on the Pacific side, which was new
3 trend areas in the Chignik unit. Again, weather didn't cooperate
4 to do more surveys in the Ugashik area and resulted only in 76
5 moose counted.

6
7 The winter moose hunting season occurred again just like
8 last year, no change. There were 10 antlerless permits issued
9 for the subsistence hunt. And a limit of five antlerless moose
10 was not met before the end of the season. In Unit 9(E), State
11 and Federal seasons were both extended this year to allow one
12 bull during December 1st to January 20th.

13
14 And at this time, Mr. Chairman, if you have any questions
15 about the biology on caribou and moose, we have our biologist
16 here to answer those.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any questions.
19 Black Hills caribou herd, what are the numbers?

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: On the herd itself?

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Southern herd.

24
25 MR. SQUIBB: The Southern herd, I'm sorry, Mr.
26 Chairman, I don't have that with me. I know the herd is
27 increasing in number, like 3,000 is in my head but I didn't bring
28 those numbers with me. The important thing -- thank you, I'm
29 corrected, it's more like a little over 4,000.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, good.

32
33 MR. SQUIBB: I was just guessing my estimate.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's good news, yeah.

36
37 MR. SQUIBB: I think one thing important to note
38 was that calf weights that we were measuring down there were up
39 significantly when the last time they were weighed which I --
40 rather than slow things down for you -- yeah, '99 calf weights
41 were significantly greater than the weights that had been
42 recorded the last time they had been weighed in that area, which
43 was '89, which is again indicative of their condition turning
44 around, you know, which makes sense with the increase.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions, Council
47 members. Robert.

48
49 MR. HEYANO: Six calves per 100 cows.

50

00243

1 MR. SQUIBB: Where, on the Southern.....

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Ugashik Lake trend area.

4

5 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, overall I don't have access to
6 the State numbers or the Park Service numbers. But in talking
7 with Dick, I think, overall we had poor calf production this year
8 in 9(E).

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Over all 9(E)?

11

12 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: Is this number representative of
15 the.....

16

17 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir, the six is only Ugashik
18 Lake trend area.

19

20 MR. HEYANO: But would it be that low for all of
21 9(E)?

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: No, sir. And it's lower than
24 normal, because I can't give you -- the areas we did were six for
25 Ugashik Lakes, Anchor and Ivan was in much better condition, we
26 had 23 calves per 100 cows there. And Black Lake was also pretty
27 low at 17 per 100. So they're not all at six.

28

29 MR. HEYANO: But this is representative -- this
30 information is from 9(E); is that correct?

31

32 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir. And in addition to this,
33 Dick Sellers flew the Park border area which -- excuse me that's
34 in 9(C). I believe he also flew Cinder River, and we also flew
35 outside of an established trend area. We flew composition count
36 from Nakchamik Bay to Wide Bay on the Pacific side in addition,
37 and again, I don't have those data. On top of that the Park
38 Service flew in the border area between 9(E) and 9(C) they flew.
39 Again, that's 9(C) as well. They did fly Aniakchak, which would
40 be 9(E), and I don't have their data in front of me, but we'd
41 have to average all those.

42

43 MR. HEYANO: This fall meeting, you'll have all
44 the information, though, correct?

45

46 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

47

48 MR. HEYANO: You know what this tells me, Mr.
49 Chairman, just looking at it, six calves per 100 cows and then in
50 a different area we have 144 bulls per 100 cows. It looks like

00244

1 to me we're seeing a sign of a moose population that could be in
2 trouble.

3
4 MR. SQUIBB: I don't think these data would
5 warrant that but the 144 bulls per 100 cows, in the same area in
6 '98 we had 31 per 100 cows, and that's Black Lake area where
7 we're attempting to establish a new trend area. And it may be
8 that our timing -- that may not be an area that's good to be a
9 trend area, that it may be that animals move in and out through
10 that. We only have two years data, so like I say we need to get
11 -- which I don't have with me, I don't have Dick Sellers or the
12 Park Service data in front of me, we'd have to look at all that
13 and look at the trend over a period. But I do know in discussing
14 with Dick that it seems like calves were a little low and 144
15 bulls per 100 cows, I mean that's a real anomaly, real unusual.
16 And we intend to keep after Black Lake and see if we can figure
17 out the proper boundary for that figure out the proper time to
18 survey, et cetera, to try to see if that would work out as a good
19 trend area.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Robin.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Just on the Pacific side from
24 talking with the Chignik folks, you know, they say there's no
25 more bulls on that side. That's what they were telling me in
26 Anchorage last week at the Board of Fish meeting and they feel
27 that not having a caribou hunt for the sport hunters, that the
28 guides are bringing out more moose hunters and having an impact
29 on the moose population in that area.

30
31 MR. SQUIBB: That was one of the reasons we've
32 been trying to -- you know, previously, we had no trend areas. I
33 believe the southwest most one would have been the Meshik River
34 trend area the State's done for many years in response to this --
35 you know, the proposals we had last year, we started out to try
36 and get more information for the south and so we had counted --
37 this composition area, it wasn't an established trend area yet,
38 the Black Lake area, went back this year to see if we could start
39 working towards getting a base of data for that and determine
40 whether we want to make that a long term trend area. In the
41 spring of '99 we, in response to try and get some information
42 just on the number of animals down there we flew, you know, when
43 snow conditions weren't very good, we flew in early May and we
44 counted 270ish animals, I believe. And we went back to the area
45 that had had quite a few moose in it, counted 108 on the Pacific
46 side and there we went back and I think that's going to be a
47 pretty good trend area in that it's not as much open country as
48 -- it's, you know, very distinct valleys and perhaps more
49 confined. And there, you know, in that area where they -- a
50 private pilot had flown and got his curiosity, given all the

00245

1 controversy, and seeing 100ish moose in that area, we counted 108
2 in May -- he'd seen in March -- we went back in May and counted
3 108 or so and then we came back this fall in November and
4 December and we -- let's see here, Anchor/Evan, we had 136 moose,
5 it was 1.1 moose per square mile, 56 bulls and 23 calves per 100
6 cows, which, you know, looks real good. We would like to further
7 get down to lower into 9(E) into Stepovak Bay and try and
8 establish a trend area there.

9
10 The Pacific side, as you guys know, you know, to try to
11 get nice good snow cover, nice weather to fly a survey and get
12 there and back and not to have stuff intervening, it's difficult
13 and we'd like to establish another trend area in Stepovak and
14 pick up data over the long-term there. And the Anchor/Evan data
15 seems like that's -- moose there certainly seem like the ratios
16 are pretty good. Again, we have no historical numbers there but
17 the ratios seem pretty good and the density is higher than we saw
18 in a lot of the other areas like Ugashik Lakes, we're getting .3
19 moose per square mile, much bigger area, and the habitat's more
20 scattered but Anchor/Evan, we're above a moose per square mile.
21 And similarly Black Lake was lower, it was half a moose per
22 square mile. So I mean there are some indications that in some
23 areas there are pretty good moose, at least. And again the bull
24 cow ratios don't look like they're overhunted particularly when
25 we have that anomaly of 144 bulls per 100 cows.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions. Anything
28 else.

29
30 MR. SQUIBB: No, not from us.

31
32 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, we do have a second part
33 of this report and that will be given by our Fisheries Office.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, let's have it.

36
37 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my name is
38 Jeff Adams. I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service King Salmon
39 Fishery Office in King Salmon. Our office conducts fishery
40 assessments on the four national wildlife refuges in Bristol Bay,
41 Izembek, Alaska Peninsula, Becharof and Togiak as well as
42 coordinate with other Federal agencies and Fish and Game to
43 conduct fishery assessments.

44
45 The first project that's listed in your packet is the
46 assessment of the resident and anadromous fish in Gertrude Creek.
47 Gertrude Creek is a tributary of the King Salmon River in the
48 Egegik system as opposed to the other King Salmon Rivers. In
49 Bristol Bay we established a weir for three years in a row, '97
50 through '99 on the stream and monitored resident fish as they

00246

1 moved up and down stream and then obviously salmon as they moved
2 into the stream. And you can see the numbers here, especially
3 the salmon looked in pretty good shape all three of those years.
4

5 The second project that was related was the abundance of
6 movement of rainbow trout in the same river. Here we had our
7 hook and line crew float the King Salmon River and target rainbow
8 trout in the different tributaries of the King Salmon River.
9 This was a comparative study that we'd actually conducted in
10 '93/92 and that population still looks relatively stable, we
11 don't have any concerns with it at all.
12

13 Another study that was related to the weir and hook and
14 line assessment is because a lot of our sampling -- a lot of the
15 sampling that's done in Bristol Bay is done with hook and line.
16 We're trying to get some sort of feel as to the bias, if the
17 lengths of fish that we catch through hook and line, if that's
18 actually what's in the stream or if we're catching a different
19 segment of the population. So we took the lengths -- measured
20 fish as they came through the weir, rainbow trout, again, we were
21 focusing on and then we recaptured those fish. The idea was to
22 recapture those fish later on above the weir and then compare the
23 length distributions to see if they were similar. And not
24 unexpected, the hook and line generally caught larger fish than
25 what the -- tended to catch larger fish than what we'd seen in
26 the weir. So now with statistical approaches and such we hope to
27 be able to adjust any future data or maybe even past data to
28 actually compensate for the smaller fish that we probably don't
29 get in the hook and line samples.
30

31 Then the last -- another project was the assessment was
32 of anadromous and resident fish in Becharof Creek which is a
33 small tribe in the island arm section of Becharof Lake. And that
34 was designed to be just like the projects on the Gertrude Creek
35 with a weir on a small stream and then hook and line comparison.
36 Because of high water and such, we only were successful to keep
37 the weir from May to August of 1999 but we did count some
38 graylings, some dolly varden, char, white fish and then over
39 100,000 red salmon that actually moved up through the system.
40

41 Other items that aren't on the -- in the booklet here is
42 we've also conducted a fish health survey the last couple years
43 with some national money to establish -- this is in response to
44 the concerns for whirling (ph) disease in the Lower 48. And we
45 actually sampled, it was about 16 populations of fish, most of
46 them were rainbow trout just to get a baseline of what diseases
47 were -- what pathogens were present in those populations. We
48 didn't detect any whirling disease at all and we did establish
49 the baselines for some other, like bacterial kidney disease, some
50 diseases that are always in the population but not at any levels

00247

1 that actually affect the fish.

2

3 And then the last one I'd like to mention, is we have an
4 ongoing program of limnological (ph) sampling in Ugashik and
5 Becharof Lakes that the State is using and Dr. Oly Matiseen is
6 also involved with using that to assess the productivity in
7 these systems as to why -- especially Becharof Lake, why Becharof
8 Lake has been so productive the last decade or so with sockeye
9 salmon.

10

11 So that's all I had Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So what did you find out why
14 it's so productive?

15

16 MR. ADAMS: Well, some of the data are still
17 preliminary basically.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20

21 MR. ADAMS: But Jim Larson may have some better
22 insights as to if anything's meaningful has come out of that this
23 yet.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, well, we can get it in
26 the fall time but that's going to be very interesting to me.

27

28 MR. ADAMS: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No rainbow trout in Becharof
31 Lake?

32

33 MR. ADAMS: No, not that we could ever find.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

36

37 MR. ADAMS: We hear reports but no one -- we've
38 never seen anyone actually handle a fish there.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I could never find one there
41 either. Any questions. You speak quite rapidly.

42

43 MR. ADAMS: I was watching the clock.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'll tell you what, yeah, thank
46 you very much.

47

48 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman, just on the last part of
49 the report on the public use surveys we conducted. The Fish and
50 Wildlife Service had a Refuge Staff down at the outlet of

00248

1 Becharof Lake and they documented 121 groups in the area of users
2 and 581 individual visits. Of those, 65 groups, including 250
3 individuals visitors entered the Refuge. And despite the factors
4 which would be expected to decrease visitation, especially the
5 weaker than normal coho salmon run, additional employment
6 opportunities for Egegik residents in the State road project that
7 was going on, appeared comparable to that observed in '94/95
8 during -- oh, wait a minute -- the likelihood of more users would
9 have used the outlet and didn't because of that project down in
10 Egegik. So this was in no means, to us, at least, have
11 documentation of the uses that was going on there but a little --
12 taken a little lower rate than it would have been normally.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Orville, you can fly over the
15 rapids there at Egegik and see the silvers laying in there and I
16 mean -- and the float planes are below there targeting that fish
17 and then this year I noticed they were at, I think they call it
18 White Fish Creek a little farther down, you see the boats there,
19 too, and they were not subsistence users, they were sport users.
20 So I'm not surprised. One more Egegik project road or an airport
21 and they might build that stock up, you never know.

22
23 MR. LIND: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else, guys, is that
26 it?

27
28 MR. LIND: Just one more thing.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

31
32 MR. LIND: The last item is the Big Creek. We
33 also monitored Big Creek. We had Staff go up and down the river.
34 And also both, by air and boat, four days they detected an
35 average of one party per day. And actually two parties on the
36 outside. They observed activities of six parties, four were
37 hunting, two were fishing and one was sightseeing. And among
38 four parties contacted there were eight local residents and two
39 people from the outside area.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any social security numbers you
42 picked up or anything like that?

43
44 MR. LIND: No.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anything else.

47
48 MR. LIND: And that concludes our report, Mr.
49 Chairman.

50

00249

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thanks, guys, appreciate
2 it.

3
4 MR. LIND: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We are looking for Park Service
7 -- no, let's see Becharof Refuge -- oh, Deb Ligget and company.

8
9 MS. LIGGET: Mr. Chairman, Council. Deb Ligget,
10 Superintendent Katmai/Lake Clark. And with me here at the table
11 are Donald Mike, subsistence specialist for Katmai National Park
12 and Preserve. Lee Fink, chief of ops for whatever that park is,
13 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. And Jane Bacchieri, who
14 is our new Alagnak River planner. We had planned to have Jane to
15 a presentation for you today but in the interest of time we'll
16 defer until the fall agenda if that works for you guys, but I
17 wanted you all to meet Jane. There are some other folks in the
18 room that I want to point out to you. Somewhere in the back is
19 Becky Brock, my chief of concessions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There we go.

22
23 MS. LIGGET: Who manages the commercial use
24 program for the Park. I think you already know Jon Bundy who's
25 the unit manager.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

28
29 MS. LIGGET: Dave Nelson. Dave, would you waive
30 your hand. And Mary McBurney are here. Those are folks that
31 came on to help the National Park Service move into subsistence
32 fisheries. You guys know Bruce Greenwood who is tried and true
33 at this Council. I'd also like to introduce to you Dr. Jean
34 Shay, who's my chief of cultural resources, and Martha Crow.
35 They also had a presentation planned for you today, which we will
36 defer to the fall meeting on cultural resources on the Alagnak
37 River.

38
39 But for some of them it's their first attendance at the
40 Council meeting and it's an excellent opportunity for education
41 for them. Also in the audience today, and who will participate
42 here directly is Dr. Carol Ann Woody of the United States
43 Geological Survey, Biological Resource Division. We will do, as
44 long as the Chair concurs, a 15 or 20 minute presentation on
45 sockeye at Lake Clark.

46
47 I would like to publicly thank the RAC and Board Chairs
48 on behalf of the National Park Service for your recent support to
49 obtain funding for the National Park Service to have locally
50 based subsistence fisheries people. We had lost that money. We

00250

1 wouldn't have gotten back without your support. The money has
2 been released to us as of last week and we will move
3 expeditiously to fill some positions and to move forward on
4 resources.

5
6 I think that you're aware that we're already facing
7 declining funding in the out years. The estimate of funding for
8 2001 has already come back reduced and so the erosion of
9 subsistence fisheries money has already begun. I bring that up
10 in the context of my plea to you earlier to help us, the
11 agencies, form a multi-year vision. I also bring it up because
12 it's the beginning of the silly season in Washington, D.C., with
13 an election year. We will have a change in administration,
14 whether it remains Democratic or Republican. I bring this up
15 because in the context of my job, it's necessary to manage up as
16 well as to manage down, and managing up in this case, frequently,
17 means educating the Department on the importance of the
18 subsistence program. A former director of the National Park
19 Service once said that policy without money is just conservation,
20 and I think that that's certainly true in the context here today.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's true.

23
24 MS. LIGGET: So I certainly will do my part within
25 the Department to talk about how important the subsistence
26 program is in Alaska and I know you will, too.

27
28 I would like to also publicly recognize Bristol Bay
29 Native Association, Levelock, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
30 for these two funding proposals which came under such scrutiny
31 earlier today. I really do think that this is the way it's
32 supposed to work. Certainly for the first time in the history of
33 the National Park Service, we participated as a primary author on
34 projects for which we will gain very little funding, five to 10
35 percent of the funding will come to us and yet, we will be the
36 beneficiary of information on the resource which is what we
37 really need. The information, not the money. I also think that
38 these projects have the opportunity to be replicated elsewhere
39 and best practices shared, for instance, I've already shared
40 these with the village council of Egegik to see if there can be,
41 you know, something similar replicated.

42
43 Earlier, Robert talked about the honeymoon being over and
44 talked about this in the context of a marriage; and I'd just like
45 to say, Robert, it's until death do us part.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tina, put that in the minutes.
48 Be sure to put that in the minutes, we got to have that one in
49 there.

50

00251

1 MS. LIGGET: With that, I'll turn it over to the
2 people who really know things, Lee Fink and Donald Mike. Thank
3 you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Follow that act, guys.

6
7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Now, I know why half of the room
8 is her staff.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Green are beautiful, uh. All
11 right.

12
13 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is
14 Donald Mike. I work for Katmai National Park in Aniakchak
15 National Monument and Preserve. I'll try to brief here and get
16 down to the main points and we're scheduled to have a subsistence
17 resource Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource
18 Commission meeting. From there, I'll use Commission to shorten
19 the words, Aniakchak National Monument Subsistence Resource
20 Commission, just for everybody's clarification.

21
22 But anyway, we're scheduled to have a meeting April 4th
23 and 5th in Chignik Lake. As far as our Commission membership is
24 concerned, you recently had a reappointment from the Governor's
25 office to reappoint Al Anderson from Chignik Lagoon to serve
26 another term. And one member that is currently on the seat, his
27 name is Al Bofoskey, and he no longer serves on a RAC commission
28 and the RAC appointed Alvin Bofoskey to serve on the Commission
29 which Mr. Christensen holds now, so I'm here to provide two
30 applicants. The two applicants are locals from Ivanof Bay and
31 Perryville. These are short bios of those two applicants that
32 are recently on the local advisory committee. And one of the
33 requirements to sit on the SRC is either you can reappoint Mr.
34 Christensen to the Commission for Aniakchak or get some names
35 that are currently serving on the local advisory committee
36 particularly Chignik Lake Advisory Committee. So you have those
37 options available to you to reappoint the current RAC member from
38 Port Heiden or the Chignik Lake Advisory Committee applicants.

39
40 The first applicant is Glenn Kalmakoff, he resides in
41 Ivanof Bay. HE is currently a Chignik local advisory committee
42 member from Ivanof Bay. His other responsibilities are, you
43 know, he has served as vice president for Ivanof Bay for the last
44 20 years and he has participated in the past on the Northern
45 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd working group to discuss the
46 caribou population. And that's basically his credentials. And
47 his interest in local and regional subsistence issues and he has
48 hunted and fished in the region for many years and his knowledge
49 of the local and regional resources make him a qualified
50 candidate.

00252

1 The other candidate is from Perryville and his name is
2 Austin Shangin. He currently resides in Perryville and he's been
3 a life long member of Perryville. He currently serves as a
4 member with the Chignik Lake local advisory committee. He's also
5 Chairman of the local school advisory committee in Perryville for
6 the past three years. And he's been involved in the local
7 community on councils and he's been a subsistence user in his
8 local and regional area. And with his familiarity with the
9 subsistence resources and his participation in local committees
10 and councils makes him a qualified candidate.

11
12 So those are the three people that the Council can
13 reappoint to the SRC, one of the three people. So you can
14 appoint someone now or you can send a letter to our chairman,
15 which is Harry Kalmakoff, Aniakchak.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who is presently on that?

18
19 MR. MIKE: On the Commission?

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. MIKE: We have two from Port Heiden.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Johnny Christensen's one of
26 them?

27
28 MR. MIKE: Robert Christensen and Orloff.

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh.

31
32 MR. MIKE: And one from Chignik Bay, that's Royce
33 Gonberg. One from Chignik Lagoon, Al Anderson. And three from
34 Chignik Bay, Harry Kalmakoff, Johnny Lind and Alvin Bofoskey. He
35 continues to serve until the Council appoints someone knew.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you need a Council member on
38 that committee?

39
40 MR. MIKE: It can be either a Council member or
41 a Chignik Lake Advisory Committee member.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That would be one of these two?

44
45 MR. MIKE: right.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Either John Christensen or one
48 of these two we would want to put on there?

49
50 MR. MIKE: Right.

00253

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is this an action item?

2
3 MR. MIKE: Yes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, what are the wishes of
6 the Council. You need to speak English here, guys. Yeah.

7
8 MR. HEYANO: Did the SRC make a recommendation?

9
10 MR. MIKE: Not with these appointments but I
11 polled all the members and told them who all the potential
12 candidates are and they all agreed on the candidates and we
13 didn't have a meeting early enough to make a recommendation by
14 the Commission to submit to the Regional Advisory Council.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: So our choice, Mr. Chairman,
17 Shangin or Kalmakoff?

18
19 MR. MIKE: Or the Council can appoint Mr.
20 Christensen.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or John Christensen, our
23 Council member.

24
25 MR. MIKE: One of the things I'm looking here is
26 having a geographic diversity on the Commission also as well as
27 trying to reflect different representation.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, Robert.

30
31 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think past practice is, Mr.
32 Chairman, is we rely very heavily on the recommendations coming
33 out of the SRCs. If there's a need for us to take action at this
34 time, I would just wait and defer to see who they recommend.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that okay?

37
38 MR. MIKE: Yeah, we can have Mr. Bofoskey
39 continue to serve until your Council takes action.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll do that at fall time.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else?

46
47 MR. MIKE: One of the highlights is the resident
48 zone community for Aniakchak. I met with Ivanof Bay and
49 Perryville, just a brief overview. I discussed the subsistence
50 eligibility for Aniakchak and the criteria to be on the resident

00254

1 zone communities. And they -- Perryville and Ivanof Bay
2 submitted or -- Perryville submitted a letter to the Commission
3 in support of their interest to be a resident zone community.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For who?

6
7 MR. MIKE: Perryville. They submitted a letter
8 to the Commission expressing their interest to be a part of the
9 resident zone communities for Aniakchak. And I met with Ivanof
10 Bay and they're going to be passing a resolution in support of
11 being part of the resident zone communities. So in that step,
12 we're going to be doing a literature search on a significant
13 concentration for those two communities. And just from speaking
14 with those communities, they've got subsistence for Aniakchak and
15 we can do a literature search and after that the next step would
16 be the rulemaking process. So it will take at least two years.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How long?

19
20 MR. MIKE: The rulemaking process will take at
21 least two years.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

24
25 MR. MIKE: I've got just one more real quick
26 item. On the cooperative moose surveys which Mr. Lind discussed.
27 We met with the Fish and Wildlife Service Staff, Dick Sellers,
28 the Park Service Staff and we've created a new moose trend area
29 in Aniakchak. And that moose trend area encompasses
30 approximately 300 square miles and that would include the Meshik
31 and Aniakchak Rivers and its tributaries. We started a moose
32 survey back in November and we counted total moose of 104, and
33 out of the 104, 39 were bulls and 63 were cows, so these are just
34 preliminary data and we'll have further analysis in the fall
35 meeting. So we didn't do a whole survey on the new moose trend
36 area due to weather. We got two-thirds of it completed. So that
37 seems to be the norm in the Alaska Peninsula, you know, you start
38 on a moose survey and you get weathered out. But that's a newly
39 established moose survey area and we hopefully will be able to
40 continue on to just gage the moose population in the new trend
41 area.

42
43 That's all I have.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, any questions, Council
46 members. Thank you, Donald.

47
48 MR. SAMUELSEN: You don't need to wait for him,
49 just go catch your flight.

50

00255

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, I'm with you on that
2 flight, you stick around. Okay, go ahead.

3
4 MR. FINK: Mr. Chairman, Council members. Lee
5 Fink, Lake Clark National Park. Under Tab R, I think in your
6 books you have a fragmented report that was bound in there and I
7 slid a little cleaner report in your books under Tab R, also, at
8 lunchtime. And in an effort to be brief here, I probably won't
9 go through the report point by point.

10
11 One thing is, I'd like to get an action item under the
12 Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission. They met February
13 29th in Nondalton and during the fall, November '99 meeting in
14 Naknek, this Council reappointed, actually, Andrew Balluta, Carl
15 Jensen and Tim LaPorte to the Lake Clark SRC. As Donald just
16 mentioned, a qualifier to be appointed by the RAC is to either
17 serve on the local advisory committee, in our case, the Lake
18 Iliamna Advisory Committee or the RAC. Tim LaPorte was a member
19 of the Iliamna Advisory Committee, is no longer a member. And
20 the SRC did some work and polled all the other Lake Iliamna
21 Advisory Committee members, came up with two names and has moved
22 one forward for the Council, Harvey Kneeland of Iliamna. And if
23 the Council wishes, that is the name that was supported by the
24 SRC commission to be the new member of the Lake Clark SRC.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What is the wishes of the
27 Council.

28
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: Move that Harvy Kneeland be
30 admitted as a member of the SRC, Mr. Chairman.

31
32 MR. ENRIGHT: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second. Discussion.

35
36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question's called for. All
39 those in favor say aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

48
49 MR. FINK: Thank you, Council and Mr. Chairman.
50 One thing that I guess I would like to point out is in our

00256

1 project resource reports, we've been -- because the Council in
2 the past has helped us with several proposals dealing with moose
3 we've been feeding the Council a lot of raw data as we've
4 collected it. And now when you look at some of the data that's
5 in this sheet, it looks kind of -- I believe it's skewed. You'll
6 see that there's some -- if you'll just look at the reports from
7 '99 to -- between the -- the surveys that were conducted in 1999,
8 '98 and '94, it looks like there's been a rather large increase
9 in the population of moose in Unit 9(B), and that's not exactly
10 true. If you'd like, we could defer to fall time and give you a
11 detailed report on the moose populations in that area. But the
12 bottom line is they're probably remaining stable, at least, since
13 -- stable or slightly declining in the past several years, and
14 that data has not exactly -- it just hasn't been analyzed and I
15 think by just putting it out as raw data it could be
16 misinterpreted at this point in time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, we would like a
19 little more detail in the fall time. I think the moose
20 population in the Park, I think, is a big concern to us.

21
22 MR. FINK: Right.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

25
26 MR. FINK: I planned on having Judy Batara, our
27 wildlife technician here. I actually have some information, if
28 you want more, I can give you a little bit. She couldn't make it
29 because of weather but if you have specific problems I could
30 probably answer some of them.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: Not a specific question but a
35 request for the fall meeting, are you able to break it out based
36 on your surveys as to what the population is in the Park, what
37 the population is in the Preserve and then the remainder of (B)?
38 Is that a possibility, cow to calf ratio or calf to cow ratios or
39 bull to cow ratios?

40
41 MR. FINK: We can do that. I feel we're
42 improving our survey techniques and we're increasing our effort.
43 I believe the new numbers are probably more accurate than the
44 older numbers, the '94 and even some of our older data. I
45 believe the newer data is a little more precise. I have talked
46 with Dick Sellers and he hopes to get up there this fall and do
47 the Unit 9(B) that's outside the Park and Preserve. We try to
48 work cooperatively on those population estimates. And we can
49 give you the best data that we have in the fall and we can plan
50 a little longer presentation on it if that would suffice.

00257

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Lee, a little follow-up on
2 that, too. It'd be interesting to see what the Park and
3 Preserve, I guess that's the name of it, Lake Clark Park and
4 Preserve?

5
6 MR. FINK: Uh-huh.

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's where all residents can
9 go in, I mean it's not just the five communities that can hunt,
10 and then you have Lake Clark Park, where only the five
11 communities can hunt. It'd be interesting to see what's
12 happening in Lake Clark Park with moose versus what's happening
13 in Lake Clark Park and Preserve just, if it's possible. I mean
14 we don't want to load you up with a lot of stuff but.....

15
16 MR. FINK: Okay. But we can certainly give you
17 a more detailed moose population report.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, that would be good.

20
21 MR. FINK: And hopefully by that time we'll have
22 a little ore information, you know, through the encouragement of
23 this Council, we have entered into a bear survey with the Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game. We flew about 375 hours last spring
25 with a new sample technique that they used down in Kodiak and
26 they were experimenting with in the northern end of Unit 9(B),
27 all of Unit 9(B) and not just Park and Preserve lands but State
28 lands as well so they get a northern half estimate on that bear
29 population. It turned out, some interesting stuff, but basically
30 it was inconclusive so we're planning on flying another roughly
31 two or 300 hours, again, the end of this May to try to come up
32 with some conclusive data as to what the bear population is doing
33 in the north end of Unit 9(B).

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else.

36
37 MR. FINK: That's all I have.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, we
40 appreciate it. Donald, before you leave you sent me a fax with
41 a letter from support from the Council, it pertained to --
42 remember the letter was February the 29th, to support the angler
43 effort survey and estimate project proposal for the Branch, the
44 wild river, are you familiar with this letter?

45
46 MR. MIKE: Yeah, we were looking for letters for
47 the angler effort and stock assessment. We were hoping we'd get
48 support from the Council as a body for these two projects.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What does that involve?

00258

1 MR. MIKE: Pardon.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What does that involve? What
4 is this project about?

5

6 MR. MIKE: The project that the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service discussed earlier today and that letter was in support.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10

11 MR. MIKE: That was a draft letter for your
12 Council to submit to the Federal Subsistence Board to support
13 those two projects.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. I might have to
16 poll the Board on that or something to find out because this
17 report is ongoing.

18

19 Thank you, gentlemen. Okay, Carol Ann.

20

21 MS. WOODY: You guys might have to move to the
22 end here so we can see. I'm Carol Woody and I'm with the
23 USGSBRD, Biological Resources Division. And I've been working
24 out at Lake Clark doing some sockeye salmon research. It started
25 a couple of years ago and went through a planning process for
26 about a year and we had a pilot study last year. What I'd like
27 to do is just describe the objectives of the work, talk about
28 where we are so far and then give you ideas of our -- what we'd
29 like to do for the future and this will just give you some
30 overviews on it.

31

32 There are quite a few people I have to thank here and one
33 of them is a graduate student who is through the University of
34 Montana, her name is Christina Ramsted and she's my head field
35 crew leader. She'll be doing some detailed genetics work within
36 the lake trying to understand within lake population structure on
37 salmon also looking at habitat.

38

39 So the objectives of the work as planned, first is to
40 compile historical Lake Clark fisheries data. People have worked
41 in this system since 1920. There are people from the University
42 of Washington, the Fisheries Research Institute have done work
43 here, also Department of Fish and Game has flown an aerial
44 escapement surveys. There's been some consulting groups that
45 have also worked in here. We also want to determine sockeye
46 salmon migration routes within the Park system and also what
47 their spawning habitats are. A lot of the system is glacial and
48 the main way -- the best way we can find these animals is by
49 radio-tracking them because you can't see all of them from the
50 air.

00259

1 We'd like to determine their genetic structure, overall
2 genetic fingerprint for Lake Clark. Sockeye salmon populations
3 generally, the studies that have been done -- sockeye salmon that
4 return to a particular lake system are different from each other.
5 So the fish that would return to say, Lake Clark, would have a
6 different fingerprint than those that return to Becharof or the
7 Wood River system or Iliamna, and that's what we're trying to
8 get. I'm working with Fish and Game to try to get an overall
9 fingerprint for populations that return to Bristol Bay and also
10 we'd like to get the whole Pacific Rim.

11
12 We'd like to characterize important spawning habitats and
13 then develop conservation recommendations for them and then
14 reconstruct long-term changes in salmon abundance using sediment
15 for analysis and I'll give you more details on that in the end.
16 Also we would like to find a way to monitor escapement, size and
17 age structure annually for a long-term monitoring system so we
18 can get an idea of what the population dynamics are within that
19 system.

20
21 So where we are so far relative to objective one,
22 compiling historical information, we've got a draft text of
23 scientific information that's available on the system; you're all
24 welcome to it. If you would like a copy go ahead and give me a
25 call. This is an ongoing project. As we dig up information from
26 literature and in other areas, we add to this data base.

27
28 And these are the different groups up here -- let me find
29 my little -- let me find my nervous pointer with the little
30 shaker thing, here it is. So these are the groups that we've
31 compiled information from here. And also if any of you know if
32 you're interested in this system and you have information on it,
33 I would very much like to see it particularly if there's
34 something that I'm missing.

35
36 There's Andrew Balluta. Andrew Balluta's helped us out
37 quite a bit last year. I'm also trying to document traditional
38 knowledge or historical knowledge in that system. These people
39 have lived there for a long time, they know a hell of a lot more
40 about the salmon populations than I do. One of the things I've
41 been doing is visiting the different villages and asking them,
42 you know, where have you fished historically, where do you fish
43 now, what are your perceptions of these populations as far as
44 numbers, are they increasing or decreasing. And this has mainly
45 just been done through personal interviews. And the way you get
46 Andrew Balluta around is you buy cookies and he will come visit
47 your camp.

48
49 This is an example of one of the lakes. I'm sorry about
50 the detail here but you can see these patches up here so when I

00260

1 visited the villages, people would circle on my maps, they would
2 say, oh, this is where, you know, we fished, these are our
3 subsistence fishing sites. And then what we did -- so these are
4 the ones in pink, so you'll see pink dots on the map and so these
5 are all different areas that people have fished. And then the
6 yellow areas are some areas that we verified this year and we'll
7 continue to do that through time and adding to this data base
8 every year as we get to talk to more people.

9
10 MR. SAMUELSEN: There's purple and yellow up
11 there, where's pink?

12
13 MS. WOODY: Well, it's kind of magenta. I call
14 it pink, okay, magenta. All right.

15
16 Our second objective is to look at migratory routes and
17 also spawning habitats in glacial regions using telemetry and
18 last year we had a pilot year. There were three main goals of
19 the work, we wanted to tag 20 fish and just see how our new -- we
20 have radio receivers so each fish is sort of like their own
21 little radio station, but we can put five fish to a frequency.
22 And what we wanted to do is see how this new system worked
23 because it's also hooked up to a GPS system. And for those of
24 you that have done telemetry you fly along and you can find out
25 where the fish is but you'll also automatically get GPS readings
26 and you can put that into a data base and then put that into a
27 map. So it's kind of a neat system but it's also not without its
28 difficulty to get it to work.

29
30 We also wanted to look at tag retention in these fish and
31 mortality rates, just testing -- putting these tags in fish just
32 to see if it killed them, if they retained them, et cetera. And
33 this is just sort of a basic first step when you're doing these
34 kinds of studies.

35
36 And we also wanted to see whether or not we could use
37 clove oil as an anesthetic for handling fish. And you guys might
38 think we're nuts for doing this kind of work because some of you
39 only know clove oil for baking. Clove oil is an anesthetic, it's
40 been used for many centuries by people as a local anesthetic.
41 You'll get it in your emergency field kit sometimes for if you
42 knock your tooth out or something, to numb that area. Anyway,
43 people have been using it to knock fish out. When you're
44 handling fish, when you're capturing them, bringing them in,
45 tagging them, weighing them, taking scales and putting radio tags
46 in them it can stress them, which could also kill them and so
47 it's -- in some cases if you can't handle them quickly enough
48 it's better to knock them out and then do all of this, let them
49 recover and then let them go. So we did some studies with that.

50

00261

1 This is to show you Lake Clark, this is the upper end of
2 Lake Clark, which is very glacial just to give you an idea of how
3 turbid that system can be. The objectives from our first pilot
4 year, we tagged 20 fish. They were captured, anesthetized,
5 measured and tagged and then we tracked them by boat and air to
6 final spawning areas.

7
8 And what we found the first year was we tagged 20 fish,
9 10 early and 10 late, and then we documented directional movement
10 up to 29 days after tagging. They traveled about 3.7 kilometers
11 per day. The lake's about 63 kilometers long. But what this
12 tells me is that they're not dying right away. These animals are
13 still moving, you know, they all did quite well for that period
14 of time. We put together GIS maps that document individual
15 movements of fish and then we have a large composite which shows
16 their final spawning destinations. We found one previously
17 undocumented spawning area in Little Lake Clark which was that
18 really turbid lake I just showed you, that's in the upper end of
19 the system.

20
21 And we found the new technology is function, there is a
22 few problems with it but we're working out with the engineers
23 that have developed this product. We also have problems boat
24 tracking with a two-stroke engine because of electronic
25 interference and these are things we're working on overcoming.

26
27 We did a series of tag retention tests. We tagged 10
28 fish with a fat tag on the left and then the middle tag, which is
29 the size that we used. The one on the end is the actual radio
30 tags that we used in the animals. And they're also 10 controlled
31 fish. And five fish from each of those treatments, from the
32 control and then the large and the smaller tag were held in these
33 two net pens within the river and they were checked on every day
34 to see if they retained the tag, if they spit them up from their
35 stomachs or if they died.

36
37 And so what we found out from this was that over the 15
38 day study, all of the tags were retained, none of them were spit
39 up. Two of the fish died, one was a controlled fish and one was
40 a tagged fish. And when we cut open the tagged fish to see what
41 shape their insides were in, we found a couple of them had
42 perforated stomachs from the tags. However, one survived the
43 whole period of time, although one died. And because the
44 mortality test was ambiguous we're going to repeat the study this
45 summer. You figure that when you do studies like this some of
46 the animals, you'll lose some of them, they won't all survive the
47 level of stress and perhaps some of the trauma associated with
48 it. But we also have a paper on this work that is available.

49
50 And then I'm going to go fairly rapidly through this

00262

1 clove oil stuff, it's probably not as important to you. But to
2 let you know this is sort of the preliminary work that's leading
3 up to doing a larger project. We tested five concentrations,
4 eight fish at each of the concentrations. And then we also held
5 fish for 15 minutes within each of those concentrations to see if
6 they survived the entire time.

7
8 And efficacy just means the effectiveness of these
9 concentrations. And we wanted to be able to handle fish within
10 three minutes. We wanted them to recover within 10 minutes and
11 then we also wanted them to survive these 15 minute exposures.

12
13 And this just shows you the results of that experiment
14 and I'll just go over this. This is how long it took the fish to
15 be knocked out, over on this axis, so it's in seconds over here,
16 and this is how big the fish was. I analyzed the information and
17 I was looking to see if there was a relationship of how quickly
18 they were knocked out by their sex, how big they were, length and
19 depth and by concentration. And length was very important in how
20 long it took them to be knocked out. And you can see at the
21 lower concentration, the bigger the fish the more it took to
22 knock them out, and that's what this is telling you. The same
23 with 50 but they were knocked out in a shorter period of time.
24 And then here at the higher concentrations 1-10 and 1-40, they
25 just basically went over in less than a minute.

26
27 And then the recovery times, here you can see that the
28 recovery times were dependent on the concentration the fish were
29 held in and that's what this is telling you. The fish with the
30 lower concentrations generally covered more rapidly than the fish
31 at the higher concentrations. So the fish exposed to the
32 different concentrations were all at 20, 50 and 80, we could
33 handle them in three minutes and they recovered within 10, and
34 they also survived 15 minute exposure trials. And this is
35 important if you're going to use this on these fish. The reason
36 we did clove oil tests is because the fish anesthetic that we
37 normally use, that is really easy to use with fish, you have to
38 hold fish 21 days after you've knocked them out with this because
39 it's not considered safe for human consumption until that period.
40 So if you're going -- we need to find alternatives for knocking
41 these animals out.

42
43 I was concerned -- in these experiences, I was concerned
44 about the affect of the clove oil on the homing ability of these
45 animals because the salmon return to the streams they were born
46 in and the beaches that they were born in and they've learned
47 sort of a method as they're leaving so they can smell their way
48 home once they hit fresh water, I'm concerned that the clove oil
49 may affect their ability to smell their way home. So I'm trying
50 to find some physiologist that might be able to answer this

00263

1 question. Some of my radio tagged fish sort of wandered around
2 the lake as if they were somewhat confused. There's a draft
3 manuscript of this work that's been done and it's been submitted
4 to the Journal of Fish Biology, and if you're interested in that
5 you're quite welcome to it.

6
7 This is the section that I think a lot of people have
8 questions about.

9
10 The third objective of this work is to genetically
11 fingerprint these animals. And what we've done so far within the
12 system, I collected samples last year, we haven't analyzed
13 anything. We don't have the money right now to do the analysis
14 and to put together the papers that it will -- it will probably
15 take quite a while to do this. But it's important to do this
16 work now because Fish and Game is also working to get a
17 fingerprint of the sockeye salmon returning to different nursery
18 lakes around the system. We collected samples in representative
19 habitats, Chalitna Bay, Kijik Lake, Little Kijik River,
20 Tlikakila, the Chalitna Lodge, Little Lake Clark and also in the
21 Tlikakila so we've got samples, 100 fin clips from each of those
22 sites and we're coordinating the molecular markers with Fish and
23 Game, and we'll hopefully begin analyzing them and we will
24 probably sample these sites again this year.

25
26 It's important to get these fingerprints. And I know
27 people get concerned about these genetic characterizations but
28 this is really important because these characterizations can help
29 us, not only identify, you know, the fish where they're -- if
30 somebody catches fish on the high seas, we're able to say, oh,
31 these markers, you can look at the genetics of those animals and
32 see if they come from some of these populations within Bristol
33 Bay. Also inevitably there will be times of shortage of salmon
34 again in Bristol Bay, there are predictions that do not look good
35 for the future with the ocean trends warming and also it seems
36 that we're going into a production cycle that is not predicted to
37 be very good for our salmon. I think it's important to know which
38 fish are going where and try to understand their ecology within
39 these systems so that we can have a better handle on how to
40 actually manage them.

41
42 The fourth objective is to classify the spawning habitats
43 of these animals and to make recommendations for conservation.
44 This is flying over the Tlikakila, this is a 50-mile long glacial
45 river up at the headwaters of the system. The salmon travel all
46 the way up there and they also travel up into a glacial river
47 fork and they spawn. And here you can see these little dots,
48 those are all sockeye salmon spawning reds, so that's where their
49 nests are.

50

00264

1 This kind of habitat is very different than this kind of
2 habitat. Sockeye are using these types of habitat. There's a
3 lot of development that is planned for this region. It's very
4 important to the people in the region, particularly some of the
5 folks I've talked to, Eleanor Johnson of the Kijik Corporation.
6 She's the CEO and president there. Her number 1 concern of the
7 people that she represents, they're very concerned about making
8 sure that these spawning habitats are classified and that we know
9 where they are, and that's what the telemetry is giving us.
10 Where are these habitats. I can also look at these areas, I can
11 do some habitat work and make recommendations as far as
12 protecting these areas.

13
14 Development is occurring here and more is planned. So
15 this is important.

16
17 The last thing I'd like to tell you about is the fifth
18 objective is to reconstruct long-term changes in salmon abundance
19 from sediment core analysis. And this is using stable isotopes.
20 This is an amazing thing. There's a man by the name of Bruce
21 Finny up at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and he can take
22 these core samples from the sediments of the lake systems. Well,
23 every year all the salmon come up and then they die and then from
24 their bodies these scales are washed down and these isotopes are
25 washed down and then the next year another layer of sediment gets
26 put down and then the next year the salmon come back. So you get
27 these layers, and he's able to take these core samples and look
28 at the different layers and get a relative abundance of salmon
29 through time and he relates that to climate information and he
30 will also be able to relate it to other lake systems and pre- and
31 post-fishing, before we started really harvesting these animals.

32
33 So these are the five objectives that I've been working
34 on. My work is limited. I was able to get a grant last year to
35 do some of these research, however, there was a cap that was put
36 on the amount of money I was able to get and so the study is
37 rather underfunded and I'm one of the people -- I'm one of the
38 rats asking for cheese and trying to get on on the subsistence
39 cheese. This work will help the people in this region understand
40 population dynamics of their sockeye salmon. The other
41 objective, which I submitted a proposal for but we haven't worked
42 out, is to get an idea of the number of fish returning to this
43 system. We don't have that information yet but I'd like to work
44 with the people in Nondalton and Iliamna and Newhalen and try to
45 put a project together where we can actually train some of the
46 people in the region to help get these counts and find the most
47 -- oh, the best way to get those numbers but also train people
48 within the region to do the work.

49
50 And this year the things that we would like to do,

00265

1 dependent on our funding -- well, this is work I will continue to
2 do, is gather, collect historic data and local knowledge, will
3 repeat genetic sampling as we can and I'd like to begin analyzing
4 the samples. We'd like to tag and track 200 sockeye salmon to
5 find all of their spawning habitats. And we'd like to begin
6 classifying known spawning habitats and I will be assisting Bruce
7 Finny in collecting and processing these core samples for the
8 productivity analysis.

9
10 And that's it. There you go. Are there any questions?
11 I zoomed through it, it's like whew.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions Council members.
14 Thank you very much, Carol Ann, we appreciate your.....

15
16 MR. HEYANO: A couple of questions, I guess, Mr.
17 Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

20
21 MR. HEYANO: So the device that gives off the
22 signal is put down into the stomach of the fish?

23
24 MS. WOODY: Yes. Yes, it's an esophagal implant,
25 it's been done in the Tustumena Lake system. Carl Burger did
26 research there, Tustumena is also a glacial system very similar
27 to Lake Clark. In his research he found there was about 10
28 percent mortality of the animals that they tagged and that the
29 others survived. We're trying to get an estimate of what that
30 mortality is. We don't know. We don't understand what the
31 natural is but we're trying to just get an idea of how many might
32 die so we can take those numbers out of our final analysis.

33
34 MR. HEYANO: The other question is, is then when
35 you put the fish through the clove oil, that's a clove oil and
36 water solution?

37
38 MS. WOODY: Ethanol.

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Ethanol.

41
42 MS. WOODY: Because clove oil is insoluble below
43 15 degrees centigrade so we have to mix it with ethanol so it
44 will go into solution.

45
46 MR. HEYANO: But it's.....

47
48 MS. WOODY: We mix it with that and then put it
49 in the water.

50

00266

1 MR. HEYANO: What's the formula?

2
3 MS. WOODY: What's the -- I should have known.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You want to put some biologists
6 to sleep.

7
8 MS. WOODY: No wonder he's just kind of looking
9 at me.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Carol Ann, can you eat the fish
12 if you catch it?

13
14 MS. WOODY: Yes. Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So it doesn't hurt them?

17
18 MS. WOODY: FDA -- the concentrations that are
19 approved for consumption -- that's why we've gone to this as a
20 potential anesthetic.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we don't want to find
23 Andy washed up on a beach with a cookie in his mouth.

24
25 MS. WOODY: If they smell like clove oil you know
26 what they're doing. No, they're okay to eat. And the
27 concentrations we're using are well below the levels that are
28 recommended by the FDA for human consumption so.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions you might
31 have Council members. Is it possible to shut that light off?

32
33 MS. WOODY: Yes, I am. I can do this. I have
34 this technology.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

37
38 MS. WOODY: Well, that's an absolute miracle that
39 they blew up here. I'm just so happy, I thought, oh, here it
40 goes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Don't worry about them blowing
43 up you worry about us blowing up, okay.

44
45 MS. WOODY: That's okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess there's no Bureau of
48 Land Management, uh?

49
50 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

00267

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Department of Fish and Game,
2 Cliff, would they like to talk to us? Ted Krieg, do you have a
3 burning issue -- oh, excuse me, is there Alaska Department of
4 Fish and Game, are you standing for some reason?

5
6 MR. WOOLINGTON: No -- well, I guess I was next
7 list. I didn't have a whole lot to present, if you want to just
8 pass on that and go on to the next report so you can get done.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good enough. Good
11 enough. Bristol Bay Native, BBNA, did you have something you
12 want to say to us?

13
14 MR. KRIEG: Sure. Just a couple of quick things.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

17
18 MR. KRIEG: Yes, Ted Krieg. Bristol Bay Native
19 Association, Natural Resource Department.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What tab are we at?

22
23 MR. KRIEG: We've got a project coming up, we
24 have cooperative agreement funding from Fish and Wildlife Service
25 and we'll be working cooperatively with Alaska Department of Fish
26 and Game, Subsistence Division and the project we're working on
27 is a Togiak/Twin Hills/Manokotak base line subsistence study.
28 And we're going to be starting in Togiak next week with
29 subsistence harvest surveys.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What about Levelock?

32
33 MR. KRIEG: That's not part of this.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's something else?

36
37 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. And I guess the most important
38 thing about this is that Togiak and Twin Hills have never had a
39 base line subsistence study done so it's pretty important for
40 them. I think like a couple of the only villages in the region
41 that haven't had it done.

42
43 And I guess the only thing I wanted to mention was that
44 with the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd, the Tier II
45 permits and the Federal permits, there's a requirement to report
46 your harvest and so I just want to remind, especially Mr.
47 Christensen and Mr. Enright, the people down from that area, to
48 be sure to report your harvest. And then, you know, I guess
49 we're just waiting to hear what the harvestable surplus is going
50 to be so we'll know.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And I think, too, when all
2 those caribou walk by up the upper end of Naknek Lake, a lot of
3 them went by there, quite a few thousand and I know people got
4 some so we'll put on Channel 17, a little scribe thing that goes
5 through on the cable TV to make sure they report, asking them to.

6
7 MR. KRIEG: Right. Because it's important or you
8 might jeopardize your chance for a permit next year if you don't
9 report. But that's all I got.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Questions. Migratory birds.

12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: I'm going to do that -- the next
14 three items, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

17
18 MR. EDENSHAW: Migratory birds we discussed with
19 that handout that was the e-mail on the top from Mimi Hogan and
20 that was just the option by the regional director hasn't been
21 finalized -- I mean officially so that was included in your
22 handout that I provided to the Council yesterday.

23
24 REPORTER: Cliff.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She wants to know who you are.

27
28 REPORTER: No, I don't want to know who he is, I
29 want him to talk in the microphone. Okay, go ahead.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's next.

32
33 MR. EDENSHAW: What's next is under Tab T [sic],
34 that's for information fur export and that was one of the items
35 that's for all the 10 Regional Council meetings here in the
36 state, it's for informational only and it was just regarding
37 export furs to Canada.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else?

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair. Under the next
42 item under Item 10 is new business and the 1999 annual report.
43 I compiled an annual report from the Council's previous meeting
44 held in Naknek and if the Council's had time to review this and
45 I compiled the issues from that meeting in Naknek as well as some
46 unfinished business that I read in the minutes so I went ahead
47 under -- if you look on Page 1 under traditional ORV use in
48 Katmai, and from having to put some of these other agencies back
49 on the backburner to the fall, I went ahead and included these
50 because from the review of the minutes I went ahead and did that

00269

1 so if you look at the traditional ORV use in Katmai, they go back
2 on the next page -- they had seven planning steps identified for
3 that. And for the first two -- three, four, five, six, those
4 were -- those were to have been completed. And then number 7 is
5 a draft plan by June 1, 2000. So I went ahead and -- from what
6 was stated in the minutes, I included those.

7
8 And then if you go over to Page 3 with the Alagnak Wild
9 River, Jane was to have given a report on that but I included
10 that in there because of what I also discovered in the minutes
11 when I was compiling those also.

12
13 Then if you go down to the bottom page on Page three, the
14 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management, that was to be included
15 and following that the Council addressed the MOU, then the
16 fisheries implementation plan. And those issues are included as
17 well.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tim.

20
21 MR. ENRIGHT: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a
22 correction on the bottom of Page 3 where it says Mr. O'Hara had
23 spoken to Allen Aspelund who is chair of the Lower Bristol Bay
24 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The chairman of the Lower
25 Bristol Bay Advisory Committee is Mitch Siebert now, but then it
26 was Myran Olsen.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Allen doesn't even go in that
29 area.

30
31 MR. ENRIGHT: No, Allen Aspelund is in Naknek.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay, we'll make the
34 correction on that. Anything else there on that, Cliff?

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: No, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Did you want to deal
39 with nominations?

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: Again, Mr. Chair, that was for
42 informational.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: And hopefully by the fall those
47 recommendations will become final by the Secretaries of Interior
48 and Agriculture. And the field staff and myself are hopefully
49 going to meet before the end of this month and then in the summer
50 the Federal Subsistence Board, in July, will make their

00270

1 recommendations to the Secretaries.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other new business, Council
4 members. Robin.

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: Um.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me, you're not finished,
9 you've got one more, I'm sorry.

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, under Tab W, there's
12 the Regional Council charter and that's going to be -- that is --
13 that can be up for -- it is up for renewal every even numbered
14 year, '98 and then this year 2000. So if the Regional Council
15 has any changes they'd like to see in there this is the time to
16 do it. And prior to coming out here, Jerry Berg, who was filling
17 in previously at the meeting in Naknek in September of last year
18 stated to me that there was also the issue of increasing the
19 Council size from seven to nine so he thought that should be
20 brought up. He shared that information to me and this would be
21 an opportune time for the Council to take action or discuss that
22 issue in the Regional Council charter.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would that be done now or the
25 fall meeting?

26

27 MR. EDENSHAW: That should be likely done this
28 time because the charter would be approved in the summer of this
29 year.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any concerns on the
32 charter, Council members? What about increasing numbers? No
33 interest. Okay.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: This letter, is this just a draft,
36 are we going to have an opportunity at the fall to provide input?

37

38 MR. EDENSHAW: For the draft annual report,
39 Robert, what I could -- what I would recommend is that when I get
40 back to Anchorage, I would like to speak with the Council
41 members, teleconference or individually, because this is the 1999
42 annual report and that will be approved also this summer by the
43 Board. And so I would like -- if you have comments now, I would
44 take those and then I can make those changes and then fax those
45 to you for your guys' review and this summer those would be
46 submitted to the -- through the proper channels with the Staff
47 Committee and the Board in the summer. So yes, the question is
48 if you have edits, just as Mr. Enright pointed out, in the annual
49 report, then I can go ahead and make those and you can
50 communicate via e-mail or else by the fax machine to go ahead and

00271

1 make those changes for the annual report.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert, does that
4 satisfy your question?

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Yeah. I have one to offer.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9

10 MR. HEYANO: On issue two on the last page, I
11 would prefer it to read cooperative management with local
12 organizations.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Excuse me, where are you at
15 here?

16

17 MR. HEYANO: Page 4 of the letter.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The charter?

20

21 MR. HEYANO: No, I'm on Tab U.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Go ahead.

24

25 MR. HEYANO: Page 4 second issue.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead, how did you want it
28 worded?

29

30 MR. HEYANO: Local organizations.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that okay with the
33 rest of the Council members? Okay. Anything else. Is that all
34 you have, Cliff?

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other new business.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: I missed my que there with Fish and
45 Game, if I can have just a couple of minutes, it's mainly a
46 handout. If you don't want to that's fine also.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, go ahead, that will be
49 fine.

50

00272

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm Dan Dunaway. Alaska Department
2 of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division, I have a handout here.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I guess so.

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick, what I'm handing out
7 here is there is a 2000 sportfisheries outlook, management
8 outlook for your information. The main thing I see is I'm going
9 to have to watch king and coho fisheries really carefully and I
10 will be. I have these stapled in a little bit reverse order.
11 There's also an abstract in there summarizing some of the results
12 of our '99 and '98 creel surveys, one of them is the Alagnak
13 River, Mr. Chairman, I know you've been very interested in that.

14
15 And then real briefly we have some few -- I'm in reverse
16 order so if you -- I'm sorry, if you start from the back there's
17 14 pages of outlook and then there's a one page summary of
18 abstracts that's up in the middle here. And then on the front
19 there's a proposal that I think is a little premature but I
20 didn't quite know how this stuff would be -- how you would want
21 to have it presented when I put these together.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't know either but just go
24 ahead.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: The second page there is those
27 abstracts, just a real brief summary.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, got it.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: The last thing then that I want to
32 cover is that we have some projects this summer and I wanted to
33 emphasize that sportfish is working towards working with local
34 folks in a variety of manners throughout Bristol Bay and the
35 lower Kuskokwim. Last year we had some volunteer intern type
36 folks in the Quinhagak area that we worked with, also a BBEDC
37 intern on a pike project here in the Lake Aleknagik. This summer
38 I expect to be working with Choggiung on the Nushagak River doing
39 a joint creel survey. Also a creel survey in the Wood River and
40 McClung area, where probably I hope to hire a young man that used
41 to be a BBEDC intern, if I can get the position.

42
43 Finally, I expect to be serving mostly in an advisory
44 capacity with the National Park Service, Levelock and BBNA in a
45 joint angler index survey on the Alagnak. And the idea there is
46 to kind of develop their abilities to conduct a creel survey and
47 I want to broaden my understanding of what's going on -- I've
48 been concerned that the last few creel surveys on the Alagnak
49 don't fully encompass the salmon fishery.

50

00273

1 The final thing here on the top of my handout, like I
2 say, I'm premature, I'm still trying to learn this system, but is
3 a proposal for the summer of 2001 for a more expanded creel
4 survey, again, jointly conducted with Levelock, BBNA and the
5 National Park Service. That's the first page, the very top page.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The first page, okay.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: So we're looking for -- jointly for
10 support with the angler index survey for this summer and then I
11 had planned to be on the Alagnak in the summer 2000 anyway, but
12 looking for a means of broadening and expanding my creel survey
13 over there by teaming up with local communities, and also might
14 better define the work we're doing there, and answer a number of
15 other questions of other agencies.

16
17 And that's all I have, sir.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, do you have
20 any questions. Well, thank you for taking time to come before
21 us, we appreciate it, didn't mean to leave you out there but I'm
22 glad you spoke up.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, I'm always.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll plan on seeing you at the
27 fall time.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: And I'm always available for
34 questions at my office.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think there needs to be
37 a real important correlation between the Federal program and the
38 State program on sportfish. It's just -- we don't want to get
39 you out of the loop on that because that's really important to
40 us, I think, so thank you very much.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, are we done with new
45 business now.

46
47 MR. SAMUELSEN: The only thing under new business
48 I have, Mr. Chairman, is that maybe in the fall we could get
49 somebody out of the migratory bird management body to come over
50 and apprise us of the impacts or the situation with steller

00274

1 eiders and speckled eiders as it relates to the communities
2 within Bristol Bay.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The other concern I have is
5 that ATVs in the Egegik/Levelock, is that still going to be
6 available for discussion, Deb, in the fall meeting?

7

8 MS. LIGGET: Fall would be great.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11

12 MS. LIGGET: I'll know more then than I know now.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. And I've been picking up
15 some information, I understand. I thought there was a lot of
16 damage taking place by them being in the Preserve and actually I
17 found out that the area they're traveling on is gravel beds where
18 it's not marsh and so we will certainly like to talk with you and
19 have you interact with our Council on that this coming fall. We
20 appreciate that.

21

22 Okay, anything else, Council members. What about the
23 next meeting.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Call of the Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

28

29 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

32

33 MR. EDENSHAW: Before -- between September 28th
34 and the 30th, the Kodiak RAC has set aside those three days but
35 their first choice was October 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and I serve as
36 coordinator for that Council, so just keep in mind those two sets
37 of dates.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right, anything
40 else. Motion to adjourn.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: So moved.

43

44 MR. ENRIGHT: I make a motion to adjourn.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're out of here. Thank you.

47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

49

50 * * * * *

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 certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 118 through 274 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 25th day of March, 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at the City Hall Assembly Chambers, Dillingham, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd of April 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00