

00103

BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME II

Naknek, Alaska
February 27, 2004
9:05 o'clock a.m.

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Peter Abraham

14 Virginia Aleck

15 Randy Alvarez

16 Dan Dunaway

17 Robert Heyano - By Telephone

18 Nanci Morris

19 H. Robin Samuelson - By Telephone

20

21

22 Coordinator: Clifford Edenshaw (Acting Chairperson)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Naknek, Alaska - 2/27/2004)

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(On record)

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CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, it's 9:05 in the morning, its Friday February 27th. I'll call the meeting back to order. Andy's ready so we'll go ahead and begin with a short powerpoint presentation as a prelude to Proposal 45.

Andy.

MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Cliff and Council members. My name is Andy Aderman. I'm a biologist with the Togiak Refuge. What I'm going to present to you is a short presentation on 17(A) moose. I gave the same presentation this last Monday over in Togiak when several people met to discuss moose in this area.

This is an ownership pattern within the Togiak Refuge. The lighter green colored are Federal public lands. The red is Native corporation and allotments or private land. These next three slides I'm going to start over on the right-hand side in Unit 17(C) and work across to the west and talk a little bit about moose surveys.

In 17(C) back in the early '80s it was estimated that there was between 1,400 and 1,700 moose and this is based on some work that was done in the northern half of Unit 17. A more recent survey, about five years ago, estimated just about 3,000 moose give or take 500, and that survey was in the entirety of Unit 17(C).

Moving to the west into 17(A) you see very low moose numbers back in the '80s and even into the early '90s and you can see the dramatic increase here over the last 10 years.

And moving further to the west into Unit 18, that part that includes the Goodnews, Arolik and Kanektok drainages, very low moose numbers right now.

Some of the reasons why moose have increased in 17(A) is moose have moved into that area from the east. When they got there they found good

00105

1 habitat, good habitat means healthy cows and healthy cows
2 have lots of calves and lots of healthy calves, and a lot
3 of those calves are surviving. We've also been fortunate
4 with some mild winters and starting about 10 years ago we
5 had Mulchatna caribou moving into that area and that
6 provided probably some buffer from people hunting moose
7 as much as they did. When they had caribou close by they
8 took caribou.

9

10 There's also some regulation changes made
11 by the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board,
12 both within 17(A) and also on the western part of Unit
13 17(C). Then that last reason is very important, People
14 in Togiak and Twin Hills, I believe, have changed their
15 attitudes towards moose and they used to get them
16 whenever they could and they've backed off and realized
17 that they can have more moose than what they had.

18

19 These next three slides kind of depict
20 sort of this western expansion of moose. Back in the
21 late '80s and early '90s, these are mainly radio-collared
22 moose kind of north -- northwest of Dillingham is where
23 we saw the majority of moose. If we add another four
24 years on top of this picture, I know it doesn't show up
25 real well, but there's moose, more locations over in Unit
26 17(A) and if we add another five years to this, we have a
27 lot more moose locations in 17(A) and it doesn't show up
28 very well but we are seeing this increase in Unit 18 as
29 well.

30

31 I mentioned that the cows are having lots
32 of calves. We began a radio collaring study in 17(A)
33 back in 1998 and the majority of the cows are having
34 twins and the majority of the calves are surviving to
35 fall. The five year average has been about 52 percent
36 survival. And I know a lot of areas in the state, if
37 they had half that they'd be really happy.

38

39 Another indication of the productivity of
40 this population is we caught five 11-month old female
41 moose two years ago and radio-collared them. One of the
42 interesting things is we weighed them, they averaged
43 about 473 pounds, they're among the heaviest moose in the
44 state for that age. This last year all five of them were
45 still alive, four of them had produced calves. Three had
46 single calves and one had twins. And that's virtually
47 unheard of elsewhere in the state. Most moose do not
48 have their first calf until they're three and sometimes
49 four years old and generally they have one calf their
50 first time around.

00106

1 Adult survival, again, this is based on
2 radio-collared animals. Over the last five years, it's
3 averaged about 86 percent survival overall. We had a few
4 bulls, a majority of the animals that we have radio
5 collars on are females. The ones that didn't survive we
6 had 25 radio-collared moose die over the last five years.
7 We believe 60 percent of that is due to predation,
8 primarily brown bears. About a quarter were taken
9 outside of the legal moose hunting season and we've had a
10 few others die from various other causes.

11
12 The chart on the right is when moose are
13 dying. The majority of them are in April and May and
14 that coincides with when brown bears are coming out of
15 the den. So the late winter, early spring period is when
16 most of the moose are being killed, the radio-collared
17 moose.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Andy, how may --
20 on that previous slide there, on the left, with the 25
21 moose killed over the five year, how many total moose did
22 you collar?

23
24 MR. ADERMAN: We collared a total of 71
25 moose.

26
27 MS. ALECK: Is it mostly female or males
28 that are dying from predation, do you know?

29
30 MR. ADERMAN: It's mostly females.

31
32 MS. ALECK: Oh.

33
34 MR. ADERMAN: We looked at the habitat in
35 17(A) and tried to get an estimate of what this area can
36 support as far as moose numbers. We specifically looked
37 at winter habitat willows, cotton woods, the sorts of
38 things what moose depend on in the winter. We estimate
39 that there's about 560 square miles of this primary
40 winter habitat and using the figure of two to three moose
41 per square mile suggests that 17(A) could have from 1,100
42 to 1,700 moose.

43
44 We feel this is a conservative estimate.
45 There's other areas, what we call secondary winter
46 habitat, some of the lower willows that moose do use and
47 that estimate of that secondary habitat doesn't tie into
48 that 1,100 to 1,700 estimate.

49
50 Another thing that relates to habitat

00107

1 potential is the term carrying capacity and that's, you
2 know, how many moose can area sustain indefinitely.
3 Elsewhere, you know, other people have looked at this
4 same question and we've come up with this relationship
5 between twinning rates and where the population is in
6 regards to carrying capacity. And when you're below
7 carrying capacity, people have found twinning rates 25 to
8 90 percent. As you get closer to carrying capacity it's
9 five to 25 percent twinning rates. And if you've gone
10 over, you have too many moose in an area, that twinning
11 rate drops down to less than five percent. And our
12 twinning rate here has been 64 percent.

13

14 This is the last slide in my presentation
15 and this deals with hunting in 17(A). Hunting was closed
16 back in 1981 and it was reopened in 1997 with a State
17 registration permit hunt in the fall. And this shows the
18 number of permits that were issued to local residents and
19 non-local residents. Non-local residents are residents
20 that do not reside in Unit 17, so they could be from Unit
21 18 or from some other unit, they're considered a non-
22 local resident. And it shows the number of people that
23 reported hunting and what the harvest of moose was. You
24 can see that there's been a very small non-local
25 participation in this hunt and even a smaller harvest of
26 moose by non-local residents, in fact, so far we know of
27 two moose taken by non-local residents since 1997.

28

29 That concludes the presentation that I
30 have here. I was going to hand out the Draft Moose
31 Management Plan.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert. Robin.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Are you there
38 Robert?

39

40 MR. HEYANO: We're here Cliff.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Oh, okay. Andy's
43 done with his powerpoint presentation. I'm not sure if
44 you were able to hear everything but he's available for
45 some questions.

46

47 MR. HEYANO: No, if they don't speak
48 loudly into the mike we get a lot of static on this end
49 but I don't think he presented any new information, did
50 he?

00108

1 (Laughter)

2

3

4 MR. ADERMAN: I guess it might be new to
5 some of the folks, maybe not as new to some of them that
6 have dealt with this moose population for some time.

7

8 What I am going to present now is some
9 new information. And this is from the meeting that we
10 had this last Monday over in Togiak, which this Council
11 recommended that Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, the
12 Togiak Advisory Committee, the Nushagak Advisory
13 Committee and representatives from this Council get
14 together and discuss moose management. And we took a
15 look at the Draft Plan. For those of you that are new,
16 this planning process has been going on actually since
17 1996, that was right when, you know, after we started to
18 see an increase in moose in that area. And it's still an
19 ongoing process.

20

21 We took a look at the Draft Plan,
22 specifically goal three. That's the area of the plan
23 that has the most interest. It has to do with hunting.

24

25 And the group came up with some new
26 objectives under goal three and they also recommended
27 modifying a couple of objectives. The new objectives
28 that that group came up with are number 4, 5 and 6. And
29 for the benefit of Robert and Robin, objective four is
30 when the population exceeds 1,100 moose, remove the
31 aircraft access restriction. Currently under the fall
32 hunt on the State registration permit, there's an
33 aircraft access restriction into the area. You have to
34 land at a State maintained airport and this restriction
35 has made it a very local hunt. And most of those people
36 that got permits and hunted were residents of Togiak and
37 Twin Hills.

38

39 Objective No. 5, when the population
40 exceeds 1,400 moose allow a limited resident fall general
41 hunt for bulls.

42

43 Also Objective No. 6, when the population
44 reaches 1,400 moose allow a limited hunt for cows.

45

46 And then Objective No. 7 was actually in
47 the previous draft that identified a threshold when non-
48 residents might have an opportunity. That old threshold
49 level was 1,100 and by consensus of the group they wanted
50 to see that raised up to 1,700.

51

00109

1 I'll stop here and try to answer any
2 questions you may have.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Andy, were there
7 any -- I know Dave went to the meeting, but when the
8 Board meets in May, was there any -- are you going to
9 provide information for Dave to present this new
10 information to the Board at the Board meeting?

11
12 MR. ADERMAN: Sure.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: I know the Board's
15 highly interested in -- because the issue of 17(A) moose
16 has been ongoing for the last few years and they're
17 always interested in new information regarding the plan.

18
19 MR. ADERMAN: Right. And you may have
20 recalled, Dave, yesterday, on Proposal 44 that dealt with
21 same day airborne moose, this group looked at Proposal
22 44, 45, 46 and 47, and it's my intention that the
23 findings of the group will, you know, be made known to
24 the Council and to the Board because they all deal with
25 17(A) moose, especially the last three deal specifically
26 with 17(A) moose.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
29 Andy.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Cliff, I don't know
32 if Andy's the right guy to answer it but a couple of
33 things, comments. I think it's been excellent that this
34 planning effort was initiated and has been ongoing. I
35 think I sat in one of these RACs early on when it was
36 discussed, it looks like a lot of progress has been made.
37 But when do you anticipate seeing it sign off, it's
38 getting to be pretty long, it'd be nice to feel like you
39 have a completed plan. Granted there'll be ongoing
40 planning efforts, but do you have any sense of when you
41 could start trying to get the signatures?

42
43 MR. ADERMAN: I'm hopeful that we can get
44 signatures fairly soon and by that, you know, within the
45 next year. I know at that meeting the Togiak folks
46 wanted to present it to a little bigger audience in
47 Togiak, even though the folks there agreed with what I
48 just presented. And you know, I'm sure this Council
49 and.....

50

00110

1 MR. HEYANO: Are you still there, Cliff?

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We're here Robert.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: You know, I'm sure.....

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We're just waiting

10 -- Andy's providing some response back to a question

11 asked.

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: I'm sure Nushagak Advisory

14 Committee would like to, you know, look at it more

15 closely. But I'm, again, hopeful that within a year we

16 can bring this to finalization.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: I think that would be

19 excellent and it's really nice having a real clear

20 framework, and I'm glad you provided the plan. I was

21 reading through some of the comments and there's all this

22 in the booklet, it references to a plan, but no plan

23 available to look at.

24

25 So my only other question, you estimated

26 that the available habitat carrying capacity be what,

27 1,100 to 1,700?

28

29 MR. ADERMAN: That it could support 1,100

30 to 1,700 moose, yes.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: And so the folks in this

33 group really -- for goals four through seven, they really

34 want it way up there before some of these added

35 opportunities are available?

36

37 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: I thought might have a

40 question there, I think I'll leave it alone, so thanks.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, did you

43 have any questions for Andy.

44

45 MR. HEYANO: No, not for Andy. Maybe

46 just a comment to the other Council members. I didn't

47 hear much of his presentation but what I got is that the

48 meeting in Togiak they went over the Draft Plan and are

49 making some recommended changes.

50

00111

1 You know, I think that for the Council
2 members there, if you look at that Draft Plan there is no
3 signatures to it and as far as I recollect there's only
4 two groups that are named there that actually took formal
5 action and adopted that plan, one is the Nushagak
6 Advisory Committee and the other is the Bristol Bay RAC,
7 which is meeting today. For whatever reason all the
8 other people have elected not to adopt it or sign on to
9 it. So that's just what it is, it's a draft. And, you
10 know, if there's some suggested changes to be made, I
11 think that's something that that group needs to work out.
12 And I really don't think it's germane to the proposal
13 before us today.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
18 Andy, will you be able to get a copy to Robert and Robin
19 when you go back home?

20

21 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: And I'll get a
24 copy to Dan while he's here, because all the other
25 Council members here received that so I'll just highlight
26 the changes for Dan.

27

28 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

31

32 MS. MORRIS: I did have a question, Andy,
33 on your habitat evaluation you indicated that you felt
34 that there were 520 acres available for secondary
35 habitat. Was it not included as a buffer zone type deal
36 or what was your reasoning behind that?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: We wanted to look just
39 mainly at what we call that, what we call, primary, you
40 know, winter habitat and use that. So yes there is sort
41 of a, you know, buffer and even, you know, the primary
42 habitat that's a conservative estimate as well. So we
43 want to look at other aspects of habitat and quality, we
44 make the assumption that it is really good quality
45 habitat but that's based on twinning rates and weights of
46 calves. But we'd like to look at that a little bit more,
47 you know, thoroughly in the future.

48

49 It's sort of a unique area because from
50 what I've been able to dig up moose haven't been in this

00112

1 area for much of the last thousand years. Like in some
2 other areas of the state where historically there was a
3 lot of moose and then they went down for whatever reason
4 and then came back and so sort of these real long-term
5 fluctuations of a hundred, 200 years.

6

7 MS. MORRIS: Thanks.

8

9 MR. ADERMAN: I might add one other
10 comment. You know, Robert brought up a good point, the
11 plan is draft. But both the Board of Game and the
12 Federal Subsistence Board have kind of taken that draft
13 and used it as a guideline in dealing with proposals that
14 have come before them. And there's been a number of
15 proposals to have a winter hunt before we got to that 600
16 level, and they looked at this Draft Management Plan and
17 said, well, you know, it's draft, but people have worked
18 on this and there seems to be some agreement and come
19 back to us when you got 600 moose and we'll entertain
20 having a winter hunt.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
23 questions for Andy.

24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete.

28

29 MR. ABRAHAM: I just want to make a
30 comment. On May, first week of May, I will be presenting
31 this to the Tri-Council and get the opinion from the
32 group there.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Any
35 additional questions for Andy.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Andy.

40

41 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, we're
44 going to go ahead and move on to the Staff analysis for
45 Proposal 45.

46

47 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Could I just -- well,
50 before we get there I guess I'd like to say, I like to

00113

1 see plans get completed. If this thing looks like it's
2 going to fly among some of the other groups I would hope
3 we could take it up as an agenda item to sign off on by
4 either next fall or a year from now because a lot of good
5 work's been done.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Right. The
8 Council could, you know, after Robert and Robin and Dan,
9 they've not looked at the plan.....

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Right.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:so as soon as
14 those individuals get the plan.....

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Right.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:if the
19 Council desires, we could meet via teleconference prior
20 to the -- if the Council would like to address the plan
21 as soon as possible or they could address it at the fall
22 at their next Council meeting, that can be an agenda
23 item.

24

25 As Pete said, he's going to present this
26 plan at the tribal meeting in May?

27

28 MR. ABRAHAM: Tri.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Tri.

31

32 MR. ABRAHAM: Tri-Council meeting.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Tri-Council
35 meeting in May, and that's likely going to be before the
36 Board meeting. The Board will meet, I believe, the
37 second week in May. And I'm certain Andy and the rest of
38 the Staff there will be -- I'm sure the Nushagak -- I'm
39 not sure when the Advisory Committee is going to -- the
40 Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee, the Nushagak
41 will meet to address the recent changes to the plan, so
42 it's just a matter of how soon the Council would like to
43 address the issue.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think
46 it's premature now. I mean the plan just landed here.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Right.

49

50 MR. DUNAWAY: Everybody needs time to

00114

1 digest it and such. But whether next fall or a year from
2 now it'd sure be nice to get some signatures on it. So
3 thanks for the presentation and good work to everybody
4 that was on there. Thank you.

5

MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: That means you're
9 on, Dave.

10

11 MR. FISHER: Okay.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. FISHER: What I did is I handed out
16 an update on the registration hunt permit data and it
17 actually will replace the harvest information that I have
18 on Page 113 or Table 1. Andy put a slide up and we'll be
19 referring to this, not only for this proposal but
20 probably the following two proposals. So this is the
21 latest hunt report for the 17(A) moose harvest data.

22

23 This is Proposal No. 45. It was
24 submitted by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.
25 And what this proposal would do would close Federal
26 public lands in 17(A) to non-Federally-qualified moose
27 hunters for the fall season. Would change the fall
28 season hunting dates from August 25th to November -- to
29 September 20th to August 20th to September 15th -- so
30 it's actually going to move the Federal season up five
31 days each way. It would change the current requirement
32 from a State registration permit to a Federal
33 registration permit for Federal public lands.

34

35 The existing Federal regulation for the
36 fall hunt is one bull by State registration permit August
37 25th through November 20th -- September 20th. The
38 current Department of Fish and Game regulations are the
39 same as the Federal regulations.

40

41 Federal public land here is the Togiak
42 National Wildlife Refuge.

43

44 Customary and traditional use, you can
45 look at that, that's in the book. It's residents of
46 17(A) plus Goodnews Bay and Platinum and then there's an
47 additional area there for that portion north of Togiak
48 Lake, rural residents of Akiak and Akiachak, they also
49 have a positive customary and traditional use.

50

00115

1 As Andy mentioned in his presentation,
2 planning for this started in 1996 and it's continuing.
3 It's been a little slow but we've made some real progress
4 on it as you can see. He discussed a little bit about
5 our meeting in Togiak on Monday. He covered a little bit
6 of the biology, I won't go into that in any detail.

7
8 Moose are fairly new to Southwest Alaska and
9 17(A). Early surveys indicated a very low population,
10 1980s through real early '90s there was hardly any moose
11 at all, less than a dozen. The population started to
12 increase in the mid-1990s, '85 to 1994 jumped up to 429
13 in 1998, 511 in 1999, 650 in 2002, and I think the
14 current population is somewhere around 750. Andy gave
15 some good information on the growth rate, and so that's
16 good data to keep in mind.

17
18 He also mentioned that the season started
19 in 1997, it had been closed for 16 years trying to get
20 the population up. The season started in 1997, like I
21 said, through a Board of Game action and also by the
22 Federal Subsistence Board.

23
24 I've given you a handout showing the
25 harvest information for those seven fall hunts and also
26 there's information there that shows what happened this
27 last winter on the winter hunt.

28
29 What this proposal would do would
30 establish a August 20th through September 15th Federal
31 Subsistence season using a Federal registration permit
32 for Federally-qualified residents only. If this proposal
33 were to pass Federal permits would be made available in
34 villages that have customary and traditional use for
35 moose in Unit 17(A). However, hunters wishing to hunt on
36 both State lands and Federal lands would need two
37 separate permits. Two separate permits mean two separate
38 reporting systems and actually two separate systems to
39 administrate those permits.

40
41 Some of the best habitat is located close
42 to Togiak which is an area that's managed by the State
43 and would not be open to hunters using Federal
44 registration permits. A Federal registration permit is
45 only good on Federal public lands and not on State
46 managed lands.

47
48 The current fall hunt has been in line
49 for seven years now with few, if any, problems and it
50 seems to be working quite well.

00116

1 The Staff recommendation on this proposal
2 was to oppose it. Keep the fall hunt as it is now, same
3 dates using a State registration permit. Like I
4 mentioned, the hunt has been quite successful, only two
5 moose have been taken by non-local residents. Starting
6 the season five days earlier and ending it five days
7 earlier than the State hunt with a separate Federal
8 registration permit for Federal public lands could be
9 confusing. And the closure of Federal public lands to
10 non-Federally-qualified hunters does not meet ANILCA
11 Section 815 criteria for the elimination of non-
12 Federally-qualified users. This would be closed to non-
13 Federally-qualified users if we did have a moose
14 population problem and if the moose population was in
15 decline and we didn't have enough moose to go around then
16 we would want to close that to non-Federally-qualified
17 users but that isn't the case. The population is healthy
18 and growing.

19
20 Using a single registration permit like
21 we have now with a single reporting system with specified
22 season dates is easier to manage, administer and seems to
23 be more efficient.

24
25 The Moose Planning Working Group on
26 Monday supported the Staff recommendation on this
27 proposal, and they noted that the current system seems to
28 be working right, let's leave it like it is. If the
29 truck's not broke down let's not try to fix it.

30
31 That's basically all I have, Mr.
32 Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dave.
35 Were there any questions for Dave regarding his analysis,
36 Council members.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: I do.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: So, again, this is a new
43 best we know, relatively new and expanding population not
44 a recovering population, I guess more of a statement than
45 a question. I don't understand how it gets customary and
46 traditional rating or findings if it -- it sounds like it
47 could never have been traditional, or was it traditional
48 -- maybe Pete can answer, is it traditional that if a
49 moose showed up it died?

50

00117

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete.

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM: People had a study on it,
6 there was moose there before. The number went down and
7 it was open -- it was working in the State -- yeah, Ken
8 Taylor, used to be open there all the time.

9

10 MR. FISHER: The original customary and
11 traditional use was passed down from the State when the
12 Federal program took over. And then there was some
13 additional work done and I believe Goodnews Bay and
14 Platinum were added as it indicated that they had used --
15 had hunted and harvested moose, probably not very many in
16 17(A), and the same determination was made for Akiachak,
17 and Akiak. I think that was probably done in, I want to
18 think in mid-90s, those villages were added to the
19 current C&T determination.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dan.

24 Robert, did you have any questions for Dave.

25

26 MR. HEYANO: No, I think -- well, maybe I
27 do. I guess C&T findings is rural residents of Unit
28 17(C), residents of Goodnews, Platinum, those are the
29 only people who have C&T findings for moose in 17(A). I
30 think by adopting this proposal, the State system would
31 still allow State hunts on other than lands outside the
32 Refuge, right, on Federal lands?

33

34 MR. FISHER: Yeah, that's correct. We're
35 only talking about Federal public lands here. The State
36 hunt would still go on on State managed lands.

37

38 MR. HEYANO: Okay. Of those State
39 managed lands, how much of that is in private ownership?
40 I think when I read through the information, we're
41 guessing about 84 percent of the lands in 17(A) are
42 Federal lands, so what portion of the -- what would that
43 be, 16 percent, are privately owned lands, would you say?

44

45 MR. FISHER: Yes, that's not exactly but
46 it's pretty close.

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Okay. And my question is,
49 of that 16 percent, what percentage of that is privately
50 owned lands?

00118

1 MR. FISHER: Well, probably most of that
2 because it would be the village corporation. You get
3 down below the Refuge there and it's almost all -- I
4 think Twin Hills and Togiak Native Limited own that,
5 maybe, Pete, is there any other -- and there's a numerous
6 amount of allotments in there that would be private, but
7 the remainder is village corporation land.

8
9 MR. HEYANO: Thanks, Dave.

10
11 MR. FISHER: You're welcome.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
14 questions for Dave.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: If not, we'll go
19 ahead and move on to ADF&G comments.

20
21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chairman. Members
22 of the Council. Jim Woolington, Fish and Game in
23 Dillingham. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game does
24 not support this proposal.

25
26 There's no evidence that has been
27 presented to support the proposed closure of Federal
28 public lands in Game Management Unit 17(A) except to
29 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

30
31 Ever since the Alaska Board of Game
32 implemented the State registration moose hunt in Game
33 Management Unit 17(A) a total of 379 hunters have
34 obtained permits. Only 12 of these hunters were not
35 residents of Game Management Unit 17. Of the 70 moose
36 that have been reported taken during these registration
37 hunts up through the winter of 2003, all but two were
38 taken by Unit 17 residents. Annual harvests in 17(A)
39 remain below sustainable levels and adoption of this
40 proposal would result in a hunt for which many hunters
41 would need to obtain both the State and the Federal
42 registration permits as the boundaries between the State
43 and Federal managed lands are not easily distinguishable.

44
45 I'd also like to point out that this
46 proposal gives different dates than the present State
47 registration hunt. When the State registration hunt
48 started in 1997 it had the -- the season dates were
49 August 20th through September 15th. Several years ago,
50 two or three years ago a proposal came from the Togiak

00119

1 area to the Board of Game to change the season dates for
2 that State registration, the fall State registration hunt
3 to make it start and stop five days later, so the 17(A)
4 State registration hunt dates are -- the opening date is
5 August 25th and it goes through September 20th. The
6 dates for this Federal proposal is August 20th through
7 September 15th, which is not in the wishes of when the
8 folks over in Togiak would like to hunt moose.

9

10 I would also like to point out comment on
11 the meeting that we had on Monday over in Togiak to
12 discuss the 17(A) management plan and also these
13 different Federal proposals and I'd like to give a quote
14 from the Togiak representative, the Togiak Traditional
15 Council and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee and
16 it was, quote, don't try to fix something that isn't
17 broken. They stated that they were satisfied with the
18 present State registration hunt and it was providing them
19 opportunity to hunt as they wished to and also the season
20 dates, when they wished to hunt.

21

22 If you have any questions I can try to
23 answer them.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.
26 Any questions for Jim Council members.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, did you
31 have any questions for Jim Woolington.

32

33 MR. HEYANO: No, I don't have a question,
34 Mr. Chairman, just maybe a comment in rebuttal to his
35 statement. I think if you look at who has C&T findings
36 for 17(A) it's more than just the folks in Togiak and,
37 you know, that statement wouldn't hold true in the
38 Nushagak Advisory Committee. And I think that, you know,
39 as a RAC we need to be very careful that we don't start
40 distinguishing through regulations some Federal
41 subsistence users, who has a priority and who doesn't. I
42 don't think that would be very healthy for the region to
43 go down that path and that's what I see happening under
44 the State system. And I think that's why we're so
45 opposed to it, is that, you know, just by the way the
46 State issues and the restrictions placed on their
47 registration permit pretty much precludes people who
48 reside outside of the Togiak drainage, and I don't think
49 that's our function. We need to look out for all the
50 subsistence users who have C&T for this resource and

00120

1 treat them equally.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
Any additional questions for Jim.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.
Well, with that we'll move on to other State or Federal
agency comments. Pat.

12

13

14

15

MR. WALSH: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
Council. I'm Pat Walsh, I'm the lead biologist for the
Togiak Refuge. The Togiak Refuge doesn't support this
proposal for many of the same reasons that you've heard
from Dave and from Jim.

16

17

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20

We have four main reasons.

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The first one is there is no biological
basis for closing the moose hunt to non-subsistence
hunters. The second reason is there is no substantial
competition with non-local residents under the current
State system. The table in your book on Page 113 shows
that only three percent of the permits have ever gone to
non-local people and less than two percent of the harvest
has ever gone to non-local people. The third reason, to
reiterate what Jim said, is that, adding five days of
hunting on the start end of the season doesn't really
meet the needs of the local people anyway since they were
the ones that were the proponent of the change four or
five years ago to make the seasons the way they are right
now. The fourth and final reason and the one that makes
the greatest sense to us is that this dual permit system
that this regulation would require does a disservice to
everybody involved. In order for a hunter to be able to
comply with dual permit requirements he'd have to have
far greater knowledge of land ownership patterns, not --
it's not just the lower river area that falls under State
jurisdiction but the river corridors themselves that flow
through the Refuge would be under State jurisdiction so
it would not be at all easy for someone to know what
permit he would need to have in his possession in order
to legally hunt. Hunters would have to have a far
greater ability to land navigate precisely than they do
right now. And there's also twice the requirement in
obtaining permits and reporting. It double the effort
for the people involved.

00121

1 This also creates a no-win situation for
2 both State and Federal law enforcement authorities. So
3 as far as we can tell, any good that can come out of this
4 dual permit system is far outweighed by the disadvantages
5 to it.

6
7 That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Pat.
10 Any questions for Pat.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, did you
15 have any questions for Pat, that's Pat Walsh from the
16 Togiak Refuge.

17
18 MR. HEYANO: I don't have any questions
19 and I don't feel like debating him on his statements, so,
20 no, I'll pass.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, thank
23 you, Robert. Virginia.

24
25 MS. ALECK: I would like to make a
26 comment, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead,
29 Virginia.

30
31 MS. ALECK: I would like to say that I
32 oppose this proposal. And I would respect the local
33 wishes would come first because they are the subsistence
34 users of the land and they're getting along just fine and
35 this is what they want.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you,
40 Virginia.

41
42 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Pat.
45 Any additional comments from other agencies.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any ADF&G Advisory
50 Committees who wish to provide public comments regarding

00122

1 this proposal.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Summary of written

6 public comments. I have one here from Moe Kritz and Moe

7 Kritz is the Chairman for the Togiak Advisory Committee.

8

9 Moe states for Proposal 45, we agree with

10 and support the Staff recommendation and ADF&G comments

11 opposing the proposal. We understand the proposal would

12 limit the number of subsistence hunters on Federal lands

13 in Unit 17(A). While the intent of this proposal is

14 commendable, a dual permit system and requirements would

15 be confusing and cumbersome for the local subsistence

16 users.

17

18 And just to preface Moe Kritz' comments

19 on Proposal 45, he just stated at the beginning, at the

20 meeting of the members of the 17(A) Moose Working Group

21 on February 23rd, 2004 in Togiak, Proposals 44, 45, 46

22 and 47 were reviewed by the members present. The Togiak

23 Advisory Committee, the Chairman of the Manokotak

24 Advisory Committee, representatives of the Togiak

25 National Wildlife Refuge and a representative from the

26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, this letter is to

27 convey the recommendation from the Togiak Advisory

28 Committee. And I think Moe also omitted that Pete was

29 also at the meeting, correct, Pete?

30

31 MR. ABRAHAM: (Nods affirmatively)

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete is a member

34 of this Bristol Bay Council, and so in his letter Moe

35 just had a slight oversight. But anyway, those are the

36 comments from the Togiak Advisory Committee. That's all

37 I have in regards to written public comments.

38

39 Is there anyone who would like to provide

40 public testimony. Ralph, come on up.

41

42 MR. ANDERSEN: Good morning. For the

43 record my name is Ralph Andersen, I'm with the Bristol

44 Bay Native Association.

45

46 The proposal before you is kind of

47 confusing to me, I mean in reading the Staff analysis.

48 Because the proposal addresses the fall hunt whereas all

49 the regulatory history that's cited in the analysis

50 addresses proposals for winter moose hunts. I mean it

00123

1 begins with, you know, BBNA submittal to the Board of
2 Game for a winter moose hunt in 17(A). Our proposal did
3 not address the fall hunt.

4

5 What you heard previously, what Cliff
6 just read, was comments from Moses Kritz as the Chairman
7 of the Togiak Advisory Committee. I was there at the
8 meeting as well as an observer, at the working group
9 meeting last Monday, and, you know, there were comments
10 that were presented by Moses and those previously are
11 accurate. What wasn't there -- or a group that wasn't
12 represented at the meeting was the Togiak Traditional
13 Council. And it's the Traditional Council that requested
14 -- or that we submitted the proposal for for the winter
15 moose hunt in response to their request. But it's hard
16 for me, you know, and the Traditional Council has not
17 weighed in on this proposal, but it's hard for me to
18 imagine the Traditional Council being opposed to it
19 because the Title VIII provisions for the subsistence
20 preference, it would be hard for me to imagine them
21 giving that up because under the State process, the State
22 permit, you know, everybody in the State is eligible for
23 a permit.

24

25 Like I said, the Togiak Advisory Council
26 did oppose this proposal, but the Togiak Traditional
27 Council we haven't heard from.

28

29 I think this proposal really highlights a
30 classic example of the conflict between State and Federal
31 subsistence preferences. The preference at the State
32 level is that everyone is eligible for a subsistence
33 hunt. Title VIII provides the rural preference more
34 clearly.

35

36 Really that's all that I really have to
37 say. I mean I just want to make sure that the regulatory
38 history outlined in the analysis addresses winter moose
39 hunt proposals and they don't address the fall hunt.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete.

46

47 MR. ABRAHAM: To answer Ralph's question
48 on Traditional Council over there, there was five people,
49 including me -- we wear many hats over there, because
50 it's not that -- you know, it's a small village so all of

00124

1 us have to divide in some way to present or represent
2 many issues that we have over here.

3

4 Moses Kritz is the president of Tribal
5 Council, I am the vice President, the Secretary is over
6 there and the member was over there and there was a
7 couple other people. So I see this as a combined support
8 from that body right there. If it was on the Traditional
9 Council side, the working group didn't voice it but of
10 course those are the same people that are working over
11 there. Like I said, we wear many hats over there to deal
12 with things over there. Everybody supported, you know,
13 this over here.

14

15 And I'm glad about this thing over there,
16 this is the first time I ever got support from my
17 village.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. ABRAHAM: And it makes me feel good
22 and make me feel strong, and I wish Robert was over here
23 so I could fight him.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Is that all,
28 Ralph.

29

30 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, thank
33 you, Ralph. Anyone else wishing to provide public
34 comments regarding Proposal 45.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: If not, we'll go
39 ahead and move this to the Council deliberation. Before
40 -- Robert, we're elevating this to the Council
41 deliberation, so what is the wishes of the Council.

42

43 MR. HEYANO: Move to adopt Proposal 45,
44 Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion
47 on the table to adopt Proposal 45.

48

49 MS. ALECK: I second that.

50

00125

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a second.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert, go
6 ahead.

7

8 MR. HEYANO: I would like to offer an
9 amendment.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, go
12 ahead.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: My amendment would read, Mr.
15 Chair, Unit 17(A) one bull by Federal registration
16 permit, August 25th, September 10th, Federal public lands
17 are closed to the taking of moose except by Federally-
18 qualified subsistence users.

19

20 And if I get a second I'll explain my
21 amendment, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Is there a second
24 to Robert's amendment.

25

26 MR. ALVAREZ: Second.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a second,
29 Robert.

30

31 MR. HEYANO: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 In reading the comments and the discussion that have
33 taken place, I think it's important for us to remember
34 that it's more than just the people of Togiak and Twin
35 Hills that are involved here. And from my background and
36 my participation, I supported the closure of the Sunshine
37 Valley, I don't know, 10, 15 years ago to the local
38 residents on this side, primarily to try to allow moose
39 to go over into Unit 17(A). I supported the closure of
40 all lands west of the Wood River and south of Aleknagik
41 in the winter time to attempt to allow moose to pass over
42 into Unit 17(A) and those closures are still in place
43 today, Mr. Chairman. So I think there's other people
44 here who have given up opportunity to provide moose over
45 there and their desires need to be considered when we're
46 voting on this proposal.

47

48 And I would like the Council to look a
49 little further than what the people of Togiak and Twin
50 Hills preferences are.

00126

1 I think my amendment, Mr. Chair, would be
2 a compromise. It would still fill our mandate to provide
3 a priority for Federally-qualified subsistence users by
4 allowing them, what is it, a few days -- more than a few
5 days at the beginning of the season where they can
6 basically hunt on Federal land without competition from
7 non-Federally-qualified users. It should address some of
8 the concerns that have been addressed by the State and
9 Federal people and that non-Federally-qualified users
10 will still have opportunity to participate in this hunt.

11
12 Then the Federally-qualified person, my
13 proposal doesn't close State managed lands during this
14 time, just Federally, so if there is individuals who want
15 -- Federally-qualified subsistence users who want to hunt
16 on State lands they can do that. It doesn't address
17 having the dual -- the requirement of getting the dual
18 permits and what not, but I think the compromise
19 justifies having those dual permits and meeting our
20 mandate.

21
22 You know, this is a fairly new resource,
23 it's developing, we have a ways to go yet to reach the
24 population objectives, and this concept isn't something
25 new. I think if you would go back in your book and look
26 at, under Tab C, in Unit 9 there is hunts like this,
27 where, on Federal land by Federal permit they get a few
28 extra days without any competition, and you know they get
29 an antlerless moose hunt, et cetera, both in Unit 9(E)
30 and in Unit 9(C), so I think this is consistent with past
31 Council and Federal Subsistence Board action.

32
33 The other thing, I think we need to be
34 very careful here is that today it shows that non-
35 Federally-qualified users are at a minimum as far as
36 harvest and participants, but anyone who's resided in the
37 Bristol Bay region think that that's going to remain like
38 that, I think, only have to go back and look at the
39 history. We've always seen an influx of outside hunters
40 competing to the local people for the resource.

41
42 I recall Robin Samuelsen writing a letter
43 to, then, Governor Hammond, in the Upper Mulchatna and
44 Nushagak area, addressing concerns of what he thought was
45 increasing hunting pressure in Unit 17(B) from outside
46 residents outside the area and Hammond wrote back and
47 told him, Robin, don't worry, you don't have any trophy
48 moose you'll never see any huge increase in effort, well,
49 look at it today, you know, that upper country is
50 dominated by people from outside the region. And that's

00127

1 a trend that will happen here. I think we need to have
2 the foresight to look ahead and make sure that doesn't
3 happen. And as the resource builds we allow it to
4 develop in an orderly fashion rather than open the gates,
5 let everybody come in and then try to restrict them and
6 bring them back. That doesn't do any good to anybody,
7 people build businesses on it, they get to depend on it
8 and then you have to unduly restrict them. I think we're
9 in a unique opportunity here to structure this moose hunt
10 harvest in Unit 17(A) in an orderly fashion and in my
11 opinion a correctly fashion by keeping our mandate of
12 providing a priority for Federally-qualified subsistence
13 users and hopefully we can accomplish our goals by doing
14 that and still allow non-Federally-qualified subsistence
15 users the opportunity to participate in this resource.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
20 I just had one question. Could you repeat those dates
21 again for me, please, on your amendment, which is August
22 25th through September.....

23

24 MR. FISHER: 10th, wasn't it?

25

26 REPORTER: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, that's what
29 I wrote. I got that, thank you.

30

31 Any additional Council discussion.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm trying to remember our
38 training yesterday, are we charged with assuring a
39 Federal priority in all population situations or only
40 when there is times of shortage?

41

42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dave.

43

44 MR. FISHER: If you look at Section .815
45 of ANILCA, that requires that we take -- or we eliminate
46 non-qualified users when there is a biological problem,
47 and the Board has made decisions based on that premise.
48 Now, if we do get into a problem with 17(A) moose then we
49 would rely back on Section .815 and it would close that
50 to non-qualified users once that problem appears.

00128

1 Currently, we do not have a problem. The
2 population there is healthy as Andy has pointed out. But
3 if something were to happen to that population we would
4 entertain closing it to non-Federally-qualified users.
5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you, that helps
7 me.
8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan, just a few
10 comments. When Dave -- I work with Dave as part of our
11 regional teams back in the office with OSM, and they had
12 some discussions when Dave completed this Staff analysis,
13 and Dave's initial recommendation on this proposal was to
14 support this proposal because when the leadership team in
15 our office met there was concerns that the justification
16 to -- the confusion amongst the State and Federal permit
17 wasn't enough to -- wasn't strong enough justification to
18 oppose the proposal, so that was one issue that was
19 brought up.
20

21 The second issue was that, just as Robert
22 has mentioned, some of the leadership team in the office
23 provided comments that we have those other communities
24 that have C&T that Robert mentioned, Platinum, Goodnews
25 Bay and the third community, that permits weren't being
26 provided to those communities who have C&T. So there was
27 that issue raised among the leadership team when Dave
28 completed his analysis.
29

30 And then shortly afterwards when we met
31 to go ahead and review the proposals again, at least, the
32 ones here in the region, they went ahead and went along
33 with his conclusion.
34

35 So anyway, those were two issues that
36 were raised by Staff in regards to Dave's initial
37 analysis.
38

39 MR. FISHER: Could I just maybe summarize
40 maybe what I -- on this Section .815 -- it spells it out
41 pretty good on Page 114 right above preliminary
42 conclusion, third paragraph up, and I'll kind of just
43 read this out of the book here. Current harvest levels,
44 local user success rates and the current growing and
45 health moose population in 17(A) do not justify the
46 proposed closure to non-Federally-qualified users as
47 required in Section .815 of ANILCA. More specifically a
48 closure for the taking of fish and wildlife on Federal
49 public lands may be done only when necessary to assure
50 the continued viability of a particular fish and wildlife

00129

1 species to continue subsistence uses of this species or
2 for reasons of public safety or administration.

3

4 Now, in other areas in the state we have
5 done this, we have closed lands to non-qualified users,
6 primarily based on what the population has been doing.
7 As the population has gone down then the Board has closed
8 and they would do the same thing here if this population
9 were to decrease for some reason and the subsistence
10 users would be provided a priority.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Again, I wish, almost that
13 slide that Andy showed on land ownership, because, again,
14 I'm trying to sort out, too, something about a river
15 corridor is still State could you end up with a situation
16 where you plug a moose on Federal land but if he staggers
17 out into the river or sand bar are we in the State hunt
18 and into an enforcement and jurisdictional and permit
19 confusion, could that happen?

20

21 MR. FISHER: Well, yeah, I suppose it
22 could because the river corridor there, you get below the
23 mean high water and that is still -- the uplands are
24 managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the lands
25 below the mean high water are managed by the State, so
26 there could be, I guess, depending on where the animal
27 was shot. It's a little bit hypothetical but it could
28 happen.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I've -- the last two
31 moose I've shot ran out in the middle of the water.

32

33 MR. ALVAREZ: You need a bigger gun.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, maybe.

38

39 MS. ALECK: Yeah, or you need a site.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: But.....

44

45 MS. ALECK: Or a new scope.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY:I'm also trying to
48 imagine resisting the temptation to not shoot a moose
49 standing on a sand bar if it's -- you know, spending the
50 time sitting there trying to figure out which side of the

00130

1 line that moose is, it sounds messy to me.

2

3 MR. FISHER: Well, maybe that's all the
4 more reason to go with a single permit system.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't have any more
7 questions.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

10

11 MS. MORRIS: Yes, though, I see where
12 this proposal is heading and I can understand where
13 Robert's amendment, the attempt he's trying to make, I,
14 personally do not see where the cumbersome issue of dual
15 permits, even if we change seasons combined with the lack
16 of the ability to define areas clearly and the scenarios
17 that Dan has gone with, I feel like the things that are
18 already in place to ensure the ability of subsistence
19 users access to that resource are adequate at this point.
20 And for that reason I'll be voting against this proposal.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Nanci.
23 Any other Council members, discussion.

24

25 MS. ALECK: I have a comment.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Virginia.

28

29 MS. ALECK: I fully didn't understand
30 where Robert was going, I'm new, excuse me, but I would
31 go with what Nanci just said.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, Robin.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robin. Go
38 ahead, Robin.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, thank you. I'm
41 going to be voting for the amendment. You know, I'd
42 refer the new RAC members to Pages 116, 117 and 118 about
43 the regulatory history of this thing. And the one thing
44 that is missing in that is the action at the Nushagak
45 Advisory, the communities of Manokotak, Aleknagik and
46 Dillingham took to try to get moose to move into this
47 area. As Robert alluded to, that area is still closed
48 and with the winters that we've been having and providing
49 the people in Togiak an opportunity to harvest moose, I
50 get at least five requests a year from people during the

00131

1 winter, why is that area still closed, and I keep telling
2 them we're trying to obtain our goals for the people of
3 Togiak that didn't have moose. Yes, there's a lot of
4 moose over there, but some of them moose are coming back
5 and if we open up that area with our mode of
6 transportation now days, you know, and our growth in
7 population, we'll cut the moose off at the pass going
8 over into Togiak, and it'd be just a matter of time.

9

10 We've always wanted to provide them
11 people with moose meat during the winter and this has
12 been a long, slow rebuilding process. And I think some
13 people have forgot our original intent, the Nushagak
14 Advisory's original intent and original agreement with
15 the villages around here, as well as with the villages of
16 Togiak, and that was to build that population and provide
17 them with an alternative meat source. Remember there was
18 no Mulchatna caribou then. The Mulchatna caribou were
19 way up by Lake Iliamna and it took three days from
20 Dillingham to go hunt them caribou but that's all they
21 had was fresh fish. Because of the Togiak pleas to the
22 Nushagak Advisory Committee, we closed that area to the
23 hunters over here to allow them moose to go through that
24 pass and slowly build up.

25

26 So I think we need to recognize the
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users at this point in
28 time. Maybe down the road we'll open it up for other
29 folks, but at this point in time my main concern is
30 Togiak and part of the problem with the regulatory
31 processes is that we wait until it's too damn late. You
32 look at that North Peninsula Caribou Herd and you go talk
33 to them people along the Alaska Peninsula and the people
34 on the southern part of the Peninsula that's come and
35 testified before this RAC committee hundreds of times
36 that they're not meeting caribou -- they waited until it
37 was too late to do anything, and so did the State of
38 Alaska, and so I'm not willing to wait until there's a
39 conservation problem or another conservation problem or a
40 big influx of people.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

45

46 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead Randy --

49 or, I mean, Dan, go ahead.

50

00132

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman, okay, my
2 comment, when Nanci mentioned voting, I wanted to make
3 sure I'm clear that if we take a vote here, our first
4 vote would be on Robert's proposed amendment?

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct. And then
7 we would move on to his main motion which was to adopt
8 Proposal 45.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I just wanted to
11 make sure that was what it was.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: And then if the
14 amendment dies, then the Council will vote on the main
15 motion of Robert's which was to adopt Proposal 45 as
16 written.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, I just wanted to make
19 sure I'm clear on that. Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy.

22
23 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, I tend to
24 agree with Robin and Robert on this proposal, you know,
25 there's other communities that have C&T for this and the
26 moose, they have had a closure.....

27
28 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Excuse me.
31 Robert, Randy Alvarez was providing some comments.

32
33 MR. HEYANO: Oh, excuse me, I didn't hear
34 anything. Sorry.

35
36 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, Robert, I -- can you
37 hear me?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. ALVAREZ: I guess no. I tend to
42 agree with them because, you know, the closure that has
43 happened, so they could allow moose to pass through to
44 certain areas and there's other communities that have C&T
45 for this.

46
47 Yesterday, you know when we were
48 discussing the caribou, Mulchatna Caribou Herd and we
49 voted to shorten or cut down the harvest limit on bull
50 caribou for the Mulchatna, even in Unit 18, even though

00133

1 some of the Staff weren't recommending to us that we --
2 you know, that we let the other RAC committee or advisory
3 committee take care of that part of it, and I didn't feel
4 that -- I felt strongly enough that, you know, those
5 caribou, we're letting them have a say -- or the
6 Department or the Staff wants to let them have a say, you
7 know, 20 years ago there was no caribou there. Now that
8 they've migrated up there, you know, I think they should
9 have a say but they shouldn't have all the say, you know.
10 And this is kind of the same situation.

11

12 Even though these moose are over there,
13 they came from the east to build up a stock and I think
14 that there are other communities that should still have a
15 say because they are -- they have C&T determination in
16 that area and I think I'll support it, this proposal.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Randy.
19 Any additional Council discussion on Proposal 45.

20

21 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Peter.

24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: I live over there. I
26 communicate with Goodnews, Quinhagak, Manokotak. We talk
27 about this, and I talk about this randomly, just out of
28 curiosity, I ask people over there before fall comes if
29 they're hunting, if they're coming to Togiak for moose
30 hunt because of caribou abundance over there, they prefer
31 caribou better than moose over there all the time.

32

33 Where the moose come from -- I mean where
34 the caribou come from, we had about 1,500 caribou in Cape
35 Constantine over there and they started migrating our way
36 behind Twin Hills and now some of it are down around Cape
37 Pearce area and we got caribou everywhere. So I think --
38 well, I know the moose population over there are safe
39 over there for a long time to come.

40

41 I think in winter hunt only time the
42 other villages will be interested in hunting in winter
43 time is if a cow moose is open. When it's bull, you
44 rather get bull caribou instead of bull moose over there.

45

46 And having a permit over there, with two
47 permits over there, we have enough confusion over there
48 already without this over here. I like to see one permit
49 in our area over there. When the guy -- when a hunter
50 goes up there, wherever he is, he's not going to ask the

00134

1 moose which side of boundary he's in or he's not going to
2 ask himself, well he's on Federal land or he's on public
3 land, he's not going to ask himself that, he's going to
4 shoot it. So with one permit it's going to be a lot
5 easier all the way around over there.

6

7 That's all I got.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Peter.

10 Dan.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I'm starting to form
13 my ideas here but the way I see it, I'll be opposed to
14 the amendment and the total proposal.

15

16 First off I see that there's no legal
17 basis for making it. And even if we do pass it I think
18 that it would be proper for the full Board to reject it
19 based on what I understand from Mr. Fisher. The concerns
20 of these other communities that Robert raises haven't
21 been great enough to deliver any.....

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: You still there Cliff?

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Still here, Robin.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll talk louder. I'm.....

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan Dunaway's
30 providing some comments.

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Quick, rehash. I see no
35 legal basis for the proposal or amendment and that if we
36 pass it, the way I understand it, the Board will almost
37 be obligated to reject it.

38

39 The concerns Robert raises about other
40 communities haven't been great enough to warrant their
41 submission of any comments to us. And Pete had just
42 spoken that he's in those communities and hasn't heard
43 these concerns.

44

45 And it seems to me that this is a fall
46 hunt and those folks from those other communities, given
47 the restriction on aerial access, they're going to have
48 to fly to Togiak to initiate a hunt, or Twin Hills and I
49 thought I saw that permits -- State permits are made
50 available in those communities. It would be a different

00135

1 thing if they were running their boat up the Goodnews
2 River into the hunting area.

3

4 So I'll be opposed to the amendment and
5 the total proposal.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dan.

10 Any additional Council comments.

11

12 MS. ALECK: I guess I'm still having a
13 problem with this proposal. I could see where Robert and
14 them are coming from. It seems like the object to being
15 a subsistence user is to be able to access areas so the
16 subsistence users can have their subsistence foods. And
17 I don't know where the pass is and so -- and our Northern
18 Caribou Herd, we'd been screaming at Fish and Game for
19 years before that happened, and we know where you're
20 coming from.

21

22 That's all I have to say.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you,
25 Virginia.

26

27 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Additional Council
30 comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: What is the wishes
35 of the Council, we have an amendment on the floor which
36 was to -- that Robert presented, which is to modify the
37 season, which would be from August 25th through September
38 10th, one bull.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Call for the question on
41 the amendment.

42

43 MR. HEYANO: I got a couple of comments.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, a comment.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Comment, go ahead.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: I didn't get any of the
50 other Council members summation or reason why except for

00136

1 Dan saying that this could be an illegal action. And
2 unless there's something I greatly missed, I don't
3 believe that's so because on Page 183 of the report in
4 Unit 9(C) we have opening dates by Federal permit for
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users. It says, the
6 Federal moose hunt is open to harvest for one bull during
7 August 20, September 15th. This opening date gives local
8 hunters 12 days to hunt the area before the State season
9 is opened in the September 1st, during August 20 through
10 August 31st, bull moose taken by Federal registration
11 permit only. The other example is in 9(E), this gives
12 local hunters 21 days to hunt on Federal public lands
13 before the State season is opened on September 10th.

14
15 I think my amendment addresses the
16 concerns of not allowing non-Federally-qualified hunters
17 from participating in the hunt.

18
19 Further in 9(C) in the winter hunt it
20 says, an antlerless moose was allowed by Federal
21 registration permit, so there's a history and it's been
22 upheld that my amendment -- it supports my amendment. We
23 give a priority to the Federal subsistence users at the
24 beginning, or special consideration and then we allow the
25 non-Federal subsistence users to participate.

26
27 My other comment, Mr. Chair, I would
28 direct the Council members to go to Page 116, and this is
29 the crux of the problem where it has arisen, halfway
30 through the page, P96-37 & 38, there was a proposal, 37
31 and 38 submitted by the Togiak Advisory Committee TCC and
32 BBNA asking for a moose season in the fall. The Council
33 rejected those two proposals, they recommend the Refuge
34 develop a management strategy that may allow for
35 subsistence harvest while promoting growth of the moose
36 population in the subunits. The Federal Subsistence
37 Board supported this recommendation. And that is the
38 result of the draft that hasn't been signed but Andy
39 Aderman presented to you folks in his earlier
40 presentation. Right below there is what is a problem, is
41 why the problem we're in today, State Proposal No. 134,
42 Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee with the support
43 of the State of Alaska went to the State Board of Game
44 and got a season before there was a plan developed, and
45 we've always been reacting to that.

46
47 So, you know, had we all waited to
48 develop the plan and then implemented the hunt according
49 to the plan we wouldn't be in the dilemma we are today.
50 And all we're asking is an opportunity to fix that. It

00137

1 isn't working for us over here. To require us to fly to
2 Togiak to get the permit and then restricting aircraft
3 access to only Togiak and Twin Hill airports precludes us
4 from participating in the hunt. It'd be no different if
5 that State subsistence registration permit hunt says you
6 can hunt moose in the fall but you can't do it with any
7 motorized equipment, it's ridiculous.

8

9 So when anybody alludes to the fact that
10 it's working, leave it alone, it isn't working. And
11 that's the thought I'm trying to convey to you people,
12 that it isn't working for subsistence users.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: First, it looks like Andy
19 has something to add.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Did you want to
22 provide a comment, go ahead, Andy.

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Andy Aderman, Togiak Refuge.

26

27 It's this Council that asked that the
28 Moose Working Group be formed with those five entities,
29 Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, a representative of
30 this Council, the Togiak and Nushagak Advisory
31 Committees. We met this last Monday and it was this
32 Council, in fact, Mr. Samuelson, in particular, that said
33 this working group needs to weigh in on these proposals,
34 these issues, well, we did that. And it was the
35 consensus of everybody in that room in Togiak to oppose
36 Proposal 45.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, rebuttal. To
43 rebuttal a little bit, Robert, I could never catch up to
44 where those regulations for Unit 9 were so I'm working
45 off the memory of my attendance of a variety of RAC and
46 advisory committee meetings. What I see is the
47 difference in the legal situation. Best of my recall, is
48 in the Togiak moose population we have a new --
49 relatively new and growing and by all accounts healthy
50 population, whereas, to the best of my recall we've had

00138

1 some depressed, possibly declining historic populations.
2 And that's the difference I see.

3

4 If we had 600 moose in Togiak with
5 previous historic numbers, well, in excess of that, my
6 attitude would be greatly different.

7

8 However, this is a new population and so
9 I don't see that there's a dilemma. If the dilemma is
10 we've got a growing and healthy population, that's a
11 wonderful dilemma to be in. So I still don't see any
12 proof.....

13

14 MR. HEYANO: I didn't get much of that
15 Dan.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Since it's a new and
18 growing population, I see no legal basis for declaring a
19 need to restrict hunters to only Federally-qualified.
20 And I still think given that situation the Board should
21 reject this proposal regardless of what we do with it.

22

23 MR. HEYANO: Are we still on, Mr. Chair?

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, we are,
26 Robert.

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Where are we at?

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
31 comments.

32

33 MR. ALVAREZ: We're lost.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We're just closing
36 up the Council discussion. Any additional Council
37 comments.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: Well, in regards to Dan's
40 comments, what little I got, I don't see any place in the
41 regulations where it says whether it's a new developing
42 population or whether it's an established declining
43 population, the things I go on is there sufficient
44 resource for everybody, and how do we provide a priority
45 to rural residents, Federal residents, and I think by
46 allowing non-Federally-qualified people to participate we
47 make the statement that there's surplus resource
48 available above and beyond what the Federally-qualified
49 people can use. But that doesn't preclude us from
50 providing them with one leg up, so to speak, with a

00139

1 priority, by giving them a little earlier start or
2 whatever means we elect to do.

3

4 And my comments are in Tab C on the
5 report from the agency report, Alaska Peninsula Becharof
6 National Wildlife Refuge. It states right in there, we
7 have a State hunt down there for probably non-residents
8 and non-qualified subsistence (phone cuts out) by
9 subsistence users but we also provide a leg up to those
10 Federally-qualified subsistence users by allowing them to
11 hunt on Federal land a little earlier without the
12 competition, and that's all I'm trying to do here.

13

14 Because it isn't -- we're not all equal,
15 and I think somebody could make a good case we're in
16 violation, I believe, Section .804 of ANILCA, that when
17 we have to prioritize subsistence users, there's criteria
18 we need to go through, and if you're a subsistence user
19 living on this side of the drainage, that's exactly where
20 we're coming from. You know, it'd be no different if we
21 said all the Tier II permits will be issued in King
22 Salmon and anybody who wants to participate has to fly
23 into King Salmon and get those permits.

24

25 So thank you.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

28

29 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Peter.

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, even if we
34 have an earlier opening in 17(A) people are not going to
35 respond to that earlier opening because they're learning.
36 When we first had an early opening over there people were
37 ready two weeks at a time. Everybody was up there but
38 the moose weren't responding because they were moving.
39 So throughout these years I've been there, they're living
40 from their experience. Be prepared for the moose hunting
41 before the moose start moving. Because the people aren't
42 going to go through the bush and look for that moose,
43 they're going to wait for it to come out in the open.

44

45 When they start moving, people then start
46 to hunt over there because people communicate a lot over
47 there. There are observers up there, you know, going
48 back and forth the Togiak River, whether we have early
49 opening or not, people will have their own opening over
50 there.

00140

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Peter.

4 Any additional.....

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair, just a

7 clarification to Peter.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, Peter, my amendment
12 leaves the dates exactly the same, it doesn't change the
13 dates any of the hunt.

14

15 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I seen that, excuse
16 me, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: No, it doesn't, it adds a
19 new ending date.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Call for the question.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The question's
24 been called for on the amendment. The amendment that
25 Robert presented to the Council, which was seconded, is
26 to establish a season -- to modify the season from August
27 25th through September 10th with one bull. With that
28 I'll go ahead and take a roll call vote and this is on
29 the amendment only.

30

31 Virginia.

32

33 MS. ALECK: I think I'm going to vote yes
34 on this one.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

41

42 MS. MORRIS: No.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy.

45

46 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete.

49

50 MR. ABRAHAM: Nope.

00141

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, what is
2 your vote on the amendment?

3
4 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion passes
11 on the amendment. What is the wishes of the Council on
12 the -- now, we have the main proposal before us. The
13 motion that Robert brought forth before the Council was
14 to adopt Proposal 45 with the amended language, as the
15 amendment has passed, so that's before the Council. The
16 initial proposal is to close Federal public lands to non-
17 qualified subsistence users.

18
19 The amended language is one bull, the
20 season would be from August 25th through September 10th.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: I would move, Mr.
23 Chairman, take no action based on our previous action on
24 the amended language. The amended language supersedes
25 the main motion.

26
27 MR. ALVAREZ: I'll second it then. Does
28 it need to be seconded?

29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it's a motion.

31
32 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, it shouldn't be, I
37 don't think.

38
39 MR. ALVAREZ: I don't think so. Don't we
40 have to.....

41
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: No. It doesn't need a
43 motion, Mr. Chairman, because the amended language
44 superseded the main motion so that's what carries.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Well, the
47 motion passes.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, may I ask a
50 question then?

00142

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: For some of the voters who
4 voted yes for that amendment, was that their
5 understanding? My understanding would be that we would
6 -- well, I can see now, but I'm not sure -- were you
7 planning to vote on the original.....

8

9 MS. ALECK: I was planning to vote, yeah,
10 because I thought that was the order it went on.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: You were expecting to vote
13 again?

14

15 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: And how would you have
18 voted? I can see what Robin's saying now.

19

20 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: So you would have voted?

23

24 MS. ALECK: I probably would have
25 abstained.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Where would that have put
28 us with an abstention?

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The amendment
31 would have failed.

32

33 MR. ALVAREZ: So what is the verdict?
34 That was it, that was the vote right there?

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

37

38 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: And Robert's
41 initial motion, which was to adopt Proposal 45 with the
42 amendment by the Council, when the Council voted on the
43 amendment.....

44

45 MR. ALVAREZ: So that was the whole vote
46 right there?

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, it was.
49 Because as Robin stated, it superseded the initial motion
50 because the amendment and the other stuff was already in

00143

1 there.

2

3

MR. DUNAWAY: Well.....

4

5

MR. ALVAREZ: So that's it then?

6

7

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

8

9

MR. DUNAWAY: Overall, though, then if
10 somebody -- I didn't quite see that coming. And there's
11 a comment here that there might have been an abstention,
12 I think it would take one of the yes voters to ask for a
13 vote -- reconsideration if they're uncomfortable with the
14 final result. And is everybody who voted yes comfortable
15 with this proposal being forwarded to the Board?

16

17

MS. ALECK: I think I'm not comfortable
18 with it. I'd like to abstain from both, if I could,
19 withdraw, my first vote.

20

21

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin and Robert,
22 did you hear Virginia's comments?

23

24

MR. SAMUELSEN: What did she want to do?

25

26

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: She wanted to --
27 because of the initial -- the initial thoughts from the
28 Council, my thought was that I thought we would go ahead
29 and vote on the amendment that Robert presented after he
30 made his initial motion, and then after the Council voted
31 on the amended language to Robert's initial motion, I
32 thought that we would then vote on the first motion that
33 Robert presented us with to adopt Proposal 45. Virginia
34 said that she was under the impression that we would go
35 ahead and vote on the amendment and then address the full
36 motion which was to adopt Proposal 45. Based upon that
37 she said she would like to rescind her vote.

38

39

MR. ALVAREZ: You know, to tell you the
40 truth I thought like that, that's the way I thought. I
41 thought we were going to vote on the amendment first and
42 then go back to the amended.....

43

44

MR. DUNAWAY: The original.....

45

46

MR. ALVAREZ:amended proposal.

47

48

MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, that's what I
49 thought, too.

50

00144

1 MR. ALVAREZ: So.....

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I guess
4 what I'm hearing is that we've adopted the amended
5 language.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN: And now we have the main
10 motion before us or the original language before us,
11 right.....

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN:the proposal, so in
16 order for the amended language, since I voted for the
17 amended language, I'd have to vote no on the original
18 proposal for the amended language to go forward?

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, Robert,
21 what we're going to do, the Council, we're going to take
22 a short recess, we'll still be on line here, okay?

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, Robert and
31 Robin, the Council, we're back in session here and we're
32 going to clear this up here. Initially, the Council
33 voted on Robert's initial amendment, which is to modify
34 the season from August 25th to September 10th, one bull
35 by Federal registration permit. That amendment passed
36 four to three. Now, before the Council is Robert's
37 initial motion, which is to adopt Proposal 45 with the
38 amended language that the Council passed on.

39

40 And the initial Proposal 45 is to close Federal
41 lands to non-qualified subsistence users and the amended
42 language is the seasons to be from August 25th through
43 September 10th with one bull by Federal registration
44 permit. And what the.....

45

46 MR. SAMUELSEN: Are we voting on the main
47 motion now, Cliff?

48

49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, we are,

50 Robin.

00145

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'd like some
2 discussion on that.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, before we
5 do that, there's some Council members here who would like
6 to provide some comments. Dan.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I have a question for
9 the biologist, there -- I'm getting lost in the
10 regulations, but now this new amended season would end
11 September 10 but correct me if I'm wrong, doesn't the
12 State hunt on the State lands go to September 20?

13
14 MR. FISHER: Yes.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: And would we be in a
17 situation where then the Federal lands would be closed to
18 hunting and the State lands would be open?

19
20 MR. FISHER: Yes.

21
22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Where are we at there,
23 Mr. Cliff?

24
25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, Dan Dunaway
26 asked Dave Fisher a question regarding the modified
27 seasons.

28
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: To extend it, if you didn't
32 hear me, I think we'd end up with a non-alignment between
33 the closing dates, Federal and State. Federal lands
34 would close 10 days earlier than the State. And -- and
35 I'll leave it at that.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, Dan, that
38 would just mean that the remainder, from August 11th
39 through the current State season all Federal lands would
40 be open to.....

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Would it be, I'm asking for
43 clarification?

44
45 MR. FISHER: I believe they would be
46 unless those are specifically closed.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I see. But it would
49 just be Federally-qualified hunters for that?

50

00146

1 MR. FISHER: Based on Robert's amendment,
2 yes. Those would be -- that season would be for
3 Federally-qualified users with a Federal registration
4 permit, I think he said one -- did he say one bull?

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: One bull.

7
8 MR. FISHER: Yes. And then from
9 September 10th to.....

10
11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: September 20th.

12
13 MR. FISHER:to September 20th,
14 yeah, those would be -- that would be open to hunters,
15 all hunters with a State registration permit, unless
16 those 10 days are specifically closed to non-qualified
17 users.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Based on what I've heard from Pete Abraham and my own
21 personal experience, that it's still a messy situation
22 and I'm opposed to this amendment -- or to the total
23 regulation.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dan.
28 Any additional Council comments.

29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: It's going to confuse the
35 people over there with two permits, and with this opening
36 and closing of the seasons over there, one earlier, one
37 later. With one permit, one State permit would be a lot
38 easier, a lot less confusing to the people over there.

39
40 If we do that, I mean if we try to have
41 two permits, they'll be calling me practically every day
42 when the time comes, and I'll be diverting that to Jim
43 Woolington and to our office other there on this over
44 here, but with one permit, State permit, I'll rest easy.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: And have evening sauna bath
49 with no interruptions.

50

00147

1 (Laughter)

2

3

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Pete.
4 Council, we'll go ahead and address Robert's initial
5 motion which was to adopt Proposal 45 with the amended
6 language, which is the season proposed would be from
7 August 25th through September 10th, one bull by Federal
8 registration permit. That motion was put forth by Robert
9 and seconded. What is the wishes of the Council.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.

12

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question. The
14 question's been called for, I'll go ahead and do a roll
15 call vote on this.

16

17 Randy Alvarez.

18

19 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete Abraham.

22

23 MR. ABRAHAM: I'm confused.

24

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete, what we're
26 doing is we're voting on Robert's motion, which is on
27 Proposal 45, the motion is to close Federal lands to non-
28 qualified subsistence users with amended season dates
29 from August 25th through September 10th, one bull by
30 Federal registration permit. That is the motion.

31

32 MR. ABRAHAM: So we're talking about two
33 permits, right?

34

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, in the
36 proposal it just says one, it's a Federal -- this is for
37 a Federal hunt.

38

39 MR. ALVAREZ: But you still have to have
40 two. If this passes you need two.

41

42 MR. ABRAHAM: I'm opposed to it.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Virginia.

45

46 MS. ALECK: No.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

49

50 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

00148

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert, we're
2 voting on your motion.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, what, Cliff.

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Say no.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, we're
9 voting on the motion, Robert's initial motion which was
10 to adopt Proposal 45 with the amended language would move
11 the season from August 25th through September 10th, one
12 bull by Federal registration permit. Did you get that
13 Robin.....

14
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Cliff, yeah.....

16
17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:Robin. Can
18 you hear me?

19
20 MS. ALECK: You just killed it.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert.

23
24 MS. ALECK: It's gone off.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: I heard a no. He did that
27 on purpose.

28
29 MR. FISHER: You got a dial tone.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. ALECK: Can we move on.

34
35 MR. ABRAHAM: He done that on purpose.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Are they duking it out over
38 there.

39
40 MS. ALECK: If we did that last night, we
41 would have been here all night.

42
43 (Pause - Redialing Robert and Robin)

44
45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, we got
46 disconnected somehow. Hold on here for a minute, I need
47 to get my notebook.

48
49 Robin, where the Council is at is we're
50 voting on Robert's initial motion which is Proposal 45,

00149

1 which is to close Federal lands to non-qualified
2 subsistence users in Unit 17(A), Robert offered a
3 friendly amendment to his motion which the Council
4 passed. The amendment which the Council passed was to
5 modify the seasons which will be from August 25th through
6 September 10th with one bull by Federal registration
7 permit. And so far we've taken -- we're taking a roll
8 call vote and Randy's voted yes and Pete, Virginia and
9 Dan have voted no.

10

11 And so our next Council member on this
12 roll call is Robert; is Robert there?

13

14 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes. Robin.

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

21

22 REPORTER: Nanci.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci. Thank you.

25

26

27 MS. MORRIS: No.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: No. Council
30 members the motion fails four, three.

31

32 The next proposal is 46/47.

33

34 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Both 46 and 47 deal with the same moose population in
36 17(A) however we're talking about a winter hunt. And
37 what I'd like to do is address both of these together.

38

39 Wildlife Proposal 46 is actually a
40 deferred proposal and both of these were submitted by the
41 Bristol Bay Native Association. 46 requests a limited
42 winter moose hunt be held in Unit 17(A) during the period
43 of December 1 through January 31. 47 was submitted by
44 the Togiak Native Limited and requests that a winter
45 moose hunt be held in Unit 17(A) from January 1 through
46 January 31 with a harvest limit of one moose. The season
47 would be closed when 20 cows have been harvested.

48

49 We've talked about the biology of the
50 herd, the C&T.

00150

1 Currently there is no Federal regulations
2 in place for a winter hunt. There was a special action
3 that was introduced for a winter hunt two years ago and
4 there was a State hunt put in place at that time,
5 however, there was no hunt because there was no snow
6 conditions for adequate travel so there was no hunt.

7
8 State regulations are permanent
9 regulations and there was a State winter hunt this past
10 winter.

11
12 The harvest information is on the sheet
13 that I handed out earlier.

14
15 The deferred proposal which was Proposal
16 03-24 was to replace that special action with a permanent
17 regulation for a winter hunt. That proposal was deferred
18 by the Regional Council to allow the Moose Planning Group
19 to modify the plan and come up with some recommendations.

20
21 The Council decided to go ahead and
22 forward that proposal for action during this proposal
23 period, hence, Proposal 46. It's a little bit confusing
24 but makes sense.

25
26 I guess what I'd like to do for time
27 consideration is just basically move in and tell a little
28 bit about the effect each proposal would have.

29
30 46 would provide a to be announced winter
31 season during December 1 through January. The hunt area
32 would be specified to provide for an expansion of the
33 moose population into Unit 18 and if you'll look on Page
34 -- or the map that accompanies Proposal 46 and 47, it
35 shows the proposed hunt area there in the cross-hatched
36 area. You'll notice the western part of 17(A) is not in
37 the hunt area and that's to encourage an expansion
38 westward of this growing population to hopefully increase
39 the population there in the Kanektok, Goodnews and Arolik
40 River drainages as the moose population there is pretty
41 low.

42
43 The harvest limit would be one antlered
44 bull, and this would be in place to reduce any harvest of
45 cows that are sometimes mistaken as an antlerless bull,
46 the bulls have shed their antlers -- most of the bulls
47 have shed their antlers during that time. The proposal
48 would use a Federal registration permit.

49
50 As we talked about earlier, there would

00151

1 be two permit systems, so we have the pro's and con's on
2 that which we previously discussed in 45. Most of those
3 would apply to this winter season as well.

4

5 Proposal 47 would establish a winter hunt
6 for the month of January with a harvest limit of one
7 moose. The season would be closed when 20 cows have been
8 harvested. No limit was -- there'd be no limit on the
9 number of bulls that could be harvested. So there could
10 be an unlimited number of bulls harvested, but the season
11 would only be closed when 20 cows have been taken. This
12 proposal does not follow management plan objectives
13 outlined in the previous discussion on this Draft Moose
14 Management Plan.

15

16 What the Staff did on 46, we supported 36
17 with a modification. The modification was to use a State
18 registration permit instead of the Federal registration
19 permit. We further recommended that it be modified to
20 add language where we would -- a to be announced season
21 of up to 14 days sometime from December 1st through
22 January 31st, and the season would be closed by joint
23 announcement from the Refuge and Fish and Game and with
24 input from local users.

25

26 Proposal 47, we supported 47 with a
27 modification to align with 46.

28

29 Our justification was, we feel that a
30 winter season would provide more opportunities for
31 subsistence users to hunt moose in 17(A) especially with
32 the growing healthy population. A limited season should
33 not impact this growing population. The proposal as
34 modified would mirror current State regulations and we
35 discussed pretty much what the pro's and con's on those
36 are, the dual permit system, you'd have to have both
37 permits if you wanted to hunt on both areas, a Federal
38 registration permit is only good on Federal public lands
39 and so on.

40

41 The special action that I talked about
42 earlier, that was to establish a winter hunt two years
43 ago on Federal public lands, that was passed by the
44 Federal Subsistence Board at that time, however, there
45 was no hunt because we didn't have any snow for cover,
46 and their reasons for passing this special action with
47 our modifications to go with the State permit was -- they
48 said that the Federal subsistence hunt will require the
49 use of a State permit rather than the use of a Federal
50 registration permit as requested because both State and

00152

1 Federal harvest regulations for a winter moose hunt in
2 17(A) will be identical. The use of a single permit
3 system will be more efficient and will minimize confusion
4 on the part of hunters. We've previously talked about
5 that.

6

7 And that's basically all I have. I
8 shortened it up somewhat for time consideration. Thank
9 you, Cliff.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
12 Dave.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Dave, I'm not clear
19 what you mean with regard to Proposal 47 when it said,
20 support with modification to align with 46. What are
21 you.....

22

23 MR. FISHER: We support 47, we support
24 the winter hunt, however, we would want to modify it to
25 align with what we're recommending in 46.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Could you get.....

28

29 MR. FISHER: And we.....

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm sorry.

32

33 MR. FISHER: And we recommended support
34 on 46 with modifications. We would want to go with a
35 State registration permit and a to be announced season.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: So you're recommending we
38 change Proposal 47 to read exactly like what you also
39 recommend 46 to read?

40

41 MR. FISHER: That's correct. I combined
42 both proposals to try and simplify things, but maybe we
43 didn't do that.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: It'd be simpler for me if
46 we said oppose 47 and support recommended language in 46.

47

48 MR. FISHER: The Council could make that
49 change if they wish.

50

00153

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I just wanted to make sure
2 if I wasn't missing something. So thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
5 questions for Dave.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dave, on.....

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Cliff.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, go ahead,
14 Robert.

15

16 MR. HEYANO: So Dave what is your bull to
17 cow ratio in 17(A)?

18

19 MR. FISHER: Well, I'd have to ask Andy
20 on that but I think it's a very healthy.....

21

22 MR. ALVAREZ: Half and half.

23

24 MR. FISHER:bull/cow ratio, 45 to
25 50 bulls per 100 cows. Andy, can you -- do you want to
26 update him on that?

27

28 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. Andy Aderman, Togiak
29 Refuge. We don't have precise numbers on the bull/cow
30 ratios but we have every indication that the number of
31 bulls is pretty high, probably on the order of 75 to 100
32 bulls per 100 cows.

33

34 MR. FISHER: Okay.

35

36 MR. HEYANO: Okay. And then in a normal
37 healthy population, what should that ratio be?

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: I don't know that there's
40 anything that can be classified as being normal.
41 Throughout moose range there's bull/cow ratios that range
42 from 10 bulls per 100 cows, to over 100 bulls per 100
43 cows. And then.....

44

45 MR. HEYANO: I guess then.....

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Go ahead, Robert.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: I'm sorry, go ahead.

50

00154

1 MR. ADERMAN: What's usually recognized
2 in the state, and it varies a little bit but somewhere on
3 the order of 30 bulls per 100 cows is a level that
4 probably most folks don't want to go below to ensure
5 adequate breeding of all the cows in a timely manner.
6

7 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, thanks, that's kind of
8 what I was -- the answer I was trying to get. Thanks.
9

10 The other question I have then for Dave
11 is do you still maintain that the moose population in
12 17(A) is healthy and growing, in regards to Proposal 47
13 and 46?
14

15 MR. FISHER: Yes. Based on what I've
16 heard today and in my discussions with Andy and other --
17 and Jim Woolington.
18

19 MR. HEYANO: Okay. And then the reason,
20 if I followed you correctly, you were offering substitute
21 language to close the western portion of 17(A) was to
22 provide moose into Unit 18?
23

24 MR. FISHER: Yes, that was the purpose of
25 that. And that was part -- if you'll remember back,
26 Robert, that was part of that special action that would
27 establish the winter hunt there, I think, two years ago.
28

29 MR. HEYANO: Is that currently addressed
30 in the Draft Moose Management Plan, being part of the
31 objectives?
32

33 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, Robert, this is Andy
34 again. No, it is not specifically addressed in the plan.
35 There's a threshold level that's identified which is 600
36 to allow a winter hunt, and beyond that it doesn't get
37 into the details of what type of permit, how long the
38 season's going to be, what the sex of the animal to be
39 harvested is, and that's kind of so we don't tie people's
40 hands, especially for some of those further threshold
41 objectives.
42

43 MR. HEYANO: Westward expansion of moose
44 into Unit 18 is not mentioned in the Draft Management
45 Plan; is that correct?
46

47 MR. ADERMAN: It's not mentioned in any
48 of the objectives, I believe, but I think it is on the
49 introduction or background page. If it's not maybe it
50 should be.

00155

1 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Council members,
4 any additional questions for Dave.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Hearing none,
9 we'll go ahead and move on to ADF&G comments.

10

11 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chairman. Members
12 of the Council. Jim Woolington, Fish and Game in
13 Dillingham. The Department of Fish and Game opposes
14 Proposal 46 as written. This proposal presents no
15 compelling biological evidence supporting the need to
16 establish a separate Federal registration permit hunt for
17 winter moose season in 17(A) that closes Federal lands to
18 non-Federally-qualified users.

19

20 The Department opposes adoption of a
21 Federal regulation that does not match the current State
22 season and harvest limit and that unnecessarily restricts
23 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users from hunting on
24 Federal public lands.

25

26 I would like to point out that the
27 Federal permit, if established by the Federal Board would
28 not be valid on State managed lands, and so again similar
29 to the previous proposal we were discussing, we're
30 talking a dual permit system that would be recognized as
31 confusing to moose hunters in 17(A).

32

33 We addressed this proposal during the
34 meeting Monday in Togiak and it was not supported. The
35 present draft of the Management Plan, as far as Proposal
36 47 if -- are we addressing them both -- since Dave did
37 I'll address 47 also.

38

39 The Department opposes Proposal 47 as
40 written. State regulations already authorize limited
41 moose season in 17(A) during the winter time and it
42 provides opportunity for hunters in that area.

43

44 The present Draft Management Plan
45 addresses the possibility of taking cows at some time in
46 the future when the population is at greater numbers.

47

48 If any questions, I'd be happy to try and
49 answer them.

50

00156

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.
2 Council members, any questions for Jim.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. Are
7 there any Federal agency Staff who would like to provide
8 comments regarding Proposals 46 and 47.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Hearing none, are
13 there any ADF&G Advisory Committee members present who
14 would like to provide comments regarding Proposals 46 and
15 47.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
20 move on to summary of written public comments.

21
22 We have one here, again, this is from Moe
23 Kritz, the Chairman for the Togiak Advisory Committee.
24 Proposals 46 and 47, these two proposals, 46 is preferred
25 for a longer hunting season. We also agree with and
26 support the Staff recommendation for two modifications.
27 One, to implement the winter hunt using a State
28 registration permit and the second for up to a 14 day
29 season during the period of December 1st to January 31st.
30 We believe that the modification for a State registration
31 permit will greatly reduce confusion for local
32 subsistence users. The modification for up to a 14 day
33 season will limit harvest and enable the 17(A) moose
34 population to continue to grow.

35
36 And that was the only written public
37 comment I received regarding those proposals.

38
39 Is there anyone who would like to provide
40 public testimony regarding these two proposals.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
45 go ahead and move this to Council deliberation.

46
47 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Randy.

50

00157

1 MR. ALVAREZ: I've got a question for
2 Ralph Andersen. They submitted Proposal 46.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Ralph.

5
6 MR. ALVAREZ: Ralph, did BBNA submit this
7 proposal on behalf of anybody or did BBNA draw it up.

8
9 MR. ANDERSEN: My name is Ralph Andersen,
10 I'm with BBNA's Natural Resource's Department.

11
12 No, according to our policy or the
13 procedures that we set up in my department, we require a
14 letter or a resolution from the village councils if
15 they'd like -- that lays out or describes to us what it
16 is exactly they'd like to accomplish. This proposal was
17 put together by my department in response to a letter
18 from Frank Legusik (ph), who, at that time was the
19 president of the Togiak Traditional Council.

20
21 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. So this was their
22 recommendation right here?

23
24 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, their recommendation
25 -- let me back up a minute.

26
27 The way that my department became
28 involved in this was, originally, through a letter from
29 Frank Legusik requesting we, or BBNA, or my department
30 pursues a special action request through the Alaska Board
31 of Game, we did that. The proposal was successful for a
32 winter moose hunt in 17(A). The next step was that was
33 followed up by a letter from Frank Legusik requesting
34 that we follow the same process on Federal lands. That
35 letter, we proceeded with that and drafted a proposal.
36 Subsequently Mr. Legusik sent us an additional letter to
37 -- or copied us a letter that he had originally addressed
38 to Mitch Demientieff, the Chairman of the Federal
39 Subsistence Board and in that letter Frank requested that
40 the permit be a Federal permit on Federal lands. So
41 that's how we got to where we are.

42
43 So the original proposal was prepared as
44 a result of a request from Frank for a winter moose hunt,
45 which we did, he then followed it up and the proposal was
46 amended to provide for the Federal permit based on his
47 letter of request.

48
49 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you.

50

00158

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Maybe while Ralph's up
4 there, you were in attendance at the Moose Planning
5 meeting?

6

7 MR. ANDERSEN: Yes, I was.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Would it be appropriate for
10 you to speak to what the folks at this recent meeting,
11 how they viewed these proposals?

12

13 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, the results of the
14 meetings are reflected in Moses Kritz' letter. I don't
15 know what more I can add to that. But, again, it was the
16 Togiak Advisory Committee who's a member of the Working
17 Group and not the Togiak Traditional Council, and it was
18 the Togiak Traditional Council who had originally
19 requested, through a modification, the proposal that's in
20 front of you as it's written.

21

22 MS. MORRIS: One more question for my own
23 clarification. Can you give me any insight as to why the
24 specific request for a Federal permit system was asked
25 for?

26

27 MR. ANDERSEN: Well, I think it's because
28 of the Federal priority. The Federal preference on
29 Federal lands, you know, the rural preference.

30

31 MR. ALVAREZ: Rural preference.

32

33 MR. ANDERSEN: Whereas, under the State
34 provisions, you know, everybody's eligible for a
35 subsistence permit, which is more limited under a Federal
36 permit which provides for only rural preference.

37

38 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
41 Ralph.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Ralph.
46 What is the wishes of the Council.

47

48 MR. ALVAREZ: I'd like -- I'm not real
49 clear on the -- on Dave's modification on this. I think
50 that two months for a season is too long. Most other

00159

1 areas that do have a winter season in Bristol -- our
2 region that we see over here only has one month, I
3 believe, so two months is -- you know, we can either --
4 it's my opinion we either -- we have one month and we
5 either go from the beginning of December or to the end of
6 December or from the beginning of January to the end of
7 January.

8

9 I don't think they need two months. You
10 know, we had our State season moved back two weeks a few
11 years ago in Unit 9(B) because the beginning of December,
12 winters were getting less and less harsh and the
13 beginning of December was hard to get around to get moose
14 so we had our season moved back to later, and I would
15 tend to support a January season then.

16

17 But I don't support a two month season.
18 Because, you know, you look at the other areas in Bristol
19 Bay, they're only allowed one month.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Randy.
22 Could you hold for a minute, Pete. I just wanted to
23 inform the Council members, this was a deferred proposal
24 from 2003. And the reason this proposal was deferred was
25 because of the pending meeting that they recently held on
26 February 23rd, which was the Moose Management Working
27 Group. So this is a 2003 proposal that the Council took
28 no action on.

29

30 And, Randy, if you look on Page 128, and
31 this is for Proposal 46, this is Dave's modified Staff
32 analysis, it's not a -- it is a two month season for
33 December and January, but in that December and January,
34 it will only be opened up to a 14 day season. The Togiak
35 Refuge manager.....

36

37 MR. ALVAREZ: Oh.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:may open.....

40

41 MR. ALVAREZ: That's how it is.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:the season up
44 to 14 days.

45

46 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: So that's the
49 modified language that Dave has in his Staff analysis.
50 And if you go back to the executive summary on Page 121,

00160

1 the initial proposal submitted by BBNA requests one
2 antlered bull by Federal registration permit during the
3 period of December 1 through January 31st. So the
4 initial proposal submitted by BBNA is a two month season,
5 Dave's modification would state up to a 14 day season may
6 be called upon by the Togiak Refuge manager. So those
7 are the modifications that Dave incorporated in his Staff
8 analysis on Page 128.

9

10 Dave.

11

12 MR. FISHER: Maybe another point. That
13 14 day season would be announced in conjunction with a
14 similar announcement by the Department of Fish and Game
15 to align both seasons to avoid confusion that we talked
16 about earlier.

17

18 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

19

20 MR. ABRAHAM: When you have enough snow.

21

22 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, after consultation
23 with the local users I see that.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Then with.....

26

27 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

30

31 MR. HEYANO: I move for adoption of
32 Proposal 46 to get it on the table.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's been a
35 motion to.....

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:adopt
40 Proposal 46, seconded.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Could I.....

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Discussion.

45

46 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: I would like to offer an

00161

1 amendment, please.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go for it. Go
4 ahead, Robert.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Okay. I move to include the
7 language up to a 14 day season only during the period of
8 December 1, January 31st.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second on the amendment.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Second on the.....

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:amendment.
17 Robert.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Your amendment has
22 the -- that's the same language as in Dave's modified
23 Staff analysis.

24

25 MR. FISHER: No.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Not entirely. Not
28 entirely.

29

30 MR. FISHER: He shortened it.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: No, he shortened
33 it.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Not in its entirety, Mr.
36 Chairman. I didn't include the closed area.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: And I didn't include the
41 State registration permit.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

44

45 MR. HEYANO: All I included was the
46 season not to exceed 14 days.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

49

50 MR. DUNAWAY: I missed that. Not

00162

1 including the closed area, can withdraw my second?

2

3 MR. ALVAREZ: That was Robin that
4 seconded it.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I didn't hear him say a
7 second, well, okay.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Excuse me, I'm
10 getting my notes in order.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, Council
15 there's an -- any further discussion on Proposal 46. We
16 have an amendment on the floor which is to amend the
17 analysis to -- the only amendment is for the winter moose
18 season not to exceed 14 days.

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
23 called for. I'll go ahead and conduct another roll call
24 vote.

25

26 All right, the amendment before us is
27 just to have the -- the stipulation in the amendment is
28 the winter hunt is not to exceed 14 days.

29

30 Pete Abraham, how do you vote on the
31 amendment.

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes. Randy
36 Alvarez.

37

38 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Virginia Aleck.

41

42 MS. ALECK: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan Dunaway.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert Heyano.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

00163

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci Morris.

2

3 MS. MORRIS: No.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin Samuelsen.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The amendment
10 passes. So we have now before the Council is Robert's
11 initial motion which is to adopt Proposal 46 with the
12 amended language for the winter hunt not to exceed 14
13 days.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Dan.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: I move to adopt the
20 additional recommended language as appears in 128 at the
21 bottom to include the -- only that western -- eastern
22 portion of 17(A).

23

24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Dan,
25 before you do that, there's already Robert's initial
26 motion which was to adopt Proposal 46 with the amended
27 language the Council just voted on which is to only have
28 the winter season not to exceed 14 days, that is the
29 motion on the floor.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: We just adopted that
32 motion, did we not, for 14 days?

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Right, that's the
35 amendment.

36

37 MR. ALVAREZ: We adopted the amendment.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The initial
40 proposal that Robert made the motion and was seconded by
41 Robin Samuelsen is to adopt Proposal 46 and if you look
42 on Page 121 that's the initial proposal language. Robert
43 offered a friendly amendment which was seconded by Robin
44 Samuelsen which was to exclude the closure of the lands
45 which are described on Page 128 and just to -- in his
46 amendment was just to have the winter season not to
47 exceed 14 days.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and we adopted that
50 and.....

00164

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct. And so
2 we have.....

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY:before.....
5

6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:the initial
7 -- Robert's initial motion on the floor which is to adopt
8 Proposal 46 with the amended language.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. But I think at this
11 point I could still offer a new amendment before we vote
12 on the entire piece and this would be the place to do it,
13 would it not?

14
15 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah you could.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: You could. Okay,
18 I thought you were making a motion for the proposal.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: No, I'm making a motion to
21 further amend Proposal 46 to include the language
22 recommended at the bottom of Page 128 regarding the
23 eastern portion of 17(A), and that language that the
24 season may -- is done under the terms of a State
25 registration permit, and let's see, jointly coordinated
26 by the two management agencies as appears in 128. Those
27 portions that Robert did not speak to in his first
28 amendment. I move to further amend the proposal.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion,
31 is there a second?

32
33 MR. ALVAREZ: I got a question. Could we
34 do that, as a Federal agency, have the State do this?
35 You want to put it under a State registration permit,
36 we're not a State agency so we couldn't, you know, tell
37 them that, okay, you need to do this.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: They're already
40 doing it.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's -- yeah, I
43 understand that's what's going on and since it's
44 recommended I would hope that they would have met their
45 legal vetting but maybe.....

46
47 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, if they're already
48 doing it then I don't understand why we're bringing it up
49 now then.

50

00165

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Because Robert's
2 initial.....

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: If you want to have a
5 winter hunt.....

6
7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:motion was to
8 amend Proposal 46, which would be to.....

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Only on the duration.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Only on the
13 duration.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Not where and not
16 administered by who.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: So the status quo
19 would be that the State would continue to issue
20 registration permits.

21
22 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't know if I got a
25 second.

26
27 MS. MORRIS: I would second that.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Now, may I
30 speak to my motion.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead Dan, I
33 have some questions or some concerns after, but go ahead.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'll just list the
36 reasons that have been brought forward to us and that
37 also from what I've heard from Pete.

38
39 MR. HEYANO: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, did
40 the motion get a second?

41
42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, it did
43 Robert.

44
45 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: And did you hear
48 his motion to amend the proposal which would be to put
49 back in the closures and the continued issuance -- for
50 the.....

00166

1 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:State to
4 continue issuing the State registration permits.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll speak up a little.
7 Again, my reasons for this are I'm trying to be
8 consistent with the previous proposal, my concerns for
9 confusion of jurisdiction, numerous permits, things like
10 that that I heard from Pete and from Staff.

11

12 I think it would be consistent with this
13 Draft Plan and I understand that -- it seems to me that
14 the Federal system seeks as much as possible to stay in
15 alignment with State to minimize confusion.

16

17 And I hope other folks would support it.
18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dan.
21 Any additional Council discussion.

22

23 MR. HEYANO: I have a question for the
24 maker of the motion, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, go ahead,
27 Robert.

28

29 MR. HEYANO: I think he stated his
30 reasons for being in support for a State registration
31 permit. I didn't hear his reasoning for supporting the
32 western closure.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, a quick look at
37 this plan again, I think one of the overriding goals is
38 to assure the health and continued growth and viability
39 of the moose population in Unit 17(A). And from some of
40 the data that was presented in Andy's slide show here
41 shows there's kind of a steady marching westward of the
42 moose population and that it's most abundant in the
43 eastern portion. My hope would be that by restricting
44 this hunt to the eastern portion, might allow those moose
45 that have wandered west a little peace, that they may
46 continue to reproduce and move farther west.

47

48 I'll even throw in that one idea I have
49 here to change the plan would be to encourage them to add
50 language discussing expansion to Unit 18.

00167

1 Doi.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, thank you,
4 Dan. Robert, did you get that?

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Yes, thank you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any other Council
9 discussion regarding Dan's amendment.

10

11 MR. ALVAREZ: Question.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
14 called.....

15

16 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:for -- yes.

19

20 MR. HEYANO: I have a comment, please.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

23

24 MR. HEYANO: I won't be supporting the
25 amendment, Mr. Chair. I maintain my previous statements,
26 is that this population is still continuing to grow and
27 build. We haven't reached our objectives yet. I
28 maintain there's a need for a Federal Subsistence
29 priority. I think that the reasonings given and the
30 previous motion, is that the maker of the motion stated
31 that there is no reason to restrict it only to Federally-
32 qualified subsistence users, even a portion of the season
33 because the moose population is healthy and growing, now,
34 he's advocating -- or the motion is advocating closure of
35 part of the area. Well, in my opinion, you can't have it
36 both ways. So I think that the motion that's before us
37 as amended before Dan's amendment adequately addresses my
38 concerns.

39

40 There seems to be a lot of confusion on
41 who said what in Ralph's Andersen and the request. And I
42 know what the folks on this side of the drainage want,
43 being a member of the Advisory Committee.

44

45 I noted that for the record you read in
46 statements from the Togiak Advisory Committee, but I
47 didn't notice any dates as to when that meeting took
48 place so I'm a little concerned about that. Was that
49 actually a Togiak Advisory Committee meeting or is that
50 comment of a Chair person.

00168

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Ralph, would you
4 have an answer to Robert's question regarding to this
5 letter that I read into the record.

6

7 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Cliff. You
8 have the letter, I don't have a copy of it.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: What's the date?

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: In looking at it it says,
13 Dear Mr. O'Hara, at the meeting of the 17(A) Moose
14 Working Group on February 23rd, 2004 in Togiak. So the
15 meeting did take place in Togiak on February 23rd. And
16 the letter -- in his letter, Moses Kritz, I mean you've
17 read it several times, Cliff, the last sentence in his
18 introductory paragraph says this letter is to convey the
19 recommendations of the Togiak Advisory Committee.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Did you get that
22 Robert.

23

24 MR. HEYANO: Yes, I did. I guess the
25 last official action I'm aware of from Togiak Advisory
26 Committee is that they did not support the draft plan so
27 I guess I'm confused along with the rest of the folks
28 though. I could probably research that through the
29 support office here in Dillingham and get a copy of those
30 minutes where they in fact had a meeting and addressed
31 this issue.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, thank
34 you, Robert. Any additional Council discussion.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm just wondering,
41 we've got Jim Woolington in the audience and -- well,
42 Pete's here too, can either one of them answer about this
43 Advisory Committee meeting or timing or was there one
44 recently?

45

46 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, 23rd.

47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, that was also an
49 Advisory Committee meeting at the same time?

50

00169

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh. That's the letter
2 -- that's what the letter said -- that letter from Moses
3 Kritz.

4
5 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chair. Members of
6 the Council. No, the -- not to my knowledge, was that
7 February 23rd meeting considered a Togiak Advisory
8 Committee meeting. There was -- I wasn't aware of any
9 announcement that there was going to be a Togiak AC
10 meeting. It was a meeting of the 17(A) working group.
11 Now, different attendees at that meeting were
12 representing the different entities. There was a member
13 from Manokotak -- an Advisory Committee member from
14 Manokotak and Moses Kritz was there, he's the Chair of
15 the Togiak Advisory Committee as well as he's the
16 president of the Togiak Traditional Council, and some of
17 the other attendees at that meeting from Togiak may have
18 been on the AC but I don't know that for sure.

19
20 So I know Pete feels that there were
21 members of the AC there, but I think to be an official
22 Advisory Committee meeting there has to be a public
23 announcement that so many days or hours or whatever
24 before that meeting occurs to make it an official
25 meeting.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, you were at
28 the meeting too. So, yeah, they didn't formally convene.
29 And then also the objections to the plan that Robert
30 brings up, prior to the previous draft and they probably
31 haven't had the opportunity to review this fresh draft
32 that's in front of us; is that correct?

33
34 MR. WOOLINGTON: That would be correct.
35 And Moses Kritz did mention that, that he would like an
36 opportunity for local folks to be able to review the
37 present Draft Management Plan.....

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

40
41 MR. WOOLINGTON:at some future
42 date.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks. I would like
45 to add, I partly made my amendment being impressed that
46 the letter from Moses indicated some widespread local
47 support from the Togiak area for the current draft -- no,
48 I'm sorry, for the recommended language that I've offered
49 up as an amendment, and I think that counts for an awful
50 lot.

00170

1 And to counter what Robert's saying about
2 trying to have it both ways, I wouldn't be supporting a
3 winter hunt if I didn't think we had a sufficient growing
4 population. And enough.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dan.
7 Any other comments from the Council.

8
9 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
12 called for. I'll go ahead and conduct another roll call
13 vote. This is for Proposal 46 with the amended language
14 which may be found on Page 128 of the Staff analysis.

15
16 REPORTER: Just the amendment.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pardon?

19
20 MR. ALVAREZ: The amendment.

21
22 REPORTER: Just his amendment.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Oh, I'm sorry,
25 just on Dan's amendment.

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: We're voting on the
28 amended language by Dan right now?

29
30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct. And
31 that's to add additional language which would close --
32 which would continue the closure of the land as stated on
33 Page 128 in our Staff analysis and continued cooperation
34 with the State and the State issuing the State
35 registration permits.

36
37 Pete Abraham.

38
39 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Virginia Aleck.

42
43 MS. ALECK: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy Alvarez.

46
47 MR. ALVAREZ: No.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan Dunaway.

50

00171

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci Morris.
4
5 MS. MORRIS: Yes.
6
7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert Heyano.
8
9 MR. HEYANO: No.
10
11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin Samuelsen.
12
13 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.
14
15 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan's amendment
16 passes four three.
17
18 MR. ALVAREZ: Now, part of that is closed
19 if this passes, only part of it's going to be open and
20 part of it's going to be closed in 17(A)?
21
22 MR. FISHER: (Nods affirmatively)
23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: We're going by this one
25 over here.
26
27 MR. ALVAREZ: Just a minute, Cliff, I've
28 got talk to Pete, that he knows -- if this motion passes
29 now, I mean the proposal, only half of -- part of Unit
30 17(A) is going to be open to winter season.
31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
33
34 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.
35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I understand it very
37 well because we are supportive of that because we're
38 trying to push the moose the other way.
39
40 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: The other way over there.
43
44 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay, that answers my
45 question.
46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
48
49 MR. ALVAREZ: I was wondering how Pete --
50 his opinion on that and I got it.

00172

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robin.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: A lot of these other
8 proposals doesn't seem like they're going to be as
9 controversial as the ones that we've passed because of
10 voting -- oh, we need to vote on the main motion, yes.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: Call for the question on the
15 main motion, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
18 called for on the main motion. I will go ahead and
19 conduct another roll call vote for the main motion.

20

21 Peter Abraham.

22

23 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes. Virginia
26 Aleck.

27

28 MS. ALECK: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy Alvarez.

31

32 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan Dunaway.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert Heyano.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: No.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci Morris.

43

44 MS. MORRIS: Yes.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin Samuelsen.

47

48 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion passes.

00173

1 MR. DUNAWAY: As amended.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: As amended. We'll
4 go ahead and -- what is the wishes of the Council on
5 Proposal 47, Dave has already presented the Staff
6 analysis, regarding -- he's available for questions,
7 regarding Proposal 47.

8

9 MR. ALVAREZ: I move we take no action
10 because of what we did in Proposal 46.

11

12 MS. ALECK: I second that.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion
15 to take no action on Proposal 47, seconded by Virginia
16 Aleck.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Discussion.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Discussion.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a question, maybe
23 folks would know, would that be sufficient for the Board
24 or would a move to reject it have more impact?

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, I believe
27 the Council as they have passed Proposal 46, I would not
28 encourage them, I would probably ask them to reject
29 Proposal 47.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: That's my -- I would like
32 to do it efficiently but I'm absolutely opposed to 47.
33 I'd rather.....

34

35 MR. ABRAHAM: I second that motion.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY:move to -- move to
38 adopt and then hopefully reject it, but, we have a motion
39 on the floor.

40

41 MR. ALVAREZ: Has my motion been
42 seconded.

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert.

47

48 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think maybe what we
49 can do since there doesn't seem much support for Proposal
50 47, maybe we could ask the maker and the second to

00174

1 withdraw their motion and then we can bring up what
2 appears to be the correct action for Proposal 47, as a
3 recommendation, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
6 Randy, as maker of the motion.

7

8 MR. ALVAREZ: I would like to withdraw my
9 motion to take no action.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Virginia,
12 as the second.

13

14 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: You withdraw your
17 second?

18

19 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Robert, did
22 you get that, Randy withdrew his.....

23

24 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. What is the
27 wishes of the Council regarding Proposal 47.

28

29 MS. MORRIS: I make a motion that we move
30 to adopt Proposal 47.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's been a
35 motion to adopt Proposal 47 and second.

36

37 MS. MORRIS: Question.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
40 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by
41 saying aye.

42

43 (No aye votes)

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Was that one aye?
46 Dave, why don't you ask him, you're closer. Robin.

47

48 MR. FISHER: Is there any aye's there on
49 that vote?

50

00175

1 MR. HEYANO: No ayes here.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right. All
4 those opposed, same sign.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion fails.

9 That concludes action on Proposal 47.

10

11 It's 12:20, what is the wishes of the
12 Council. We have still four more proposals, would you
13 like to take lunch?

14

15 (Council nods affirmatively)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert and Robin,
18 we're going to take a recess for how long?

19

20 MR. ABRAHAM: Twenty minutes.

21

22 MR. ALVAREZ: It takes an hour to have
23 lunch up in Naknek.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, Robert,
26 I'll call you back at 1:15.

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 MR. HEYANO: We're here.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, thank
39 you Robert and Robin. We're back on line with the
40 Council and we'll reconvene here this afternoon and
41 continue with Wildlife Proposal 48. Dave. Okay, we're
42 going to go ahead and continue with Proposal 48.

43

44 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, it should go pretty
45 fast.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: It should. You
48 hear that Dave.

49

50 (Laughter)

00176

1 MR. FISHER: Yes.

2

3 MS. ALECK: Right with you.

4

5 MR. FISHER: These next two proposals
6 deal with beaver, one in Unit 9(B) and the other in Unit
7 9(E). This first one is Proposal 48 and it was submitted
8 by the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource Commission. And
9 it's requesting a hunting season to be established for
10 the harvest of beavers in Unit 9(B). The harvest limit
11 would be two beaver per day, and the hunting season would
12 be April 15th through May 31st with a harvest limit of
13 two beaver with the use of a firearm.

14

15 Currently there is no hunting season
16 which allows the use of a firearm to harvest beaver in
17 Unit 9(B). Current Federal and State regulations allow
18 the use of a firearm to harvest beaver from April 15th to
19 May 31st and that allows the use of a firearm, however,
20 the taking of beaver with a firearm under a trapping
21 license is prohibited on National Park Service lands.

22

23 I'll try and shorten this up here.

24

25 Beavers are found pretty much on the main
26 land north of Port Moller, they're pretty prevalent in
27 that area. We don't have a lot of real sound biological
28 data but we do know that the population is probably more
29 than stable and increasing in a lot of areas.

30

31 Beaver are an important furbearer for the
32 use of furs and also as a food source. We do have some
33 harvest information. It's difficult to get good harvest
34 data because a lot of the beaver that are taken aren't
35 sealed so we don't have a lot of good harvest data but we
36 have some.

37

38 Actually that's pretty much -- our
39 conclusion was to support the proposal and the new
40 regulation would read, hunting, beaver, Unit 9(B), two
41 beaver per day April 15th through May 31st. And allowing
42 this shouldn't really impact the beaver populations,
43 they're quite healthy. And this would allow hunters to
44 shoot beaver with their firearm and provide additional
45 subsistence harvest opportunities on providing another
46 hunting season and also on National Park Service lands.
47 This would put in a new hunting season on Park Service
48 lands.

49

50 And that's about all I have.

00177

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dave.
2 Any questions for Dave, Council members.

3
4 MR. ALVAREZ: Dave, I got a question.
5 Resource Committee, along with your help, drew this
6 proposal up, I was just wondering, are those dates, April
7 15th to May 31st, is that similar to the State season,
8 although, you know, at the bottom of the page, Page
9 134.....

10
11 MR. FISHER: That lines up with the
12 current State trapping seasons.

13
14 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah. No -- well, you can
15 hunt -- you can shoot two beavers a day in the State
16 hunter.....

17
18 MR. FISHER: Under trapping regulations.

19
20 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay, there's no hunting.
21 Well, that would be the same thing in my mind, that you
22 can shoot two if you have a trapping license.

23
24 MR. FISHER: This would allow a hunting
25 season.

26
27 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

28
29 MR. FISHER: And it would also allow a
30 hunting season on Park Service land.

31
32 MR. ALVAREZ: So you wouldn't need to
33 have a trapping license on Federal land then to shoot two
34 beaver?

35
36 MR. FISHER: No, you could do it with a
37 hunting license.

38
39 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, with a hunting
40 license, that's all you would need. That's the only
41 difference from the State one then?

42
43 MR. FISHER: Uh-huh.

44
45 MR. ALVAREZ: Because you're saying that
46 all you need is a trapping license and you can shoot two.

47
48 MR. FISHER: But there currently is no
49 State hunting season for beaver.

50

00178

1 MR. ALVAREZ: Oh. But you can shoot two
2 a day and is it the same time as this date right here?

3
4 MR. FISHER: Yes.

5
6 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. all right, thanks.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, Randy. Any
9 additional questions for Dave.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
14 did you have any questions for Dave.

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, sir.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you.
19 Without any further questions, we'll go ahead and move on
20 to ADF&G comments.

21
22 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
23 Council, my name is Lem Butler with Alaska Department of
24 Fish and Game in King Salmon. Fish and Game is neutral
25 on this proposal. Adoption of this proposal would
26 authorize in Federal Subsistence Hunting Regulations what
27 is currently allowed in the State trapping regulations
28 for beaver in Unit 9(B).

29
30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Lem.
31 Any questions for Lem.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. We'll
36 move on. Are there any other State or Federal agencies
37 who would like to provide comment on Proposal 48.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any Advisory
42 Committee members who would like to provide comments
43 regarding Proposal 48.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Written public
48 comments. We have one from the Lake Clark SRC on
49 Proposal 48.

50

00179

1 The SRC supports establishing a beaver
2 hunting season in Unit 9(B) to allow subsistence hunters
3 to use a firearm to take beaver in Lake Clark National
4 Park and Preserve.

5
6 That concluded written public comments.

7
8 Is there any public testimony for
9 Proposal 48.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Not seeing any
14 public testimony we'll move this on to Council
15 deliberation. What is the wishes of the Council.

16
17 MR. HEYANO: Move to adopt Proposal 48,
18 Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you.
21 There's a motion to adopt Proposal 48.

22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Second the motion.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion has
26 been seconded. Discussion. Robert, would you like to
27 address your motion.

28
29 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman,
30 in regards to the proposal submitted by Lake Clark
31 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, I'm not
32 aware of any resource concerns for beaver. In fact, I
33 think they're numerous in 9(B), especially with the
34 decline of trapping due to the decline in price and
35 allowing a take of two per day from April 15th to May
36 31st would not pose any harm to the resource and I think
37 it'd provide additional opportunity for those subsistence
38 users to take beaver.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
41 Any other Council discussion.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
46 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by
47 saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

00180

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Those opposed,
2 same sign.

3
4 (No opposing vote)

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion passes.
7 Proposal 49, Dave.

8
9 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Proposal 49 is a similar proposal. It deals with beaver
11 in Unit 9(E). This proposal was submitted by the
12 Aniakchak Resource Commission, and it requests a hunting
13 season for beaver to be established in Unit 9(E) with a
14 no harvest limit and a season to be from September 1
15 through March 31st.

16
17 The biology is pretty much the same. The
18 harvest is pretty much the same.

19
20 The Staff preliminary conclusion is a
21 little bit different. We supported this, however, with a
22 modification. In the modification, we want to establish
23 a two beaver per day and the modified hunting season
24 dates would align with the existing trapping regulations
25 for use of a firearm.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: ADF&G.

28
29 MR. BUTLER: We would agree with the
30 Federal analysis of this and would caution the Council to
31 move slowly in modifying the seasons and bag limits in
32 Unit 9(E) by making them concurrent with the other areas
33 limiting the season to April 15 to May 31st with a limit
34 of two beaver per day.

35
36 We feel that beaver could be potentially
37 overharvested with the lengthy periods of open water and
38 again would just advise moving slowly.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Lem.
41 Were there any questions for Lem from the Council
42 members.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Lem.
47 Were there any other State or Federal agencies who would
48 like to provide public comment regarding Proposal 49.

49
50 (No comments)

00181

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, any
2 Advisory Committee members that are wishing to provide
3 public testimony regarding Proposal 49.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
8 move on to written public comments.

9
10 The Aniakchak SRC submitted their
11 recommendation for Proposal 49. The SRC supports
12 establishing a beaver hunting season in Unit 9(E) to
13 allow subsistence hunters to use a firearm to take beaver
14 in Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

15
16 That concluded the written public
17 comments for Proposal 49.

18
19 Public testimony. Is there anyone in the
20 public wishing to provide testimony on Proposal 49.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
25 go ahead and elevate this to Council deliberation. What
26 is the wishes of the Council.

27
28 MR. HEYANO: Move to adopt Proposal 49,
29 Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion
32 to adopt Proposal 49, is there a second.

33
34 MS. ALECK: I second that motion.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion has
37 been seconded. Discussion.

38
39 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: No.....

42
43 MR. ALVAREZ: You're too slow.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Can I discuss just a little
46 bit.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Dan.

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Please excuse me, Pete, I

00182

1 won't try to prolong this. But if I understand right the
2 SRC just met immediately prior to this meeting and I
3 would guess that they had opportunity to discuss the
4 recommended modifications, and is there anybody here to
5 speak to that, whether the SRC specifically chose to not
6 address these recommended modifications or how on that?
7 I'd appreciate it.

8

9 MS. MCBURNEY: For the record, I'm Mary
10 McBurney with Aniakchak National Monument, and I serve as
11 the Staff person for the Aniakchak SRC. And to answer
12 your question, Mr. Dunaway, no, they did not address the
13 suggested amendment. The proposal that was before them
14 was the original proposal.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: So they might not have even
17 been aware of this recommendation?

18

19 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Maybe Virginia could
22 help me then. Do you know how the feeling is down there,
23 would they really have a much more liberal season or.....

24

25 MS. ALECK: Well, not to make this any
26 longer. We never had any beaver down there to begin with
27 in the early '60s. And in the early '60s we had a lot of
28 caribou and when the beaver moved in after the '60s, the
29 lake edge, around the lake edge started flooding and all
30 the caribou food was around the lake edge, the lichen and
31 stuff and I'm thinking that with the abundance of beaver
32 at Chignik Lake and around Chignik Lake is really
33 thriving. You could see beaver everywhere, dams, they're
34 damming off rivers that used to produce salmon in Black
35 Lake and up in Clark's River it's starting. Nobody is
36 trapping or hunting because the prices are way down, too.
37 Gas is expensive. Just to let you guys know that, I
38 don't know if the caribou herd moved on because all the
39 lake edge is all flooded where the caribou used to feed.

40

41 That's all I have.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you,
44 Virginia.

45

46 MS. ALECK: And one more thing, I think I
47 would like to see the limit higher because it's taking
48 away our salmon and our caribou, I really believe that.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

00183

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In
4 speaking to the motion, I'm going to be voting in favor
5 of it. I don't agree with the justification that's
6 presented in the book for reducing it to two. It says
7 harvest limit modification would address biological
8 concerns such as shot beavers not being retrieved.
9 Allowing two per day doesn't address that at all. You
10 know, it doesn't say if you strike two beaver then you're
11 done hunting for the day. If an individual's a poor
12 hunter he can sit there and strike as many as he wants
13 under the existing regulations, so I don't think that has
14 any affect to it.

15

16 Kits losing their mothers, I think that's
17 going to happen anyway. And two per day isn't going to
18 alleviate that.

19

20 Overharvest and local depletion, I think
21 any time we institute a harvest that's a possibility but
22 that shouldn't be reason why we don't do it. And that's
23 why we review these proposals and we have input from the
24 residents from the area and the Federal managers.

25

26 So, you know, the only thing the two per
27 day is going to do is additional burden to the
28 subsistence user, he'll have to go out -- if he wants six
29 beaver he's going to have to go out three different days
30 to get his six or take an extended member of his family
31 along to get the six, and my experience is is that's kind
32 of how it happens in the areas that I'm familiar with on
33 what the people take for what they need there.

34

35 So I really can't support the two per day
36 based on the justification given.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
39 any additional Council comments.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Can I ask, say, Robert,
42 this is Dan, how do you feel about the season length?

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Well, I have to make the
45 assumption since this came from the Aniakchak Resource
46 Council that those are the dates that they preferred, and
47 I really don't have any information before me today to
48 dispute that.

49

50 You know, I think with the down turn of

00184

1 the trapping and what not, that the Federal subsistence
2 users who are going to be qualified to participate in
3 this harvest is somewhat limited. So, yeah, I don't have
4 a problem with the dates either.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

7

8 MS. ALECK: That sounds good Robert, I
9 agree with what you are saying.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any further
12 Council discussion.

13

14 MS. ALECK: I'd like to say one more
15 thing.

16

17 MR. SAMUELSEN: Cliff, move.....

18

19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Hold on Robin,
20 Virginia's going to make a comment.

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

23

24 MS. ALECK: This is where I think, you
25 know, economic -- local knowledge should be listened to
26 by Fish and Game because ecological knowledge is really
27 important. You live there, you see these changes, and
28 we've seen the caribou go, we have to go further to get
29 our subsistence food, can't get any more caribou so at
30 this point I think -- I'm not agreeing with the two
31 beaver per day either.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you,
34 Virginia. Robin, did you have a comment.

35

36 MR. SAMUELSEN: No comment, call for the
37 question.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
40 called for. The motion on the table is to adopt Proposal
41 49 as submitted on Page 142 which would establish a
42 hunting season for beavers in Unit 9(E) with no harvest
43 limit and the season to be from September 1 through March
44 31. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
45 aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All those opposed,
50 same sign.

00185

1 (No opposing vote)

2

3

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion carries.

4 Dave, moving on to Proposal 50. And for the Council

5 members, while Dave is getting there, this is an

6 overlapping proposal from the YK region, and maybe Pete

7 will go to St. Mary's.

8

9 MR. ABRAHAM: I don't want to go to St.

10 Mary's.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Dave.

13

14 MR. ABRAHAM: St. Mary's is a long ways.

15

16 MR. FISHER: This proposal was submitted

17 by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council. And it

18 would combine the regulatory hunt area description for

19 Unit 18 caribou, add 15 days to the existing season and

20 extend the meat on bone requirement to that portion of

21 Unit 18, north of the Yukon River.

22

23 We talked about Mulchatna Caribou

24 yesterday so I won't go into any more biological

25 discussion on that.

26

27 The current Federal regulation divides

28 Unit 18 into two areas, north and south. And this

29 proposal would combine both those areas.

30

31 The current regulation, that portion

32 south of the Yukon River, August 1st through March 31st,

33 five caribou, edible meat must remain on the bones of the

34 front quarters and hindquarters until the meat is removed

35 from the field. That edible meat portion that must

36 remain on the bone does not apply to the other part of

37 Unit 18, north of the river, this proposal would change

38 that.

39

40 So the proposed regulation would read,

41 Unit 18, five caribou, August 1st through April 15th and

42 all edible meat must be left on the bones of the front

43 quarters and hindquarters of caribou harvested in Unit

44 18.

45

46 The Staff recommendation or conclusion

47 was to support the proposal.

48

49 A little bit of justification here,

50 adoption of this proposal would comply with current

00186

1 harvest guidelines and provide additional opportunity to
2 harvest caribou during the longer days of spring, like I
3 mentioned we're going to add an additional 15 days.
4 Adoption of the regulation would favor reduction of meat
5 spoilage during transport from the harvest site in Unit
6 18 north of the Yukon River. A unit wide meat on the
7 bone requirement would comply with local harvest and
8 transport methods that would refrain from deboning
9 harvested meat.

10

11 That's about all I have.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions from
14 the Council members regarding his analysis.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dave, I have one
19 question, on the top of Page 150 in the second paragraph,
20 I think for clarification, your sentence there where it
21 says if the Board adopts the provisions specified in
22 Proposal 42 which the Council addressed, which would
23 limit the fall harvest to one bull that would align with
24 State and Federal regulations for Unit 18, which the
25 Council addressed, would nullify the caribou component
26 for Proposal 52, so are you saying if the Council -- if
27 they go ahead and make their recommendations on this one
28 here that they basically don't have to -- 52 could just
29 be rejected?

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: It might have to be amended
32 just to be alike.

33

34 MR. HEYANO: Cliff.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

37

38 MR. HEYANO: This is Robert.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: I think you want to
43 reference 42, not 52. We took care of what's being asked
44 in Proposal 50 in Proposal 42.....

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Right.

47

48 MR. HEYANO:with the exception of
49 meat on the bone in all of Unit 18 is how I read it.

50

00187

1 MR. FISHER: Well, also the one bull
2 harvest restriction there for the dates, August through
3 November, I don't remember what those dates were, that
4 was part of 42.

5
6 MR. HEYANO: August 1st through November
7 30th, one bull.

8
9 MR. FISHER: That's correct.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
12 Dave.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Dan.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Who submitted Proposal 50,
19 Yukon.....

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: YK.

22
23 MR. FISHER: The YK Regional Council.
24 And the reason it's a carryover or a crossover is because
25 there's -- I think Togiak and a couple other communities
26 have customary and traditional use for caribou in Unit
27 18.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm just.....

30
31 MR. FISHER: Togiak, Twin Hills and
32 Manokotak.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

35
36 MR. FISHER: That's why we're getting the
37 chance to look at it.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm just a little
40 confused why we got two proposals from them, one which
41 seems to nullify the other in part. So I'm kind of
42 wondering what their overall desire is. The simple
43 version here, just the five caribou and simplifying Unit
44 18, I can get a hold of that, but nullifying that meat on
45 the bone portion of 52; is that really what folks up
46 there want?

47
48 MR. FISHER: Well, I don't know, the
49 Council submitted it so I'm assuming that that's what
50 most of the people want.

00188

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, in one proposal they
2 submit getting rid of it and in the other one they submit
3 extending it. I'm a little confused. Is there anybody
4 else that's got familiarity with that. I see Mr.
5 Liedberg back there, he's fresh from Bethel.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. LIEDBERG: I didn't work on that one.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert.

16

17 MR. HEYANO: Would it make sense, based
18 on action we took on Proposal 42 and what I'm sensing is
19 is the desire of the committee to maintain the meat on
20 bone restriction for all of Unit 18, would be to vote
21 down Proposal 50 and then address meat on bone
22 restriction for all of Unit 18 on Proposal 52. I'm just
23 trying to make sure we're all on the same page since
24 there seems to be some -- well, at least from my end of
25 it, I guess, some not quite understanding what Proposal
26 50 is doing, and I concur with Dan, so if that's a
27 correct summary, is that a correct procedure to take?

28

29 MR. FISHER: Robert, can I bring up a
30 point of clarification that was pointed out to me.
31 Proposal 52 would simplify meat on the bone regulation
32 for caribou and moose in Unit 18 south of the Yukon
33 River, so they're adding moose in Proposal 52.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Well, the other thing I
36 think they're doing is adding it to all of Unit 18 also.

37

38 MR. FISHER: Yes, that's correct, because
39 they are combining north and south and just calling it
40 Unit 18.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: Yes. So if I can rephrase
43 it or summarize, based on action we took on Proposal 42,
44 which we said we wanted Unit 18 to have one bull caribou
45 harvest from August through November, and then if we turn
46 Proposal 50 and adopt Proposal 52, we would have the one
47 bull caribou in Unit 18 from August 1st through November
48 and we would require the meat to remain on the bone for
49 all of Unit 18 for moose and caribou.

50

00189

1 MR. FISHER: Yes, that should do it.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I find that really helpful,
4 thank you.

5

6 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Robert.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.

9

10 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you, Robert.

11

12 MR. HEYANO: I wish I could have been
13 that clear on a few other proposals here a couple hours
14 ago.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any other
19 questions for Dave.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Move to take no action on
22 Proposal -- no.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Move to take no action --
27 oh, we got to vote it down, okay -- move for adoption of
28 Proposal 50.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Hold on there,
31 Robin, we got to finish some other things first. I just
32 want to finish up with any other additional questions for
33 Dave on his Staff analysis. Council members.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: ADF&G comments.

38

39 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chairman. Members
40 of the Council. Jim Woolington, Fish and Game in
41 Dillingham. We don't have anybody here from the Fish and
42 Game Staff from Unit 18 so I'll read the comments in as
43 in your proposal book for the record.

44

45 However, before that I'd like to -- maybe
46 part of the confusion on these two proposals is that
47 recently the Board of Game combined caribou regulations
48 for both north and south of the Yukon River and, that, I
49 think, is where these changes are coming from. Prior to
50 that regulations south of the Yukon in Unit 18 were

00190

1 different from north of the Yukon, so that's a big part
2 of these proposals. And I think in 42 as stated -- or as
3 written in the proposal here, that only addressed south
4 of the Yukon, so something to combine all of 18 similar
5 to the State regs is probably what these are doing.

6

7 So as far as Proposal 50, the Department
8 of Fish and Game supports this proposal. In its fall
9 2003 meeting, the Alaska Board of Game extended the
10 caribou season by two weeks in Unit 18 and adopted a unit
11 wide meat on bone salvage requirement. Adoption of this
12 proposal will align the State and Federal caribou hunting
13 regulations in all of Unit 18 if the provision for
14 limiting the fall harvest of bulls to one bull specified
15 in Proposal 42 is also adopted.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.
18 Any questions for Jim.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
23 any questions for Jim.

24

25 MR. HEYANO: No.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: No.

28

29 MS. MORRIS: I have a question.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. Nanci.

32

33 MS. MORRIS: Okay, I have a question for
34 you, Jim. So what are we -- if we vote down Proposal 50,
35 what portion of this will be leaving out not to become in
36 line?

37

38 MR. WOOLINGTON: Let's see, I think --
39 well, it might be worthwhile going back to look at
40 Proposal 42 just because everybody's referring back to
41 it. And on Page 65 and you would have to -- Dave maybe
42 could help me out.

43

44 MR. FISHER: Go to Page 75.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: 75.

47

48 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay, 75.

49

50 MR. FISHER: 75 at the top. Because we

00191

1 made a modification, we recommended a modification.

2

3 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay, was it specified
4 in that modification that it's for all of Unit 18.....

5

6 MR. FISHER: Yes.

7

8 MR. WOOLINGTON:because -- okay, if
9 it was then that clears up a lot, because on 65 it gives
10 that portion of Unit 18 that Proposal 42 was addressing.

11

12 MR. FISHER: Page 65 is what the.....

13

14 MR. WOOLINGTON: The original proposal?

15

16 MR. FISHER: Yes. And then on Page 75
17 gives our Staff recommended modification. We supported
18 with modification to combine north and south parts of
19 Unit 18 as Unit 18.

20

21 MR. WOOLINGTON: Okay.

22

23 MR. FISHER: Actually what we did there
24 is we lined up with what the Board of Game had
25 recommended, their recent ruling where they did the same
26 thing. This was to align both State and Federal
27 regulations.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Does that answer
30 your question?

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Helpful.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, any other
35 questions for Jim.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, thank
40 you, Jim. Were there any other State or Federal agencies
41 here wishing to provide comment on Proposal 50.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, how
46 about Advisory Committee members, are there any ADF&G
47 Advisory Committee members wishing to provide public
48 comment on Proposal 50.

49

50 (No comments)

00192

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Written public
2 comments. None. Public testimony. Is there anyone in
3 the meeting room here who would like to provide testimony
4 on Proposal 50.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
9 go ahead and elevate this to Council deliberation. What
10 is the wish of the Council.

11
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Move for adoption.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion
15 to adopt Proposal 50.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion has
20 been seconded. Disc.....

21
22 MS. MORRIS: Question.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question.
25 Question's been called for. All those in favor of the
26 motion signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Nay -- I'm sorry, I
31 withdraw.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Let's do that over
34 again. There's a motion on the floor to adopt Proposal
35 50 that has been seconded, question's been called for.
36 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

37
38 MR. ABRAHAM: Aye.

39
40 MS. ALECK: Aye.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: I think -- weren't we.....

43
44 MS. ALECK: Am I -- I have a question on
45 that one.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead,
48 Virginia.

49
50 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair, if.....

00193

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, hold on
2 Robert, Virginia had a question.

3
4 MS. ALECK: I must be getting tired. I
5 guess I misunderstood, I'd like to withdraw that.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. The motion
8 on the floor was to -- the previous discussion from the
9 Council was to oppose Proposal 50 just because of the
10 prior action they took on Proposal 42, and Robin's motion
11 is to adopt Proposal 50 as is, seconded, and we'll go
12 ahead, if the Council would like -- do you have a
13 question, Randy?

14
15 MR. ALVAREZ: No.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: No, okay.

18
19 MR. ALVAREZ: I was just going to say
20 that I thought we were going to oppose this one and then
21 -- because of what we did on 42, and then go back to 52,
22 isn't it, for meat on the.....

23
24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, that's
25 correct, but we're just going to deal with 50 which would
26 be.....

27
28 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, and that's my.....

29
30 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:which was the
31 Council's.....

32
33 MR. ALVAREZ: I thought we were just
34 going to oppose this, so I'll just -- I was just
35 informing Virginia.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. All right,
38 there's a motion on the table to adopt Proposal 50 and
39 it's been seconded. All those in favor of the motion
40 signify by saying aye.

41
42 (No aye votes)

43
44
45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Those opposed,
46 same sign.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion fails.

00194

1 Proposal 52. Dave.

2

3 MR. FISHER: Yes, Proposal 52 was
4 submitted by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council
5 and this proposal would simplify the meat on bone
6 regulations for caribou and moose in Unit 18 south of the
7 Yukon River.

8

9 This proposal would simplify hunting
10 regulations in Unit 18 by extending meat on the bone
11 salvage requirement unit wide.

12

13 Current regulations call for a meat on
14 the bone for south, this is just going to combine it into
15 one unit, Unit 18, and affect caribou and moose.

16

17 Adoption of this proposal would simplify
18 Unit 18 regulations by eliminating south of the Yukon
19 from current salvage requirements. This would favor
20 reduction in meat spoilage during transport from the
21 harvest site. It would comply with local harvest and
22 transport methods that refrain from deboning harvested
23 meat.

24

25 The Staff recommendation was to support
26 the proposal.

27

28 And that's basically all I have, we
29 discussed it under 50.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Dave.
32 Were there any questions for Dave regarding Proposal 52.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
37 did you have any questions for Dave.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: No, sir.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. ADF&G
42 comments.

43

44 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chairman. Members
45 of the Council. Jim Woolington, Fish and Game in
46 Dillingham. Again, we don't have Staff from Unit 18
47 present so I will read into the record our ADF&G
48 comments, Proposal 52.

49

50 Department of Fish and Game supports

00195

1 Proposal 52. At the fall 2003 meeting the Alaska Board
2 of Game instituted a unit wide meat on the bone
3 regulation for caribou and moose taken in Game Management
4 Unit 18. An option of this proposal will align the
5 Federal and State regulations and simplify the
6 regulations as was desired by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
7 Regional Advisory Council.

8

9 Questions if anybody has any.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
12 Jim, Council members.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.
17 Were there any other additional State or Federal agencies
18 who wish to provide public comment on Proposal 52.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, any
23 Advisory Committee members out there who wish to provide
24 public comment on Proposal 52.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none,
29 summary of written public comments. There were none.

30

31 Public testimony. Is there anyone
32 wishing to provide public testimony on Proposal 52.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, we'll
37 go ahead and elevate this to the Council deliberation.
38 What is the Council's wishes.

39

40 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, I move we
41 adopt Proposal 52.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's a motion
44 on the floor to adopt Proposal 52.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The motion's been
49 seconded. Discussion.

50

00196

1 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair, I'll be voting in
2 favor of the motion. This is Robert Heyano.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert.
5

6 MR. HEYANO: I believe by requiring the
7 meat to remain on the front and the hindquarters of moose
8 and caribou greatly helps enforce the wanton waste,
9 failure to salvage meat in the field with the protection
10 officers. I also firmly believe that it reduces waste.
11 And it's a common practice of Federal subsistence users
12 so we won't be placing any undue burden on them.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Robert.
15

16 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Randy.

19
20 MR. ALVAREZ: Robert, took the words out
21 of my mouth.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Randy.

26
27 MS. ALECK: My thoughts.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any other
32 additional Council comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
39 called for. All those in favor to adopt Proposal 52,
40 please signify by saying aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Those opposed,
45 same sign.

46
47 (No opposing vote)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion passes.
50 Robert and Robin.

00197

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: That concludes the
4 Council's, at least the 11 wildlife proposals we had and
5 the remainder of the agenda includes FIS, agency reports.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: How about special action
8 requests?

9

10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: That can be
11 included under No. 12, any other new business.

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Just him or can
16 anybody.....

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: I was just
19 informing them that we're done with -- we're going to
20 continue on with the agenda, I just wanted to inform
21 those two that we concluded the wildlife proposals and
22 we're going to move on to FIS with Polly Wheeler to
23 provide the Council with a status of the Resource
24 Monitoring Projects and the region's issues and
25 information needs.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Mr. Chair, if I may.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: While Robert and Robin are
32 still on, I think early in the meeting there was a call
33 for us to bring up some resource concerns and I hadn't
34 thought about it much but over breakfast and some other
35 times -- I don't have it fully formed yet, but I wanted
36 you guys to be hearing it when I brought it up, is that,
37 there's a lot of talk of mineral and oil and gas
38 development in the area and I'm thinking that the Council
39 ought to be, at least, asking for some input on what's
40 going on and potential impacts. Like I say, I don't have
41 it fully formed in my mind, but I think it's a pretty
42 wide topic that may be coming at us in the future and I
43 guess I'd like to see if you agree or just let you know
44 I'd like to see that on a future agenda.

45

46 I can't remember even where it's supposed
47 to fit.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00199

1 Polly Wheeler with the Fisheries Information Services,
2 Office of Subsistence Management. I have a couple of
3 handouts because we didn't get our work done in time to
4 get in the book so -- in fact, I just got this done the
5 day before I left. So if you'll indulge me, Mr. Chair, I
6 can hand this out and I have several others, too, so
7 you'll have to indulge me again. But there's one handout
8 and I'll split them up and hand some over here and over
9 here.

10

11 It provides an update of the Fisheries
12 Resource Monitoring Program. For those of you that were
13 at the training session yesterday morning I covered what
14 the Fisheries Information Services does. And just, in
15 brief, we fund projects that provide information for
16 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management. And we fund
17 projects that are sort of the standard biological
18 projects, you know, weirs, counting towers, that sort of
19 thing. And we also fund studies that look at harvest
20 monitoring and also studies that look at traditional
21 ecological knowledge, both the collection of traditional
22 ecological knowledge and also the application of it in
23 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management.

24

25 That hand out that I just provided to
26 you, and Robin and Robert, I'll make sure that when I get
27 back to the office I'll send you those hand outs.

28

29 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you.

32

33 MS. WHEELER: Sure. They just provide
34 you an overview of the projects that have been funded in
35 this region since our program started four years ago.

36

37 There's 22 projects that affect this
38 region and there's four projects that we call sort of the
39 inter-regional projects and those also have addressed
40 some issues in this region, primarily harvest assessment
41 actually. All but three of those projects have been
42 completed. And the final reports are either available or
43 will soon be available, some of our PI's are awfully busy
44 and sometimes don't get the final report in when they say
45 they're going to get it in so that's part of our job is
46 hounding them to make sure they get them in.

47

48 The three remaining projects are ongoing
49 and should be finishing up this summer with final reports
50 due, I think, by the end of December. And two of those

00200

1 projects, John Chythlook from BBNA and Ted Krieg from
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game are working on and
3 I'll put them on the spot and say that they can speak to
4 those projects when they come up and speak to you rather
5 than take up some time here.

6

7 But in that hand out it gives you, again,
8 sort of a status report on those three ongoing projects.

9

10 I would encourage you, if you are
11 interested in reports on any of those projects that you
12 get a hold of me or Cliff or Steve Fried as well to let
13 us know and we can make sure that we get you a copy of
14 those reports.

15

16 In the future we're supposed to have all
17 those reports available on the web, but that's more of a
18 long-term project than a short-term project, so the best
19 bet if you're anxious to get something is to call me and
20 I can get a copy of the report out to you.

21

22 As far as the 2005 projects go, as I
23 mentioned yesterday morning during the training, our call
24 for proposals for 2005 projects ended January 29th. We
25 received a total of 61 proposals for research throughout
26 the state. And if I'm not mistaken I believe there's 10
27 for this region. The Technical Review Committee is going
28 to be meeting the middle of March to take a first look at
29 those proposals and at your fall 2004 meeting we will
30 have the recommended projects available for your
31 consideration so it will be, you know, through the next
32 six months or so we'll be looking hard at those projects
33 and the Technical Review Committee will be looking at
34 those projects and investigators will be working on
35 investigation plans. So it's a way's out but just to
36 give you a head's up that at your fall meeting you'll
37 have an opportunity to look at those projects that will
38 be funded in 2005.

39

40 We don't have a lot of money available
41 for 2005 because 2004 was a big money year. We typically
42 fund projects from one to three years duration so every
43 three years we have a larger chunk of monies available
44 because we're not -- you know, in out years we have the
45 obligations to past projects so this year we don't have a
46 lot money available so we're not going to probably be
47 able to fund as much as we like to but then 2007 will be
48 another big money year which we'll be able to consider
49 more projects.

50

00201

1 One of the important items that I wanted
2 to talk to you about is, again, as I said yesterday in
3 the training, the critical role of the Councils in our
4 program is both in identifying issues and information
5 needs for research projects but also in reviewing the
6 projects once -- the project recommendations once the
7 Technical Review Committee has met to make their
8 recommendations.

9
10 We have gotten some criticism in the past
11 that our issues and information needs aren't specific
12 enough so that when we put out our call for proposals,
13 our issues and information needs could be more specific,
14 could be more refined. So in response to that criticism,
15 we're engaging in a planning process for each region to
16 strategically plan and identify for what our research
17 priorities are for each region. We're starting out with
18 Bristol Bay and Southcentral, they'll start this spring,
19 and we're going to convene a multi-agency, multi-
20 stakeholder group, 12 to 15 people ideally, but we may
21 have more than that, depending on the region, to make a
22 concerted effort to identify and prioritize research
23 needs for each region.

24
25 This spring, again, we're starting out
26 with Bristol Bay and Southcentral. Tom Boyd, our
27 Assistant Regional Director, sent a letter to each of the
28 Regional Council Chairs informing them of the strategic
29 planning process that we're about to engage in. I have a
30 copy of the letter here that was sent to Dan O'Hara, the
31 reason why I'm bringing this up is because we are asking
32 for recommendations of one to two Council members to be
33 part of the team that looks at regional issues and
34 information needs and prioritizes them. We expect or
35 we're planning on the planning process for Bristol Bay,
36 the first meeting, which is going to be a three day
37 meeting to be held sometime the first part of May or the
38 first half of May, so this may be something that the
39 Council wants to think about, I guess it could be
40 considered an action item, something to think about and
41 if the Council isn't prepared to make a decision now,
42 again, it's -- I know it's fairly short order, but,
43 because our process requires that we -- like right now we
44 just ended a call for proposals for 2005 and so those
45 projects will be in the water, not this year, but next
46 summer, we have to start planning a ways out in order to
47 try and get at our big money year which is going to be
48 2007, so that the regional issues and information needs
49 will be identified by each region for each region by
50 2007.

00202

1 So again, if you'll indulge me, Mr. Chair
2 and Council members, I have a copy of that letter and
3 that explains, probably better than I just did in my
4 brief overview, and, again, Robin and Robert, we'll make
5 sure that you get copies of those letters if you don't
6 already have them. They actually were sent out to
7 Council members as well, but I understand there was a
8 little confusion about who was actually on some of the
9 Councils so I'll make sure that you guys -- I wanted to
10 make sure that you all had a copy of those letters.

11
12 And one more thing if you want to -- I'll
13 keep marching on and then you can ask questions later if
14 you have them, I guess, one more point of information
15 that I wanted to offer from the Fisheries Information
16 Services, and that is, again, as I mentioned yesterday,
17 one of the aspects of our program is the Partners in
18 Fisheries Monitoring and your region is special because
19 you not only have a biologist partner, John Chythlook who
20 works for BBNA but also they were just awarded the
21 contract for being able to hire a social scientist also
22 within BBNA. And not only that, but there's also two
23 internship positions that go along with those two
24 positions. So we're real pleased to have John on board,
25 and I am personally pleased to see that we're actually
26 going to be hiring another social scientist because the
27 more the better in my opinion.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MS. WHEELER: And John can certainly, not
32 to beat the drum of social science or anything, but we do
33 add a lot of value as Virginia pointed out earlier, this
34 whole collection and application of traditional knowledge
35 is really important.

36
37 I'm not going to speak a lot to the
38 Partners Program because I don't want to take anything
39 away from John and he surely has better things to say
40 about the Partners Program than I can possibly add to it.
41 But I just want to say that our program is really happy
42 to have these partner positions on. We have, as I
43 mentioned yesterday, six biologists, and now two social
44 scientists. And I should say Bristol Bay is the only
45 region that has both a biologist and a social scientist
46 under this program so you should all pat yourselves on
47 the back and take full advantage of the people that are
48 there because that's what they're there for, is to work
49 on these Fisheries Resource Monitoring Projects and
50 really to bring in -- build local expertise and bring

00203

1 local people into the fisheries management process.

2

3

4 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'm trying to
5 keep it brief recognizing that you have an awful lot on
6 your agenda for the rest of the afternoon. So I'm happy
7 to answer any questions that you might have but otherwise
8 I'll go sit back down so the 12 other people that are
9 scheduled to speak later can talk.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Council members,
11 are there any questions for Polly.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
16 did you have any questions for Polly.

17

18 MR. HEYANO: No, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
21 Polly.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Polly, in regards
26 to the letter, I would just be inclined to let that -- in
27 the past Dan has -- for instance, the MOA protocols and
28 stuff, he went ahead and just appointed individuals to
29 that so we'll go ahead and just leave that for him to --
30 I'll contact him after he's back from his meetings and he
31 can make that call in terms of who he would like to
32 appoint help with this upcoming meeting in May. Where
33 are the meetings going to be held?

34

35 MS. WHEELER: They're going to be held in
36 Anchorage.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

39

40 MS. WHEELER: At least the Southcentral
41 and the Bristol Bay meetings will be held in Anchorage.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: So they'll meet,
44 both Council representatives will meet collaboratively?

45

46 MS. WHEELER: No, they're separate
47 planning processes.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: They're separate,
50 okay.

00204

1 MS. WHEELER: Yeah. And we'll have, you
2 know, the FIS Staff, the biologist for this region is
3 Steve Fried and most of you are familiar with Steve Fried
4 and I'm the social scientist for this region but I'm also
5 the social scientist for every other region in the state.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MS. WHEELER: So we're trying to not have
10 -- we're trying to have planning processes that don't
11 overlap but also, you know, having them in Anchorage
12 helps.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, thank you.

15
16 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 Council members.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Polly.
20 We'll go ahead and move on with No. 11 under agency
21 reports. There is Council topics for Chair to discuss
22 with the Board at its 2004 meeting.

23
24 In the past up until, I think, just a
25 little over two years ago, all 10 Chairs are flown into
26 Anchorage to attend the Federal Board meeting for the
27 wildlife cycle as well as fisheries. And under letter A
28 here, what we're soliciting from the Council and, again,
29 Dan's not here, Robin's participated as Chair, Pete
30 Abraham's gone to Anchorage to represent the Council as
31 Chair, so what we're looking for is prior to and since
32 then they stopped having those meetings because of
33 policy, but they would discuss loosely and freely with
34 the Federal Board and the members issued that, you know,
35 Council members had as well as resource issues here in
36 the State or how the Board conducted its business, just a
37 myriad of issues.

38
39 So if you have any topics that you would
40 like Dan or another officer if Dan is unable to attend,
41 at this next meeting in May, regarding issues with the
42 Federal Subsistence Program, I'll be happy to write those
43 down and discuss those with Dan when I get back in
44 contact with him.

45
46 So that's what we're looking for under
47 this. And if you look on Page 165 it basically states in
48 a short paragraph there what we're asking from the
49 Council in regards to concerns that they have. Page 165
50 inside your book there.

00205

1 MR. DUNAWAY: The first page after Tab C?

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes. Robert or
4 Robin, did you have any concerns that you'd like to be
5 brought forward to Dan in regards to issues and topics
6 for the Board at its May 2004 meeting?

7

8 MR. HEYANO: Not at this time, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, thank you,
11 Robert. Robin.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: He doesn't have any either,
14 he just stepped out to answer the phone.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, thank you,
17 Robert.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: How about the
22 Council here, present here in the room, any concerns
23 you'd like to bring forward to the Board meeting in May?

24

25 MR. ALVAREZ: Not at this time.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, as I
28 mentioned I'll be in contact with Dan and any additional
29 issues or concerns he has I will communicate those to
30 you.

31

32 Under small letter B, is the Draft
33 Predator Management Policy, and that is informational --
34 Rod Simmons is coming up here and he is the Staff
35 Committee member for Fish and Wildlife Service.

36

37 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
38 Members of the Council. As a point of clarification,
39 under the items on your agenda, Items A through F,
40 there's a slight misunderstanding relative to those items
41 in terms of which ones are identified as briefing topics
42 as opposed to ones that are more of an informational
43 nature, whereby, there's Staff here available to try to
44 address any questions that you have on those
45 informational topics.

46

47 So I believe the intent was for briefings
48 for Items D as in Delta and Item F, those were the two
49 that were intended as oral briefings and the remainder
50 are informational topics that are in your Council book

00206

1 under Tab C, and, again, there's Staff here to answer any
2 questions that you might have on those other items.

3

4 I'm prepared at this time, Mr. Chair, to
5 provide a briefing on Item D.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Item D.

8

9 MR. SIMMONS: Item D.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, if there's
12 no objections from the Council members to just move on to
13 Rod's briefing regarding the Governor's request.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, Rod.

18

19 MR. SIMMONS: I'll go ahead. Again, my
20 name is Rod Simmons with Fish and Wildlife Service and
21 I'm on the Inter-Agency Staff Committee. Tom Boyd, the
22 Assistant Regional Director of OSM had hoped to be here
23 today to provide you this briefing on this important
24 topic but unfortunately he's under the weather and I know
25 he was very much looking forward to meeting with you and
26 will be interested in hearing any feedback on this topic
27 so I'll do my best to try and brief you on this myself.

28

29 I have a hand out for you, and I guess
30 we're at the point in the agenda where you'll be getting
31 lots of hand outs.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: A file box or a shredder.
34 I got a wood stove.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. ALVAREZ: We can go back on the
39 agenda to one of the other informational ones still can't
40 we?

41

42 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes. Yeah, that's
43 fine.

44

45 MR. SIMMONS: In the Governor's letter
46 dated July 17th, 2003 it was requested that the Secretary
47 of Interior appoint a representative from the State of
48 Alaska to serve as a non-voting member to the Federal
49 Subsistence Board. In the letters presented to you today
50 from the Secretary to the Chairman of the Federal

00207

1 Subsistence Board and the response to the Governor, the
2 Secretary has chosen to accept a State liaison to the
3 Board as opposed to a non-voting Board member.

4

5 The Secretary's decision is consistent
6 with the recommendation that came from the Federal
7 Subsistence Board and is consistent with the April 1992
8 EIS Record of Decision which established the program.

9

10 As far as what this translates into at
11 Federal Board meetings is outlined in the second
12 paragraph of the letter to the Governor, which is on Page
13 2 of the hand out provided, and I'll refer you to the
14 second paragraph on that letter, and I'll just read as it
15 states: Consistent with the Record of Decision the State
16 liaison along with the 10 Regional Advisory Council
17 Chairs will serve as active consultants to the Board but
18 will not have a vote in Board decisions or participate in
19 executive sessions. During Board proceedings, prior to a
20 motion, State and Regional Advisory Council liaisons will
21 fully participate and be recognized by the Chair when
22 they want to ask questions, raise concerns or provide
23 additional information or clarification. Once a motion
24 is made the liaisons may be invited to participate in
25 Board deliberations or may be recognized by the Chair
26 when they want to ask questions or provide information or
27 clarification. The Board's meeting guidelines will have
28 been amended to reflect these principles.

29

30 And that concludes my briefing, Mr.
31 Chair.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Rod.

34

35 MR. SIMMONS: I'll be happy to answer any
36 questions you might have.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
39 Rod, Council members.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
44 did you have any questions for Rod.

45

46 MR. HEYANO: No questions.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, as I
49 stated there is one more briefing on the Safari Club
50 litigation and I believe Dr. Glenn Chen of BIA is

00208

1 prepared to provide you an update on that.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy, we can go
4 back to the information items after this if you'd like.

5

6 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

7

8 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 Council members, my name is Glenn Chen. I'm a Staff
10 Committee member for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I've
11 been asked to give an update and background information
12 on what's known as the Safari Club Lawsuit. Some of you
13 heard some initial information about this at your
14 training session yesterday morning.

15

16 Back in 1998 the Safari Club, along with
17 several other plaintiffs sued the Federal program and
18 they challenged a number of aspects of the program,
19 specifically having to do with some items such as
20 customary and traditional use determinations as well as
21 make up of the Councils. On January 16th of this year,
22 U.S. District Court Judge Russell Holland made a final
23 ruling on the lawsuit and he came up with several
24 important points.

25

26 He ruled that the Safari Club
27 International did not have standing on their complaints
28 to move forward with the broad legal challenge to the
29 Federal Subsistence Program. His ruling was largely
30 favorable to the program. But one aspect that he pointed
31 out to the Federal Subsistence Program was that the
32 procedures used to implement what's called the 70/30 rule
33 were not valid. Explanation about the 70/30 rule is as
34 follows.

35

36 That has to do with the make up of the
37 Regional Advisory Councils which are governed by the
38 Federal Advisory Committee Act, otherwise known as FACA,
39 and there has been contention by the Safari Club
40 International that other users were not properly
41 represented on the Federal Advisory Councils. So in
42 order to address these issues about fair representation,
43 the Board, back in 2002 implemented a rule known as the
44 70/30 rule designating 70 percent of the Council seats
45 should to subsistence users and 30 percent should go to
46 other users, consumptive users, primarily commercial and
47 sport interests.

48

49 That brought a lawsuit, several Native
50 organizations filed to be intervenors, and these included

00209

1 the Native Village of Venetie as well as other Native
2 groups.

3

4 And what the Judge ruled was that the
5 Federal program did not follow the proper rulemaking
6 process implementing this rule and he ordered that the
7 70/30 rule be not implemented until the proper rulemaking
8 process is convened.

9

10 An important part of this ruling is that
11 he agreed that a Council composed only of subsistence
12 users is not fairly balanced and that other users must be
13 represented. Recent discussions by the Federal Board are
14 as follows: The Federal Board decided not to appeal the
15 Judge's decision and decided to implement the rulemaking
16 process as promptly as possible.

17

18 Some of the implications of the ruling
19 and how the Federal Board plans to take some next steps,
20 there was some questions about whether or not the ruling
21 would affect this year's seating of new Council members,
22 the ruling by district court is one that looks forward
23 rather than backwards, and, therefore, that means that
24 the appointments made to the Councils including the folks
25 that are seated here today, these appointments would not
26 be rescinded, these people would go ahead and be seated
27 and be left in place, and that the process we're
28 reviewing and requesting applicants and reviewing these
29 applicants for appointment in 2005 will proceed as
30 planned. The court's ruling only prohibits the
31 Secretaries from basing Council appointments on the 70/30
32 policy, however, appointments from all consumptive
33 interests will continue to be considered.

34

35 The court's ruling recognized the
36 critical importance of the Regional Advisory Councils and
37 their role in providing recommendations to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board regarding fish and wildlife management
39 of Federal public lands, and the court decided against
40 interfering in any way with this ongoing management
41 pending the court's requirement to initiate this
42 rulemaking process regarding Council membership
43 composition.

44

45 The Federal Subsistence Board will
46 initiate this rulemaking process immediately as directed
47 by the court and the proposed rule, this 70/30 rule will
48 be based on policy language that's currently in the
49 Regional Advisory Council Charters, the charters that,
50 again, govern the operations of the Councils. This

00210

1 language sets as a goal that 70 percent of members of the
2 Council shall represent subsistence interests and 30
3 percent shall represent sport and commercial interests.

4

5 On the proposed rule, it will be
6 published in the Federal Register this spring, there will
7 be a public comment period and the final rule will be
8 published later this fall, and the hope is to have the
9 final rule in place before the Secretaries appointments
10 for 2005 are made.

11

12 We see the Councils as being a very
13 important part of this rulemaking process. As a Council,
14 we are asking that you provide comments to the Board on
15 the 70/30 policy during this meeting or any other time
16 during the process. And also as private citizens you can
17 comment during the comment period on the proposed rule.
18 And we will ensure that all the Council members are
19 provided a copy of the proposed rule when it is
20 published.

21

22 That concludes my presentation, if
23 there's any questions I'll be happy to take them now.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Glenn.
26 Robert or Robin, did you have any questions for Glenn
27 regarding his briefing.

28

29 MR. HEYANO: I do, Mr. Chairman, this is
30 Robert.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, go ahead,
33 Robert.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, thank you. Hello
36 Glenn.

37

38 MR. CHEN: Hello, Robert.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: According to Judge Holland's
41 ruling is that because the Councils were primarily made
42 up of subsistence users, he felt that other interest
43 groups, consumptive interest groups or users had to be
44 recognized and he didn't necessarily disagree with the
45 70/30 composition of advisory committees he was in
46 disagreement in how that decision was arrived at; is that
47 correct, a procedural matter?

48

49 MR. CHEN: That's correct. Robert, the
50 intervenors -- that was one of the main points in the

00211

1 intervenors actions or request, that the Federal Program
2 did not follow the proper rulemaking process.

3

4 MR. HEYANO: Thank you. And then what I
5 take as Judge Holland's ruling is, is that then Regional
6 Advisory Committee's will consist of 70 percent of the
7 membership would be representative of subsistence users,
8 30 percent would be representative of sport and
9 commercial users, correct?

10

11 MR. CHEN: That is the proposed rule,
12 yes.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: So that's the piece that was
15 missing under the existing RAC committee process, was
16 there was no representation for sport and commercial
17 interests?

18

19 MR. CHEN: That's correct, Robert. And,
20 again, that's based on the Federal Advisory Committee
21 Act, or FACA, that user groups which may be affected by
22 recommendations from the Councils or by actions from the
23 Federal Board must be represented on the Advisory
24 Committees.

25

26 MR. HEYANO: Right. And if I could just
27 reference Page 173 where it says, Judge Holland agrees
28 with the Safari plaintiff, that sport and commercial
29 interests are affected and must be considered when
30 decisions are made regarding fish and wildlife management
31 on Federal lands. A Council compromised of only
32 subsistence users is not fairly balanced, Holland wrote.

33

34 So we're going to have seats or
35 representation that's going to represent sport and
36 commercial interests and we're going to have seats that
37 are going to be representative of subsistence interest
38 users, right?

39

40 MR. CHEN: That's correct. In order to
41 come in compliance with FACA, that would be required.

42

43 MR. HEYANO: Okay. And then if I could
44 just follow this thought as it applies to us today, the
45 seats that Dan Dunaway currently hold and Nanci Morris,
46 that's an attempt to have sport/commercial interests
47 represented on the RAC, whereas Virginia and Randy's
48 seats are subsistence representative seats, correct?

49

50 MR. CHEN: Yes, those are the interests

00212

1 that these new members represent.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

4

5 MR. ALVAREZ: No, I don't -- I was one of
6 the three. I got appointed for the commercial for a
7 three year term.

8

9 MR. CHEN: Did you hear that correction,
10 Robert?

11

12 MR. HEYANO: So Randy's seat is a
13 commercial interest seat; is that right?

14

15 MR. ALVAREZ: (Nods affirmatively)

16

17 MR. CHEN: Yes, that's correct, Robert.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
22 questions for Glenn.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Glenn.

27

28 MR. CHEN: Thank you very much for your
29 time.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: There's one,
32 Glenn, before you leave.

33

34 MR. CHEN: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Will that be
37 mailed to the Council members, when Bill submits the
38 rule, the proposed rule? It says on the last one down
39 here, it says that a copy of the proposed rule, so when
40 Bill prepares that, will that be mailed to them or will I
41 just get a copy and fax it to all of them?

42

43 MR. CHEN: Well, I guess I'm not clear as
44 to the actual process by which that will be distributed,
45 probably it will come to you as the Council coordinator
46 for subsequent distribution to the rest of the Council.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, thank you.
49 Any additional questions for Glenn or Rod.

50

00213

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you.

4

5 MR. CHEN: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Getting back to
8 the informational items, Randy and Nanci had some
9 thoughts.

10

11 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you. I was looking
12 on the agenda here on number 11b, Draft Predator
13 Management Policy, is there one?

14

15 MR. SIMMONS: There is on Page 167, I
16 wasn't intending to give a formal briefing but if you'd
17 like an update on what has transpired since your last
18 Council meeting relative to the Predator Management
19 Policy, I can give you a short update on that.

20

21 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, I'd just -- this is
22 my first meeting.....

23

24 MR. SIMMONS: Sure.

25

26 MR. ALVAREZ:as a member and I
27 wasn't at the last one.

28

29 MR. SIMMONS: Right.

30

31 MR. ALVAREZ: I was just wondering, what
32 is the policy?

33

34 MR. SIMMONS: Well, the policy itself is
35 still in draft and it appears on Page 168 of your Council
36 book. And if you'd like, I can go ahead and highlight
37 you some of the key components within it.

38

39 MR. ALVAREZ: Sure.

40

41 MR. SIMMONS: It should save you some
42 reading time.

43

44 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

45

46 MR. SIMMONS: Under paragraph two, the
47 last sentence says, wildlife management activities on
48 Federal public lands other than the subsistence take and
49 use of fish and wildlife, such as predator control and
50 habitat management are the responsibility of and remain

00214

1 within the authority of the individual land management
2 agencies.

3

4 And then I believe some of the other key
5 components within here are under Part B, accordingly, the
6 Board will, under Part B, direct the Office of
7 Subsistence Management to return the proponents all
8 Federal proposals that specifically indicate that the
9 reason for the proposed regulation is to reduce the
10 predator population to benefit prey populations, i.e.,
11 predator control. Proponents with predator control
12 objectives will be referred to the appropriate Federal
13 land management agency or Alaska Board of Game to seek
14 resolution of their concerns, however, the Board will
15 monitor actions taken by the agency to address such
16 concerns and will provide appropriate support where
17 necessary to ensure the continuation of subsistence
18 harvest opportunities.

19

20 And then the Board met on this particular
21 topic back in December and the update on the Draft Plan
22 appears on Page 167, so if you backcast one page, during
23 the Board discussions on this topic with the Council
24 Chairs present, some of the Council Chairs expressed
25 concern regarding the aspect of OSM rejecting proposals
26 when they're submitted through OSM with the Councils
27 never having an opportunity to even be made aware that
28 people out in their region have concerns regarding
29 predator control. And the Board recognized that and based
30 on those discussions they've modified this Draft Plan to
31 include Part C. So if you go back to Page 168 under C,
32 that's new language since the Board acted on this. So it
33 now reads, ensure that the appropriate Regional Council
34 is informed of predator control proposals by having them
35 printed in the proposal booklet and presented to the
36 Council at the next appropriate Council meeting along
37 with other rejected proposals that address concern which
38 are outside the authorities of the Federal Subsistence
39 Board. So at least your Council will be made aware that
40 people in your region have concerns or desires relative
41 to predator control.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
44 questions Randy.

45

46 MR. ALVAREZ: No, not right now.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

49

50 MS. MORRIS: No, but could you continue

00215

1 on the other subjects, that's what I was basically
2 looking for, too, is just a brief informational sharing.

3

4 MR. SIMMONS: Sure. I believe we have
5 some other people that are probably better qualified on
6 some of these topics.

7

8 I'm not sure which ones in particular,
9 the role of Staff Committee has been an issue that's been
10 brought forth and I believe that's also under Tab C,
11 again, this is more informational in terms of dialogue
12 that occurred at the last Board meeting on this topic.
13 Was that basically that the Board was supportive of some
14 reform actions that would involve the Inter-Agency Staff
15 Committee. And again, since you're a new member, don't
16 confuse that with the OSM Staff. The Inter-Agency Staff
17 Committee member, which I am one of, we each have a
18 representative or two from each agency and we review
19 outcomes from your Regional Advisory Council process on
20 regulatory proposals prior to them going to the Board.
21 So some of the reforms, probably the major components of
22 those reforms were to try to bring, certainly the Council
23 Chair in, during our Inter-Agency Staff Committee
24 discussions so that what occurs at your meetings is
25 transparent during the Inter-Agency Staff Committee
26 process.

27

28 That was probably the major one that was
29 done. But, again, this was brought before your Council,
30 of course you weren't here at the time, but this is sort
31 of old business. And we were trying to be careful not to
32 interject a bunch of old business back into this meeting.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: And Nanci, prior
35 to what Rod was pointing out, at the last meeting, this
36 Council voted to maintain the status quo of the Staff
37 Committee's role because they welcomed the deliberation.
38 Because when Glenn -- when I asked Glenn yesterday when
39 the Staff Committee will meet, which is in April, they
40 will address these same proposals only with the
41 additional of the Councils recommendations and just as it
42 says, they'll provide talking points for their Board
43 members. So that's what this briefing is, or discussion
44 is, you know, how the Inter-Agency Staff Committee is
45 being redesigned.

46

47 MS. WHEELER: This is Polly Wheeler with
48 the Fisheries Information Services, Office of Subsistence
49 Management. I can give you a quick update on the rural
50 determinations, just because it does sort of tie-in with

00216

1 some of the things that you had talked about, both
2 yesterday and also today.

3

4 I mentioned yesterday that every 10 years
5 the Federal Program needs to look at, after the census is
6 done, the Federal Program needs to look at the methods
7 that they use to determine what's rural and what's not
8 rural because it's got pretty important implications for
9 the Federal Subsistence Program. So in response to that,
10 after the 2000 Census, the Office of Subsistence
11 Management let a contract to non-agency scholars to look
12 at methods for defining what was rural or getting at how
13 you define what's rural. That report, the contract was
14 let to the Institute of Social and Economic Research at
15 UAA. They worked on the report, it was turned in in
16 January of 2003, and at that point it was determined that
17 there needed to be some peer review of that report, which
18 took another year, so that peer review was turned in --
19 or we got all that by January of '04, and the Board held
20 a work session in mid-January to talk about -- had a
21 presentation by the independent scholars but also to kind
22 of figure out what their next steps are going to be. And
23 basically that their next steps are going to be is that
24 Staff is going to review them -- that are outlined in the
25 report, and recommend to the Board if any of these should
26 be used in conducting a 10 year review of the rural/non-
27 rural methods.

28

29 So it's expected that it will take a
30 couple or years, I believe that they have five years from
31 start to finish to answer the question. So of course
32 five years start to finish, we're almost -- we're five
33 years away from the next census, so that's where they're
34 at right now.

35

36 And if you're interested in getting a
37 copy of the report I can certainly get that out to you or
38 the reviewer's comments or whatever. So again, if you're
39 interested in that kind of stuff just let me know or
40 Cliff know and we can get it out to you.

41

42 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.

43

44 MS. WHEELER: That's all I have.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Polly.
47 Any additional questions.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chair, this is Robert.

50

00217

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Robert.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: I'd be interested in
4 receiving a copy of that report as drafted by the
5 University.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

8

9 MS. WHEELER: Duly noted, Robert.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
14 questions for Polly or Rod.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: All right, that
19 covers OSM.

20

21 MR. ABRAHAM: Doi.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We'll go ahead and
24 move on with Andy for the Togiak Refuge.

25

26 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Council members. My name is Andy Aderman, Togiak
28 National Wildlife Refuge. On Page 175 under Tab C is an
29 information bulletin involving projects that Togiak
30 Refuge is involved with. I'd like to note at the top of
31 the page is phone numbers and also after each project
32 title is name of a person on staff that you could contact
33 if you need more information.

34

35 For this report I wanted to just touch on
36 a few things concerning wildlife on Page 177. The first
37 deals with Mulchatna caribou. There is a Mulchatna
38 Caribou Technical Working Group which consists of State
39 and Federal resource agencies within the range of the
40 Mulchatna Herd. We met in early January. One of the new
41 things that we're going to get involved with is
42 deployment of satellite collars which should help us
43 track movements and where caribou go throughout the year
44 and, you know, aid us in going out with fixed-wing and
45 getting more detailed information.

46

47 Moving on to Nushagak Peninsula Caribou.
48 I haven't done a population count yet this year and I'm
49 hopeful with the snow we got yesterday I'll be able to
50 get out soon and do that.

00218

1 Also with Nushagak Peninsula Caribou,
2 there's a planning committee or a working group that's
3 been in existence for about the last 10 or 11 years and
4 we meet annually. We met back in October and looked at
5 the biology of the caribou herd and made recommendations
6 for the winter hunt that we're currently in right now.
7 Bottom line is when or if 50 animals are harvested out of
8 that herd, which also includes any that were taken last
9 fall, that hunt will be closed by announcement of the
10 Refuge manager.

11
12 Moving down to moose, I think we've
13 covered 17(A) pretty much. I will note, though, off to
14 the west in Unit 18 we're actively working with the
15 villages of Goodnews Bay, Platinum and Quinhagak as they
16 are very interested in moose increasing in their area.

17
18 And the last thing on wildlife I just
19 wanted to mention is we're planning the second year of a
20 brown bear density estimate for the Refuge. We completed
21 the first year of that last May and we hope to get the
22 second year of data which we need to get the estimate
23 done this coming May or early June. And that will give
24 us an estimate of brown bear density for the entire
25 Refuge and it will be the first such density estimate
26 that we'll have to base further estimates on to compare
27 to.

28
29 That's all I had and I'll try answer any
30 questions if you have any.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Andy.
33 Robert or Robin, did you have any questions for Andy
34 regarding the Togiak agency report.

35
36 MR. HEYANO: I do, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Fire away.

39
40 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, I don't know if it's
41 to Andy or Pat, the new manager for Togiak Wildlife
42 Refuge. But we've been told that with the State budget
43 cuts that the Gushik Tower and the Togiak Tower very
44 likely will not be funded for the '04 season. I'm
45 wondering if the Refuge is gearing up to take over those
46 duties to monitor the escapement?

47
48 MR. WALSH: This is Pat, Robert. We were
49 told by Tim Sands, the commercial fish biologist with
50 ADF&G that, in fact, they do have funding for both of

00219

1 those projects for this year. So currently those
2 projects are not at risk.

3

4 MR. HEYANO: Thanks, Pat. I guess it was
5 our understanding with the new proposed budget cuts that
6 those would go away but I guess in the event that there
7 isn't sufficient funding, then is the Refuge prepared to
8 fulfill those duties.

9

10 MR. WALSH: We're very interested in the
11 continuation of both of those projects and we would do
12 what we could to ensure that they continue. In fact we
13 met with ADF&G and some other interested parties to try
14 to get ahead of this issue when we thought it really was
15 going to turn out to be a funding shortfall, but the last
16 information we had from ADF&G was they do have the funds
17 so we are not actively looking for funds right now.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: Okay, thanks. I didn't
20 realize you were ahead of the curve on this one, thank
21 you.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
24 questions for Andy.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Pete, go ahead.

29

30 MR. ABRAHAM: On Page 177, the brown
31 bear, Pat Walsh, and 178, aircraft flying approximately
32 500 transects over a 10 day period which time 99 groups
33 of brown bear were observed, I mean how many -- I mean
34 what do you mean by groups, as in three, two or.....

35

36 MR. WALSH: This is Pat Walsh with the
37 Togiak Refuge. A group could consist of one bear up to
38 any number of bears. So the average number of bears was
39 a little under two, most bear groups consisted of a
40 single bear that was seen.

41

42 MR. ABRAHAM: Oh, okay, thank you.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any more questions
45 for Andy.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Andy.

50

00220

1 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Ron. Daryle and

4 Ron -- Ron.

5

6 MR. SQUIBB: I'll take a minute to pin

7 something up.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert and Robin,
12 we got Ron Squibb up here to provide the Alaska Peninsula
13 agency report.

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Roger, roger.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. SQUIBB: Mr. Chairman and Council.

20 I'm Ron Squibb with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
21 Alaska Peninsula Becharof Refuge. I will give our agency
22 report today. It appears in your book under Tab C just
23 following Andy's report, it's the next report in line and
24 that would be on Page 181. I just have a few highlights
25 in my notes to go over and I'll entertain questions at
26 the end or under each topic I go over, you know, feel
27 free to interject.

28

29 As some of you may recall we've been
30 working on a revision of our Master Management Plan which
31 we call the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, and that is
32 being distributed now by mail to get a summary to box
33 holders on the Alaska Peninsula communities and also we
34 have, I believe, to most of the village councils in the
35 communities, the full plan, which is like a small city's
36 phone book in terms of its size, so it's been
37 intimidating but most of the pertinent information is in
38 the summary and those will be available in all
39 communities, the complete plan, to allow folks to get
40 into the details as they see fit.

41

42 My next topic, and the first topic in the
43 report is on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd.
44 We worked this fall with the Alaska Department of Fish
45 and Game to perform a composition survey that is to
46 determine the composition by age and sex in the herd and
47 the Refuge staff worked to locate animals before the
48 arrival of the helicopter which did the survey work and
49 we basically found animals from the helicopter. As the
50 State is the lead agency in that, Lem Butler will present

00221

1 the results of that survey to you.

2

3

4 Also under caribou, our satellite
5 telemetry program is ongoing. This winter, so far, we've
6 had one of the satellite telemetry collars north of the
7 Naknek River, which is always of interest in terms of
8 mixing with the Mulchatna animals that were here earlier
9 and have since moved farther north. Most of the caribou,
10 as usual winter between the Naknek River and the Egegik
11 River to the south. Also some of you may remember if
12 you've been on the Council in previous years, we've been
13 attempting to put satellite collars on the Mulchatna Herd
14 when they were wintering south of the Kvichak to try and
15 look at interactions between the Northern Alaska
16 Peninsula Herd and the Mulchatna Herd, and we were not
17 able to do that in the winters lately so what we have
18 done is we've worked with Jim Woolington and with Andy
19 and Togiak Refuge to where we're transferring those
20 collars to them to help with their satellite program
21 they're getting started. So hopefully we'll learn
22 something along the way about the interactions between
23 the Mulchatna and the Northern Peninsula Herd.

24

25 On moose surveys, this year the snow --
26 often times we do, in the fall, what we call moose trend
27 surveys and those are surveys of areas that -- many of
28 which the Fish and Game established in the '60s, long-
29 term areas and some of them have been established more
30 recently. But they're areas where we try and count them
31 every few years to get the idea of changes in composition
32 in terms of sex ratios and cow/calf ratios and we worked
33 -- we had good snow cover this fall and we were able to
34 do three different areas, the Park border area, which is
35 between Naknek Lake and Granite Peak, the Flats B area,
36 which is between the King Salmon River and Ugashik River
37 in the lowlands and also the Pacific Trend area which is
38 on the Pacific Coast between Lalock Bay (ph) and
39 including Yantarni and Amber Bays. And those three areas
40 combined, we actually did the border more than once
41 because we had conditions to do that. And at the back of
42 my report there's a table called Table 1 and these counts
43 and the data on them are available there. The Park
44 Border, the three counts we did are on the lower part of
45 the first page on the left, you know, you'll see Park
46 Border area. The Flats B area is on the, about the upper
47 third of the second page of that table. And then the
48 Pacific Trend area is at the bottom part of the second
49 page. Unfortunately they're not in alphabetical order so
50 I'm sorry for the confusion there. But you can look at a
51 prior year surveys that we did within the last several

00222

1 years for comparison sake.

2

3

4 But in total, in all three of those areas
5 using the highest count from the Park Border area, we
6 counted -- or excuse me, classified 273 moose in those
7 areas with overall bull/cow ratios of 37 bulls per 100
8 cows and overall calf/cow ratios of six calves per 100
9 cows. You'll notice the Pacific Trend area had the
10 highest calf ratio and the other two areas calf ratios
11 were rather low.

12

13 Any questions so far as I've been going
14 along.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, continuing, we also
19 tried a little harder to get numbers.....

20

21 MR. HEYANO: Ron, excuse me.

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Go ahead, Robert. Robert,
24 go ahead.

25

26 MR. HEYANO: Yes, thanks, Ron. Your
27 caribou counts, if I add the two totals up we have less
28 than 3,000 caribou?

29

30 MR. SQUIBB: We call that -- Robert, we
31 call that survey a composition count but it's not an
32 attempt to enumerate the entire herd. It's an attempt to
33 get composition so although we call it a composition
34 count it actually is not an attempt to count the entire
35 herd. So that number in the text is a number that were
36 determined the sex age for and that's a sub-set of the
37 number that were in the groups we found because you can
38 imagine the helicopter is a cowboy cutting animals out of
39 a herd, they'll move a few -- cut out 10 or 15 or maybe
40 20, sometimes more, and try and get the composition of
41 those individuals and in so doing, a lot of the animals
42 mix and the helicopter's primary objective is to make
43 sure they do not classify the same animal twice and start
44 biasing the sample. So there's no number we have for how
45 many animals are actually in all the groups that we
46 sampled some of the animals for sex age composition.

47

48 Is that clear? Did you hear that?

49

50 MR. HEYANO: That's clear. Will you be
doing a population count?

00223

1 MR. SQUIBB: We do that, there's a post-
2 calving count which is done every year, as we did last
3 year between the 20th of June until we get done in July,
4 and we do that in cooperation with Fish and Game. We do
5 the mountains, the Refuge lands and Fish and Game does
6 the Bristol Bay low lands. So we won't have another
7 attempt at that until next summer. And as you'll recall
8 in the fall meeting I described how we were unable to get
9 a complete count, you know, and I can reiterate that if
10 you're interested in that.

11
12 MR. HEYANO: No, that's fine. I guess
13 one other question is is that at some previous meeting we
14 had asked you to get a count, has any work been towards
15 that yet?

16
17 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir, I discussed that
18 issue with the new area biologist who replaced Dick
19 Sellers, Lem Butler and, again, since the Tier II hunt is
20 a State hunt and they're the lead agency in this
21 situation, Lem Butler will address that in his
22 presentation for Fish and Game and I'll be here for any
23 other questions since I was here for the count last year.

24
25 MR. HEYANO: Okay, thank you. And then
26 just one -- a couple of more questions on moose.

27
28 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

29
30 MR. HEYANO: On your Park Border trend
31 area, what's your estimated harvest?

32
33 MR. SQUIBB: I don't have an estimated
34 harvest of the Park Border trend area. The Park Border
35 trend area is -- it borders on our Big Creek hunt and
36 I'll get to the harvest on the Big Creek hunt, the
37 animals that move that winter in the Park Border area, to
38 some degree are animals that come out of the Park, like
39 the Katmai National Park and to some degree they're
40 animals that probably move in from Refuge lands as well
41 into that winter habitat where there's more brows. So I
42 cannot give you any estimate of that. And we have
43 estimates for our Big Creek hunt which I'll address
44 later.

45
46 Okay.

47
48 MR. HEYANO: Okay. How about for your
49 Flats B trend area?

50

00224

1 MR. SQUIBB: Now, for harvest out of
2 those areas?

3
4 MR. HEYANO: Yes.
5

6 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Later -- I haven't
7 done it by areas but what I can do, later one, I've got a
8 hand out, which unfortunately we didn't have time to get
9 together before the printing of this so the folks here
10 will have it, but I can mail it to you guys, that
11 describes -- as you may recall in previous years, our
12 airplane pilot, law enforcement officer, Dave Cox,
13 summarized the harvest of moose by commercial guides and
14 by clients of air taxi operators for the Refuge lands and
15 I've got that. So I'll discuss that later and talk to
16 you guys later and get addresses and I can mail copies of
17 those tables, these additions to the report to you. I
18 think maybe that's what you're thinking I did in previous
19 years. Does that sound right?

20
21 MR. HEYANO: Okay. You know, just for
22 clarification where I'm coming from, I look at your
23 information and three to eight calves per 100 cows in the
24 Park Border area, four calves per 100 cows in the Flats B
25 area, and obviously if we don't have very little human
26 harvest there probably isn't much we can do, but if there
27 is some human harvest, I think a decision needs to be
28 made is that to me that's a clear signal that we're
29 facing a declining moose population in those areas and
30 maybe some type of action could be warranted.

31
32 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I appreciate that
33 thought. The trend areas are not perfect. Things, year
34 to year, I certainly think we should be looking at the
35 calf ratios in future years to see if the trend holds
36 but, yeah, I appreciate your apprehension on that.

37
38 Anything else right now, Robert?

39
40 MR. HEYANO: No, that's it, thanks, Ron.

41
42 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, I'll continue on.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Ron.

45
46 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Randy.

49
50 MR. ALVAREZ: Ron, I'd like to make a

00225

1 comment to Robert. Robert this is Randy. At our last
2 Advisory Committee meeting in Newhalen we asked Slim, I
3 mean Lem about the population of the caribou in the North
4 Peninsula and what, in his opinion, what it needed to
5 come down to and we were also -- you know, we're quite
6 concerned that it has dropped to about almost half of --
7 the population is about half of what it was when the Tier
8 II was implemented. And we're concerned about the --
9 what your question was, about when would you not be able
10 to hunt them, I'm concerned that the longer you wait the
11 longer it's going to take to rebuild it back up.

12

13 And what can we do? You know, I've -- we
14 could talk about this again when Lem comes up or when Ron
15 get done.

16

17 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, I'll go ahead and
18 continue then.

19

20 So basically, I think, we've gone over
21 the trend counts fairly thoroughly unless there are other
22 questions on those right now.

23

24 MS. ALECK: I have a comment to make. I
25 am concerned about the Northern Caribou Herd. When are
26 we going to totally not be able to get, you know, to be
27 able to get caribou anymore? And are we going to put a
28 band-aid there? Is there going to be a steering
29 committee of some sort that we can appoint or I don't
30 know -- I really don't know what I'm asking but it is --
31 we are in a scary situation down there. And it's bad
32 enough being in Tier II, and if it takes longer to act
33 on, like Robert says, it's going to be harder to build
34 that herd up. We're going to have to wait longer before
35 the herd is built up.

36

37 MR. SQUIBB: I appreciate that. And I
38 think, perhaps, we can delay that discussion until Lem is
39 here because it's a State agency decision.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Dan.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick. The data -- I
44 want to clarify when you say, share that data you were
45 talking to Robert about, are you going to send it to all
46 of us or.....

47

48 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, I'm going to hand it out
49 to you.

50

00226

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Because I'm eager to
6 see it, too.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. SQUIBB: Unless you prefer me to mail
11 it to you.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: I thought you had to -- no,
16 go ahead.

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: No, I got it here, I just --
19 you know, I could hold it up in front of the microphone
20 for them.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. SQUIBB: So I guess let me make sure
27 I -- I've gotten a little off track here so let me see if
28 any of the hand outs are appropriate for this time.
29 Okay, one's getting close.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, continuing on. In
34 addition to the trend areas, normally we want to do the
35 trend areas between about the 1st of November and say the
36 10th or maybe if we stretch it because we get snow, and
37 we haven't had it yet, until the 15th of December, you
38 know you start pushing it too late into the years and the
39 antlers fall off and your ratios fall apart because you
40 can't tell a bull from a cow. And the main point of the
41 trend counts are to see bull/cow ratios and calf/cow
42 ratios. Bull/cow ratios, if you will, would be a major
43 over-exploitation since it's mostly bull hunts. And the
44 calf/cow ratios would be, again, indicative of calves
45 recruitment into the population.

46

47 Also, because we often don't get some
48 areas counted because of the limited snow cover, as you
49 guys are aware of on the Alaska Peninsula, we went out
50 after that period in January and counted two trend areas

00227

1 and this is in the text, we counted the Black Lake trend
2 area and the Anchor-Ivan base trend areas. And at Black
3 Lake we counted 180 moose and that's by far higher than
4 the highest count we ever had during the normal trend
5 period. The highest we ever got before that was 130 and
6 we've only done that trend area three years, it's one we
7 established in 1998. It's fairly new. We get there,
8 snow cover is not always dependable there so we don't get
9 there as often as we would like. But again this is just
10 an indication of how animals move around. You know, at
11 that stage of winter that might be normal for that
12 concentration to be there but we don't normally see that
13 in the fall.

14

15 In the Anchor-Ivan area, the Anchor-Ivan
16 base on the Pacific side near Perryville, we were able to
17 do a partial count of that in late season, and it had 90
18 moose in there. And that's what we saw the last time we
19 were there during the normal trend period of November to
20 December, and that was a partial count. The highest
21 we've ever gotten there was in '98 with 136 animals.

22

23 Also on moose, we're continuing the
24 habitat study on the eastern side of Ugashik Lakes. We
25 have a cooperative project with Fish and Game, the
26 University of Alaska-Fairbanks and the Park Service on
27 that program. The graduate student, Corey Adler, is in
28 his second year of field work and he's looking at moose
29 brows, you know, of habitat. We have two objectives, one
30 is to help us learn whether the browse, the moose winter
31 forage is adequate or whether it appears to be over-
32 exploited. In other words, you know, the big picture,
33 what's limiting the population, is it habitat or is it
34 predation or a combination of both. And he's also
35 looking at trying to learn more about moose habitat so we
36 can do a better job of knowing what moose habitat is and
37 evaluating the possible carrying capacity of Refuge
38 lands.

39

40 Further on moose, another project we did,
41 which I have a hand out for you on, is we have been
42 trying to do a more formal density estimate for moose in
43 the -- or an abundance estimate for moose on the Northern
44 Peninsula. And we got started on that this year, we had
45 good snow coverage, which we've been waiting to do it for
46 -- this is the third winter we've been prepared to do it
47 and this is the first winter we've had snow cover
48 adequate to begin it. And we were able to survey areas
49 that were moose habitat as best as Dick Sellers and I
50 could estimate before he departed, surveyed those areas

00228

1 of moose habitat between the Naknek River and Ugashik
2 Narrows.

3

4 So I have a hand out for you showing the
5 survey area.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MR. SQUIBB: The darker green highlighted
10 areas with black borders are the areas that we were able
11 to -- excuse me. The darker things on the map that are
12 dark bordered are the areas that we were able to survey.
13 This is not an area count, it's a sampling approach. We
14 surveyed a quarter or 25 percent of an area of those with
15 line transects and extrapolated from that and we're
16 having a statistician from Western -- excuse me, from
17 West, which is Western Ecosystems Technologies out of
18 Cheyenne, Wyoming help us with that. I did a direct
19 extrapolation which is a minimum estimate and in that
20 area we would estimate there would be 579 or almost 600
21 moose in those dark and black bordered areas. The
22 statistician will look at it and determine -- I say the
23 minimum estimate, determine beyond that would be a
24 reasonable extrapolation.

25

26 So that's it for moose survey work we've
27 done. Are there any questions on this particular or any
28 previous moose survey work we've done.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
33 do you have any questions for Ron.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, sir.

36

37 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, I'll move on. We
38 continued having Federal subsistence moose seasons on the
39 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuges this year. The seasons
40 and harvest limits remained the same as in previous
41 years. During August 20th to August 31st we allowed one
42 bull on the Big Creek area, 11 permits were issued, seven
43 reported of those 11, four of those hunted, three did not
44 and we had no success in that in August. Similarly in
45 December we have a hunt through the entire month of
46 December in the Big Creek area and again as it happened
47 last year, the freeze up of the Naknek River and Big
48 Creek prevented access, flow ice blocking Big Creek and
49 the shelf ice, it just wasn't a good time to get by boat
50 or by snowmachine or four-wheeler over there so we issued

00229

1 no permits. No one requested permits for that hunt.

2

3

4 Also there were questions about the
5 Federal subsistence caribou hunt, and for the 2002/2003
6 seasons of the 40 Federal permits that were issued that
7 compliment the Tier II permits, we received at our
8 Anchorage office only three report cards back from those
9 permits out of the 40, so it's not much of a sample, but
10 two were successful and one reported not being
11 successful.

11

12 And then I have another hand out for you
13 in terms of moose harvest on Refuge lands. As I
14 mentioned earlier, our law enforcement officer, Pilot
15 Dave Cox, put this together, he's the coordinator for the
16 guide and air taxi permittees.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, on the hand out,
21 you'll see it's a table. The first table is the moose
22 harvest, I'd like to discuss that first. Again, these
23 are the records that we get from our guides that have
24 guide permits for the Refuge lands and from the air taxi
25 operators who fly hunters in.

26

27 The numbers of people for the guides are
28 the actual numbers of hunters. For the air taxi's,
29 they're the number of people who are on the airplane
30 flying in, in other words one person on an air taxi
31 flight with two people might be hunting, the other one
32 might be going along to help and not even have a tag.
33 But that's the best data that we could get of that.

34

35 And you'll see this is for three years.
36 We started putting these tables together for the RAC in
37 2001 and as you can see we have three years on this. The
38 right most columns are the 2003 columns, we break it down
39 into different units of the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof
40 Refuges, the Becharof Refuge being the northern most
41 unit, Ugashik Unit, again, is in the Ugashik Lakes area,
42 you would expect, down to Painter Creek and the Chignik
43 Unit is down Peninsula from the Aniakchak Park units to
44 the Port Moller area. But basically, the bottom line is
45 in terms of total harvest, the lowest line, you can see
46 there were a total of 39 moose taken on Refuge lands in
47 2003 compared to 40 the previous years and 42 for the
48 year 2001. Now, on the map that I pinned up on the wall,
49 you'll see that there are blue and red dots and maybe we
50 should have made them bigger because my eyes aren't very

00230

1 sharp, I mean even from here, but basically the red dots
2 are the air taxi operators.

3

4 You know, the air taxi's they're not
5 flying past the Monument, they're just operating in the
6 upper two units of the Becharof Refuge and the Ugashik
7 Unit of the Alaska Peninsula Refuge. And the red dots
8 are approximately where those air taxi operators took
9 moose. The blue dots are where the guided operators took
10 moose.

11

12 Any questions on the tables.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. The other table is
17 the bear harvest in the same format. Unfortunately I
18 don't have a map for that. But the bear harvest, the
19 format is just that it's the same. The hunts, of course,
20 are fall, spring/fall, they're not always fall and you
21 can see the total combined harvest at the bottom line,
22 shows a total of 60 bears were taken in the fall hunt of
23 2003 compared, which is considerably less than taken in
24 the fall 2001, they were up to 71, and the spring season
25 of 2002 was a total of 76. I can't explain the
26 difference in harvest.

27

28 Any questions on that handout.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
33 do you have any questions for Ron.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: No.

36

37 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. The last thing I've
38 got with a hand out for you, we're getting a lot of
39 questions and the RAC has asked us a lot about wolves on
40 the Alaska Peninsula and on Refuge lands. As I've said
41 before to the RAC, unfortunately with our inconsistent
42 snow cover we're not able to do the standard methods used
43 in the Interior for documenting wolf densities or numbers
44 and the like, and we worked with Dick Sellers on that
45 before and concluded that was not feasible down here
46 because you needed consistent snow cover and consistent
47 fresh snow to be doing tracking from aircraft in winter.

48

49 So we're trying just to get all the
50 locations we can from local subsistence users, local

00231

1 pilots, from our own staff, and we've gotten that program
2 started. This is the first year, since last fall until
3 now until next fall that we've actually had what we call
4 our cards out at the air taxi operators and in the
5 villages where people, you know, know we want the
6 information. So I would encourage you to help us, you
7 know, whenever you have wolf sightings or a wolf is
8 harvested, or whatever, we're trying to just keep track
9 of that in one central data base, and the more
10 information we get the better we'll be able to conclude
11 much about it. You know with scattered sightings you
12 can't say much other than there are wolves out there.
13 But I do have a map, Susan Savage on our staff, one of
14 the wildlife biologists, has been keeping track of these
15 data for us, and she made a simple map which is just
16 locations. And if you look at the map basically the
17 map's going to tell you where people are because, you
18 know, that's where the people are, to see the wolves, but
19 hopefully we'll get more folks involved and be able to
20 get a little more information.

21

22 So I'll pass this map out.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MR. SQUIBB: Okay, as you can see the
27 different dot sizes indicate different numbers of wolves
28 seen. Some of these are where wolves were harvested,
29 some of them are where wolves were seen and sometime they
30 were just wolf tracks where somebody estimated the
31 numbers and the tracks.

32

33 And, again, we're just trying to see if
34 we get a lot of information, what we might be able to
35 come up with in terms of useful information, document
36 wolf numbers and perhaps a little more than that, it's
37 sort of an experimental approach and we'll see what we
38 get. And the more -- and we're not limiting it to the
39 Peninsula and Refuge lands, any wolf sightings we'll take
40 and put in the data base and see what we come up with.

41

42 MR. ALVAREZ: I see you only have a dot
43 that goes to 17.

44

45 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, there's one.

46

47 MR. ALVAREZ: I've seen -- there's more
48 than that. Up by that big dot past King Salmon.

49

50 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Like I say, we're

00232

1 limited to what we get in terms of information and if
2 you.....

3

4 MR. ALVAREZ: I should have filled out a
5 card on that one, there's a big pack of them up there.

6

7 MR. SQUIBB: Well, that's be great. You
8 know, if you can get the number, document them. And if
9 we repeatedly see in the same similar numbers in a
10 general area, you'll might start to get some idea of pack
11 range in the winter anyway, you know, if nothing else.
12 So just information that would be of interest to
13 everybody I know.

14

15 So that's the end of my report. Any
16 questions on anything I discussed or some things I might
17 not have discussed.

18

19 MS. ALECK: Can I just comment.

20

21 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

22

23 MS. ALECK: We have a lot of wolves and
24 no dot.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. SQUIBB: Well, again, this is just
29 the first time, you know, we haven't gotten the cards out
30 to the villages until this year and we haven't gotten
31 people involved.

32

33 MS. ALECK: It's really important that
34 you do get them cards to us.

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: Orville's been working hard
37 on distributing things.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. SQUIBB: Orville's been putting some
42 boxes together, they're wooden boxes about this big and
43 he put a nice wolf image on the cover to make it obvious
44 what it is but we need to make people aware of where they
45 are and get them, have access to them.

46

47 Yeah, Dan.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, in that regard, have
50 you put any publicity out on the local radio stations or

00233

1 anything, I don't recall hearing anything on KDLG, but it
2 might help.

3

4 MR. SQUIBB: No, I don't think we have
5 yet. We're trying to do word of mouth and I don't think
6 we want to hark all the way over to Dillingham and start
7 bringing that area in, just the Northern Peninsula and
8 maybe up, I don't know, Aleknagik, you know, the range
9 that these animals might affect, the Northern Peninsula
10 Herd is our main objective. But we'll take anything we
11 get and put it in the data base.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it was my impression,
14 some folks listen to KDLG.....

15

16 MR. SQUIBB: Right, every where.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY:I hear guys from
19 lodges around Ugashik calling in all the time. And my
20 experience with any sort of card returns on boxes you
21 cannot publicize it enough.

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Right.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: But I commend your efforts
26 to get something.

27

28 MR. SQUIBB: Well, like I said, it's
29 developing and all advice and suggestions are certainly
30 welcome. Thanks.

31

32 Any other questions.

33

34 MR. ALVAREZ: I think that's a good idea,
35 the cards and boxes, because it does show, you know, what
36 people are seeing, you know, instead of relying solely on
37 Department or Fish and Wildlife to come up with the
38 numbers, and I know there's a lot of people that see -- I
39 see quite a few just going from here to Igiugig, and I
40 know there's a big pack right up there by that red dot
41 there. We seen 23 there one day, you know, right in that
42 one spot.

43

44 MR. SQUIBB: I've got a few with me and I
45 can hand them out to you guys who are traveling outside
46 the area, Randy, and other folks, before we leave here.
47 And it's just got basic information, the date and time,
48 the number you saw, whether it was an estimate or you
49 actually got a good count on it, the location, if you got
50 latitude and longitude, if you're in an airplane that's

00234

1 great, it's a lot easier to map. As Susan pointed out,
2 you may notice there's one wolf in the summer time out in
3 the middle of Becharof Lake on one of our years, I don't
4 know if it's on this map or not, but you know the earlier
5 years we had fewer returns, but, you know, somebody said
6 Becharof Lake, and that's, you know, we'll put it in the
7 middle of the lake so the accuracy of the dots is not
8 always real close.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. SQUIBB: You know it asks for -- so
13 if you don't have a lat and long, if you could make a
14 specific description of the area, whether it be Shofsky
15 Lake (ph) near Becharof Lake as opposed to just Becharof
16 Lake. And we generally ask for color and it's mainly to
17 see if they are unique, you know, you might have some
18 uniquely-patterned wolves that will identify a group.
19 You know, maybe a big black male and the rest, usually,
20 you just see grey wolves, and what they were doing, you
21 know, whether you harvested any or not, whether you were
22 in an airplane or snowmachine or whatever. Just a little
23 generic stuff.

24

25 And if you don't even have the card, you
26 can call them in, you can call me and we can type it
27 right in the data base, I don't have to have a piece of
28 paper.

29

30 Okay, we appreciate that and appreciate
31 your suggestions and thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Ron.
34 We'll go ahead and move on with Mike Edwards from King
35 Salmon FRO.

36

37 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chair. Council
38 members. Mike Edwards, fisheries biologist with Fish and
39 Wildlife Service, King Salmon Field Office. I have two
40 things for you this afternoon.

41

42 First, is a brief overview of the two
43 subsistence projects in your region that our office was
44 working on last year and then the other one will be a
45 summary update of the customary trade regulation
46 reporting form that we've been tasked to generate and
47 I'll update the new members on what that's all about when
48 I get to that.

49

50 So the first thing, two of the projects

00235

1 we conducted last year, last year we finished up our
2 Ugashik coho counting tower project and we estimated
3 escapement at 28,000, a little over 28,000 coho going
4 into the lakes, which, for the three years of the project
5 gave us an average at 16,000 coho going into the Ugashik,
6 so that system appears to be fairly healthy.
7 Unfortunately, we had submitted that project to be
8 continued for another three years, but the TRC didn't
9 really deem it, with the lack of funding that FIS had,
10 that project fell by the way side, so we will probably be
11 resubmitting that one in the near future to try and get
12 that project up and running again because there's a
13 tremendous lack of coho escapement information on the
14 Alaska Peninsula as most of you are probably well aware
15 of.

16
17 The other project that we completed this
18 past year is the habitat study on the Kametolook. And
19 for the new Council members a real quick brief history.
20 If you're not aware the Kametolook coho run has been
21 severely depressed for the last several years down there.
22 The Native Village of Perryville enacted a local
23 ordinance prohibiting Federal Subsistence Board fishing
24 in the Kametolook which is -- depends on the
25 interpretation, some people think it includes the entire
26 Kametolook, other people in the village think it means
27 just a certain portion of the Kametolook. So our office
28 three years ago initiated a new approach to go in there
29 and try and discover what the problem was with the
30 Kametolook, the State's been down there for several years
31 with incubation egg boxes trying to rebuild the
32 population with moderate to limited success. So three
33 years ago we initiated a habitat study down there, where
34 we went in and we're going to measure all the physical
35 habitat of the Kametolook, the Long Branch and Three Star
36 and if you're not familiar, it's a very glacially braided
37 drainage with those three main drainages coming off
38 Cheginiak (ph). And in conjunction with that, we took
39 another system just north, up in Yantarni called Clear
40 Creek which still has healthy coho runs and we did a
41 comparison between the habitat that we found in the
42 Kametolook drainages in the Long Branch and the Three
43 Star and compared that to the habitat that Clear Creek
44 had and we ran things through a habitat limiting model to
45 try and determine if habitat was limiting the production
46 in the Kametolook and if it was, which certain habitat,
47 whether it was overwintering habitat, spawning habitat or
48 any of that.

49

50 And that work was just completed last

00236

1 year. And the analysis was that the habitat in the Long
2 Branch, Kametolook and Three Star are not limiting the
3 production in the Kametolook drainage because after we
4 ran the model and found out that the Kametolook -- to
5 fully see -- let me back up. The way the model works is
6 if the habitat is fully seeded it will give you a
7 juvenile density, tell you you should have X number of
8 juveniles in this habitat at this time of year, so our
9 crews did juvenile surveys up on the Clear Creek to get
10 the estimates because there aren't any fish in the
11 Kametolook so it's kind of hard to get juvenile numbers
12 when you have very little adult numbers.

13

14 So the model predicts that it would take
15 roughly around 1,200 adults to fully seed the Kametolook.
16 And the last few years they have not seen probably more
17 than five or 600 fish at all in the Kametolook.

18

19 So the conclusion that our office has
20 come to with the Kametolook -- well, let me back up
21 again. One other thing we're doing in conjunction with
22 the habitat survey with the ordinance enacted by the
23 village restricting subsistence fishing, we felt that
24 subsistence effort was now going to be distributed to
25 other streams adjacent, so we submitted a proposal
26 through OSM to conduct some aerial surveys in the streams
27 that were adjacent to the Kametolook to try and get some
28 counts on what the escapements are in those streams
29 before the harvest really hit hard into those streams, if
30 it does hit hard.

31

32 So last year in the fall we flew two
33 surveys on seven different streams that we had gotten
34 from folks like Boris and local residents in the
35 Perryville area that that's where they were going to get
36 coho, so we flew those streams and we have good numbers
37 for those streams. The largest one in Red Bluff Creek,
38 which is just south of the Perryville area and at one
39 point we counted over 5,000 coho.

40

41 So with the combination of the habitat
42 model telling us that habitat's not limiting and the
43 adjacent streams appearing to have viable healthy
44 populations, the conclusion that we've drawn is that
45 there was some overharvest, more than likely from
46 subsistence users in the Kametolook that have led to the
47 decline that is now being experienced in the Kametolook.

48

49 And the one thing we'd like to do and I
50 wish Boris was here so we could discuss this, but Jeff

00237

1 Anderson, the PI on this project, is going to the village
2 this spring to present the results of this project and
3 everything to the local village. And at this point we
4 would like to see some type of ordinance or possibly a
5 closure in at least Three Star and the Long Beach [sic]
6 to coincide with the community of Perryville's ordinance
7 on the Kametolook, because right now subsistence fishing
8 is still occurring in the Long Branch and the Three Star.
9 And they were scheduled to do walking surveys on the
10 Kametolook this year but high water prevented it, so the
11 crews that were down there, they actually got a little
12 bit of survey information on some of the backwater
13 sloughs and they had good numbers, they actually counted
14 640 in the Kametolook sloughs and 136 in what's called
15 Cross Creek which is a slough for the Long Beach [sic].

16
17 So it's possible and it could be that the
18 subsistence ordinance that the Perryville folks have
19 enacted upon themselves is helping and the Kametolook
20 could be coming back. But with there still being harvest
21 in the Long Branch and the Three Star, we think that
22 that's kind of detrimental, that we're not going to see
23 anything recover if there's still harvest occurring.

24
25 And with these other creeks being
26 susceptible to the same commercial fishing happening out
27 in the bay that the Kametolook and the Long Branch are
28 exposed to, but they still have healthy populations,
29 that's why we came to the conclusion that it was possibly
30 overharvest by subsistence users that have led to the
31 decline in the Kametolook.

32
33 And in conjunction with the aerial
34 surveys that we're flying, since we're in the
35 neighborhood and there's a lot of concern for the Clark
36 River up in the Chignik Lakes, we also fly surveys for
37 the coho and sockeye run in there since we're down there,
38 we've already got the helicopter in the air and the Clark
39 River is adjacent to, so we do that survey at the same
40 time we're doing these other streams adjacent to
41 Perryville.

42
43 So are there any questions over the
44 Kametolook stuff?

45
46 MS. ALECK: I have a question, where is
47 Long Branch?

48
49 MR. EDWARDS: Long Branch is just south
50 of the Kametolook.

00238

1 MS. ALECK: Oh, okay.

2

3 MR. EDWARDS: They're all within probably
4 three miles of each other.

5

6 MS. ALECK: Okay.

7

8 MR. EDWARDS: They're all in that great
9 big glacial valley coming off of Cheginiak.

10

11 MS. ALECK: Okay.

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: This is Robin. When does
14 the Kametolook, Long Branch and Three Star coho salmon,
15 you going to arrive at, when does it peak?

16

17 MR. EDWARDS: I don't think I could
18 answer that, Robin, at this time. The surveys that we
19 flew were flown in early October and the plan was to fly
20 them again in late October but due to weather the survey
21 did not occur until early November so the November
22 numbers were drastically off of the early October
23 flights.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: You stated about a couple
26 times about overharvest by the subsistence users in these
27 spawning streams, but the Kametolook has been
28 demonstrating conservation concerns for over 10 years, I
29 don't know about the Long Branch and the Three Star. And
30 what.....

31

32 MR. EDWARDS: Well.....

33

34 MR. SAMUELSEN:first drove them
35 fish damn near to extinction was interception,
36 interception of Chignik-bound coho stock as well as
37 Bristol Bay bound coho stock. And the Board of Fish
38 recognized that interception is based on run timing, and
39 that's all they had to go on, they couldn't segregate
40 which streams they were going to but they knew that the
41 fishermen in Area M were not -- were catching migrating
42 cohos because they were grinding all the coho up because
43 they were feeding coho and they were belly-burning coho
44 and the processors couldn't do nothing with them, they
45 were grinding up anywhere from 200 to 350,000 coho, some
46 of them coho were bound for Kametolook, a lot of them
47 bound for the Nushagak area and various other Bristol Bay
48 River systems, as well as further west of us.

49

50 The run timing of Area M coho stocks is

00239

1 the end of August through the middle of September, that's
2 when they peak. Boris came to the Board of Fish eight,
3 nine years ago begging for relief for the Kametolook
4 stocks at that time. It wasn't until three years later
5 that the Board instituted a cap on them of 60,000 coho.
6 You mentioned that you have 16,000 coho in Ugashik, based
7 on the Board's action here day before yesterday, they did
8 away with the coho cap in the post-June fishery so it
9 doesn't matter if they catch 300,000 coho, they will not
10 be shut down for conservation, and they expanded their
11 fishing time, considerably. They got a 280 percent
12 increase in fishing time in June to harvest Bristol Bay
13 sockeye and all the chums that come through that area.
14 But the coho are caught in the post-June fishery in July.
15 And the Board not only gave them more area but gave them
16 more time, the month of July, a total disregard for the
17 Kametolook stocks, total disregard for Egegik stock,
18 Ugashik stocks and the Nushagak stocks and westward
19 stocks.

20

21 MR. EDWARDS: I understand that Robin,
22 but it was basically the process of elimination, habitat
23 wasn't the limiting factor and the fact that the adjacent
24 streams all appear to have healthy escapement, that's why
25 the principle investigator came to the conclusion that
26 they did.

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think the
29 principle investigator needs to look at the hole in the
30 bucket and that hole in the bucket is the interception of
31 them fish in the Area M fishery.

32

33 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, we -- they are -- the
34 folks working on the project are well aware of the
35 concerns of intercept that the folks in Perryville have.
36 Again, we're not here to point fingers we're just trying
37 to actually find out what the true cause of the decline
38 is so that the problem can be addressed.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I don't agree it's
41 the subsistence users. I don't think -- you know, I
42 think it's an unfair statement to make against the people
43 that utilize that resource down there, that they're to
44 blame on overharvest. You can't qualify what's being
45 caught in the intercept commercial fisheries, and I would
46 appreciate it if you don't point the finger at the
47 subsistence people.

48

49 MR. EDWARDS: Okay.

50

00240

1 MS. ALECK: I have a comment also.

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: They may be contributing,
4 you may say that, but to say that overharvest by
5 subsistence users is a pretty strong statement and I
6 don't concur with that.

7

8 MS. ALECK: I have a comment, Mr.
9 Chairman. I would like to probably -- I'll go along with
10 Robin. It is a strong statement to say it's
11 overharvested by subsistence users. Boris did mention
12 that and he didn't like that either, there was something
13 wrong with the count, I guess, on one of the -- they did
14 a survey and I guess somebody pulled a boo-boo, and the
15 count wasn't right for the subsistence take in Perryville
16 and the coho usually run about from August through
17 September, I used to live in Perryville.

18

19 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yes, Randy.

22

23 MR. ALVAREZ: Yesterday Boris was
24 commenting to me about that he just came back from the
25 Board of Fish in Anchorage and he was talking to Dr. Fall
26 about his subsistence numbers for down there and he,
27 Boris was very unhappy about the numbers that the
28 Department -- or that Dr. Fall had down and Boris said it
29 was nowhere near that and that may be why you say the
30 numbers were high. Boris was saying that Dr. Fall had, I
31 think he said around 4,000 what they had down for a
32 harvest and Boris was disagreeing with that and he was
33 trying to find out where they got their numbers from and
34 he hadn't got an answer yet, that's what he was
35 commenting about yesterday.

36

37 MR. EDWARDS: If I could mention to part
38 of that, Randy, I've, in other meetings, talked with
39 Boris, and the way some of that subsistence information
40 is reported in the State's subsistence report, you have
41 to read very fine and pay attention to the detail because
42 it will say community of residents and that table will
43 have no reference at all of where you harvested fish
44 from, and I think -- I've seen the same table that Boris
45 is referring to and it said a coho harvest of 4,000 for
46 residents of Perryville, but it doesn't say -- give you
47 any indication of where that harvest occurred, and I
48 think that's where part of that confusion is coming from.

49

50 And I also, too, Mr. Chairman, I'll quote

00241

1 what the principle investigator had as to what the
2 statement he made about the subsistence harvest. His
3 quote is that -- as soon as I find it here -- subsistence
4 harvest of coho salmon in the Kametolook, Three Star and
5 Long Beach [sic] systems is the most likely cause for the
6 depressed populations in those systems. And that's from
7 the principle investigator after the analysis of the
8 habitat work in conjunction with the aerial surveys of
9 the adjacent streams.

10

11 MS. ALECK: I have a comment to make.
12 Maybe if anyone can find out who did that survey, maybe
13 it would clear up this misunderstanding.

14

15 MR. EDWARDS: Which survey is that,
16 Virginia, the aerial surveys in the adjacent streams?

17

18 MS. ALECK: No. The subsistence user
19 survey that, you know, people actually take.

20

21 MR. EDWARDS: That would be Jim Fall's
22 office with ADF&G.

23

24 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Or more
27 appropriate, Mike, perhaps you could get information to
28 Virginia when this investigation is -- has that report
29 been completed?

30

31 MR. EDWARDS: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: It has been, okay.

34

35 MR. EDWARDS: It's in the completed
36 stage, it's gone through external review and it's just
37 awaiting publication.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

40

41 MR. EDWARDS: And like I said, Jeff is
42 going to go to Perryville and give a presentation to the
43 village council in Perryville.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. And
46 Virginia, just for some clarification, if you look at the
47 hand out that Polly provided us which has all the FIS
48 projects, that's what Mike was alluding to from the
49 principle investigators.

50

00242

1 MS. ALECK: Oh.

2

3

4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: It doesn't have
5 the investigator's name listed on there but you could
6 certainly call up Mike at the King Salmon FRO, but if you
7 look on the second page, I believe it is, it has the
8 actual study number.....

8

9 MS. WHEELER: 02-098.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:that's what
12 Mike's taking information from.

13

14 MS. ALECK: Oh, okay.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Which was this a
17 two year.....

18

19 MR. EDWARDS: The habitat study?

20

21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Was it a two year?

22

23 MR. EDWARDS: It was either a two or a
24 three year, yes.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Three -- it was a
27 three year study. Okay, Ted Krieg's up here to get a
28 band-aid.

29

30 MR. KRIEG: Mr. Chair. Council members.
31 Dr. Fall's aware of the discrepancy and that's all I can
32 say. I work in the -- Perryville isn't my area as far as
33 subsistence salmon permit system, and those numbers come
34 from that subsistence salmon permit system. So the
35 numbers that people return, you know, it's documented,
36 they do a post-season survey also. And, you know, as
37 Mike said, I mean there's -- I guess at times there are
38 problems with -- you know, it doesn't say exactly where
39 the salmon were harvested so there are some concerns
40 about that. But I mean at this point I can't add
41 anything else, just that I'll talk to Dr. Fall, and that
42 he's aware of this, Boris has talked to him, so, you know
43 that's it.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Ted.

46 Dan.

47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: Just one more question,
49 Mike. Now, is there commercial fishing going on right
50 out front of these streams or is there any buffers around

00243

1 or any effort to regulate sport -- I imagine there's not
2 much sport harvest going on there, but if there is -- I'm
3 just trying to get a little broader picture now,
4 especially with what Robin is saying, new
5 information.....

6
7 MR. EDWARDS: I'm not 100 percent sure.
8 Virginia could probably address where the commercial
9 fishing occurs in that area probably better than I can.

10
11 MS. ALECK: It's happening and I'm not
12 too sure how far out, you know, they're fishing, but
13 there is commercial fishing going on there.

14
15 MR. EDWARDS: I think it's mainly
16 occurring on the Capes outside of the Perryville area.
17 Perryville's in kind of a big bay if you're familiar with
18 it.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, a little.

21
22 MR. EDWARDS: Because it's always --
23 whenever I hear about it, kind of second-handed, people
24 refer to it as the Cape fisheries.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: So that would probably tie
27 right in with Robin is saying -- well, it's a shame, I
28 know once you get a coho population knocked down it's
29 darn hard to bring back, except then they can fool you
30 once in awhile, but.....

31
32 MR. EDWARDS: Well, like I said, they did
33 count -- well, for the Kametolook, good numbers, in the
34 sloughs that, you know, it's possible that they could
35 have exceeded the 1,200 fish needed to fully seed the
36 habitat with juveniles last year. We don't know, water
37 was too high, we were unable to conduct the surveys.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, after hearing Boris'
40 concerns pretty loud and clear yesterday during our
41 training session, I'm glad to hear you're working on it.
42 I would hope, I mean, shoot over here, commercial and
43 sport -- it doesn't always seem like they're working
44 together but there's often a pretty coordinated effort to
45 make sure you get enough escapement for spawning.

46
47 Appreciate the information.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
50 questions for Mike.

00244

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mike.

4

5 MR. EDWARDS: Okay, I still have just a
6 little bit more, Cliff.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. EDWARDS: Just to inform the Council,
11 the proposals that we've submitted to FIS for FY'05 will
12 be a mark/recap study of the chinook salmon on the Togiak
13 to try and get a handle on overall salmon escapement in
14 the Togiak, the ongoing quandary that's baffled people
15 out here for years, Togiak is a very difficult one to
16 handle, so we're submitting a proposal for that.

17

18 We've also submitted a proposal for
19 harvest assessment of subsistence and sport fisheries in
20 the King Salmon River, the Mother Goose drainage of the
21 King Salmon River.

22

23 And we've also submitted a proposal to
24 continue these aerial surveys for the streams in
25 Perryville and the Clark River. And those are the ones
26 that we hope to get funded and have on the ground for
27 FY'05.

28

29 That concludes my talk for work that the
30 office has done if there are no more questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. The second item I
35 have to discuss, I passed out yesterday, this two page
36 thing that says Draft Copy on the top of it.

37

38 For the new members, this RAC, when the
39 C&T regulation was established by the Federal Board that
40 put a dollar limit on transactions between rural
41 residents and non-rural individuals, this Council
42 requested that there was some kind of recording form that
43 was developed so that these sales could be tracked. And
44 Dave Nelson and myself were tasked with putting that form
45 together and what's before you is a draft version of what
46 this reporting form will look like. And believe it or
47 not this is a very confusing subject. So to try and help
48 with some of the confusion, Dave and I felt that it'd be
49 good to put together a condensed version of the regs -- I
50 have another copy if.....

00245

1 MR. DUNAWAY: We might need a record
2 copy.

3
4 MR. EDWARDS: So what Dave and I put
5 together was a condensed version of the regs that we plan
6 on issuing whenever someone obtains one of the record
7 keeping forms. And the idea with that was just to
8 reiterate what the rules are, and help explain everything
9 to the subsistence users to alleviate any confusion or
10 possible violations.

11
12 And the other thing that we're going to
13 have with those, the second page of your condensed regs
14 is a bunch of blank empty boxes. What I would like for
15 that will be a map for each of the districts where the
16 subsistence users will be eligible to harvest fish that
17 would be eligible for sale under the Federal regs.
18 Because it's a very confusing thing as to where your
19 jurisdictions are and we thought it would really help the
20 subsistence users if we had a map for their location with
21 the area that they could harvest fish from highlighted to
22 indicate that's the only place that fish would be
23 eligible for sale under this customary trade regulation.

24
25 So over the next few days, if you guys
26 could do me the favor, Dave and myself, take a look at
27 these and see if you have major heartburn with anything.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Was that you
30 Robin?

31
32 MR. SAMUELSEN: I have nothing to add.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Mike,
35 sorry.

36
37 MR. EDWARDS: Okay, that's all right.
38 And if you have comments or concerns about the
39 information that's on the recording form, please either
40 get back to Cliff and Cliff can get to me or get it to me
41 directly or Dave Nelson. As I said this is still in
42 draft form but it's fairly close to being completed.

43
44 And our plan, once we have a final
45 version of this would be to do a tremendous outreach,
46 I'll be going out to the villages and giving talks to the
47 local villages, explaining what this form is and our plan
48 to issue these will be -- I've spoken with Dr. Jim Fall
49 at ADF&G Subsistence and we both agreed that the best
50 approach would be the person that's issuing the State's

00246

1 subsistence permit also have these forms to issue to
2 users to cut down on the confusion, so in a village you
3 didn't have to go see two different people to get two
4 different forms.

5
6 And that's my update on the record
7 keeping form for the customary trade regulation.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mike.
10 Was Larry still going to provide support for the permit?

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: I hope so. At this point
13 in time, Larry's been in the loop with Dave and I as far
14 as all the edits and everything but at this point we
15 really don't have a main contact person from OSM. So
16 we're still kind of waiting for that person to be
17 appointed or step forward.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. And how
20 soon were, I guess, or Dave, how soon do you expect this
21 permit to become, for the upcoming fishing season?

22
23 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. Yes, it will be ready
24 and available for the upcoming salmon season, yes.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Any
27 questions for Mike.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mike.

32
33 MR. EDWARDS: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We'll go ahead, is
36 Joe available, no, Mary's going to go ahead and do the
37 Lake Clark and Aniakchak reports.

38
39 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 In the interest of time I will make my report brief
41 realizing you haven't had a bathroom break in about two
42 and a half hours.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Really.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: I did see people holding
49 their knees together.

50

00247

1 MS. MCBURNEY: I know that time goes by.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. MCBURNEY: Just being considerate of
6 my commission here. One of the things that I might draw
7 your attention to and it is a little bit confusing these
8 days because as of last September we had a single
9 superintendent that headed up both Aniakchak and Katmai
10 National Parks and National Monuments and then also she
11 headed up Lake Clark National Park. But today I come
12 before you and announce that we have two superintendents
13 now. One of the things that has taken place over the
14 past six months is that the National Park Service has now
15 separated the two Parks so they are no longer siamese
16 twins with a single superintendent but now, they are
17 rather two very separate units with their own leadership.

18

19 And many of you may already know that Joe
20 Fowler is now the superintendent for Katmai National Park
21 and Aniakchak National Monument. And he moved into that
22 position after serving as the Chief Ranger and Chief of
23 Operations.

24

25 The new superintendent for Lake Clark
26 National Park, for those of you who may not have heard is
27 Joel Hard. And the Park Service has taken a very unusual
28 move in that they have hired somebody from outside of the
29 Park Service to serve as superintendent and Joel comes to
30 us from the State of Alaska. He was the formally the
31 head of the Fish and Wildlife Division for the Alaska
32 State Troopers. And I'm just delighted to say that he is
33 right on on subsistence issues and I think that our Lake
34 Clark SRC is really looking forward to working with him
35 in the coming years.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: That's very unusual.

38

39 MS. MCBURNEY: It is very unusual, but we
40 also are very pleased. And Joel was here yesterday to
41 sit in and observe the Council operations and
42 unfortunately had to head back to Lake Clark. But wanted
43 to be sure to let you know that he is planning on
44 attending these meetings on a regular basis to be
45 available for questions.

46

47 Right now, I will just cover briefly
48 highlights of Aniakchak. Right now Joe is looking to
49 have funding available starting next year to hire a
50 ranger that will be able to work almost exclusively on

00248

1 Aniakchak issues. And this is a person that they're
2 hoping to hire as a local hire or as a student hire, and
3 Joe asked me to kind of put the word out to you that if
4 you have any thoughts on some good possible candidates,
5 perhaps a young person, a student or perhaps in college,
6 or some young person that might be interested in a career
7 developmental type of job that has an interest in fish
8 and wildlife protection and is familiar with the area,
9 the people and subsistence that he would be very
10 interested in hearing from you. This is a position that
11 would probably be advertised starting with the new fiscal
12 year.

13

14 And in Lake Clark National Park, I am
15 also getting ready to advertise for a new subsistence
16 coordinator for Lake Clark. And for those of you who are
17 familiar with the Lake Clark end of things, I, too, am
18 very interested in any thoughts that you might have on a
19 person that would make a good candidate as our
20 subsistence coordinator there. This would be a job that
21 would be stationed in Port Alsworth and that would serve
22 as a direct liaison with the local people, particularly
23 on subsistence issues, and also to assist people with any
24 concerns that they may have regarding the subsistence
25 program with the National Park.

26

27 This week, just to give folks a quick
28 update on the Alagnak Management Plan, the Park Service
29 Staff did meet with Staff from the State of Alaska, and
30 this has been an ongoing effort that has had sort of a
31 start/stop type history and we're hoping to get things
32 moving again with regard to a management plan for the
33 Alagnak and so this week Staff did have the opportunity
34 to sit down with the members of Department of Natural
35 Resources to talk about the range of issues that should
36 be included in the plan.

37

38 Last summer, there was completed, a river
39 user survey and this coming summer there will be a survey
40 going into the communities talking to local users, and so
41 there is an effort right now to gather information that
42 would be incorporated into this management plan and to
43 form its recommendations.

44

45 This coming summer up in Lake Clark is
46 going to be our third year with our Fisheries
47 Biotechnician Training Program. And again, looking to
48 you to perhaps help get out the word for some good young
49 people that might be good candidates for that program.
50 It's been a very successful program so far. We've been

00249

1 able to not only graduate students but actually place
2 them in a number of different projects. In fact, I think
3 I have about four of our graduates placed already for
4 this coming field season. And then starting this summer
5 this program is going to be offered by the University of
6 Alaska, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences as
7 Fisheries 101. And so students that take this course
8 will receive five college credits that they can put
9 forward toward any four year degree that they desire, or
10 even a two year degree. So we're certainly very excited
11 about that.

12

13 And then finally, there is one proposal
14 that has been put forward by Lake Clark to the Fisheries
15 Information Service which is to take a look at pike in
16 Lake Clark. This is a species that very little is known
17 about and the fisheries biologist, Dan Young, has
18 submitted a proposal to essentially do a population and
19 life history study of pike in the area.

20

21 And I also have submitted a separate pike
22 project which is competing in a totally different realm.
23 But to get to the issue that you had mentioned earlier,
24 Dan, the proposal that I have put forward, it's competing
25 nationally for a Park Service funding source, is to get
26 some baseline information on toxics in subsistence fish
27 and primarily we'll be taking a look at pike since
28 they're very long lived and that has a tendency to bio-
29 accumulate, particularly methyl-mercury is what we'll be
30 taking a look at and just get an idea of what is in the
31 environment naturally so that over time that is something
32 that we might be able to monitor with the various,
33 particularly the mineral exploration that will be taking
34 place.

35

36 And that concludes my report.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mary.
39 Any questions for Mary.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Robin, here. Mary, on
46 the Lake Clark stocks, based on run timing we know those
47 are some of the first fish that enter into Bristol Bay
48 and Carol Ann Woody's been studying them for quite
49 awhile, the Board of Fish actions that basically
50 increased the fishing time by 280 percent in the Area M

00250

1 Fishery and increased the area, they opened up known
2 intercept areas that have been predominately closed to
3 them, there the other day, and then to compound the
4 problem, they came around into Bristol Bay and they
5 opened up the known milling (ph) area which is south of
6 the Naknek line and the Kvichak line all the way down
7 past Egegik. And I think that the Lake Clark stocks are
8 going to be subject to complete wipe out this year. It's
9 a small fragile stock and so they'll be fishing on the
10 Kvichak stocks in Bristol Bay from June 7th to June 25th
11 and we could blame it on a host of -- we could blame it
12 on every other thing except interception. Based on the
13 run timing, which I've become a professor studying, those
14 fish are going to be -- Lake Clark fish are going to be
15 subject to the Area M Fishery, they're going to be
16 subject to the North Peninsula Fishery at Stroganof and
17 then they're going to be intercepted within the waters of
18 Bristol Bay in this new open area called Proposal C,
19 which is the known milling area that the Department has
20 been adamantly -- Department of Fish and Game has been
21 adamantly against opening because of the interception of
22 various river stocks totally mixed in there.

23

24 But it puts Kvichak and Lake Clark fish,
25 which are very vulnerable at that time, when that fishery
26 is going to be open.

27

28 MS. MCBURNEY: Well, that's very
29 troubling news and we'll definitely have to be keeping a
30 very close eye on that.

31

32 One of the things that I think is going
33 to be incumbent on us, Robin, is that we've got to keep
34 that Newhalen counting tower going so that we can be
35 monitoring what's going back into the river, and then
36 perhaps even expanding the program so that we can figure
37 out what we have coming out.

38

39 MR. SAMUELSEN: With the proposed budget
40 cuts -- just another comment, the area that's taking the
41 biggest hit in the Department of Fish and Game budget is
42 Bristol Bay, and Kvichak smolt out-migration is going to
43 be done away with and I'm sure the gentleman just before
44 you that gave the report knows the other one, but I think
45 a Fish Tech II position is going to be done away with but
46 it's looking like a pretty gloomy picture for this coming
47 year.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. Any
50 additional questions for Mary.

00251

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Seeing none, thank
4 you, Mary.

5

6 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, if it's okay
9 with the Council we'll go ahead and take a short break
10 and finish up with the agency reports unless you want to
11 just.....

12

13 MR. ALVAREZ: No.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: No. No, okay.

16

17 MR. ALVAREZ: You can just say we're
18 taking a break.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We're going to
21 take a break Robin and Robert.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert.

30

31 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We're reconvening
34 and Jeff Denton from the Bureau of Land Management is
35 going to give us a report on BLM actions.

36

37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Go ahead, Jeff.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
44 Council members, as they're drifting back here. I guess
45 I have to say I admire your perseverance to hanging with
46 us here. I'll try to be as short as I can but for the
47 benefit of the new Council members there's some
48 background things about, you know, BLM and what I do for
49 BLM that probably needs to be known.

50

00252

1 I represent the BLM for subsistence and
2 the whole Diversity of Wildlife Program, management items
3 from grazing timber, access, fire, subsistence, mineral
4 development for Southeast Alaska, Southcentral Alaska,
5 BLM tracts in Southcentral Alaska, including Cook Inlet,
6 the Kenai, the Susitna and all of Western and
7 Southwestern Alaska from Kotzebue Sound all the way to
8 Denali and then down through Southcentral again. So I'm
9 spread thin so when you have to try to get a hold of me,
10 if you do I'm a tough person to get a hold of for that
11 reason. I overlap seven subsistence regions such as you
12 folks represent here. So again I'm spread real thin so
13 we do what we can.

14
15 Most of our work, because we're spread so
16 thin, on BLM lands, is associated with the other
17 agencies, Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service,
18 Park Service, and their more intensive, more directed
19 efforts on their more consolidated land masses. And so
20 an example, what we're doing now is we're working with
21 the Togiak Refuge on their bear census and density
22 estimate that they're working with this year, and that
23 helps us cover the Goodnews Bay BLM lot because it's
24 actually contained within the Togiak Refuge. We're also
25 working and intend to cooperate with the increasing the
26 moose population again in the Goodnews Bay area. We
27 also, for many years, have been a major cooperator in the
28 Mulchatna Caribou monitoring work, the radio-tracking
29 flights, we provide a lot of the flight money and
30 personnel when and where we can afford it. So that's --
31 we've covered all those things already there's no need to
32 go any further into that.

33
34 There are several major BLM activities
35 that do have significant impacts and will have in the
36 future here on subsistence in this region. Currently
37 we're in the process of doing several major land use
38 plans, one of the first of these is in progress now it's
39 called the Ring of Fire, the are areas in your region
40 that are involved in that are all of the Alaska
41 Peninsula, BLM scattered tracts and the areas in Cook
42 Inlet that are in Unit 9, so those areas, also,
43 Southcentral Alaska and Southeast Alaska are also being
44 considered in that plan as well, and that's an ongoing
45 plan and we're in that process currently.

46
47 There's another one, there'll be an
48 accelerated start up date for Bristol Bay/Goodnews Bay
49 land use plan for BLM lands. The biggest thing that's
50 pushing that is mineral development, both oil and gas and

00253

1 hard rock. This is probably a very high potential and
2 high interest area for major development of minerals,
3 it's currently for hard rock minerals under a mineral
4 withdrawal. In other words, development of minerals
5 right now is prohibited on most BLM lands because of an
6 ANILCA requirement. And so through a land use plan, we
7 will be probably be relieved of that ANILCA requirement
8 and BLM is basically very interested in lifting that
9 mineral withdrawal and opening this country up to large
10 scale mineral development potential.

11

12 So, you know, that's some news, good, bad
13 or however you want to take it, that's kind of what we're
14 involved in at this time for land use planning.

15

16 The second major program going on in BLM
17 currently is the basically accelerated land conveyance
18 program. I mentioned that in our fall meeting, Senator
19 Stevens and through Congressional Legislation enables
20 acceleration of the State selections and conveyance
21 process for the lands that were selected under the
22 Statehood Act and also the Native allotment, both the
23 Veteran Native allotment and the original Native
24 allotment programs, are to be speeded up significantly as
25 well as the Native regional and village corporation
26 selection conveyance processes.

27

28 The end of this process, the target date
29 is 2009 to have the majority of all the conveyances in
30 Alaska taken care of and this is a very significant
31 change in land ownership. Bristol Bay is amongst, on the
32 leading edge of a lot of this work so Bristol Bay will
33 see these conveyances, especially for the regional and
34 village corporations, really in the next couple of years
35 a great deal of that will take place. This will
36 significantly -- the lands -- many of these lands,
37 especially the corporation lands and some of the State
38 lands are over selected so there'll be, after the
39 conveyances are done, there are still over selected lands
40 that will then revert back to BLM Federal public lands.
41 There's also selected lands within the Parks and selected
42 lands within the Refuges that will go through this same
43 process at the same time.

44

45 And so there will be significant changes
46 in the amount of Federal public lands available for the
47 Federal Subsistence Program. We don't know what that
48 will look like at the end by 2009 because there's
49 priority processes and how it all comes out in the wash
50 we can't predict at this time. But there will be

00254

1 significant land masses coming back into the Federal
2 Subsistence land base, the Federal public land base and
3 at least in localized situations.

4

5 And I'll just leave that as it is. The
6 conveyance process is a real complicated land ownership
7 and transition process, you know, it's dictated by law.

8

9 The other big items on the horizon right
10 now are the increased interest in mineral exploration
11 development and extraction and all the infrastructure
12 that may be required for that to occur and, of course,
13 these things are driven often times by world markets and
14 industry concerns that are, you know, beyond the
15 boundaries of this region, and you know the state economy
16 is partially driving this and BLM will be closely
17 involved with the -- on BLM lands and adjacent State
18 lands, the State program you see on the walls here, BLM
19 is going to be very closely involved with much of that as
20 well. And probably simultaneously, BLM concerns to
21 coordinate exploration activities will be concurrent,
22 probably, with some of the State activities, so
23 exploration will be able to cross ownership boundaries
24 instead of having to come back in the country several
25 times on different land ownerships.

26

27 So a lot of this will play out within the
28 next few years. But it needs to be on your guy's radar
29 screen because there will be significant potential
30 impacts to subsistence in this region.

31

32 And let me stop at that and say, is there
33 any questions and I'll try to answer them as best I can.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
36 did you have any questions for Jeff.

37

38 MR. HEYANO: Nope, sure don't.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you.
41 Council members.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Council members.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jeff.
47 ADF&G Staff, Jim or Lem or Ted -- Jim.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

00255

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You're up.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Looks like you're
4 the first one, Jim. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. WOOLINGTON: Mr. Chairman. Members
7 of the Council. Jim Woolington, Fish and Game,
8 Dillingham, area biologist for Game Management Unit 17.
9 I don't have a prepared report for you.

10

11 We went through quite a bit of
12 information on both the Mulchatna Herd and 17(A) moose.

13

14 I do have, as far as upcoming plans, I'm
15 hoping to get, with the help of the Refuge get moose
16 survey or a moose population estimation survey done in
17 17(C) this winter. And then we'll continue on with our
18 usual caribou surveys, both hope to get a population
19 census done for the Mulchatna caribou this summer, it
20 will be done in late June, early July and then continue
21 on with the fall and October comp counts during the rut.

22

23 But certainly can answer any questions
24 about Unit 17 if anybody has any.

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Jim, this is Robin.

27

28 MR. WOOLINGTON: Go ahead, Robin.

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: When that Mulchatna
31 Caribou Herd gets down there around King Salmon it's
32 usually closed and I had two or three people ask what
33 they can do to possibly get a short little season in,
34 like a week season in while the animals are there. It
35 seems like when they're gone the season opens up, but
36 they'd sure like to hunt them Mulchatna animals as
37 they're migrating through King Salmon there.

38

39 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah, Robin, that area
40 north between King Salmon and up there around the Alagnak
41 and the 9(B) boundary, that is included in the Tier II
42 North Peninsula Caribou Herd area. I think it was about
43 two years ago we had a pretty large number of caribou
44 move down into that area and we documented that they
45 were, in deed, Mulchatna caribou and also at the same
46 time Dick Sellers was able to document that the North
47 Peninsula caribou that had been mixed in the area seemed
48 to have all moved south of the Naknek River. And so the
49 Board of Game did open a short season up in that area, I
50 don't remember the exact details on what the bag limit or

00256

1 what the season was or what not, but they did that on
2 pretty short order. And that sort of thing can be done
3 in the past [sic]. But I think the most important thing
4 is that to be able to document that there isn't mixing of
5 the North Peninsula Caribou Herd or caribou up in that
6 area when Mulchatna caribou move down in.

7
8 MR. SAMUELSEN: So it's doable on a short
9 notice next time the caribou start coming down and if the
10 North Peninsula Caribou Herd move further south then all
11 you do is petition the Game Board?

12
13 MR. WOOLINGTON: Yeah, it was an
14 emergency request and I really don't remember how long it
15 took but it -- I -- maybe somebody who -- maybe somebody
16 from the Refuge could add in on that, but it was just an
17 emergency request to the Board of Game and I don't
18 believe it took all that long to get it in, you know, of
19 course a lot depends on other things that are going on
20 and whether you can get Board members together and
21 whether it's over a weekend or that sort of thing, but
22 it's not -- it's not something that's impossible.

23
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, thank you.

25
26 MR. WOOLINGTON: Any other questions for
27 Unit 17.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. WOOLINGTON: Nope. Okay, I'll turn
32 it over to Lem Butler. And maybe I should have
33 explained, too, but I think most of the people know, Dick
34 Sellers, the long-time game management Unit 9 area
35 biologist retired and the Department hired Lem Butler to
36 take the King Salmon biologist position and he can let
37 you know what's going on over in this area and I'll sit
38 down and then let Ted Krieg come up.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Jim.

41
42 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
43 the Council. As Jim Woolington said, my name is Lem
44 Butler. I'm the current wildlife biologist for the
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in King Salmon, and
46 I'm in charge of managing Game Management Units 9 and 10,
47 which includes the area of concern with the Northern
48 Peninsula Caribou Herd.

49
50 I'd like to tell you briefly about the

00257

1 composition survey that was performed in October. In
2 cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska
3 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge Staff October 23rd and 24th we
4 flew the Northern Peninsula Caribou Herd and surveyed
5 approximately 2,295 caribou to assess the age structure
6 and sex composition of the herd. This is reported on
7 Page 181 of your booklet.

8

9 During the survey the overall composition
10 of the herd was approximately 11 calves per 100 cows and
11 35 bulls per 100 cows. So the calf ratio is lower than
12 we'd like to see but the bull to cow ratio was at the
13 upper end of the management objective for this herd. The
14 current management objective is between 20 and 40 bulls
15 per 100 cows.

16

17 We also observed a large proportion of
18 young or small bulls in the herd, about 46 percent of the
19 bulls were classified as small which indicates good
20 recruitment in recent years. The last best population
21 estimate for this herd was 6,600 animals in 2002 and as
22 been reported previously we currently do not have an
23 estimate for the population size in 2003.

24

25 And I can answer any questions you have.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

28

29 MS. MORRIS: What is your calf
30 recruitment goal?

31

32 MR. BUTLER: Well, we'd like to see it at
33 about at least 25 calves per 100 cows.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Is that all Nanci.

36

37 MS. MORRIS: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy.

40

41 MR. ALVAREZ: Lem, you know, from your
42 guy's estimates, you know, of four to 5,000 caribou left
43 in this herd, taken into consideration it's what, been
44 about four years since Tier II's been implemented?

45

46 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's correct.

47

48 MR. ALVAREZ: So the last four years,
49 they've issued about 400 permits out a year, so that's
50 1,600 caribou, and they started at about 8,500 -- 8,500

00258

1 or 8,600 when it was implemented, so it looks like about
2 two to 3,000 caribou disappeared that if you'd subtract
3 1,600 over the four years from hunting, that would get
4 down to about 7,000 caribou and if it's only about four
5 to 5,000 now, you got two to 3,000 caribou that
6 disappeared were reasons probably predation or who knows
7 what, maybe they walked into the water and disappeared.
8 But, you know, it says the last couple of years you had
9 good calf recruitment. But I'm looking at the overall
10 composition and you have here 11.3 calves per 100 cows at
11 the last, this survey, and that shows me that we're going
12 to have poor recruitment in the coming years, and even if
13 we were to eliminate the harvest, it's going to keep
14 going down, the population, because it's been going down --
15 dropping about three times as fast as what the harvest
16 has been indicating according to the figures. And with
17 this present calf composition, that doesn't look like
18 it's going to improve any and what are your suggestions?
19

20 MR. BUTLER: Well, just to clarify a few
21 points. Again, we really don't know the current size of
22 the herd. The last best count we had was for 6,600
23 animals in 2002. During the 2003 population estimate
24 one-third of the radio collars were not observed. We use
25 radio collars to find caribou during the summer, so we
26 really don't know how many caribou are absent.
27

28 With the low recruitment we'd guess that
29 the population is declined but we really don't know by
30 how much at this point.
31

32 Over the history of the Tier II permit,
33 during the first two years 600 permits were issued,
34 during the most recent two years 400 permits were issued.
35 The harvest, however, has remained pretty stable. We
36 have about a 90 animals reported harvested each of those
37 years, and we estimate, you know, unreported harvest as
38 well bringing the total up to about 120 per year.
39

40 What we're going to do, though, to manage
41 this population is we're going to keep right on that bull
42 to cow ratio. There's no reason to believe that the
43 current harvest levels are affecting the population
44 status in terms of decline or increase, potential for
45 increase. We're harvesting surplus bulls, again, the
46 bull to cow ratio is at the upper end of the management
47 objective and harvesting bulls will not influence the
48 reproductive capabilities of this population.
49

50 We are, again, going to keep an eye on

00259

1 the bull to cow ratio as time progresses. We're going to
2 keep our eye on the population counts. We can also model
3 this population to interpret the effect of human harvest
4 on the population to set our management goals. The State
5 of Alaska and the Federal government are both committed
6 to providing subsistence opportunities for this herd and
7 as long as we can continue to do so we will but we're
8 just going to have to keep our eye on it and see what
9 happens in the future.

10

11 MS. MORRIS: I guess my question for you
12 then would be at what point does your eye say that that
13 number of permits needs to be lowered, do you have some
14 numbers for us to know what we're looking at?

15

16 MR. BUTLER: Well, again, we're
17 monitoring the harvest. Currently our harvest, including
18 unreported harvest suggests that about two percent of the
19 herd is being harvested annually. The bull to cow ratio
20 has remained stable over the last, at least since the
21 mid-90s at approximately 40 bulls per 100 cows. So
22 again, this suggests that there is a surplus number of
23 animals out there that can be harvested. If that bull to
24 cow ratio were to start dropping we'd reevaluate the
25 number, the percentage of the herd that we can harvest.

26

27 MS. MORRIS: Well, I guess the problem
28 that I have with your answer is that perhaps your bull to
29 cow ratio is not dropping, but the number in the herd is
30 dropping.

31

32 MR. BUTLER: Uh-huh.

33

34 MS. MORRIS: And I guess that's where I
35 want an answer, is, what does that number of the total
36 herd have to drop to to create another concern for you?

37

38 MR. BUTLER: Well, again, it's going to
39 depend on herd size. And right now only harvesting a
40 small portion of our bulls, as the herd declines we'll
41 keep reducing the number of permits to make sure that the
42 harvest is less than five percent of the herd, make sure
43 that the number of bulls out there remains in management
44 objectives.

45

46 We probably will reevaluate the number of
47 permits that are issued in the near future if the herd
48 continues to decline. Right now we don't know what the
49 population size is so I guess I really don't have a
50 direct answer for you on that.

00260

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Lem.

2

3 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Some of the other
6 Council members expressed concern regarding, you know,
7 what is the threshold number that -- the absolute
8 threshold, when the caribou population is at, whether
9 it's 1,500, 2,000 will you put out an emergency order to
10 close the season? And also you mentioned in your
11 response to Randy management objectives, perhaps you can --
12 maybe not at this time or if you have time, we know that
13 there is not a management plan in place that was
14 developed with the regulatory -- and perhaps you could
15 share with the Council members what objectives you use in
16 your calculation to come up with an allowable harvest,
17 and if there's any plans in the future to develop a
18 working group or a plan similar to the ones they
19 developed prior to your arrival with the Southern herd.

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Well, again, there's no
22 minimum number of caribou that has been defined at this
23 point. If the herd size were 2,000 animals, you know,
24 and the bull to cow ratio was still strong there would be
25 a number of animals that could be harvested without
26 affecting the future potential or compromise the herd
27 essentially.

28

29 So, again, no number is currently
30 defined.

31

32 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
33 came up with a cooperative agreement with Fish and
34 Wildlife Service and I'm sure we could get you a document
35 that defines the management objectives for the herd and
36 what we're looking for.

37

38 MR. ALVAREZ: So there isn't a number on
39 what it should be maintained at, a minimum, it's just
40 you're looking at bull to cow ratios and it could even
41 get down below 2,000 caribou in a herd, the Department
42 thinks there could be a harvest; is that what I.....

43

44 MR. BUTLER: As long as there's a surplus
45 number of bulls there is potential for limited harvest
46 and we keep that harvest at less than five percent of the
47 herd size.

48

49 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Because it only
50 takes.....

00261

1 MR. BUTLER: and we want to maintain that
2 bull to cow ratio.

3
4 MR. ALVAREZ: Because it only takes so
5 many bulls to service a hundred cows, so if it was above
6 that.....

7
8 MR. BUTLER: Right.

9
10 MR. ALVAREZ:in your
11 interpretation, those excess bulls could be harvested?

12
13 MR. BUTLER: Right. Of the cows this
14 year, when we do our calving surveys, 89 percent of the
15 cows were pregnant, which is a good rate. The calf to
16 cow ratio obviously reflects a lot of mortality of the
17 calves. Whether it's failed birth or mortality shortly
18 thereafter, there currently are enough bulls to -- but
19 again, to not compromise the potential of the herd to
20 grow.

21
22 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, the Board of Game is
23 going to be meeting next winter, isn't it, sometime on
24 our unit, Unit 9, Bristol Bay area?

25
26 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, in March.

27
28 MR. ALVAREZ: And are we going to have a
29 meeting before then where we could -- before.....

30
31 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Are you talking
32 about March '05?

33
34 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We'll meet in the
37 fall. We're going to meet September 27th and 28th.

38
39 MR. ALVAREZ: They're going to do a
40 survey this summer in June and July and I would hope that
41 the two agencies could come up with a good accurate
42 population number of what there really is because that
43 would -- we need it to -- in my opinion to see if we
44 really have to do anything or not. Because, you know, if
45 it got down to 2,000 caribou it would take a long time
46 before we could have a decent caribou harvest and I would
47 just -- I'll leave it at that. I think we should -- we
48 need to do something. We can't -- the way it's going
49 with the figures it doesn't look like it's going to get
50 any better.

00262

1 And I'm really at a loss of what we can
2 do.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.
5

6 MS. MORRIS: I'll go ahead and defer to
7 Virginia.

8
9 MS. ALECK: Yeah, I have a comment. We
10 don't have no firm numbers as to what the population is
11 like right now and I'm worried that you guys don't know
12 exactly what's happening with predation, with other
13 things, maybe weather. And at this point I think that
14 with the herd being this low, I think we need to -- we
15 need to do something. Not wait until it gets to the
16 lowest point.

17
18 MR. ALVAREZ: That's the way I feel.

19
20 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

21
22 MR. ALVAREZ: You know, but I'm.....

23
24 MS. ALECK: I'm really afraid.

25
26 MR. ALVAREZ: Maybe at the next meeting
27 the agencies can come up with -- I hope they can come up
28 with some kind of answers of what our options are.
29 Because I hate to see it just keep going down from the
30 figures, you know, we're looking at it and it doesn't
31 look good. It looks like it's going to get worse.

32
33 MR. BUTLER: In March we're going to have
34 our veterinarian come down here during a capture program
35 and we're going to try and look at some of these factors
36 such as disease and the abundance of parasites and
37 pneumonia, which have been implicated in part of the
38 original cause of the population crash and low calf
39 survival.

40
41 We do have some information from work
42 that Dick Sellers did on predators. But it seems like a
43 lot of what's happened with this herd has been
44 essentially a depletion of the range. By all reports I
45 have, we had a dry winter and a dry summer and, again,
46 this, you know, probably affected the nutrition of the
47 cows that were pregnant, may have resulted in low birth
48 weights and contributed to natural mortality. To get
49 down to 11 calves per 100 cows, that, of course, has
50 nothing to do with hunting pressure, that's a sign that

00263

1 there was some trouble out there with the range.

2

3 MR. ALVAREZ: Does that show predation
4 causing that, too?

5

6 MR. BUTLER: That reflects predation as
7 well, yeah, natural mortality. So both disease and
8 predation. And it's been estimated that up to 40 percent
9 of the mortality is from disease and such other than the
10 predators. But it's definitely incorporated in there.

11

12 But, hopefully, again, in March, to
13 answer Virginia's question, we'll try to get some more
14 information as to what's going on with the herd
15 currently.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

18

19 MS. MORRIS: Yes, thank you. Yes, Lem,
20 I'm very encourage to hear that you're going to have
21 somebody come out that can give us some medical
22 evaluations as well because I recognize that it's a
23 healthy composition as far as the cow/calf -- or the
24 bull/cow ratio goes on the herd, but I know that it is of
25 huge concern of all the residents around here have
26 depended on it for a long time. And we're getting asked
27 all the time, why are these numbers continuing to drop,
28 you know, and assumptions are being made and that's never
29 healthy for.....

30

31 MR. BUTLER: Right.

32

33 MS. MORRIS: Okay.

34

35 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, and, you know, we'll
36 take the fact that we don't know what the current
37 population size into account when we issue permits as
38 well. We do know that there were 3,200, I believe,
39 caribou, that was the minimum count that was provided.
40 But, again, that's a minimum count so we really don't
41 know how many caribou we missed, but we're not just
42 completely in the dark at this point, we do have some
43 information and we'll use that information that we do
44 have to evaluate what steps to take and where to proceed
45 in the future.

46

47 MS. ALECK: Lem, I have one other
48 question. After the population count or after you guys
49 evaluate the situation, when, then, will you let us know
50 if there's going to be a cut off or what kind of plan as

00264

1 you going to put in place?

2

3 MR. BUTLER: Well, I can come to the next
4 meeting. I don't know that I'd have an actual number for
5 you again but, you know, I'm new to this area. I just
6 started in December, so I am still developing my ideas,
7 I'm working with other State biologists in Anchorage,
8 Palmer and Fairbanks in how to address the situation down
9 here in this area. So perhaps I can, at least, give you
10 more information as to which direction management
11 decisions we'll take at that time.

12

13 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh. I have another
14 comment. Actually it was what Peter told me, that in
15 Togiak, they have local residents fly with the survey
16 plane signing a release form saying -- not that I don't
17 trust you guys, but I think it's a good idea because
18 local residents know different areas and there are
19 people, you know, that can see about where the animals
20 are in a certain part of the year. So I thought that was
21 a good idea.

22

23 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Peter.

26

27 MR. ABRAHAM: Virginia, we do that for
28 better relations.

29

30 MS. ALECK: Oh.

31

32 MR. ABRAHAM: Better relationship between
33 the Service and the people. Better communication. And
34 it works.

35

36 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
39 questions for Lem.

40

41 MR. ABRAHAM: Doi.

42

43 MS. ALECK: Doi.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. Pete.

46

47 MR. ABRAHAM: You got to learn how to say
48 that, Doi.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Doi. Ted.

00265

1 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg, Subsistence
2 Division Fish and Game out of Dillingham, Mr. Chairman
3 and Council members. I have five things on my list here
4 that I was going to talk about and mention. They're
5 shortly completed projects. One that is ongoing, one
6 that's going to come up and then another one that's a
7 mail out survey.

8
9 And Polly referred to these, these are
10 FIS -- I guess the first three are FIS projects. Two of
11 them that we worked on with BBNA and Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, Partners in these projects. Togiak River
13 Subsistence Harvest Monitoring Project. The one thing
14 that we just completed here recently, well, the third
15 summer of that project was completed and then we did
16 post-season subsistence salmon harvest surveys for all
17 households in Togiak. And Molly Chythlook, who I work
18 with out of the Dillingham office, and mostly Molly
19 coordinated with a person in Togiak that she went house
20 to house and asked all households about their subsistence
21 salmon harvest for the summer, and that was part of this
22 Togiak River Subsistence Harvest Monitoring Project. So
23 we'll have some results for that and the plan was to get
24 all of that documentation together in time to be included
25 in the Fish and Game Annual Management Report. So it
26 will show additional information there for Togiak.

27
28 The other project is the Subsistence
29 Fisheries Assessment Kvichak River Watershed Resident
30 Species, also known as, non-salmon species or freshwater
31 fish. That project had each household for the Kvichak,
32 Iliamna Lake and Lake Clark communities completing
33 calendars that documented their freshwater fish harvest
34 for one year that ended September 30th, 2003. We did
35 some traditional ecological knowledge interviews and I
36 guess the one thing we're waiting on is transcribing some
37 of those tapes. We hired people in the villages, through
38 BBNA and people are transcribing the tapes. So we're
39 still waiting on a few of those. There were a few that
40 were done, Yup'ik interviews, especially for Igiugig that
41 Molly is working on, transcribing them into English also.

42
43 The next project is an FIS project that I
44 need to get more up to speed on. I've been busy with
45 other things and this project is scheduled to start here
46 within the next couple of months, but, sharing, bartering
47 and trade of subsistence resources in the Bristol Bay
48 area. And that's with BBNA and Fish and Wildlife Service
49 also. And where we are at with that is that try to pick
50 some -- identify some -- oh, like indicator communities

00266

1 so we're not going to be doing, you know, extensive
2 research and interviews in all of the Bristol Bay
3 communities as part of a traditional ecological knowledge
4 concerning the sharing and bartering, but, it will be
5 going on in some precise communities.

6
7 The other project that I just -- we were
8 just working on, and this is funding -- these last two
9 projects are not funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, the project that I just completed doing some
11 work on in Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Bay and there were
12 other people that were working in Perryville and Chignik
13 Lake, and it's Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council,
14 Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem's Monitoring and Research
15 Program. They provided funding and we did subsistence
16 harvest surveys for all resources for 2003. And so that,
17 you know, there's still a few surveys to be completed by
18 the people working in the villages. But for the most
19 part -- and it was just those five -- well, including
20 Ivanoff Bay and -- you know, we were trying to include
21 Ivanoff Bay as far as who's ever living there right now.
22 But those were the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill communities so
23 they were the only ones involved in this harvest survey.

24
25 And then the last thing I'm going to
26 mention, because Subsistence Division is involved and
27 this is National Marine Fisheries Service but it's the
28 Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate, and it's
29 also known as a SHRC card, SHRC.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

32
33 MR. KRIEG: And if Dan O'Hara was here
34 he'd say no initials or, you know, no acronyms, so -- but
35 somebody decided that even though this is used to harvest
36 halibut they decided to call it a SHRC card, so it's not,
37 you know, harvest of sharks, it's halibut.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. KRIEG: But Subsistence Division has
42 a mail out survey that everybody that received one of
43 these, and I guess for different areas it's a different
44 color. I can't tell you which area, I'm in the Dillingham
45 area and I got a yellow card. So I don't know -- I think
46 they were green down in your area?

47
48 MS. ALECK: I think so. I didn't notice.
49 I got one.

50

00267

1 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. So anyway, people are
2 getting these in the mail so we're really encouraging
3 everybody to fill them out and send them back in so they
4 can document -- this is the first time that they've had
5 these -- you know, this actual Federal halibut
6 subsistence harvest cards.

7
8 That's all I've got.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any questions for
11 Ted. Nanci.

12
13 MS. MORRIS: Just one quick one, Ted, do
14 you know the -- your numbers on the subsistence harvest,
15 especially in Perryville, stacked up against the other
16 ones that we're hearing?

17
18 MR. KRIEG: We just -- I mean like a week
19 ago we finished them and we haven't a chance to tally
20 that up yet.

21
22 MS. MORRIS: So they haven't been totaled
23 up yet.

24
25 MR. KRIEG: But it will -- that will be
26 one thing that will be available, is the harvests for
27 this last year for fish. And included, you know, with
28 this, the subsistence salmon permit system for Chigniks,
29 Perryville, and Ivanoff, that area is done out of the
30 Anchorage office, and the Dillingham office covers, you
31 know, basically the rest of Bristol Bay. Molly Chythlook
32 and Unice Dyasik work along with that for that area. But
33 in the Chignik area they've been doing post-season
34 harvest surveys and we did that as part of this survey.
35 So there will be, you know, additional documentation
36 about subsistence salmon harvest this last year.

37
38 MS. MORRIS: And that -- we will be made
39 available -- that will be made available to us?

40
41 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. It will be -- you
42 know, it's a public report and I can -- yeah, we can make
43 sure that it's passed on to you, and it will be part of
44 the record, part of the -- it should be in the Annual
45 Management Report also, the harvest.

46
47 MS. ALECK: I would also comment, too,
48 that when Mr. Davis was at the Lake, I think you did that,
49 too, you took a local along with you.

50

00268

1 MR. KRIEG: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MS. ALECK: Yeah, to do the survey, so it
4 worked out good.

5

6 MR. KRIEG: As in all of these projects,
7 yeah, we work closely with BBNA.....

8

9 MS. ALECK: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. KRIEG:and BBNA
12 coordinates.....

13

14 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

15

16 MR. KRIEG:through the local tribal
17 councils and, yeah, you know, I mean that's always a big
18 part of these projects is working with local people and
19 having hiring somebody there that actually, you know,
20 works along with us and then works independently also.
21 Capacity-Building, that's the key word.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, Pete.

24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native)

26

27 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Ted.
28 John.

29

30 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon, Mr.
31 Chairman and Council. For those of you who don't know me
32 already, most of you do, I'm John Chythlook, I work at
33 BBNA as a subsistence fisheries biologist. I was hired
34 under the Partners Program at BBNA which, of course,
35 Polly's mentioned, is funded by Fish and Wildlife Service
36 to provide a subsistence fisheries biologist or social
37 scientist in the local non-profit associations throughout
38 the state. There are eight positions statewide and there
39 are two positions that are currently going to be funded
40 through BBNA.

41

42 Most of you know I started in May 2003
43 and proceeded to work on several existing fisheries
44 projects there throughout summer and fall of '03 and now,
45 and, I got to mention that thanks go especially to the
46 agencies that contributed to the success of those
47 projects, especially King Salmon FRO and then ADF&G
48 Commercial Fisheries and Subsistence Division were pretty
49 heavy with those.

50

00269

1 In '04 we're going to have a lesser
2 number of projects because a lot of our projects ended
3 this year. But one that Ted mentioned that will
4 especially important will be the customary trade project
5 and I won't mention that too much more because Ted
6 covered that pretty well.

7
8 Something also to mention that, even with
9 less projects this year it will be an especially busy
10 summer because a lot of the work that I do involves
11 educational outreach and that kind of thing, and so
12 within that purview I'm offering an opportunity for up to
13 six college student interns to be placed with science and
14 technology and biology professionals throughout this
15 summer. So as you go back to your communities, I'd like
16 to remind you that if you have or if you know of college
17 age students that are interested in applying for these
18 internships in your communities, that I would encourage
19 them to do so.

20
21 In additional, BBNA is a partner on
22 several proposals for projects for '05 funding and these
23 have already been mentioned before so I'll just mention
24 them by title. A non-salmon fish subsistence harvest
25 survey in the Togiak region, which was generated by a
26 request from the Togiak Village Council. Also two in the
27 Lake Clark region, northern pike and whitefish.

28
29 I guess lastly and to cut this short, on
30 a positive note, and this is something that Polly Wheeler
31 also did mention before, was that BBNA was successful in
32 its proposal to OSM for funding a social scientist under
33 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. And we
34 feel that this position will be quite instrumental toward
35 development of future projects and success in future TEK,
36 traditional ecological knowledge projects, especially in
37 the future.

38
39 So in closing here, if your community has
40 ideas for subsistence fish projects on Federal lands then
41 I'd be happy to work with you to try to develop these
42 projects.

43
44 This concludes my comments.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, John.
47 Any questions for John.

48
49 (No comments)

50

00270

1 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robert or Robin,
2 any questions for John.

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, sir.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you. Thank
7 you, John. Number 12, some new business. Robin, you had
8 some new business?

9
10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Special Action Request.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

13
14 MR. SAMUELSEN: I would move that we ask
15 the Federal Subsistence Board to intervene in the massive
16 liberalization of the Area M Intercept Fisheries that is
17 going to cause harm to a number of Bristol Bay and
18 Western Alaska stocks. Stocks in Bristol Bay are all the
19 coho stocks, sockeye salmon stocks, especially Lake
20 Clark.

21
22 MR. ALVAREZ: I second it.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Was there
25 additional information, Robin.

26
27 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, as I said earlier,
28 they allowed them a 280 percent increase in time.
29 They've given them more area, position, in the June
30 fishery. They took off all conservation concerns in the
31 July fishery, which makes our stocks, coho stocks and the
32 Kametolook and those river systems in the Chignik,
33 Perryville subdistrict, the sockeye very vulnerable.
34 They've liberalized the fishing time in the North
35 Peninsula. And have taken off the 100,000 sockeye cap at
36 Stroganoff, which shows an 80 percent interception, up to
37 80 percent interception of Bristol Bay stock. They can
38 move up into that known intercept area. There's been a
39 \$500,000 tagging study in that area. And that the
40 general (ph) fishermen now have to share in the full
41 burden of conservation, and what the Board of Fish did
42 was expand the mixed stock fishery inconsistent with its
43 own mixed stock fishery policy and it's sustainable
44 fisheries policy.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional
47 information Robin.

48
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's the.....

50

00271

1 MR. ALVAREZ: Robin, did you bring up the
2 general district?

3
4 MR. SAMUELSEN: The general fishing
5 district also was new information. Yes, that's a new
6 fishery this year, it's on a mixed stock fishery. And
7 it's targeting Kvichak, Lake Clark. Kvichak is a stock
8 of concern as well as the other areas, other fishing
9 districts in Bristol Bay. Fish headed to Federal
10 conservation units.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin, on the
13 Special Action Request, what specific action are you
14 requesting the Board to do? What action?

15
16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I would ask the Board to
17 extend their extra-territorial jurisdiction to limit the
18 interception of migrating sockeye, coho and chums through
19 the Area M fishery.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

22
23 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'm not asking to close
24 them down. I want to make that absolutely clear.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, there's a
27 motion on the floor to submit a Special Action Request to
28 the Board regarding the information Robin has just shared
29 over regarding the -- requesting the Board to extend
30 their extra-territorial jurisdiction regarding the
31 recently Board of Fish of Fish action items on taking.

32
33 Is there a second?

34
35 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Randy has seconded
38 the motion. Discussion.

39
40 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'll be supporting the
41 proposal, Mr. Chairman. Being a Board of Fish member
42 from 1987 to 1991 on the Alaska Board of Fish, it was
43 never my intent nor my fellow Board member's intent to
44 close down the Area M fishery. However, with the
45 demonstrated conservation concerns and the number of
46 river systems in Bristol Bay and throughout Western
47 Alaska as well as in the Chignik, Perryville subdistrict,
48 we wanted Area M fishermen to share in the burden of the
49 conservation. They have never been shut down, nor am I
50 asking them to be shut down.

00272

1 What this Board of Fish has done has put
2 Bristol Bay, the AYK, the Norton Sound stocks, as well as
3 the Chignik, Perryville subdistrict stocks in jeopardy
4 like they were 30 years ago. We've gone backwards 30
5 years with this Board of Fish. It was like they were
6 punitive to terminal fishermen this time.

7
8 I feel they have not followed their mixed
9 stock fisheries policy, their sustainable fisheries
10 policy. In fact, they even voted to throw it out one
11 time, both the mixed stock and the sustainable fisheries
12 policy. And since that time the Kvichak River, which is
13 the largest sockeye producing river system in the world
14 has been designated as a stock of concern. We have the
15 people up north that are in a Tier II situation where
16 even their Tier II fisheries have been closed because of
17 the lack of fish for subsistence people.

18
19 We've heard today from our Federal
20 managers that the Kametolook and them river systems are
21 at an all time low and we know from prior reports to the
22 RAC that the Lake Clark is a very -- as far as run timing
23 goes, the work that Carol Ann Woody has done is an early
24 run stock, it's in a Federal conservation unit, it's a
25 fragile stock. It's not only an early run but a small
26 stock, and I think everything that the Board of Fish has
27 done has basically targeted these stocks and they could
28 be severely harmed to where we would have to go into a
29 multi -- multi life span rebuilding cycle on these fish
30 stocks.

31
32 (Pause)

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Was that it?

35
36 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: I don't know. We
37 were probably disconnected. Robin.

38
39 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I'm here.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Oh, okay.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'm here.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: We didn't know if you were
48 morphing into a werewolf there.

49
50 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, no, that was my two

00273

1 dogs, they were fighting behind me, I had to put it on
2 mute and tell them to get the hell out.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Oh, I thought that
7 was you getting mad.

8

9 MR. SAMUELSEN: They get mad when I
10 mention Area M just like me.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

15

16 MS. MORRIS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. Robin, as a point of clarification, I guess I
18 don't understand what action you would see us taking to --
19 and my understanding right now but I want to make sure
20 I'm right, is that, you would like to see this addressed --
21 that Area M be rescinded back to where they were before
22 this Board of Fish meeting, as far as their fishing area
23 and time and what not?

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right, Nanci. I
26 think that the -- well, in the last Board cycle the Board
27 instituted another round of conservation measures because
28 of the severity in the Norton Sound subdistrict. And
29 this Board of Fish decided to do away with all that and
30 take off fall constraints. I mean 280 percent. They
31 could have moved the pendulum a little bit but they went
32 hard over to the right.

33

34 So what I'm asking is that I think the
35 prior Board of Fish has addressed the burden of
36 conservation both in the terminal areas and in Area M and
37 this Board has only left the conservation measures in the
38 terminal areas and has taken the gloves off in the mixed
39 stock fisheries.

40

41 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'm not asking to
44 shut them down, I'm asking the Federal Subsistence Board
45 to intervene to assure -- and I can only address Bristol
46 Bay stocks here -- we could only address Bristol Bay
47 stocks, identifiable stocks that may be in harm's way
48 here next summer.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Any additional

00274

1 Council discussion.

2

3

MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, just real quick.

4 You know, it'd be nice to take time to see how this
5 might play out but on top of -- I could see this could
6 have repercussions for sport fisheries, in particularly,
7 Iliamna drainage. I'm not sure, they're forecasting a
8 large run, but, geez, there's a lot of users up here have
9 hammered a lot of plans to try to address the concerns.

10

11

MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman. If I could
12 expound a little bit on what Dan said. In the post-June
13 fishery, there's 120 seine permits in that fishery. In
14 the last three years, only 20 of them seine permits have
15 been active in the June fishery. Their permit is up
16 three and a half to four times the historical average.
17 Still, they went to the Board of Fish and they called out
18 and they used the economic front that they weren't making
19 it. I can't help if they're getting paid four cents a
20 pound for a pink, I was trying to protect cohos in the
21 Nushagak that Dan Dunaway well knows that we're down to
22 24,000 when our escapement goal used to be 150,000 and we
23 dropped it to 90 and we're only getting 24,000 back and
24 the commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries had to be
25 closed by the Department of Fish and Game and we were
26 bumping up against a stock of concern on our coho. That
27 was part of the reason why we instituted a 60,000 cap.
28 Even with them 20 boats catching three and a half to four
29 and a half times more fish, I pointed this out to the
30 Board, and said you've got to protect our stocks and they
31 did away with the coho cap in July and said, no, they
32 could fish continuous. It doesn't matter how many coho
33 they catch, that means they could catch all the returning
34 coho next year on the Cape fisheries. These people are
35 so efficient, their nets are darn near a half mile long.
36 Dan's been a biologist down there, he could expound on
37 it. They're very efficient killing machines.

38

39

While they're killing our coho bound for
40 Bristol Bay, they're also killing off the fall Yukon chum
41 run and the second run into Black Lake into Black Lake
42 there, the sockeye into Black Lake. And the Board had no
43 concern with Bristol Bay, fall Yukon Chum or the Chignik
44 Black Lake stocks. They wanted to make the fleet to
45 maximize their efficiency and provide the maximize
46 economic benefit back to them fishermen, and the Board
47 said that on record.

48

49

And yet sportfishermen, subsistence
50 fishermen and commercial fishermen at terminal harvest

00275

1 areas are going to be deeply affected.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Robin.....

4

5 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, I call for
6 the question.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Question's been
9 called for. All those in favor of the motion signal by
10 saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Those opposed,
15 same sign.

16

17 (No opposing votes)

18

19 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Motion passes.

20

21 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, I got one
22 more thing on other business.

23

24 On No. 6, the Chair's Report, we have the
25 Council member's report at the beginning of the meeting
26 we were talking about that and then I mentioned that I
27 might have something at the end of the meeting for that.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Correct.

30

31 MR. ALVAREZ: Mary McBurney had said that
32 they are on their -- their counting tower project up at
33 the Lake Clark, on the end of the Newhalen River, that
34 their funding was running out and they were at this last --
35 or I think for the 2004 season coming up, that they
36 weren't funded for that. And she was working on that
37 trying to get that so that would be in operation, that
38 counting tower.

39

40 I would like this to be on our Council
41 member's report, that we need to keep this counting tower
42 in operation. Because of the recent actions by the Board
43 of Fish, it's going to make it critical now that we know
44 how many fish are going up to Lake Clark.

45

46 And I would move that we -- I don't know
47 if I need to move on it or not but I recommend that we
48 have that on the Council member's report.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: The 2003 annual

00276

1 report?

2

3

MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, the -- yeah.

4

5

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Yeah, before we move on with that, Randy, I just wanted to ask, Mary, you said that for this upcoming fishing season, for '04, the counting tower will be in place, correct, that Randy's asking about?

10

11

MS. MCBURNEY: Mr. Chair, Mary McBurney with Lake Clark National Park. Yes, the plans are, are to have that counting tower in place. However, I am begging, borrowing and stealing from just about every funding source that I can tap into to keep that tower operational this year. And after this year it's really beginning to look very questionable as to how long I could keep it going.

19

20

So that, particularly in light of concerns now with actions by the Board of Fish, we really do need to keep that tower going. That's the only way we know what is escaping into Lake Clark.

24

25

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Did you support a proposal for the '05, to the FIS, for the counting tower?

27

28

MS. MCBURNEY: No, not for '05.

29

30

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Anything else, Randy?

32

33

MR. ALVAREZ: No, that was it.

34

35

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Nanci.

36

37

MS. MORRIS: Along the same lines as Randy's, if this is the proper forum for it, I would like to see that some sort of study is -- I know there's an ongoing one but I would like a more thorough study of that North Peninsula Caribou Herd done. I know it's a matter of great concern to all residents from here all the way down to Chignik Lakes, and, to me, it seems like everything's pretty flighty about the whole thing; who's doing the studies, when they're done, if they're done? I wish that we could implement or see some sort of a tool implemented or assured that there's going to be implementation of a tool for the next several years to be able to post exactly what those stocks are doing and the numbers are doing so that we know where we're at before

00277

1 we get into a matter of great concern.

2

3

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

4

5 MS. ALECK: I support you on that. I
6 mean I am concerned, too.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mary.
9 Before you three go, I know Dan isn't here and the
10 remaining Council members have gone off because of
11 planes, but, I want you to look on the last page of this
12 booklet for the window for March -- February/March for
13 the '05 calendar. Now, normally this Council has met
14 starting in the afternoon and it normally takes a day and
15 a half to do business, just as we scheduled this last
16 time, next winter there won't be any training unless
17 there's new Council members or unless the office dictates
18 or mandates us to provide training again. But I need for
19 the three of you to come up with a date for this winter
20 '05 meeting and that meeting will be held in Naknek, and
21 I'll pass this information on to Dan. Normally in the
22 past, the Council also deferred to Dan to choose the
23 dates for both Council meetings.

24

25 And I'll take your guy's suggested dates.

26

27

MR. ALVAREZ: A year from now?

28

29

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: But we just do
30 that for planning purposes. As you can see from -- if
31 you look on the previous page, we have five meetings in
32 one week with one of the -- with all five Councils and
33 we're going to break that up because it's far easier for
34 us to plan ahead of time and we don't have the Staff to --
35 at least OSM to do five meetings in one week. Three in
36 one week's enough let alone five. So we prefer -- this
37 is the third meeting -- actually the fourth meeting of
38 this current cycle, so at least when I go back to
39 Anchorage on Monday I can let the other individuals know
40 when this Council plans to meet in winter '05.

41

42 So you can just pencil out two days. And
43 then like I said, I will take it.....

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. MORRIS: Do you want to do it

MR. ALVAREZ: It doesn't matter.

MS. MORRIS: Yeah, that's what I'm

00278

1 saying, let's just throw it out there, I would propose
2 the 24th and 25th of February.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay.

5

6 MR. ALVAREZ: That's a year from now.

7

8 MS. ALECK: Yes.

9

10 MR. ALVAREZ: I can't -- I don't know.
11 It could be -- any time could be.....

12

13 MS. ALECK: I could be gone.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Just don't tell
18 me.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay. Well, I'll
23 go ahead and pencil those dates in. And with that a
24 motion to adjourn is in order.

25

26 MS. ALECK: I'll second that motion.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Well, there's no
29 quorum here so.....

30

31 MS. MORRIS: Yeah.

32

33 MS. ALECK: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW:so we'll go
36 ahead and -- Robin.

37

38 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: We went ahead and
41 -- I'll be in touch with all of you, and Robert, in
42 regards to the Special Action between now and the end of
43 next week because I'll certainly need to talk with you
44 about additional information and language from the
45 recently held Board of Fish meetings.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. You got my cell
48 phone number, after Wednesday, get a hold of me on my
49 cell.

50

00279

1

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: What is it?

2

3

MR. SAMUELSEN: (Cell Phone Number)

4

5

CHAIRPERSON EDENSHAW: Okay, thank you

6

Robin.

7

8

MR. SAMUELSEN: Thank you guys, bye, now.

9

10

MR. ALVAREZ: See ya.

11

12

MS. ALECK: Bye-bye.

13

14

MS. MORRIS: Bye-bye.

15

16

(Off record 5:30 p.m.)

17

18

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00280

1

C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4)ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix
9 Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 104 through 280
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME
13 II, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on
15 the 27th day of February 2004, beginning at the hour of
16 9:05 o'clock a.m. at Naknek, Alaska;

17

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

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of March
27 2004.

28

29

30

31

32

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

33

34