

1 BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING
3 September 28, 2004
4 8:30 a.m.
5 Dillingham City Assembly Chambers
6 Dillingham, Alaska
7

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
9

10 Daniel J. O'Hara, Chair
11 Andrew Balluta, Secretary
12 Randy Alvarez
13 Peter M. Abraham
14 Nanci Morris Lyon
15 Boris Kosbruk, Sr.
16 Dan Dunaway
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18 Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:33 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, good morning, and we're ready to go. We're down to reports, so we have Paul Liedburg and Andy Aderman, of course. And Paul is new here in the area, to me anyway, and so we welcome him. And, Andy, you're going to talk to us. Okay.

MR. ADERMAN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council members. My name is Andy Aderman, wildlife biologist with Togiak Refuge.

Page 82 of your book is an information bulletin describes numerous projects that the refuge is involved with. I'm just going to cover a few of these, the first of which is on Page 83.

Kind of in the middle of the page there is a study looking at the abundance of rainbow trout in the Ungalikthluk and Ngukthlik Rivers. That project was completed this year. There's a preliminary population estimate. I mention this, because this was one of the projects that was funded through the FIS funding last year.

Moving on to wildlife, with Mulchatna caribou we plan to do some composition work, looking at the number of bulls, cows and calves probably towards the end of next week.

Moving on to Nushagak Peninsula caribou, we're able to get a population count in last March. We counted 780. That's a little higher than we initially thought was there. We had the subsistence hunt last fall and last winter. A total of 34 caribou were taken. Most of those were taken after that population count in March. People like to go out towards the end of March and it's usually the best travelling conditions.

We continue to monitor a number of radio collared animals in that herd. Calf production was a little bit lower than normal this year. And again we plan to do some composition work next week looking at the sex ratios.

Also, we'll be having a caribou planning committee meeting sometime probably in October. The dates have not been set yet for that, but we'll go over

1 the information that we know about the herd and look at
2 the management plan and see if we want to do anything
3 different.

4

5 And the last thing I was going to cover
6 was moose over in the Togiak area. They continue to do
7 quite well. One glaring omission that I didn't put in
8 this report is we had a survey done in mid March last
9 year, and we counted 777. That's the highest number of
10 moose we've ever counted over in that area.

11

12 We continue to monitor radio collared
13 animals in this population. They had pretty good calf
14 production, especially among the two-year-olds. We had 14
15 two-year-olds on the air. Ten of those were observed
16 with calves, three of which had twins, and that's
17 virtually unheard of anywhere.

18

19 And with that I'll conclude and entertain
20 any questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members. Yes.

23

24 MR. ABRAHAM: Did you say the moose count
25 was 777 when?

26

27 MR. ADERMAN: That was mid March of 2004.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When do you do the next
30 count, or are you going to do a count?

31

32 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, we plan to do another
33 count. It will probably be February, March of 2005.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. What is your --
36 apparently you had a pretty good calf success ratio. It
37 must be 100 percent?

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: They're -- it's averaged
40 about I think about 135 to 140 calves per 100 cows
41 produced in the spring. And the five-year running
42 average is about 51, 52 percent survival to November.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't have any
45 predators in the area yet?

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Oh, yeah, there's brown
48 bears, there's.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Really?

1 MR. ADERMAN: There's some wolves.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Some wolves. Uh-huh.
4 Apparently.....
5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead.
9
10 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, we have more brown
11 bears, and then more wolves over there than before. You
12 know, even in the summer they are observed up around
13 Togiak River, and we had observed a wolf with caribou
14 kill or moose, young moose at the same time.
15
16 And then you say you counted 780 caribou
17 in the peninsula?
18
19 MR. ADERMAN: Correct.
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Don't you think part
22 of the 780 of these caribou are out of that boundary
23 area, you know, they move further toward Ungalikthluk and
24 Cape Newenham?
25
26 MR. ADERMAN: It's possible that some of
27 those animals have moved off since that count. That
28 count in mid March was just on the Peninsula.
29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.
31
32 MR. ADERMAN: I'm not missing any radio
33 collared animals off of the Peninsula, so it would have
34 been, you know, if some animals moved off, it would have
35 been ones that were not radio collared.
36
37 MR. ABRAHAM: Because those caribou
38 around Togiak River area, they are residents now. They
39 don't go off with Mulchatna. I mean, they hang around,
40 and people observe more, and the sportsmen, you know,
41 observe more of the caribou in that area. A small tiny
42 group in the summertime.
43
44 Yeah, we -- the production rate of moose
45 and caribou are, you know, very healthy over there. And
46 these people over here, you know, I can commend, they're
47 the best people we've got, informational-wise.
48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that's a good
50 report. That's a good comment. Most of the time we're

1 beating you up and not so nice. Yeah.

2

3 Anyone have any more questions of Andy.

4

5 (No questions)

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy, I have several
8 things that I was kind of wondering about.

9

10 There seemed to be a concern on Page 83,
11 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. What's the bull/cow ratio?
12 Is that something you've been looking at? That's been
13 kicked around and talked about in all the different
14 circles we've been in.

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: Right. Well, again we plan
17 to look at that specifically next week. Last year, well,
18 I don't have the numbers in front of me, but it was below
19 the management objective of I believe 35 bulls per 100
20 cows.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: It was a good deal below
25 that in the area kind of north and east of here where we
26 looked at caribou. And then it was a bit higher, but
27 still underneath that management objective up towards the
28 Aniak area where I think the majority of the herd was.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. So you're
31 unhappy yet with the bull/cow ratio?

32

33 MR. ADERMAN: Well, I think it's a
34 concern that, you know, this Council and the Federal
35 Board and the Board of Game reduced the take of bulls in
36 the fall. You know, you can get only one bull ow from
37 August or when the season opens until I believe the end
38 of November.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Watch that for five
41 years and you'll probably get an idea of which way it's
42 going.

43

44 Also, the Mulchatna herd, 780. I thought
45 we had a bigger number than that over the years. The
46 Nushagak herd. Nushagak Peninsula herd.

47

48 MR. ADERMAN: Right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought we had a

1 bigger number than 780.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, back in '97, '98,
4 that herd was about 13, 1400.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do predators come by?

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: There are certainly
9 predators down there, primarily bears, but part of the
10 management plan for that herd says as long as the caribou
11 stay just on the peninsula, want to keep them at 1,000 or
12 less, because that's what we felt that that area could
13 support long term.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So you're happy?

16

17 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, go ahead.

20

21 MR. ABRAHAM: I think -- excuse me, Mr.
22 Chairman. I think part of the 1300 herd, the number, has
23 moved out of that area, because remember one year they
24 were around Anagululruk (ph) area when they had a lot of
25 snow out there, nothing up there. They were observed --
26 they hung around Anagululruk (ph) for quite a long time.
27 And then by Togiak, behind Twin Hills, there was a number
28 of, about 100, and then predators bring it down to 80,
29 and then back up again. And I think that's part of Cape
30 Constantine herd. You know, they just keep going that to
31 little by little. So they're -- like I said, they're
32 residents over there now. I mean, that's my theory of
33 that Cape Constantine herd.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, Thank you
36 very much, Andy, if no one else has any more questions.
37 We appreciate that report.

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, the next list is
42 a long one. We have Daryle, Ron and Orville to come up
43 and talk to us. Page 86.

44

45 MR. SQUIBB: Good morning, Council, Mr.
46 Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's fine. You're
49 going to do it all on your own, Ron. All right.

50

1 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, I'm all alone. Ron
2 Squibb with Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuge, and I'll be
3 giving our report. You'll find it on Page 86 in your
4 book.

5
6 First I'd like to touch on the Northern
7 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and our post calving count
8 which we did during June and July. The refuge and ADF&G
9 staff counted a total of 3400 caribou. That's about the
10 same count as the previous year of 3500 caribou. And we
11 want to appreciate, or we do appreciate and we want to
12 acknowledge the help that the Togiak Refuge staff gave us
13 on that survey.

14
15 Any questions on that number before I go
16 on to other information? No. Okay. Yes, go ahead.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

19
20 MR. KOSBRUK: On your survey there, how
21 far south do you go, I mean, down the Peninsula?

22
23 MR. SQUIBB: The survey area we count is
24 the refuge lands in the Ugashik and Becharof Refuge. We
25 did not, you know -- the Perryville areas and the Chignik
26 side isn't in the survey area. And the State does the
27 lowlands on the Bristol Bay Coast, and they'll go into
28 the mountains draining into the Bristol Bay side from the
29 mountains like, you know, the drainages of Bear Lake and
30 Sandy River, and that area. So that's the survey area.

31
32 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, I want to -- I don't
33 know who to contact, you know, to get a survey result on
34 the Stepovak area to be particular, because years back in
35 the 60s when I flew quite a bit, that's where I counted
36 most of the caribou, right in Stepovak, lots there.

37
38 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah.

39
40 MR. KOSBRUK: But I haven't heard. They
41 probably get some surveys down there, but I never hear
42 nothing. That's Fish and Game.

43
44 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, we ran late this --
45 we're aware of that, and we ran late this year, and we
46 didn't get down there. And we do need to get down there,
47 and you have said that in the past, and we didn't make it
48 this year either.

49
50 MR. KOSBRUK: There's a lot of questions

1 on that. You know, we don't have any caribou, we can't
2 harvest any, and they're kind of curious of what's being
3 done about it, and I can't give them no answers. We
4 can't even get a survey, let alone caribou. It's pretty
5 serious for us down there.

6
7 That Black Lake area, that was full of
8 caribou in the years past. Where did they go? What's
9 causing this?

10
11 MR. SQUIBB: Well, the reason for the
12 general decline of the herd, the evidence indicates it's
13 forage, you know, they don't have -- the food quality,
14 the forage quality has gone down, because the calf
15 weights on the main part of the herd have been reduced
16 for the last several years, you know, as the herd began
17 to decline. The age of first reproduction of the cows is
18 delayed by one year. And all those things, and also
19 disease in the newborn calves is up, so all those things
20 indicate that it's a forage problem. You know, the
21 quality of the range isn't as good as it was.

22
23 MR. KOSBRUK: The other problem, the
24 other thing I wanted to point out is that, you know, no
25 caribou, but we do have wolves. We still have wolves,
26 and I haven't seen no effort being done to lower that,
27 the predators. I've heard the moose counts. We don't
28 see them like we used to.

29
30 MR. SQUIBB: You don't see moose as much
31 as you did in the past?

32
33 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, we'll track one once
34 in a while, yes, back of the Veniaminof there. But I
35 hear there's some pretty good reports around Evan Bay and
36 Ray's Bluff.

37
38 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Well, that's -- we
39 were able to do that last January, but we only got a
40 partial count. The last time we got a really good count
41 of that area was '98 when we got a full count. We had
42 another one perhaps three years ago where, you know, we
43 didn't have good snow cover and didn't quite get the
44 whole area done. The calf ratios in that area are good
45 though from that count two to three years ago. But that
46 is a good area for moose.

47
48 MR. KOSBRUK: Okay. Have you -- anybody
49 here heard anything being done with the predators?

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No. There's not a
2 program in place for predator control. However, you
3 know, it could be done. There's a policy in place where
4 they could do it.
5
6 MR. KOSBRUK: We can't hear them howling,
7 but the dogs can hear them. We lost a few dogs last
8 winter.
9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Well, there's
11 plenty of wolves. I think Daryle probably knows about
12 the wolves. Daryle Lons. Nancy. Are you finished,
13 Boris?
14
15 MR. KOSBRUK: Yes.
16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Nanci.
18
19 MS. MORRIS: Oh, I just was bringing
20 Boris' request to your attention.
21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay. Good.
23
24 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I'll go on.
25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ron, we -- excuse me,
27 go ahead.
28
29 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, you say,
30 excuse me, the predators increase? You know, I barely
31 heard what you were talking about. What kind of
32 predators are you -- I mean, which animals are increasing
33 as predators? Wolves? Brown bear?
34
35 MR. SQUIBB: I don't think it's so much
36 that the predators are increasing. If there's increased
37 predator pressure on the herd, it's because the herd is
38 decreasing, so the number of predators per caribou is
39 going up, because the number of caribou are going down,
40 if you wanted to look at the predator load on the herd.
41 The moose populations seem to be stable, but the caribou
42 herd is going down. So, you know, I guess in that sense
43 the number of predators probably isn't changing a lot,
44 but since there's fewer caribou, then that means there's
45 more predators per caribou in that sense.
46
47 But we don't have good numbers on the
48 wolf populations. We have -- the last bear density
49 estimated was done in 1989, and I believe the estimate
50 for '90 was about 3,000 bears, counting cubs, counting

1 all bears on the ground. That, you know, is probably
2 about what it is now. I know Dick Sellers was saying he
3 thought in this trend area, he thought there might be a
4 slight increase in bear numbers, but we don't have a good
5 estimate on that at this time.

6

7 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We were looking for a
10 number like six or 8,000 animals, and you only have 34 in
11 an area? Or was.....

12

13 MR. SQUIBB: That's what our count was.
14 Two years ago we have around 6,000, and last year we had
15 a count of 3500, which didn't make sense, but this year
16 again we had a count of about that. So, it's hard, you
17 know.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's really, really
20 low.

21

22 MR. SQUIBB: There's just noise in the
23 data, because of.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a very low
26 number. Wow. Okay. Any other questions.

27

28 (No questions)

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Go ahead then.

31

32 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. As the Council is
33 probably aware, the State decreased the number of Tier II
34 permits on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
35 from 400 to 100. And the Fish and Wildlife Service has
36 been issuing 10 percent of the permits that the State
37 issued, so this year we only issued 10 permits, Federal
38 permits.

39

40 And the factors that we considered in the
41 distribution were as in previous years. First the
42 distribution of Tier II permits. In other words we tried
43 to -- I mean, on Page 89 in our report there's a table
44 showing that. And what we tried to do is sort of with
45 the few permits we had, sort of make up for any apparent
46 inequities in terms of distribution relative to
47 population size of the villages. And we also considered
48 the access of the Naknek River communities to the
49 Mulchatna herd, so we didn't include them, you know, in
50 any permits. We only included villages in 9(E). So we

1 gave permits to, you know, the villages of Chignik Lake,
2 Chignik Bay, Pilot Point, Perryville, and Igiugig, and
3 obviously only a few to each. And they were proportioned
4 to sort of to balance out the lack of -- you know, even
5 distribution of the Tier II permits was just a function
6 of their system, and the number of people who applied.
7 And Orville Lind worked with the villages and councils to
8 distribute those permits.

9
10 Also with the caribou herd at this low
11 number, we are interested and try to emphasize to the
12 hunters to take only bull caribou. And we want to
13 encourage members of the Council when the opportunity
14 exists to encourage hunters to take only bulls during the
15 hunts.

16
17 And I have a brief scenario to sort of
18 emphasize the importance at this time of taking only
19 bulls. It's kind of a rough estimate scenario here. But
20 on good range, you know, when the caribou population
21 would be increasing, which we hope to see in the future,
22 a female caribou, a cow caribou might produce seven
23 calves in her lifetime. And on poor range as the caribou
24 herd is now, that number drops to about six, simply
25 because the female matures about a year later, you know,
26 won't reproduce as early in her life. And poor range
27 makes for weaker calves, so that survival of the calves
28 is poor now. And basically right now the herd is
29 declining because the cows are not replacing themselves.

30
31
32 And every time -- oops, I skipped a bit
33 there. One thing, most of us here remember Dick Sellers,
34 the former area biologist who retired a couple of years
35 ago, and his idea was to keep the cow composition of the
36 herd as high as possible, so that when the forage
37 conditions improved, and that's what we believe the
38 reason of the decline of the herd is, when the forage
39 conditions got better, that the herd could rebound as
40 rapidly as possible, because there would be as many cows
41 in the herd as we could -- as the range would support.

42
43 So if you're looking, you know, in terms
44 of when cows are taken, every time someone takes a cow,
45 on average, if they take her in, you know, the prime of
46 her life, they're going to miss three or four calves that
47 wouldn't be born because of the loss of that cow. In
48 other words, if 25 cows are taken, that's 75 to 100 fewer
49 calves that will be born to help replenish the herd.
50 Also you have to consider the lost production of the

1 calves that aren't born because the cow was taken. So I
2 guess the bottom line is please encourage hunters on the
3 Northern Peninsula Herd, you know, that you know to
4 please take only bulls.

5
6 I'll move on to moose if there aren't
7 other questions on caribou.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Randy.

10
11 MR. ALVAREZ: Ron, you say that you guys,
12 you believe that the main reason why the caribou's
13 population is down is because of not enough food.

14
15 MR. SQUIBB: Well, it's not necessarily
16 not enough, but the quality is down.

17
18 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, okay, then. How long
19 do you figure it's going to be before the food will be
20 good enough to where they're going to rebound?

21
22 MR. SQUIBB: The closest comparison we
23 have is the Southern Alaska Peninsula herd. And right
24 now my memory's not being real great, but I think it was
25 about, you know, Lem, maybe your memory's better, I think
26 it was about a 10-year turn-around time on that herd. I
27 apologize for not having that number in my head right
28 now. I haven't thought about it, but I'll check on that
29 and get back to you, Randy, to verify that number.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep, it was about 10
32 years.

33
34 MR. SQUIBB: It was about -- you recall
35 that 10? Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah, because we
38 worked on that. They were down to.....

39
40 MR. SQUIBB: 1,000 I think darn near,
41 yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:really -- yeah,
44 way down on the numbers and nothing -- no pressure at
45 all.

46
47 MR. ALVAREZ: What's the -- to get the
48 food, what's the main -- how may I put this? Yeah, what
49 is the contributing fact in the food coming back? Is it
50 weather?

1 MR. SQUIBB: Well, weather is, you know,
2 going to be noise, and, you know, you'll have good years
3 and bad years for forage growing. Basically you need to
4 rest the range. You know, at 20,000 caribou, and with
5 caribou, you know, you look at long term caribou trends,
6 caribou herds go up and down. So it's a matter of once
7 -- as the caribou go down, you know, there if you will,
8 they're resting the range if you will, you know. If you
9 were a cattle manager, you would move your cattle on and
10 off the range so you maintain steady production. Now,
11 you can't do that with wildlife. We don't have that kind
12 of control. So, you know, in a sense as the herd goes
13 down, you know, the amount of forage they're consuming
14 goes down, so the plants are able to recover and the
15 composition is able to go back to better, you know. The
16 desirable plants that they select all the time, they get
17 rested, so they can start to grow more and compete better
18 with the plants that are less desirable. And the animals
19 are always taking the best quality forage, so that that
20 forage gets eaten now. And now they're on lower quality
21 forage, but as the herd gets low enough, then the higher
22 quality stuff gets to rebound and recover. And it's a
23 slow process, because you're.....

24
25 MR. ALVAREZ: So we -- Tier II was
26 implemented I think was it six years ago?

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

29
30 MR. SQUIBB: '99.

31
32 MR. ALVAREZ: So it should be a.....

33
34 MR. SQUIBB: But the herd will still.....

35
36 MR. ALVAREZ:few more years before
37 the food starts getting enough food where they can.....

38
39 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I don't think I can
40 make, you know, a real accurate guess. Like I say, the
41 Southern herd's the best.....

42
43 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, if you say 10 years.

44
45 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, about 10, but I don't
46 know how -- Dan, do you recall at what point that 10
47 years was measured down south? At the start of Tier II,
48 or was it lower than that? I can't remember.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't remember

1 either, but I know it was a 10-year period, and all of a
2 sudden it started coming back, and then it took a long
3 time before there was a harvest even after the 10 years
4 when the herd started building. I was on the Kvichak
5 Advisory Committee at the time. That's why I remember.

6
7 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, when I was moose
8 hunting this year, I had my jet unit on, and, boy, I
9 never saw so much grass in the rivers and creeks and
10 stuff, and that was, my opinion, from the summer we had
11 was hot and warm, and the grass was -- sometimes the oar
12 would hardly touch the bottom the grass was so long.

13
14 MR. SQUIBB: Right. Right.

15
16 MR. ALVAREZ: And I never seen it like
17 that. I was just wondering if -- it grew real well this
18 year, if that would make a difference in what -- the
19 caribou food.

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: Well, yeah, it all adds up,
22 you know, on average, and so if you have good growing
23 conditions in the summer, you know, that's going to --
24 you can have a good summer, you can have a bad summer,
25 and that will all affect things, so, you know, we don't
26 really -- we had done some vegetation work out on the
27 range, but we kind of don't have a before picture. We
28 started doing it after, you know, the caribou herd was
29 already in decline, so we really don't have a good handle
30 of what and where and all those details.

31
32 We set up some -- we fenced off some
33 areas, you know, to -- so that the caribou can't get to
34 them to see what changes if they're not being grazed, but
35 those things are real long term. They're for the future.
36 They're not going to tell us much about now.

37
38 So all I can do is talk about the
39 generalities of the, you know, the reasons why the herd
40 went down, and, you know, kind of give you the
41 generalities about the forage, but I can't tell you what
42 plant or what plant in this herd drives the herd or
43 doesn't, or what combination of plants and how long the
44 recovery would be.

45
46 MR. ALVAREZ: All right. Thank you.

47
48 MR. SQUIBB: I apologize.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it's interesting

1 that I think a few years back when they did some pretty
2 intensive studies on the herd, that we got a report that
3 even an eagle could kill a calf.

4

5 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's a pretty
8 weak animal when an eagle can come down and pick them
9 between the ribs and the calf dies, and it's just a very,
10 very bad situation that we're involved in.

11

12 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah. Indeed in 1998 when
13 we did the study, the calf mortality study on the
14 Northern Peninsula Herd, Dick Sellers ran across a couple
15 of calves that just died on their own, you know, they
16 hadn't been touched yet, and they hadn't -- you know,
17 disease. Also, you know, the calf is -- you know, you
18 have a weak -- the cow's not of really good nutrition,
19 then her calf can come out weak, and some come out real
20 weak. And, you know, their disease rates were also
21 higher, and lung worm and pneumonia were higher among the
22 calves than they had been in earlier studies before,
23 right.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Didn't have some
26 aborting calves, too, in March and April? It seemed like
27 there was a loss there somewhat.

28

29 MR. SQUIBB: I know the calf production
30 went down. Now, I don't know the cause. And the State
31 has those data. They do a parturition survey in early
32 June to see how many cows look like they were carrying
33 calves or had calves following.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In a situation like
36 this when we talk about predator control, you'd almost
37 have to annihilate all the wolves and bears to make the
38 herd come back, and then it might not come back. So I
39 don't necessarily think, as much as I hate to admit it,
40 that predator control is going to be the answer to it,
41 although you've got a nice statement here in your Federal
42 program where you can institute somewhat of a predator
43 control program. We'll think about that one day. But
44 Seller said you'd just have to kill almost all the bears
45 off, and then, you know, if their range is not there, the
46 nutrients are not there, they're just not going to
47 survive. Until that turns around, we're stuck with a bad
48 situation.

49

50 MR. SQUIBB: Well, a good -- one things

1 about the bears that Dick did mention after the study was
2 it seemed like, you know, it's not that all bears went to
3 the calving areas. There were some bears that went to
4 the calving areas, so it's not that all bears come out of
5 the dens and go to the caribou calving areas. He said
6 the number of bears out there were not that much, but
7 they did take quite a few calves for their number.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Any other
10 questions on that.

11
12 (No questions.)

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And where are you at in
15 your report now?

16
17 MR. SQUIBB: Moose.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

20
21 MR. SQUIBB: As I -- excuse me. As I
22 mentioned in previous years, we have a study going on on
23 moose habitat on the east side of Ugashik Lakes, and
24 that's a cooperative project between the refuge office,
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and University of
26 Alaska-Fairbanks, and the Park Service. Graduate student
27 Corey Adler has been working on that. We had our second
28 season in the field where we were evaluating the moose
29 habitat, and the moose utilization of browse forage,
30 winter browse forage in that area. And Corey's got all
31 the data now. That's the two field seasons of this moose
32 project are over, and he'll be writing that up, and we
33 hope to, you know, get his thesis, and it will probably
34 take him until spring or more to get that done. And then
35 we'll see what conclusions they can make at UAF.

36
37 Also for the second year in a row we took
38 advantage of the radio collars on the moose calf --
39 excuse me, on the cow moose in that area for Corey's
40 study, and we looked at calf survival as we did last
41 year. Our number of moose collars is going down as the
42 batteries are failing on those collars, so we're down to
43 12 cows. And the bottom line at the end of July was we
44 had two sets of twins survive to July out of those 12
45 cows offspring. So that would be -- if you look at four
46 calves per 12 cows, we had, if you will, one-third or 33
47 percent production. And comparing it with last year,
48 when we had two calves for 18 cows, that was only 11
49 percent production. So for that small number of animals,
50 we did a little bit better this year for survival.

1 There were a lot of bears seen in the
2 area. Again we didn't see any wolves, but our main thing
3 was trying to find a moose, so we certainly don't have a
4 good estimate of the number of predators in that area.
5

6 Also we're continuing to work with
7 Western EcoSystems Technologies out of Wyoming on a
8 project to estimate moose density on the refuge lands and
9 other lands in the upper Alaska Peninsula. And I
10 reported this to you on the last meeting. And at that
11 time I had estimated 579 moose for the area between the
12 Naknek River and Ugashik Narrows. That was a direct
13 extrapolation where, you know, we were -- we took the
14 number of moose we saw on our lines, and then we
15 basically multiplied it by four, because we were sampling
16 one quarter of the area. The statistician got ahold of
17 it, and the statistical magic they can do, they basically
18 accounted for the moose we didn't see from the line, and
19 he ran the estimate up to 1,000, about 1,000 animals.
20 1,050 is the point estimate. I'd be happy to try to
21 explain to folks, maybe if you're interested, another
22 time, because it's kind of tedious.
23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nanci is interested.
25

26 MS. MORRIS: No, I'm interested in
27 knowing what you think the closest number. I mean, just
28 tell me what in between those two you think is reality?
29

30 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, reality. Well,
31 basically if you want to get into statistics, you really
32 shouldn't look at point estimates, because they're -- you
33 know, that's just the middle point of a range, and the
34 range is, you know, from zero to infinity, but, you know,
35 they narrow it down from that, that's what statisticians
36 are for. But they basically -- the statistician's range
37 is, with 90 percent confidence interval, is this 700 to
38 1400 animals. And that's, you know, the bigger sample we
39 get, the finer the precision is, and the smaller they
40 would shrink that 90 percent, you know, confidence. In
41 other words, 90 percent of the time you're going to be in
42 that range if you were to do multiple -- do it 1,000
43 times, you know. That would be a lot of helicopter
44 money, but, you know. So.....
45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: And you wouldn't have them
47 all named.
48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, do you think that
50 numbers goes all the way from say Naknek/King Salmon

1 River all the way to the end of -- down to Black Lake or
2 something like that?

3

4 MR. SQUIBB: You mean the density, that
5 abundance?

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. 1400.

8

9 MR. SQUIBB: We hope this winter to have
10 good snow, and we'd like to get in -- you know, it would
11 be nice to get down to Black Lake. We'll see what the
12 weather lets us do.

13

14 In 1983 there was a moose density
15 estimate in sort of what's been long considered the core
16 area of moose on the peninsula, which is Mother Goose
17 Lake down to, well, Cinder River, or a little past, in
18 that area, mostly on the Bristol Bay side, and there was
19 a density estimate down then in 1983. And we'd like to
20 do that area, and then we could match the boundaries and
21 look at the data and do a direct comparison and have, if
22 you will, a then and now comparison. So if the weather
23 lets us do that, then we'll have more interesting numbers
24 with something to compare it to next time.

25

26 We also did as always our moose trend
27 surveys, and those are the same information I presented
28 to you last time, and that table is at the back of our
29 report.

30

31 The moose hunting seasons are the same
32 this year as last year. No change in the Federal
33 subsistence hunting seasons.

34

35 For our August/September hunt on Big
36 Creek, we issued 12 permits is all. I have no
37 information on -- you know, complete information on the
38 harvest at this point in time.

39

40 And we did also maintain the closure of
41 air taxi drop-offs of sport hunters to the northern part
42 of northern Island Arm area as we have done in the past.

43

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, that's really
46 helped, too, because local people in Igiugig have gotten
47 moose in that area. They've gone up there and they
48 stayed, and a lot of them have gotten moose. And so that
49 should be noted as a good accomplished thing on your
50 part. We appreciate that.

1 MR. SQUIBB: I think we've been doing it
2 since Ron Hood was there.
3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
5
6 MR. SQUIBB: It was before I got there,
7 in '94, or somewhere in there.
8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I remember we --
10 that was a good move.
11
12 MR. SQUIBB: And also upcoming here
13 shortly, the refuge staff will be helping ADF&G in
14 October to perform the annual composition survey of the
15 Northern Alaska Peninsula and Southern Alaska Peninsula
16 herds to get bull/cow and cow/calf ratios, and also to
17 put out some VHF transmitters on some caribou and moose.
18
19
20 So that's the end of my report unless you
21 have any questions on other issues.
22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions? Thank
24 you. Oh, excuse me. Go ahead.
25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Just one real quick. I see
27 back in your moose calf mortality study, you said you
28 planned to check again in September on the calf survival.
29 Did you get to, or.....
30
31 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, we had the two sets of
32 twins. When we checked all the animals we hadn't seen --
33 you know, where we weren't certain, we like to see them
34 twice to make sure they might not have a calf that we
35 missed. And we checked all those, and of the two cows
36 that had twins, one had twins. The one had twins, the
37 other one we couldn't herd out of the brush, and that was
38 a few days ago, so Dave's going to try again to scare it
39 out of the brush and see if she has got calves on her or
40 not. So hopefully maybe she'll have some.
41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks.
43
44 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you, Ron.
47 Okay. BBNA. Ralph Anderson. Good morning.
48
49 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
50 members of the Council. It's not very often that I get

1 up to the table here, but I just wanted to let you know
2 that every time I do it, it's a real pleasure.

3
4 There are a couple things, just
5 informational -- or one informational item that seemed to
6 spark some interest here. You know, in Mr. Squibb's
7 presentation there were questions about predator control.
8 And just for information, in March of last year, or this
9 year, the BBNA board passed a resolution directing Staff
10 to work on or develop a predator control proposal to the
11 ADF&G. Recently that resolution was forwarded to
12 Commissioner Duffy and we got a response saying that his
13 staff will be happy to work with us.

14
15 We recently organized our first ad hoc
16 committee meeting to discuss a predator control program.
17 We're focusing on -- the proposal focuses on the Northern
18 Alaska Herd. And one of the -- you know some of the key
19 things, you know, concerns in the proposal is that, you
20 know, while habitat is an important factor, you know,
21 there are other factors involved as well. You know, so
22 far there have been mitigations to hunters, no mortality
23 by hunters, by Tier II and Federal permits. The habitat
24 naturally mitigates itself with a smaller population,
25 with a smaller population feeding on the habitat. The
26 only unmitigated factor are the wolves. And that's sort
27 of the basis of our proposal. we're still in the process
28 of drafting it. We've had like I said our first meeting.

29
30
31 And what I would like to do is ask if the
32 Council feels that it supports the proposal, that we'd
33 like a letter of support in that regard. And what I'll
34 do is when it's finalized, I'll forward a copy to Mr.
35 Edenshaw who will then I guess forward it to you.

36
37 But my presentation -- that's all that I
38 have for information.

39
40 But my presentation is really easy. I'm
41 here to introduce some people. We have a whole group
42 that we're really proud to have on staff at BBNA. We
43 participate in the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
44 Program, and part of that is we submitted proposals to
45 the Fish and Wildlife Service, and we received grants for
46 fisheries biologist a couple of years ago, and then last
47 year in November we submitted a proposal for statewide
48 competition for a social scientist to lead our
49 traditional ecological knowledge studies. I'm happy to
50 say that we were successful in our proposal, and we went

1 through the process of hiring Laura Jurgensen. Laura is
2 a former employee with the FIS, and she's on board with
3 us as our social scientist.

4
5 I'd like to introduce also John
6 Chythlook, who is our fisheries biologist. He and Laura
7 will be leading our presentation.

8
9 One of the highlights of our presentation
10 is a presentation by Jim Dyasuk who is one of our student
11 interns. This past summer we focused a lot of our effort
12 in developing capacity in the region. Tim is a college
13 student. He was good enough to take time out from his
14 classes to come here today to give you a presentation.
15 And with that, I'll turn it over to John and Laura, and
16 have them lead our presentation.

17
18 MS. JURGENSEN: Hello. I'm Laura
19 Jurgensen with Bristol Bay Native Association, and it's
20 nice to be back working for Bristol Bay Native
21 Association, which has really done an outstanding job,
22 and I'm very proud to be working for them, and in the
23 region. I'm living in Dillingham now.

24
25 I came on five months ago and I've been
26 working closely with John Chythlook, who's been on over a
27 year now as subsistence fishery biologist.

28
29 And just a quick overview, the main
30 projects we have going right now with traditional
31 knowledge and harvest monitoring, it's on Page 55 of your
32 book. That's the one up for consideration, which you
33 voted on yesterday I believe for the 2005 research
34 monitoring plan. And that is titled Non-Salmon Fish
35 Harvests and Traditional Knowledge in Togiak, Twin Hills,
36 and Manokotak. And this is a two-year collaborative
37 study with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division
38 of Subsistence, and it proposes to continue updating
39 baseline information that was collected starting in 1995,
40 and then again in 1999 in Togiak, Twin Hills, and
41 Manokotak on all non-salmon species.

42
43 And a major area of concern that we've
44 heard across the region, I'm sure you gentlemen all know,
45 is the declining stocks of herring, and quality and
46 amounts of spawn on kelp. So this is an area that will
47 be included in the project's objectives as part of non-
48 salmon. It's marine and freshwater.

49
50 And the methodology will consist of

1 household surveys and key respondent interviews as
2 standard, and whereby we'll pay elders and other experts
3 a stipend for their time and expertise, and we'll collect
4 all the information they want to provide, and also update
5 cultural, biological units and maps, harvest areas.
6 We're hiring at least five local people, one in Twin
7 Hills, and two each in Manokotak and Togiak. And we've
8 already begun consultation with meeting in front of the
9 Togiak Traditional Council whereby we received a
10 resolution in support of this project.

11
12 This project also answers two issues that
13 you guys have raised in your issues and information needs
14 in the past, that is, more study on freshwater species,
15 including dolly varden in the entire area, and also the
16 effects or potential impacts on commercial and sport
17 fishing on these area rivers and water bodies.

18
19 So that will begin in -- if approved for
20 final funding by the Board, that will begin in fall 2005.
21 And again the Fish and Game staff can also speak to that,
22 Ted Krieg.

23
24 And the other one we have begun, BBNA is
25 also a co-investigator, again with Fish and Game here in
26 Dillingham, is the customary sharing, trade and barter
27 study that was awarded last year. And as you're probably
28 all familiar, this was the Federal Subsistence Board
29 enacted regulations in 2003 defining the cash amounts for
30 subsistence-caught fish or salmon. And this study will
31 document the uses among four villages, which are
32 Nondalton, Togiak, Dillingham and King Salmon area. King
33 Salmon, Naknek and South Naknek are take as one
34 community. And again we've already started consultations
35 on that, and Nondalton is interested in being included,
36 and they're very concerned about what's going on up in
37 the area, not only with lack of fish, but also they have
38 reported to us they only received one moose this year.

39
40 And that's pretty much it. I'm real
41 excited to be here, and with John and I, we're going to
42 work on integrating our proposals for the 2006 call where
43 we integrate both types of knowledge, the fishery
44 biological, stock status and trends and the TEK harvest
45 monitoring or indigenous science. And we hope to, you
46 know, combine rather than just have these so separate.

47
48 And we also encourage that the 2003 BBNA
49 priority and information needs that were collected by
50 Ralph Anderson and Hans Nicholson, went around the entire

1 seven subregions of Bristol Bay in 2003. We encourage
2 FIS and OSM to integrated the local needs and information
3 that have been collected into the Bristol Bay/Chignik
4 strategic planning document. I know they've done a lot
5 of work on that already, but at the next fall workshop,
6 we hope that all the work BBNA has done to reflect
7 concerns that the local people have is definitely, you
8 know, a priority in the planning.

9
10 So I'll turn it over to John, and that's
11 it.

12
13 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Laura's already
14 pretty much briefed you on our active projects for the
15 most part, and so I'll just put in a plug for our student
16 intern program.

17
18 BBNA's Natural Resources and Workforce
19 and Development Department sponsored a total of six
20 student interns over the summer, and two of these interns
21 were supported by the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
22 Program, which Laura and I both work for, and four other
23 interns were jointly funded by Partners for Fisheries
24 Monitoring Program and the Tribal Colleges and
25 Universities Program, which is a National Sciences
26 Foundation grantee. These students were mentored by
27 myself and Laura at BBNA, as well as at other locations
28 throughout the summer.

29
30 I'd like to note that wherever these
31 students were places, that they had a very successful
32 summer season. And after their placement and mentorships
33 through the summer, all of our interns had great reviews
34 from the mentors with whom they were placed, as well as
35 those that were in the office. We were very pleased with
36 their performance.

37
38 One of the main goals of this internship
39 program is for college-aged students to get hands-on
40 experience in scientific, technological, or mathematical
41 fields. And so BBNA internships this year were mainly
42 concentrated on fisheries science, and included other
43 aspects of technology, sociology and math as related to
44 fisheries or wildlife.

45
46 Before I get into the list of who the
47 kids were pretty much, I'd like to thank many cooperators
48 who made these internships successful, and a lot more
49 individuals than I can list, but among the cooperating
50 organizations, in no particular order, were Togiak

1 National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay Science and
2 Research Institute, Katmai National Park, Lake Clark
3 National Park, University of Washington Fisheries
4 Research Institute, University of New Mexico, Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game, Steven Braund & Associates,
6 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, NSF, Tribal
7 Colleges and Universities Program, Marine Advisory
8 Program and also the Workforce Development Program at
9 BBNA under a grant administered by Annie Fritzie (ph).

10

11 And with that I'll just give a brief
12 overview of some of the interns. Amy Askuk (ph) from New
13 Stuyahok was working with us this year, mostly in the
14 office. She's also a 2003 graduate of the biotechnician
15 training program at Lake Clark, which is something that
16 was approved for funding through this group. She's a
17 biology student attending UAF Bristol Bay Campus
18 currently.

19

20 Demetri Gust of New Stuyahok, also
21 attending classes in search of an education degree. He
22 was predominantly up at Quarters Creek Fish and Game
23 sonar.

24

25 Trina Trefon of Nondalton, she's another
26 graduate of the biotechnician training, and she was
27 predominantly at Lake Clark Newhalen tower.

28

29 Kay Larson-Blair of Dillingham is
30 completing her second year in the fisheries biology
31 internship at BBNA. She was the Partners intern last
32 year as well. And she's currently a junior at UAA in
33 Anchorage, and she has plans after graduating with her
34 undergraduate degree toward a graduate degree afterward.

35

36 Teresa Wolstad is a junior at UAA -- or
37 UAF, and majoring in biology. And she was predominantly
38 up at FRI at Alagnak doing various projects there.

39

40 Last, but not least, and mostly last
41 because he's doing a short presentation for you, is Tim
42 Dyasuk of Dillingham who is a junior at UAF. And this is
43 Tim's second internship at BBNA. He had a previous one
44 that involved monitoring walrus at Round Island.

45

46 And I think that's all I have for that.
47 And with the Council's approval, if we could have a few
48 minutes for set-up, or we could have him do his
49 presentation after a short break.

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Why don't we
2 take 10 minutes, will that.....

3
4 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: That would be fine.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 10, 15? Okay. Let's
7 do it. Thank you.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't have to take
14 your seats, but you do need to quit talking.

15
16 MR. DYASUK: Hello, everyone. My name is
17 Tim Dyasuk. I'm the BBNA student intern, and I started
18 this intern in June 1st, 2004, under BBNA and the
19 Partners Program, Office of Subsistence Management, and
20 the Partners Fisheries Monitoring.

21
22 There's another intern that I worked
23 closely with, which was Kay Larson-Blair. Our work has
24 stretched across the entire Bristol Bay region, and
25 affecting on all of BBNA's represented villages.

26
27 Under the Partners Program, I do the
28 following tasks and duties, performed under the Partners
29 Program. And each of these five tasks I performed over
30 the summer in some small part.

31
32 Accomplishments during my internship. I
33 trained with Fish and Wildlife. Research and gathered
34 traditional ecological knowledge, also known as TEK. I
35 did a Partners brochure for BBNA. I also researched and
36 ordered hardware and software for the Partner's staff and
37 Natural Resource Department. I conducted a small mammal
38 inventory of Katmai National Park. I assisted in
39 archeological survey for cultural resources in Iliamna
40 for the Pebble Mine project. Kay and I created a
41 subsistence harvest calendar. And I assisted Round
42 Island, which is a walrus sanctuary. And all of these
43 accomplishments, plus a 15-page paper and oral
44 presentation earned me up to three upper division college
45 credits.

46
47 During the beginning of my summer, I did
48 some training with Fish and Wildlife, and the training
49 consisted of firearms training with 12-gauge shotgun
50 slugs. I also did bear safety, boat and motor

1 maintenance. I also did ATV off-road training. And I
2 was certified in first aid by a local contract EMT. All
3 of this took about two weeks in the beginning of my
4 summer.

5
6 Also at the beginning of my summer, I did
7 research on traditional ecological knowledge, also known
8 as TEK. TEK in my mind is Native indigenous science
9 methods accumulated over many generations and passed on
10 to younger people through oral history and hand-on work
11 experience. Knowledge base includes values and using
12 involving the environment, ecological ways of knowing,
13 cultural, social, kinship relationships, and food, trade
14 and barter. Also harvest methods.

15
16 I grew up in Bristol Bay and I've been a
17 fisherman since I was 12, and just glad that my uncles,
18 aunts and grandpa and grandpa and -- grandma and grandpa
19 and Dad was there to help me out and teach me everything
20 they know.

21
22 Also while I was doing the research, I
23 was asked to do a partner's brochure for BBNA's Natural
24 Resource Department informational outreach. This was a
25 2003 poster for the Partners Program, which I based the
26 brochure off of. This is the Natural Resources brochure
27 that I made. It basically consists of the four different
28 departments, staff and contact information. And some
29 pictures in there, too.

30
31 While I was doing that, I researched some
32 equipment for the Partners Staff and Natural Resource
33 department. I made up kind of a wish list of five
34 different items on each of these, and presented it to
35 Laura and John, and had them pick the one that they
36 wanted, and they picked the Nikon Coolpix 5.1 megapixel,
37 an Olympus digital recorder, two of them. They also
38 picked a digital camcorder, which is the Panasonic PVGS
39 120. The other digital camera they picked was a
40 Camacolta (ph) 4.0 megapixel camera. And this equipment
41 is to be used through three to five years by the Partners
42 staff and Natural Resource Department, all of them.

43
44 The majority of my summer was spent in
45 Katmai National Park doing the small mammal inventory in
46 cooperation with University of New Mexico, Department of
47 Biology. The crew was made up of Joe Cook, a professor
48 at UNM, also Steve McDonald, another professor, Natalie
49 Dawson, and Anson Koehler, which were graduate students
50 of UNM, Tahzay Jones, which is a Katmai National Park

1 Ranger, and myself.

2

3

4 The primary objective of this research
5 was to perform a baseline small mammal inventory of
6 Katmai National Park. Some of the methods that we used
7 to capture the animals was to set up traplines,
8 consisting of snap traps, pitfalls and snares. Some of
9 the different methods that we used to do the measurements
10 were to measure the body, including the weight.

11

12

13 We also sexed the animals. In the
14 females, if there was the presence of embryos, we
15 measured the embryos, crown to rump, and if there was no
16 embryos, we checked for placenta scars. And if there was
17 none, we just put none. And for the males, we measured
18 the gonads.

19

20

21 Some of the methods in preserving some of
22 the animals, we pulled tissues, which consisted of heart,
23 lung, liver, spleen and kidneys. All the mammals that we
24 took, we skelatonized, and with the larger animals we
25 took pelts, from ground squirrels and marmots.

26

27

28 Some of the different mammals that we
29 caught were different species of voles, shrews, lemmings,
30 ground squirrels and marmots.

31

32

33 I went to four out of the five sites.
34 And the first site I went to was Idavain Lake. The
35 second site was Fure's cabin, which is a historical camp
36 site that has been in use since the late 1800s. Amalik
37 Bay, which is close to Geographic Harbor, which has the
38 densest bear population, or one of the densest bear
39 population in Alaska. And the last site that I went to
40 was Murray Lake. The rest of the crew went to another
41 site called Contact Creek, but I didn't go with them.

42

43

44 Katmai was an awesome place, and I was
45 really happy that I got to go. The picture up in the
46 upper left is Natalie Dawson, a graduate student at UNM.
47 These other pictures, on the lower left is a picture of
48 Fure's Lake -- or Fure's Cabin. And the top right is
49 from Amalik Bay. And on the bottom is an example of a
50 trapline consisting of two snap traps and a pitfall.
51 This is basically what I did the entire summer, catching
52 small mammals and killing them and stuff.

53

54

55 Shortly after I came back from Katmai, I
56 was asked to assist in an archaeological survey for
57 cultural resources for the Pebble Mine project in

1 Iliamna. BBNA in consultance with one of the Northern
2 Dynasty's subcontractors, Steven Braund & Associates.

3
4 I assisted -- I was stationed in Iliamna,
5 and I assisted the archaeologists, Erik Hilsinger and
6 Richard Stern. We performed a field survey, including
7 digging test pits and looking for cultural resources on
8 the future proposed site, which is two and a half mile
9 radius. Also an access road.

10
11 We only recovered one artifact that kind
12 of iffy. A cook found it on the shelves of the kitchen
13 tent, and Erik and Richard at first were really skeptical
14 about the origins of this artifact. And later on Erik
15 found out that it was brought there by a geologist at the
16 camp site, that it was brought in from out of state.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. DYASUK: So they were pretty excited
21 when they first saw it, but their hopes were crushed by
22 the cook later on.

23
24 The Pebble Mine site, if made, will be
25 the largest gold mine in North America, two and a half
26 mile radius, which is just huge. And the pictures up
27 here are Erik Hilsinger in brown, and in red in the back
28 is Richard Stern.

29
30 This picture was taken by Any Askuk late
31 this summer. I guess a moose got hit by a car and she
32 went out there and took pictures of these guys
33 butchering it.

34
35 Kay and I after coming back from Iliamna,
36 we worked on a calendar, a subsistence harvest calendar,
37 comprised of different fish, plants, animals and
38 traditional methods of preserving them. In the calendar
39 we provided the scientific names, the Yup'ik names, and
40 common names. This calendar plus a project of our
41 choosing can earn up to three upper division college
42 credits. Kay and I also had to develop a course title
43 name for it, and the title is biological and socio-
44 cultural impacts on subsistence fisheries resources in
45 the Bristol Bay Region.

46
47 This is a small part of the calendar that
48 we made. On the left is the scientific names, Yup'ik
49 names and common names on the left, and the color slots
50 show the individual months of the year in which the

1 species is harvested, or usually harvested.

2

3 Towards the end of my summer I went to
4 Round Island, which is a walrus sanctuary to assist ADF&G
5 and FWS technicians in doing haul-out counts, which this
6 picture is a demonstration of a haul-out count. And I
7 also greeted day visitors and helped them break down
8 camp. It was more of a vacation for me than work,
9 because the island itself is just a fantastic and
10 beautiful place, and I'm glad I got to go.

11

12 The project that I chose was a paper on
13 Alaska Native youths and -- or are Alaska Native youths
14 asleep within their own culture. Some of the methods
15 that I will be using are interviewing Alaska Native
16 youths and elders, reviewing literature, and this will
17 include subsistence, TEK and today's mixed economy. For
18 this project I will be doing a 15-page paper and oral
19 presentation.

20

21 I'd like to thank the following. Fish
22 and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management,
23 and Fisheries Information Service Division. I'd also
24 like to thank Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai
25 National Park, University of New Mexico Department of
26 Biology, Steven Braund & Associates, Department of Fish
27 and Game, and University of Alaska Marine Advisory
28 Program. Thank you very much, and qayana.

29

30 (Applause)

31

32 MR. DYASUK: Are there any questions?

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: Excuse me. I watched him
35 growing up in Togiak. He was very curious kid. I mean,
36 he wants to know just about -- I mean, questions after
37 questions, and he don't stop when he start asking
38 questions.

39

40 One spring his grandpa invited me to eat
41 seal flipper, you know, half cooked seal flippers. And
42 here comes little Tim, about, I don't know, about maybe
43 seven years old, and smelling, hey, what's this smell
44 here? And we said, well, you know, these are flippers
45 over here. Well, I eat those all the time. Well, I
46 don't think so. And his grandpa don't even understand
47 that, you know, he says, well, he says he eats these all
48 the time. No, you've got to ask your mom and dad. He
49 goes, okay, I'll go ask them. The tent's only about 8 by
50 10, and then their house is maybe half a block. Well, he

1 ran around, about a minute later he came back, yeah, Mom
2 said, yeah, I can eat. I can eat, yeah. Well, you know,
3 nobody believed him, but, you know, I encouraged grandpa,
4 well, you know, he's half Eskimo. Let him eat. So we
5 start, you know, eating, and he's just jabbering away,
6 how do you cook these? Where do you eat these? And
7 then, you know, pretty soon he grabs over here, and, you
8 know, talking away and having his flippers over here.
9 And just (makes eating noises), just eating away. And I
10 mean just questions after questions I'm hearing, I'm
11 talking as fast as I can, you know, answering his
12 questions, and he says, well, we're done, you know.

13
14 And he went home. I mean, those seal
15 flippers, you know, the odor is -- I mean, you can smell
16 them 10 miles in radius. He walks into the house, and
17 his mother said, what you do? You play with the dogs in
18 sewer and stuff like that? You know, at the time we
19 didn't have no water and sewer over there, so you have to
20 dump your honey bucket out. She said, you played in the
21 honey bucket area again? No, no, no, I eat seal
22 flippers, and, no, you better take a bath, and you better
23 pack water first.

24
25 And I guess that's how Tim -- Tim was
26 very, very curious about a lot of things, you know. I'm
27 proud of him. And he's John Dyasuk's boy. I tell you,
28 you know, I commend him. He done a super job here.
29 Let's give him a hand again.

30
31 (Applause)

32
33 MR. DYASUK: Thank you, Pete.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that it? Do you
36 have more?

37
38 MS. JURGENSEN: That's it.

39
40 MR. DYASUK: Any other questions?

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you going to use
43 your powerpoint any more, or are you done then?

44
45 MS. JURGENSEN: No, we're done.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We'll take a
48 little break and you can break everything down.

49
50 MS. JURGENSEN: Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the last of the
2 BBNA?
3
4 MS. JURGENSEN: Yes.
5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ralph?
7
8 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it?
11
12 MR. ANDERSON: That's it.
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Thank you
15 very much. and we'll let you dismantle there, and then
16 we'll continue with our meeting.
17
18 (Off record)
19
20 (On record)
21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And if Amy is ready,
23 yeah, okay, let's get everybody seated. Okay. Thank you
24 for your attention, and Amy Craver:
25
26 MS. CRAVER: Yeah.
27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She wasn't here
29 yesterday for her presentation, but she is today. And so
30 she's going to talk to us now.
31
32 MS. CRAVER: Great. Good morning, Mr.
33 Chair and Council, I apologize for not being here
34 yesterday, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to
35 talk today. I'm just going to provide just an overview
36 of the Partners for Fishery Monitoring Program kind of
37 statewide.
38
39 And to introduce myself, I'm Amy Craver,
40 and I'm the new anthropologist at FIS.
41
42 The Partners for Fishery Monitory Program
43 is part of Fish and Wildlife, and it's under the Office
44 of Subsistence. And one of the great things as you saw
45 in Tim's presentation, and Laura and John's presentation
46 is the Partners program is really all about integrating
47 local people in research and management for subsistence
48 fisheries. And it's a very real program. It's exciting
49 that you get local people that are involved in research,
50 and you have local interns that are going off to college,

1 coming back to their communities and getting involved in
2 research in their communities.

3
4 The Partners for Fishery Monitoring
5 Program directly supports and funds, this is statewide.
6 There are six fishery biologists and two social
7 scientists. And these people are hired and they go off
8 into rural communities, and then are employed by either
9 the tribal governments or local organizations. And their
10 jobs really are to bring on board local people in
11 research projects, and to work with the interns, as you
12 see that John and Laura are doing.

13
14 And we have partners throughout the
15 State. And the partners include Association of Village
16 Council Presidents, and there's two positions with them.
17 Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of Athapaskan Tribal
18 Governments, Kuskokwim Native Association, and, of
19 course, BBNA, and then the Native Village of Eyak. And
20 during 2003, the partners assisted in 27 different
21 projects, and these projects included the Yukon-
22 Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, and Southcentral regions.

23
24 And one of the areas that we're sort of
25 working towards to get perhaps a position would be up in
26 northern Alaska. That's kind of one area that we don't
27 have a partner yet. So that's sort of -- we're looking
28 in that area in the future.

29
30 And again one of the goals of this
31 program is to help rural residents participate, excuse
32 me, effectively in fisheries management process. And as
33 you can see, that's really -- it's exciting to be here,
34 because it really is happening in this region.

35
36 And one of the goals, or one of the
37 things that the partners are involved in doing is sort of
38 communicating the results of their projects to various
39 audiences. And this includes like giving presentations
40 in front of the Federal Subsistence Board, the Regional
41 Advisory Councils, such as what you saw today, and the
42 Office of Subsistence Management, and then other regional
43 organizations. So instead of a researcher going and
44 talking on behalf of local people and their interests and
45 the research that they're doing, they're actually in a
46 forum where they're talking first hand about the research
47 that they're directly involved in.

48
49 And the partners statewide have
50 implemented numerous educational program that have

1 included science camps and youth work programs that have
2 reached over 500 kids statewide. And this is an aspect
3 of the program that's really exciting to see, especially
4 like in the Y-K Delta area, they've got science camps
5 where kids normally wouldn't necessarily be doing a whole
6 lot during the summer, but they are actively involved in
7 these science camps learning about subsistence fisheries.
8 And it's pretty exciting. I haven't actually
9 participated in any of these camps yet, but to see the
10 pictures and to hear some of the stories, it's pretty
11 exciting what's going on at the camps.

12

13 And then as you see today, we have this
14 -- the Partners Program is involved in working with local
15 college students, and part of the mentoring program. And
16 really that's where we see the future of this program
17 lying is with people like Tim that go off to college,
18 come back, are involved actively in research, and will go
19 on to be the next, you know, biologist or researchers
20 working in subsistence fishery management in their area.

21

22

23 And I guess that's pretty much all I have
24 to say. And you can direct any questions to me, or in my
25 office there's a woman named Beth Spangler who some of
26 you might be familiar with. And she's actually the
27 coordinator, the statewide coordinator for this program,
28 and actually knows a lot more about it than I do. I'm
29 just new and just learning. So thank you very much.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You bet.

32

33 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, you have taken over
34 Pat McClanahan's position?

35

36 MS. CRAVER: You know, yeah, well, she
37 was an anthropologist in our office, and I believe she
38 worked at FIS for a while, yeah.

39

40 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. CRAVER: And then, yeah.

43

44 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes?

45

46 MS. PETRIVELLI: I have taken over Pat
47 McClanahan's position.

48

49 MR. ABRAHAM: Oh, okay.

50

1 MS. CRAVER: I get confused.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Haven't
4 been there long enough.
5
6 MS. CRAVER: I don't even know her.
7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: You mentioned that you're
9 going to work with Y-K up there on it, and you mentioned
10 our local Native hiring over there.
11
12 MS. CRAVER: Uh-huh.
13
14 MR. ABRAHAM: So you -- I am one of the
15 RITs in Bristol Bay. It's called refuge information
16 technicians. I tell you, there are some good people up
17 there in Y-K area. I mean, the RITs. But we're losing
18 more RITs, because lack of work. As for, you know, TEK
19 people, they're knowledgeable people up there.
20
21 MS. CRAVER: Right.
22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: I mean, they know, because
24 they're right in the village, and they know the people.
25
26 MS. CRAVER: Absolutely.
27
28 MR. ABRAHAM: I would advise you to look
29 into those RITs for help even, because they're budgeted
30 already, they just, you know, lacking of work and
31 frustration. You just, you know, find other jobs.
32
33 MS. CRAVER: Well, that's a great
34 recommendation, and that's something that we can -- maybe
35 I could even talk with you after the meeting, because,
36 you know, in terms of like the next call for proposals,
37 that would be great to incorporate some of the RITs into
38 some of the investigation plans. Because that's the kind
39 of -- actually the kind of feedback that we need to hear
40 to try to get more people involved in this program.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, if you're going to
43 work with Y-K up there, contact refuge manager in Bethel,
44 Mike Riorden.
45
46 MS. CRAVER: Okay.
47
48 MR. ABRAHAM: He's a super guy to work
49 with. You know, he knows that area more than anybody
50 else, and he got his RITs, you know, well taken care of.

1 But they're, like I said, they need more work, because
2 married couple working as an RIT cannot even support
3 themselves, unless the wife has a different job. The
4 funding is there already, but not enough.

5
6 MS. CRAVER: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: But if your funding, you
9 know, include that funding to RITs, you know, funding,
10 that would help a lot of the RITs and keep -- because
11 they're knowledgeable, with experience -- I mean
12 experienced, know the people. They open the door for
13 refuge people, you know, liaisons between the village and
14 the refuge. I mean, they took the dirtiest and hardest
15 job, because they get cussed out, they get threatened,
16 but they keep on going until the door's open. The people
17 in refuge area couldn't even use uniforms to go out to
18 the village. Today because of those RITs, they're freely
19 going back and forth in the villages to show themselves,
20 to work with the traditional people, traditional counsel,
21 the village counsels. I mean, I tell you, the RITs have
22 done a super job, you know, for the refuge. So, you
23 know, keep.....

24
25 MS. CRAVER: That's great to hear. And I
26 will definitely pass that on to my supervisor, Polly
27 Wheeler. She actually works in that area and does work a
28 lot with Mike Riorden, but I'll be sure to pass on your
29 comment to her, and make sure that she continues to work
30 with the RITs.

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. In the Bristol Bay
33 region over here, there's only three of us, three RITs
34 over here, but we do more than Y-K's, you know, because
35 we have good people in our office over here. I mean,
36 they try to find work for us, and, you know, that's -- I
37 think I'm one of the oldest RITs in Bristol Bay, you
38 know, because I love to work with the people. I love to
39 work with the kids. I'm a professional carpenter, but,
40 you know, I just put that away, because if I quit now, it
41 will just be like I'm unfinished business, or the goal
42 I've got, the goal I want, I had over there is working
43 with the kids, and, you know, give them the knowledge of
44 what we do here. Yeah. So I sacrifice a lot of good
45 jobs because, you know, I love this over here. And I
46 love to work with the kids. But it's not enough.

47
48 MS. CRAVER: Need more of you.

49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Hmm?

1 MS. CRAVER: Need more people like you.
2
3 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, I wish, but, you
4 know.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll clone you and
7 that would be good.
8
9 MR. ABRAHAM: What's that?
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll clone you and
12 you'll be good.
13
14 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You used the initial
17 RIT. What does that stand for, for us lay people who
18 don't understand it?
19
20 MS. CRAVER: Well, rural.....
21
22 MR. ABRAHAM: Refuge information
23 technician.
24
25 MS. CRAVER: Refuge technician, yeah.
26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay.
28
29 MR. ABRAHAM: It's a program started by
30 Chuck Hunt who, you know, passed away. It's a really
31 good program.
32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
34
35 MR. ABRAHAM: It's intermittent job.
36 They're like liaisons between the refuge and the village.
37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Good. Well, any
39 other questions of Amy?
40
41 (No questions)
42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, thank you for
44 catching the flight and getting in here.
45
46 MS. CRAVER: Well, thank you for letting
47 me speak today since I missed my opportunity yesterday.
48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. No, that's no
50 problem. No, this is good. We appreciate that.

1 MS. CRAVER: Okay. Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And thank you. Okay.
4 We have Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Joseph
5 Chythlook and Lem, and who else is going to be talking to
6 us today? Okay.

7

8 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, I'm Joe
9 Chythlook. I work with the Bristol Bay, Southwest
10 Advisory Committees here in Bristol Bay.

11

12 Currently we have six advisory committees
13 under our Board of Fish/Board of Game program: Togiak,
14 Nushagak Advisory Committee, Naknek, Kvichak, Lake
15 Iliamna, Lower Bristol Bay and Chignik. And part of our
16 problem for the last several years has been the cut-back
17 in funding. Every time the Legislature meets, it seemed
18 like that their main idea is to cut back funding for the
19 Department of Fish and Game, and, of course, it trickles
20 down to us. And so again this year I just want to
21 mention that our budget is for one meeting per advisory
22 committee per year, and that really, you know, makes it a
23 little harder to plan, to make comments on Board of Fish,
24 Board of Game and also Federal Subsistence Board issues.

25

26 And one of the other problems that we
27 face as advisory committees is since the Federal
28 Subsistence Board cycle is somewhat different than our
29 Board of Fish or Board of Game cycle, we -- it's a
30 challenge for chairmen like Randy Alvarez and others to
31 try to put the agenda together to include comments on a
32 timely manner with your group. So that's probably why,
33 you know, in both your meetings and probably in the
34 spring, we've had little, very minimal participation, but
35 we still try to work with your guys.

36

37 But anyway I just want to mention that
38 this year Board of Fish cycle is pretty minimal for
39 Bristol Bay. We have one meeting coming up to address
40 Bristol Bay area, and that is the Chignik fishery issue.
41 And that's the only major meeting that Bristol Bay area
42 will be concerned with, which is on Chignik fin fish.
43 And their meeting will take place November 14 through 16.

44

45

46 However, you know, Board of Fish does
47 have work sessions starting next week, October 5 through
48 7, and during the work session they will be reviewing
49 agenda change requests which have been submitted by
50 people concerned with the way the fish was managed in

1 Bristol Bay area and in other places in Alaska. And as
2 of today, or as of the time the deadline for agenda
3 change request, there were 10 Bristol Bay agenda change
4 requests presented to the Board, and then there were
5 three Area M requests also. And these don't become an
6 issue unless the Board decides to adopt them and include
7 them in their agenda. And usually when they're taking up
8 is at the last meeting of the year, which will -- this
9 year which will be March 7 to 13, somewhere in there
10 under supplemental issues in Anchorage.

11

12 But anyway, I just wanted to kind of
13 mention that, you know, we're -- the State advisory
14 committees still up and running.

15

16 One thing for us to -- for our region,
17 for folks to be thinking about this year, is we have a
18 Board of Game call for proposals coming up in December
19 10. And.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What was the date?

22

23 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: December 10.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: December 10.

26

27 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: 2004 is the deadline
28 for proposals. And it's for both Anchorage area and then
29 Southwest Alaska Board of Game issues, so, you know, like
30 caribou, moose, and other game. And so if you guys have
31 any concerns or would like to make any proposals, you
32 need to submit them by December 10. And that meeting for
33 the Board of Game issues will be held March 4 through 13,
34 2005.

35

36 And, Mr. Chair, I guess I guess that's
37 just an update as to what we're planning on this year.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joe, where will that 4
40 through 13 meeting be, Anchorage?

41

42 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Yeah, it will
43 be in Anchorage.

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions
46 for Joseph Chythlook today? Yes.

47

48 MR. ABRAHAM: This is your cycle here
49 this year for proposals?

50

1 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: For Board of Game
2 proposals. We're off cycle for Bristol Bay fin fish.
3 The only.....

4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: What about Board of Fish?
6

7 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: The only thing that
8 may affect, you know, our fishery this year is if the
9 Board accepts any agenda change request for Bristol Bay.
10 But there's a couple of them that, you know, like
11 addressing Kvichak, and then also the general district,
12 you know, which was fixed last year. The Board of Fish
13 will be faced with deciding whether that meets the
14 criteria for emergency, you know, addition to their
15 agenda. And then I think there was a sunset on the 200
16 fathom issue for Bristol Bay fisheries, and that will
17 probably be discussed, and that will be the two main, two
18 or three main issues. And the Kvichak, of course, is
19 still a concern, and they'll be discussing that, and I'm
20 sure that the Department staff will probably mention some
21 of the figures to you in their report.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else.
24

25 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. The reason I'm
26 asking you is because there has been some concerns about
27 herring fishery over there for past three, four years.
28 The -- I'd like to have a little bit more information on
29 the herring fisheries, because the stock is going you
30 know, down, and then this spring was one of the worst
31 herring seasons for local people, for subsistence people
32 over there, especially when it comes to spawning.
33 Actually nobody got any kelp over there this spring
34 because she knows, because she and I -- you know, we have
35 some samples, we had some samples. Togiak people and
36 Manokotak didn't even go hunt. They tried. They didn't
37 even pick kelp this spring. You know, we tried, and I
38 picked and we had to throw them away, because, you know,
39 in one kelp you can practically count the eggs.

40
41 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
42 Mr. Abraham, the Board of Fish had a proposal in front of
43 them last winter to address that. However, they felt
44 that there wasn't enough information at the time to make
45 any definite decision one way or the other. But I think
46 where they left it was they directed the Department to
47 form some kind of a study group to work with Togiak
48 Advisory Committee and the Traditional Council. And I
49 think probably Claudia will be addressing that perhaps
50 later. And we did last winter with BBNA and Togiak

1 Advisory Committee, the Department did try to calendar a
2 time when initial discussions of that would be had, but
3 everybody was busy, but we're hoping that probably this
4 year we'll be able to get it started, so that is going to
5 be addressed from what I understand.

6
7 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, just
8 one more. I tried I think it was about four years ago, I
9 tried for five-year closure on herring commercial fishery
10 over there. It didn't even get off the ground. I was
11 distracted or something, and -- but I think it's very
12 critical now, I mean, to look at a closure program very
13 seriously. I mean, the stock is going down. There's no
14 more seal, the spotted seals springtime over there. I
15 seen one this spring when I went across herring fishing.
16 I just felt sorry, you know, for the seal. I didn't
17 shoot it, because, you know, one.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're getting soft,
20 Pete.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: Usually you -- well, I used
25 to count, you know, 150 right off the bat in one bay. I
26 mean, that area is deserted now.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 150 minus one.

29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, 149. I don't know
31 where they went. Maybe they went down to California or
32 somewhere.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, he went in your
35 pot.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other
40 question of Joseph?

41
42 (No questions)

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joe, we sure appreciate
45 you taking time today to come here. And it's too bad
46 that our schedules conflict, because, you know, one of
47 the things this Council likes to do is work with the
48 State of Alaska. You've got 40 percent Federal lands, 40
49 percent State lands, and the rest is private lands. On
50 the Peninsula at least. And I think it's all through

1 Southwest.

2

3 Anyway, how in the world do you -- you're
4 chairman of Iliamna Advisory. You have one meeting,
5 you've got to make a proposal and then act on it? Or do
6 you have a written, or do you have a teleconference, or
7 what do you do? I don't know, we could not operate like
8 that.

9

10 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, Mr. Chairman, when
11 we're up for cycle for fish or game, they usually let us
12 have two meetings, you know, one to make them, and then
13 one after they're made to comment on all the proposals.
14 But this year since it's an off cycle for fish, but for
15 game, it's coming up. We're going to get one, but I know
16 it's hard, because, you know, most, like Naknek/Kvichak,
17 or Dillingham, were everybody lives right here where they
18 can drive to the meeting.

19

20 I attended a joint board meeting a couple
21 years ago for Fish and Game, both boards, the Fish Board
22 and the Game Board, and we were discussing the advisory
23 committee system, because, you know, every few years it
24 has to be brought up on how it's working. And out
25 committee, Lake Iliamna is eight villages, and we have
26 nine members. We have one at large member. We have one
27 member from every -- that the villages send in, and I
28 represent Igiugig on the committee. But we're the most
29 expensive committee in the State to have a meeting I
30 believe. We have to fly everybody in and back and forth,
31 and bring Joe from Dillingham, some biologists from King
32 Salmon or Dillingham or even Anchorage, and we're about
33 the most expensive in the State to have a meeting.
34 That's why we're kind of limited to, you know, one or two
35 meetings at the most, and most other places, you know,
36 all they've got to do is get in their car and drive to
37 the meeting after -- in the evening, but that's kind of
38 the situation we're faced with.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, thank you,
41 Joe. We appreciate that, and we'll do what we can to
42 help out.

43

44 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Well, I want to make a
45 closing comment, is Bristol Bay RAC is one of the best,
46 because they had the best training in the area, and that
47 was with local fish and game advisory committees.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's right. A lot of
50 us. I know I was 20 years on that Naknek/Kvichak

1 Advisory Committee, and we got a lot of rocks thrown at
2 us. Thank you, Joseph.

3

4 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who else from the ADF&G
7 is going to be talking to us today? Okay. Come on up.

8

9 MR. SCHWANKE: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
10 Council members. My name is Craig Schwanke. I work for
11 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish
12 Division.

13

14 Basically I'd just like to provide a
15 summary of our one OSM-funded project we had this season.
16 It was the Tazimina River rainbow stock assessment. We
17 were trying to estimate abundance, and then look at the
18 size composition and the proportion of fish that were
19 sexually mature in the population this past spring, the
20 spring of 2004 here. We had a crew out there sampling, a
21 five-man crew, from break up until the end of May.
22 Anecdotally, we kind of -- we heard that there weren't
23 many spawning fish, rainbow trout in the Tazimina River,
24 but we wanted to verify that for ourselves and see what
25 type of -- what we did have available for rainbow trout.

26

27 We ended up sampling about 250 rainbows
28 over the course of that period. The first two weeks of
29 the project, early in the break up, there were just no
30 fish in the river. They apparently over-winter in Six-
31 Mile or the Newhalen drainage. They started showing up
32 in early May, and from then on we consistently sampled
33 rainbow trout.

34

35 And I should mention that there were --
36 there's a large population of grayling in that river as
37 well. We sampled.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Grayling? Yeah.

40

41 MR. SCHWANKE:a lot of grayling.

42

43 Of those 250 rainbows, we only found 25
44 that were sexually mature, or what we'd consider fish
45 that would spawn that spring in the Tazimina River. And
46 so that was about 8 percent of the fish that we sampled.
47 And the crew didn't observe any actively spawning rainbow
48 trout either. So it just appears that the Tazimina River
49 is not a rainbow trout spawning tributary of the Newhalen
50 drainage.

1 However, the crew did do some roaming
2 around in the Newhalen, sampling various spots, and they
3 did find that Alexie Creek had a spawning population of
4 rainbow trout. So I guess we could suggest that Alexie
5 Creek might be a more important spawning area than the
6 Tazimina River for the Newhalen population of rainbow
7 trout. And we're not sure if we have a mixed population,
8 or a population that roams around in these different
9 tributaries. We just don't know right now. But Alexie
10 Creek definitely had a fair population of spawner rainbow
11 trout.

12
13 So we collected this data in the spring.
14 We tagged fish. We haven't had a chance to work up the
15 data to estimate how many fish were in the river this
16 spring. Just based on the number of recaps we were
17 getting towards the end of May, it was a smaller number
18 of rain -- a small population estimate is what will
19 likely derive out of the numbers, but at this time I
20 don't have it.

21
22 And, of course, this was the first time
23 we'd sampled there in the spring. In the past there had
24 been some work conducted in the fall, the fall of '87,
25 '88. So we had leftover funds from this spring, so we
26 wanted to go back this fall for about nine days. We had
27 funding for nine days of sampling, so we did that. In
28 late August we went back to the Tazimina River, and
29 looked at the size composition. We also estimated catch
30 per unit effort with hook and line to compare to the past
31 again, '87, '88, so we'd have something to compare to for
32 the Tazimina River. And back in '87, '88, the population
33 was reportedly healthy with quite a few, you know, larger
34 rainbow trout, large mature rainbow trout.

35
36 What our crew found this fall was that
37 there's still quite a few rainbow trout in there. They
38 sampled 243 rainbows over about 11 inches, what we
39 consider 250 millimeter fork length, in that nine-day
40 period, which was a similar catch per unit effort to what
41 we saw in '87, '88. However, there was a shift in size
42 composition where there's definitely a lot smaller fish
43 now than there were in '87, '88 in the Tazimina River for
44 rainbow trout. And we did sample numerous fish that were
45 under 10 inches. So it seems like the Tazimina is
46 definitely a rearing ground for rainbow, and it seems
47 like there's good recruitment on the way, but at this
48 time there just does not appear to be very many large
49 sexually mature rainbow trout in the Tazimina River.
50 And, you know, that's why this project was funded,

1 because of the reported declines of rainbow trout in the
2 system, and there's definitely a decrease in the size
3 composition.

4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is that it?
6

7 MR. SCHWANKE: Yep.
8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
10

11 MR. SCHWANKE: That was a one-year
12 project, so we finished that project this summer, and we
13 won't be doing anything there for the next couple years
14 anyway until we get something else lined up.
15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You started off your
17 presentation with OSM. What does that mean?
18

19 MR. SCHWANKE: Oh, Office of Subsistence
20 Management.
21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. A lot of us are
23 just not familiar with acronyms and those type of things.
24 Okay. Anyone have any questions. Yes.
25

26 MS. MORRIS: Well, I guess one of my
27 questions would be, would it be helpful to do, if the
28 Council suggested, do another study to figure out where
29 perhaps the rest of -- are you convinced that Alexie
30 Creek is the major spawning area, or do we need to
31 identify those areas so we can keep an eye on them?
32

33 MR. SCHWANKE: We could definitely do
34 more work. You know, this was mainly on the Tazimina
35 River, and that's right on the edge of Lake Clark
36 National Park and Preserve, so the Tazimina River was
37 qualified, you know, or on Federal lands. However, the
38 lower parts of the Newhalen aren't, so we kind of
39 concentrate in that upper stretch there, you know, the
40 Tazimina. And there's several other creeks that they
41 were able to check out briefly, but just not real
42 thoroughly, and some were real high from runoff and
43 things like that, so we didn't find spawner rainbow trout
44 in other creeks right around that area, but, you know,
45 there may have been, and we just didn't know.
46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We don't catch any
48 rainbow trout at Port Alsworth or at Tanalian River.
49

50 MR. SCHWANKE: Well, yeah, apparently

1 there's.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They just don't go up
4 in the northern part of the lake?
5
6 MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah, that's what we hear.
7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Andy is from there.
9 And it does it in the lower part, but.....
10
11 MR. BALLUTA: Well, never see rainbows up
12 there.
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No? Strange. I don't
15 know if it's the glacier or what that.....
16
17 MR. BALLUTA: Once in a great while you
18 might catch a rainbow.
19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:prevents them.
21 Yeah. The same way in Becharof Lake, too, you don't get
22 any rainbows up there, but Naknek does well.
23
24 MR. SCHWANKE: And the King Salmon River
25 drainage right next door.
26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, the King Salmon
28 drainage. You've got to hide behind a bush to bait your
29 hook in there I understand.
30
31 MR. SCHWANKE: I would like to report
32 that the Commercial Fish Division, Slim Morestad, did fly
33 a survey, a sockeye escapement aerial survey of the
34 Tazimina River this fall, and he counted 33,000 sockeye
35 in the Tazimina, which is up. The next highest count was
36 back in '95 was the last time we had a count higher than
37 that. However, I should mention that a couple of years
38 in a row here recently that we don't have numbers for.
39 The aerial surveys weren't conducted.
40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They just weren't done?
42
43 MR. SCHWANKE: No.
44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I just didn't see much
46 fish in there.
47
48 MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah. 33,000 seems like a
49 pretty good number compared to what we've seen more
50 recently.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah. It was
2 nice to see fish in the lower Talarik this year, too.
3 Good to see them in the river. Okay. Why the younger
4 fish all of a sudden from -- '78 is when you did a
5 survey?

6
7 MR. SCHWANKE: Well, I have to look
8 closer at the older data to see what proportion of those
9 fish, or how many younger, small fish they did get back
10 in '87, '88. I haven't had a chance to look at that real
11 closely.

12
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Nancy, are you
14 interested in maybe this Council looking at a little more
15 on research for this rainbow?

16
17 MS. MORRIS: Yes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty big -- it's a
20 pretty up front topic for this Council.

21
22 MS. MORRIS: It would be pretty important
23 knowledge, yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. It's -- that
26 rainbow trout's really invaluable, not only for
27 subsistence, but sports and other things. It's really
28 important. No other questions?

29
30 (No questions.)

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thank you,
33 Craig. We appreciate you coming and talking to us.

34
35 Lem, is he going to come? Do we shoot
36 the messenger here or not?

37
38 MR. BUTLER: Well, not yet I hope.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

41
42 MR. BUTLER: My name is Lem Butler with
43 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, wildlife
44 biologist, and I manage the Northern Alaska Peninsula
45 Herd, which has been a frequent topic of conversation.

46
47 I primarily came to answer any questions
48 the Council may have for the Department of Fish and Game.
49 Ron Squibb and the Becharof Refuge did a pretty good job
50 summarizing the survey data that we have at this point.

1 I'll only add that I reduced the number
2 of Tier II permits this year to 100, so we issued 400
3 last year, so 300 fewer permits than last year. And that
4 was in response to low productivity that we saw in this
5 herd. I estimated that only 70 new bulls came into the
6 population, and we didn't want to harvest more animals
7 than were coming into the population at this point, so we
8 figured that 100 permits would allow us to meet the
9 harvest objective without detrimentally affecting the
10 population at this point.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, we just
13 are kind of holding our breath. And any questions of
14 Lem. Yes.

15
16 MR. KOSBRUK: Yes. What species are you
17 talking about?

18
19 MR. BUTLER: Caribou.

20
21 MR. KOSBRUK: Okay.

22
23 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Boris brought up a
26 subject a long time ago. Caribou were in the Stepovak
27 Bay area. And I don't know if you've had a chance to go
28 down there or not, Lem, being fairly new. When did you
29 take the job?

30
31 MR. BUTLER: Just recently, in December
32 of 2003.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So have you had a
35 chance to go down to that lower Peninsula at all, or.....

36
37 MR. BUTLER: No, I haven't. I've only
38 seen summaries of the satellite collar locations that
39 Becharof Refuge has, and there were a few satellite
40 collars in that area, but we typically haven't done
41 surveys in that area. Not many caribou have been found
42 in the past. It seems like the herd's changing it's
43 distribution to some degree. Of course, in, you know,
44 the early 90s we started seeing them north of the Naknek
45 River on their wintering grounds, and there's certainly
46 potential for them to change their distribution on the
47 calving grounds as well.

48
49 This year when we did the population
50 surveys, we were able to account for 50 percent of our

1 radio collars, and we're definitely going to make efforts
2 to figure out where those animals are. If they were
3 dead, we'd still be getting a signal from the collar.
4 So, you know, it seems like they've obviously changed
5 their distribution. They're in an area that we're not
6 looking at this point, so we'll make efforts to figure
7 out where they are.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Well,
10 we'd get a better idea of what the population was.

11
12 MR. KOSBRUK: Where are you stationed at?

13
14 MR. BUTLER: I'm based out of King
15 Salmon.

16
17 MR. KOSBRUK: King Salmon. And you
18 mentioned satellite surveys?

19
20 MR. BUTLER: We have -- well, Becharof
21 Refuge has satellite collars on some of the animals.
22 Those collars talk, or transmit their location to
23 satellites, and the data is downloaded.

24
25 MR. KOSBRUK: Is there any down south?

26
27 MR. BUTLER: There are several collars on
28 the Southern Peninsula Herd. I don't know if they're
29 still active. Ron Squibb could probably tell you the
30 status of the satellite collars better than I could.

31
32 MR. SQUIBB: The question was the
33 southern herd?

34
35 MS. DOWNING: You have to be by the
36 microphone, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Give your name, too,
39 Ron, for the record, please.

40
41 MR. SQUIBB: Ron Squibb, U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Service. What was the question, please.

43
44 MR. BUTLER: Do we have any satellite
45 collars down south.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

48
49 MR. SQUIBB: The Southern Peninsula, when
50 we originally put them on in 1998, we put eight on the

1 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, and six on the
2 Northern Herd. And since that time, we've added no more
3 to the Southern Peninsula Herd, and two of the collars
4 were running until this spring, and one battery of those
5 ran out. And those were amazingly long lasting
6 batteries. I was wishing we could get them all to do
7 that, because that was obviously several years. And
8 one's left transmitting on the Southern Herd.

9
10 Now, in terms of satellite collars in the
11 Stepovak Bay area, I don't think we've had any move over
12 there. Some of them, especially the earlier ones we put
13 on down potentially in the southern part of the range,
14 would summer in the mountains, you know, on the drainage
15 divides between the Bering and the Pacific. But I can't
16 -- you know, there's so many records on that, I can't
17 tell you off the top of my head how close they were to
18 the area of Stepovak. But, you know, some of the earlier
19 collars did go over there. Now I think most of our
20 collars are not going that far south.

21
22 MR. KOSBRUK: In the springtime, I
23 realize that's the time of year they migrate down, have
24 there been any surveys on that particular part of the
25 year?

26
27 MR. SQUIBB: Well, I guess the only
28 survey with caribou we do that part of the year is the
29 parturition count in June that Fish and Game does, and we
30 don't assist on. They go to the radio collars, the VHF
31 radio collars, and they see whether or not each cow they
32 can find has evidence of being pregnant or having a calf
33 following.

34
35 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, we don't go into
36 the.....

37
38 MR. KOSBRUK: Is it possible to survey
39 them from the satellite?

40
41 MR. SQUIBB: Well, the only -- from the
42 satellite, it's not -- you know, we put collars on a few
43 caribou. We have I think maybe 15 out now or 12. I'd
44 have to look at the exact number that are still
45 transmitting currently. And we only know the locations
46 of those 15 or so. And so that tells us where they go,
47 and we look at their movement patterns and it helps us
48 understand where the herd goes. Over the years we've put
49 them in different places to see what different parts of
50 the herd move, you know, and their migration patterns.

1 But it only tells us what those animals are doing, and
2 any animals that might be with them, so it's sort of
3 something -- you know, if we have our normal radio
4 collars that we can hear from an airplane, you know, we
5 can follow them any time of the year, and we can find
6 them and see how many animals are with them. But
7 satellite collars, most of them don't have a VHF beacon,
8 so we can't go find them with an airplane like we can the
9 others. You know, we're changing that, because the
10 technology is getting more advanced, but right now we
11 just are using them to look at the movement patterns of
12 animals in different parts of the range to get an idea of
13 what the migratory patterns are.

14
15 MR. KOSBRUK: Is there any way to know
16 the route they take to go south?

17
18 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, that's what -- because
19 they give us a position once a week. They give us a
20 position, so we can -- instead of -- you know, that costs
21 a lot of money to fly out every week to find all the
22 collars.

23
24 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah.

25
26 MR. SQUIBB: So on those, yes, we have
27 the route that they travel.

28
29 MR. KOSBRUK: Oh, you do?

30
31 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

32
33 MR. KOSBRUK: That would be interesting
34 to see.

35
36 MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, mostly they go -- you
37 know, the general pattern is, you know, they all move up
38 to -- or the majority move up to the area between Naknek
39 River and Becharof Lake and winter there, and the they
40 travel down the -- excuse me, I've got a little
41 congestion. They travel down the Bristol Bay side as far
42 down as their calving areas are, and then they tend to
43 summer in the mountains. Right now they tend to summer
44 in the mountains, you know, on the drainage divide
45 between Bristol Bay and the Pacific. And then they'll
46 move back.

47
48 Earlier on, you know, when the herd was
49 bigger, when we first put those on, more of them were
50 summering on the Flats, the Bristol Bay Flats. But it

1 seems like more of them are summering in the hills than
2 they were then.

3

4 And the exception to that movement
5 pattern is that the caribou that summer in the mountains
6 on the refuge between Chignik Bay and Katmai Park, those
7 animals tend to go -- they don't follow the coast down,
8 they just go straight from -- you know the King Salmon
9 River, Becharof Lake area, they go straight into the
10 mountains from there, so those are the general movement
11 patterns.

12

13 MR. KOSBRUK: When you're talking about
14 cabins, are you talking those above Port Moller?

15

16 MR. SQUIBB: When we're talking about
17 what, sir?

18

19 MR. KOSBRUK: Cabins?

20

21 MR. SQUIBB: Cabins? No.....

22

23 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, I don't know what
24 location you're talking about.

25

26 MR. SQUIBB: No, I wasn't -- I must have
27 made -- you know, you must have misunderstood me. I
28 didn't mention cabins, I don't think.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, calving.

31

32 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, calving.

33

34 MR. BUTLER: Calving area.

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, calving range, okay.

37 I'm sorry.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Boris has got an
40 interesting question there, because on the last 20 years
41 when we've flown the area, you'd have thousands and
42 thousands of caribou just a little west of Black Lake,
43 and you could see them. The mom would be laying there,
44 and right along would be this little brown glob. I mean,
45 you could just -- you could count them one after another,
46 and see the animals that were there. Well, they're not
47 calving there much any more. If they do, there's very
48 few of them, because like my route takes me all the way
49 to Moller like once or twice a week, and I swing around
50 and look, and go back to the Chigniks and pick up

1 somebody. You can look at all those areas. You've got
2 to go through the mountains, Perryville, and they're not
3 in the places they used to be.

4
5 And it's interesting that they would go
6 to higher terrain. Is it vegetation or is it nutrients
7 or what? Do you want to guess on that?

8
9 MR. SQUIBB: I can't answer those. I do
10 know that the ones that move in the mountains on the
11 refuge, it seems like, you know, you're getting -- we've
12 got -- you know, we need to do a little more intensive
13 analysis on them, but it seems like the general pattern
14 is the ones that go over there, they tend to calve in the
15 lowlands, you know, on the Bristol Bay side near those
16 mountains or, you know, the drainage divide between the
17 oceans. And it seems I -- we haven't been down there to
18 survey that time of year, but in general you have the
19 same person, you do have fewer calving in the traditional
20 calving areas of Ilnik and Sandy River and Cinder River.

21
22 We did see a big group of about 1500 at
23 Cinder at last -- not this last summer, but the year
24 before that were there. We passed over them several
25 times, you know, different people flying. And so there
26 was a bit group there. But we don't regularly get -- we
27 don't, you know, frequently get down, you know, on a
28 periodic basis to the Ilnik area to see what's summering
29 there. But that's my impression is the shift in numbers
30 has kind of shifted more to the ones that stay in the
31 mountain than the ones that are around the flats. And I
32 don't know the cause for that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Of course, they
35 definitely changed their pattern of travel. They really
36 have changed their pattern. Yeah, it's kind of
37 interesting anyway. Well, thanks, guys, we really
38 appreciated that.

39
40 MR. SQUIBB: All right.

41
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, wait a minute.
43 Wait. You want Ron there, too?

44
45 MR. ALVAREZ: Sure. Ron.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

48
49 MR. ALVAREZ: I'll wait until they get
50 done.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, Ron, we want you
2 to stay a little longer.
3
4 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Oh, yes.
5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You might as well grab
7 a chair and pull it up.
8
9 MR. ALVAREZ: I've got a question for you
10 guys. North Peninsula Caribou, you guys came up with
11 figures of 3400 down from 3500 last year.
12
13 MR. SQUIBB: Well, that's the same
14 number.
15
16 MR. ALVAREZ: The survey, is that -- how
17 many surveys? I mean, are you guys pretty confident with
18 those numbers for the whole North Peninsula Herd? And
19 how many surveys was -- do you -- is that one survey to
20 estimate that number, or how many.....
21
22 MR. SQUIBB: No, that's actually minimum
23 count. That's the total number of animals we counted in
24 several surveys. We do it slightly differently, and Lem
25 can tell you how they -- how the State does their area,
26 and how we do our area. Ours is just -- we don't tend to
27 have as many radio collars in the mountains as they find
28 on the flats on average. So we just do an area search.
29 We, you know, we try to fly all the areas inside the
30 refuge boundary, and we tend to bias towards the
31 mountains, because that's where we tend to see them in
32 that time of the year in the refuge. So that's just, you
33 know, fly one day, and we'll try to, you know, go where
34 the weather's good and fly an area, and then we'll try an
35 fly the area next to it as best we can, and just, you
36 know, cover -- you know, grow from there, and cover the
37 whole survey area. Last summer it took us -- we flew on
38 I think 18 airplane days. We had nine of them where we
39 were able to survey, and the other nine, we got some
40 survey work done before the winds got too heavy, or the
41 fog dropped. I don't know, it was pretty basic. And
42 seven of those, we flew out and we had to turn around,
43 because the forecast was good, but we got there and it
44 was too rough or, you know, fog or something to where it
45 wasn't good survey conditions. So -- and we try to work
46 a whole area.
47
48 MR. BUTLER: From a management
49 perspective though, I'm not too comfortable saying that
50 that's the actual number. Like Ron's mentioning, it took

1 three weeks essentially to get the survey completed, and
2 it's hard to say how much the animals mixed during that
3 period of time. We experienced high wind conditions that
4 kept the airplanes higher than we'd like to detect all
5 the caribou that were potentially there. And we're still
6 missing 50 percent of the radio collars. And those
7 collars may have other animals associated with them. So
8 that's -- like Ron's informing you, that's a minimum
9 count. That's the results of the survey, but in terms of
10 from a management scheme, that's not going to be the
11 number that's used to estimate where the current
12 population size actually is. The current population size
13 from the State's point of view is currently unknown.

14
15 MR. ALVAREZ: When are you going to know
16 that? We need to know that.

17
18 MR. BUTLER: Well, yeah. We really want
19 to get it. Yeah, 18 days of trying in the summer, and a
20 lot of money. I spent 10 days -- or, I'm sorry, seven
21 days on the State's effort this summer. It's not for a
22 lack of effort that we don't have a number. We made the
23 best attempt we could this summer, but unfortunately we
24 just didn't come up with a good number. We did come up
25 with a number, but it's not a good number.

26
27 MR. SQUIBB: I guess another way to look
28 at it is we've been -- this is the same thing we've been
29 doing for the last, I don't know, this -- you know, the
30 State's survey goes back to, what is it, I think there's
31 a couple of counts in the 70s, and then Dick Sellers
32 started I think in '83 or so. I've got a graph, but I
33 don't remember the exact dates. I know Dick mentioned
34 that he flew the Pacific Coast one time, or a few times,
35 and he felt, you know, because of the weather conditions,
36 he just figured, well, I'll just add on 1500 animals,
37 because that's what you usually see in the mountains.
38 And then -- so he concentrated on the radio collars on
39 the flats, and that's where most of the animals were at
40 that time. So it's the same method that's been used
41 since the early 80s. And so we're getting the same
42 number with the same method.

43
44 The refuge started -- when we became
45 involved in Federal subsistence for big game, the refuge,
46 excuse me, started flying the refuge lands again that
47 Dick had flown in the past. And we coincidentally came
48 up with the same number he was assuming the first two
49 years. We got 1400 and 1500 animals, which makes you
50 feel good, so that, you know, may have been coincidence.

1 So we started counting that area, and doing an area
2 search, and there weren't very many radio collars. It's
3 always been done the same, so the numbers may not be
4 exactly, but, I mean, no one argues with the trend, you
5 know. So it was level for a long time, 17 to 20,000
6 animals, and then it started to decline, which we're in
7 now, and I think it's a fairly representative trend. And
8 now what the exact number is on any one of those years,
9 you know, is debatable. But we'll never know, but I
10 think our trend is true. And as animals -- as you have
11 fewer and fewer animals, you know, if there's lots of
12 animals, you're going to see a lot of animals, but when
13 the animals are sparser, the proportion you're missing
14 may change, because the groups are smaller, et cetera.
15 So, you know, there are basically some different, you
16 know, biases if you will, but you're still on the trend,
17 and that's the best we have to work with to make
18 decisions.

19

20 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. And I have one more
21 thing.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

24

25 MR. ALVAREZ: Lem was -- last spring at
26 the meeting I asked about the threshold number for, you
27 know, when we would -- when hunting would not be allowed
28 and that, you know, and it's getting -- you know,
29 dropping it down to 100 from 400, from 600, it must be
30 getting pretty close, because -- and if we let it go down
31 too low, it's just going to take that much longer to
32 rebuild the herd. It's real important. The caribou is
33 real important to all the users, you know, but I think
34 they're starting to realize that, you know, it's more
35 important to build them back up than to have one to
36 harvest, because it's going to take much longer if we get
37 them in such back shape, you know, instead of harvesting,
38 you know, one or two here. But that's -- you know,
39 there's a lot of people pretty concerned about what's
40 happening there, you know, and kind of -- so we need to
41 be kept informed. As much informed as possible to make
42 some good decisions, you know.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. One of the
45 things that we run across when we travel throughout the
46 region is you get some really hefty opinions on what's
47 happened with that North Peninsula herd. And one of them
48 is they just flat out say they've just gone to the
49 Mulchatna. And I don't believe that's true. I've seen,
50 and Randy has too, and I've flown to Igiugig enough,

1 you'll see the north -- you'll see the Mulchatna herd
2 going this way, and right on the other side the North
3 Peninsula herd is going south and the two are passing
4 each other, and I've mentioned that several times here at
5 the Council meeting.

6
7 But the question I have in relationship
8 to that would be have you found any collars that went
9 across the Naknek River and then over into Mulchatna?

10
11 MR. BUTLER: We've seen them mix on the
12 north side of the Naknek River.

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: With the collars?

15
16 MR. BUTLER: The two herds, yeah.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. BUTLER:have mixed there. It's
21 hard to say, again we're missing 50 percent of our radio
22 collars, and we're wondering, you know, what happened.
23 One potential is that a few of those may have gone off
24 with the Mulchatna herd. I'm going to give the radio
25 collar frequencies to Jim Wellington, who typically
26 surveys the Mulchatna herd, to see if he can locate any
27 of our missing collars. So far we haven't seen any
28 evidence that the Northern Peninsula -- any of the
29 animals from the Northern Peninsula herd have gone off
30 with the Mulchatna.

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

33
34 MR. BUTLER: Our radio collars have
35 returned to their traditional calving areas to the south,
36 but it's certainly a possibility.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, and I think
39 that's just, yeah, just a decline of the herd. And then
40 I think that Black Hills or southern herd, you know,
41 those years when they didn't hunt any of them, there were
42 no animals killed. And we're probably going to come to
43 that one day if we continue this decline. There will be
44 no animals killed I would assume.

45
46 Anything else, guys, gals. Nothing?

47
48 MR. ALVAREZ: I've got one more
49 question.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

2

3 MR. ALVAREZ:for Lem. Ralph
4 Anderson has reported earlier that they're working on
5 with the predator management plan with the State of
6 Alaska, and with Lem, and as Joe Chythlook has said,
7 we've got until December 10th for -- to submit any
8 proposals to the Board of Game, which our side -- Bristol
9 Bay area is coming up this spring for regulation changes.
10 And the reason why I brought this up is two years ago our
11 advisory committee, the Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee,
12 submitted a proposal to Board of Game to be allowed to
13 pursue wolves on a snow machine. As some of you might
14 not know, it's illegal to pursue wolves on a snow
15 machine, to shoot them. And we submitted that proposal,
16 and nothing happened to it. And I asked Joe Chythlook
17 when I was over here for a meeting what happened, and he
18 said, well, they didn't even consider it, because we're
19 not under a predator management plan, so we talked about
20 it at BBNA, Robert Heyano and I, and we submitted a
21 resolution and got BBNA to work with the State to draw up
22 a plan so that, you know, when we do submit some
23 proposals, try to get some, you know, some of these --
24 some regulations to do this, that they have to consider
25 them now, and without a predator management plan, they
26 didn't want to consider any of our proposals for
27 predators, you know, for -- the simplest one was being
28 allowed to pursue the wolves on a snow machine, which
29 some of you know that a lot of people do it, but it's
30 against the law, I believe. But in -- and I was kind
31 of.....

32

33 How long do you -- you guys are working
34 on it now. When do you figure you'll have some kind of a
35 -- something drawn together to -- so the region can
36 review it?

37

38 MR. BUTLER: Well, I'll probably have
39 something early next year, January or February to submit
40 to the Board of Game. The Board process has been sped up
41 in recent years when it comes to predator control, and
42 I'll probably have to have something available for the
43 Board of Game to review if they accept the proposal to
44 create a predator control plan. There's potential for at
45 the same Board cycle for me to have to submit a draft of
46 a plan for the Board's review and acceptance.

47

48 Recently in Unit 19 they've authorized
49 the use of snow machine in areas that don't have a
50 predator control plan currently in place. So I think

1 there's -- the whole process is changing, and it's
2 evolving as we get more into a day and age where like
3 we're starting to again have predator control plans
4 popping up throughout the State. The process is being
5 streamlined. And there's potential for a proposal to be
6 accepted today in 9(B) even if you wanted to submit a
7 proposal in that area. But it.....

8

9 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Well.....

10

11 MR. BUTLER: But it, you know, again for
12 the proposal area that BBNA's working on is 9(C) and
13 9(E), and that certainly could be included in the plan if
14 that's the desire of the communities.

15

16 MR. ALVAREZ: So you're saying that all
17 we need to do is submit a proposal for a plan, and then
18 if they do accept it, then you could submit some kind of
19 plan by January, February you said?

20

21 MR. BUTLER: That's the idea. Once I see
22 what areas are going to have a predator control plan
23 proposal, a proposal to create the predator control plan
24 initially, I'll start working on a draft of the plan.
25 And the draft is accepted by the Board of Game. It's --
26 just because I write it doesn't mean it will go into
27 effect. But I'll have it available for the Board to
28 review. And if they accept the proposal to create the
29 plan, then we'll move on to looking at the draft.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come on up, Joe.

32

33 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Grab a chair.

36

37 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Joe
38 Chythlook, regional coordinator, advisory committees.

39

40 I just want to comment that, you know
41 predator control has been a real political issue in our
42 State, and I think the reason why we're even talking
43 about approaching Board of Game with the predator control
44 issue now, is because of the way the present
45 administration has received, and then the make up of the
46 present Board of Game. And, however, you know, in the
47 past, past administrations have had a very dim view of
48 any predator control. So I guess my only caution to the
49 process is that, you know, if we're going to do
50 something, we probably need to do it during this

1 administration, because who knows what the next
2 administration's view will be of predator control.

3
4 This Board, Randy mentioned that they
5 submitted a proposal, and I think from my recollection,
6 it was presented to the prior Board, which was, you know,
7 a couple years ago. The Board of Game cycle runs every
8 two years for Bristol Bay and Southcentral.

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Two.

11
12 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: And so this winter, or
13 this last winter, some of the other regions had predator
14 control proposals, and just observing the Board, this
15 present Board is a lot more receptive to doing something
16 about them than previous Boards, so, you know, we're
17 looking at some -- a two or three-year window i think,
18 unless, you know, our present governor and his staff
19 remain for the next four -- four more years after this
20 one, so.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to make a
23 political speech for him?

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: No.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Or do you want me to do
30 it? I can do it.

31
32 MR. J. CHYTHLOOK: No, I'm just -- you
33 know, I think that, you know, that's just the way it has
34 been in the past, and I just wanted to throw that in.

35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Thank you.
37 Those are good words, Joe, and we do understand that.
38 Because of some of the Board members who have been
39 dismissed from the Game Board by our former
40 administration, it's pretty obvious what direction they
41 were going in, and so we better strike while the iron's
42 hot.

43
44 Is there -- would you, either one of you
45 know how the McGrath predator control program's come out,
46 or is it too early to tell or what? Because someone
47 asked me this morning in the coffee shop about that, and
48 I didn't know the answer.

49
50 MR. BUTLER: I've only heard preliminary

1 reports. They've seen increased moose calf survival in
2 the areas where the predator control's active. But I'm
3 not fully aware of the situation up there to tell you
4 completely how it's progressing.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. I don't know
7 where the Feds have come from, but in their May Board
8 meeting they -- you know, on page 73 there's a paragraph,
9 when these ungulates come to a place where they're going
10 to be threatened, there's going to be -- you can put a
11 predator control program in place. I put it in
12 highlights. Right here. So it may happen. That would
13 be a dog fight with here with Park Service, and who else
14 are we talking about here now? No comment.

15
16 All right. Hey, is that it, guys?

17
18 MR. BUTLER: That's all I have.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Thank you,
21 State of Alaska. Are there other State people that --
22 yeah, okay, come on up. Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. SANDS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
25 Council, Tim Sands, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
26 Commercial Fisheries.

27
28 And I just wanted to respond to the
29 question that Mr. Samuelsen asked yesterday. He asked
30 about the Alagnak. He had some concerns about a die off
31 of fish. There was a die off in 2003 of some resident
32 species as well as some pre-spawning salmon caused by a
33 lot of fish in low water conditions, the hot water that
34 basically suffocated. There wasn't enough oxygen. But
35 there was nobody on the ground there to assess the
36 situation.

37
38 Last year in 2002 the escapement was 3.2
39 million or something up the Alagnak. This year it was
40 over 5 million. So the steps the Department has taken is
41 to fully fund the Alagnak tower, so from now on that will
42 be a Department of Fish and Game run operation, and we'll
43 have that for at least the next several years, if not for
44 permanently.

45
46 And this year they got \$70,000 in
47 emergency money to go land on the ground, do a couple
48 different surveys to check the egg retention in the fish
49 that were dead, to see how much had spawned and things
50 like that. We won't have a final report on that until

1 this spring. And that's all I had.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Spring meaning like
4 March or April, May?
5
6 MR. SANDS: I don't know when they'll
7 have the report done, but I assume by the next time your
8 Council meets.
9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We meet in February or
11 early March.
12
13 MR. SANDS: I think they should have.....
14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
16
17 MR. SANDS:the information by then.
18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nanci.
20
21 MS. MORRIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Is that
22 part of the deal of -- they were presenting to us down
23 there in Naknek at the original Council of Fisheries,
24 about the people that were going up there to research the
25 effects of over-escapement at the top of Nonvianuk and
26 Kukaklek? Is that that program, or is that another one,
27 and can anybody in here speak to what they found on that?
28
29 MR. SANDS: I don't know, I'm sorry. I
30 just know that they went to look at egg retention. That
31 could have some impact. I mean.....
32
33 MS. MORRIS: I thought it was through
34 Fish and Game, but I didn't know.
35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Probably somebody in
37 here could find the information for us.
38
39 MS. MORRIS: Yeah. Randy, were you at
40 that meeting, too?
41
42 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah. I think that was a
43 grant.
44
45 MS. MORRIS: But weren't they working
46 with Fish and Game on that though?
47
48 MR. ALVAREZ: Fish and Game and the
49 University of Alaska I think wasn't it?
50

1 MS. MORRIS: Yeah. It was.....
2
3 MR. ALVAREZ: To try to figure out the
4 effects of over-escapement on the Alagnak.
5
6 MS. MORRIS: Yeah, and I think they were
7 going to study it for two or three years, but they were
8 starting right away. I mean days after they were there
9 at that meeting.
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would Slim know the
12 answer to that?
13
14 MR. SANDS: Who presented the
15 information?
16
17 MR. ALVAREZ: He was there.
18
19 MS. MORRIS: Slim was there, yeah.
20
21 MR. ALVAREZ: Slim was there.
22
23 MR. SANDS: But he didn't present the
24 information?
25
26 MS. MORRIS: No, the gentleman who was
27 doing the work, but he had been a former Fish and Game
28 biologist.
29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: State biologist?
31
32 MS. MORRIS: Yeah.
33
34 MR. SANDS: I have no idea. This is the
35 first I've heard of it.
36
37 MS. MORRIS: Okay.
38
39 MR. SANDS: Sorry.
40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, hey, we
42 appreciate this information.
43
44 MR. SANDS: Okay.
45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions
47 that you might have?
48
49 MS. MORRIS: Craig, you can.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. SCHWANKE: Craig Schwanke, Fish and
4 Game Sport Fish.

5

6 This is just anecdotal. I haven't been
7 involved with the plan, the process or anything, but I
8 know that they have been doing some preliminary water
9 quality, taking water quality samples last fall and this
10 fall to start assessing this potential over-escapement
11 and how it could impact the Alagnak. And Slim would be
12 the person to talk to about this. You know, we haven't
13 been involved as far as Sports Division in that research,
14 or that attempt to get research started on the over-
15 escapement of the Alagnak system.

16

17 MS. MORRIS: So he's the one probably
18 coordinating with that group?

19

20 MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah, he'd be able to
21 answer questions better than anybody in this building
22 right now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Thank
25 you. Are there any other Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game people that need to come talk to us. Okay. All
27 right.

28

29 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg with Subsistence
30 Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I have, if
31 I could, Mr. Chairman, I've got some project information.
32 I'd just pass this out for your information.

33

34 Mr. Chairman and Council members, this
35 project information sheet that I just handed out is for
36 the sharing, bartering, and trade of subsistence
37 resources in Bristol Bay, the Bristol Bay area project.
38 And this is a project that BBNA and Subsistence Division
39 are working on together cooperatively. And Laura already
40 gave a good overview of this project.

41

42 And I guess the one thing that she
43 mentioned to maybe add is that, you know, there's four
44 communities that were selected as a good sample for
45 Bristol Bay. And we've been to Nondalton, and they've, I
46 think, given, you know, their tentative approval for us
47 to continue to work in that community, but we still need
48 to -- and BBNA is planning trips to the other villages
49 that Fish and Game will participate in also to present
50 the project to them, and then get their approval. So

1 that's that project.

2

3 I've got four other projects I just
4 wanted to give you updates on, and then if you have
5 questions.

6

7 And Laura also already gave you an
8 overview of the non-salmon fish harvest and traditional
9 knowledge in Togiak, Manokotak, and Twin Hills. The
10 freshwater fish project is what I usually call it for
11 short. And this has come up in some of the other
12 discussions. And it's a project that, you know, you gave
13 your approval to, and now it goes to the Federal
14 Subsistence Board, and if they, you know, approve the
15 project, then the funding will be available, and that
16 project will start later, next year.

17

18 The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee
19 Council funding, we did that project. I guess I've given
20 you've brief overviews on that before, but that was
21 comprehensive surveys in the three Chignik communities,
22 and Perryville. And we're going to have a review meeting
23 here October 12th and 13th in Anchorage. And this is
24 also, you know, working with BBNA, and BBNA hired people
25 in some of those communities to actually enter the data
26 from the survey forms. And so there's going to be this
27 review meeting, and some people will be in from the
28 villages and BBNA representatives will be there also.
29 And then the final report for that is due to be out in
30 January of 2005. And that survey was for the 2003 year,
31 you know, so it was all resources that were harvested in
32 those four communities, documented through household
33 surveys.

34

35 And I recently hooked up with the
36 Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission. They had a
37 teleconference. And there were some questions that came
38 up at that meeting about, you know, some of this data
39 could help answer some questions. And also for some
40 issues that Boris has brought up with subsistence harvest
41 for Perryville. Those will be documented for one year in
42 there, so, you know, we'll be able to look at that and
43 see what, you know, the harvest of salmon and caribou,
44 moose, you know all resources.

45

46 And then the other project, migratory
47 birds. This is something BBNA is also working on, and
48 it's some surveys that have been done for a number of
49 years, but there were some changes in the funding, and
50 previously Fish and Game, this was, you know out of

1 Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and
2 Subsistence Division hadn't been involved in these
3 surveys, but there were some changes, and I don't know
4 all of -- or can't tell you all of the history of that,
5 but anyway, the Subsistence Division, we'll be, you know,
6 compiling the data from those surveys, and this is
7 something new. Previously it was done by Fish and
8 Wildlife Service. And we're also involved in some
9 surveys that are going to be set up for the Chigniks,
10 three Chignik communities, Perryville and Port Heiden.
11 And that will be starting here pretty soon.

12
13 And then the last project that's going to
14 be coming up early this coming year, I think it was
15 scheduled for January or February, and that's a
16 cooperative agreement that the Subsistence Division has
17 with the National Park Service, and it's to conduct
18 comprehensive subsistence harvest assessments for both
19 Port Alsworth and Nondalton, and that's still in the
20 planning stages, but that's something that will be coming
21 up.

22
23 And, you know, just based on some of the
24 previous discussions here, these -- you know, these
25 projects can provide subsistence harvest data to this
26 Council, and to other people that are interested, and
27 it's something that's, you know, Subsistence Division has
28 been doing for a long time. BBNA's been involved in this
29 process for along time also.

30
31 So that concludes my report, unless
32 there's any questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Any questions.
35 Yeah.

36
37 MR. ABRAHAM: Ted, have any people
38 working on the regulations on barter and trade?

39
40 MR. KRIEG: Well, we haven't worked on
41 them. But this project came about, you know, because of
42 requests by, you know, this Council had discussed this,
43 you know, this issue, and it's come up.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we've answered
46 this issue.

47
48 MR. KRIEG: Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We laid it out there

1 and gave it to the Feds. And that's the same question I
2 was going to ask. Have you come up with a dollar amount
3 for the State of Alaska, or does the State of Alaska not
4 do that? Because we had a dollar amount that we put down
5 for this Council.

6
7 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. I can't answer that at
8 this point, but.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, we had an argument on
13 a dollar amount for, you know, per household and stuff
14 like that. And, you know, I think it went down to -- in
15 Bristol Bay, I think it went down to about 400 per
16 household.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 300 to 400, yeah. 300
19 in, \$400 I think out of the region.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, but there's, you
22 know, another question that always pops up in the
23 falltime -- or in summertime. When the new teachers come
24 out, you know, from rural areas and stuff -- I mean,
25 urban areas, and they're curious about what we eat and
26 stuff like that. And so they want to buy salmon or
27 caribou, so I advised them is to trade. You know, you
28 buy a gentleman over there, you know, 10 gallons of gas,
29 it will you, you know, salmon. Because, you know, it's
30 quite different from Louisiana and Togiak, and he's out
31 here, you know, cares about what we eat, and finds out he
32 likes salmon. So he's just right away, you know, hey,
33 I'll -- you know, I'll buy \$200 worth of red salmon and
34 stuff, because I've got no equipment to go out with.
35 See, these things pop -- you know, they're surfacing
36 since we start working on these barter and trade over
37 here. You might consider, you know, when you do the
38 regulations, you might consider including some of these,
39 you know. You know, this is not between Native to Native
40 now. It's got to do with Gusuks at the same time now. I
41 mean, it's on-going thing.

42
43 MR. KRIEG: Yeah. We're going to look at
44 exactly -- we'll be contacting you when we get to Togiak,
45 because, you know, that's exactly the type of thing that
46 we're trying to document. And, you know, Subsistence
47 Division and BBNA in this case in this project, and we
48 just document. We're not going to set the regulations.
49 That's going to be up to somebody else. This project
50 came about because when -- you know, there's just

1 questions about actually what does go on, and when people
2 started asking like, well, you know, what is happening,
3 you know, nobody really knew. And, you know, I
4 personally, that's the first time I've heard that
5 information. And that's exactly the type of thing that
6 we're going to try to document, and then there will be an
7 understanding of, you know, of what actually is going on.
8 So that.....

9
10 But, you know, and I'm kind of
11 apprehensive. The regulations, I mean, I think they're
12 pretty clear cut right now the way things stand. But I'm
13 not familiar enough with them just -- you know, I can put
14 something together, you know, on a piece of paper and
15 give it to you that way, and that way, you know, you'll
16 know and I'll know that you're getting the right
17 information.

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The biggest numbers
20 that go on with the barter and trade system is on the
21 State of Alaska lands. You know, there's very few people
22 represented here that live on Federal lands. You live on
23 Federal lands, and you live on Federal land. And, Andy,
24 when you were at Nondalton, you lived on Federal lands.

25
26 MR. BALLUTA: When I was in Nondalton.

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And now you're
29 in Newhalen, Iliamna.

30
31 MR. BALLUTA: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So, you know, it's just
34 all State issues, but this Council went ahead with their
35 dollar amount and said we want the paper trail for law
36 enforcement to follow up on that. And the Feds didn't
37 like that at all, but we insisted that that take place.
38 And if you're going to sell it, there's going to be a
39 paper trail to find out, is this a commercial thing, or
40 are you really doing a subsistence issue here, and our
41 Board is -- this Council is very straightforward on that,
42 just for you new Council members who weren't here when we
43 passed that issue and we took it to the Federal Board.
44 And they didn't like it too well. They wanted one
45 section of all of Alaska to be under one heading of
46 barter and trade. That's not going to happen. Some of
47 these people have got dollar amounts that's unbelievable,
48 which we would not endorse.

49
50 It's going to be 12:30 here shortly, and

1 we'll quit at 12:30, and then the Park Service is mostly
2 represented here next after lunch. I don't know, who are
3 the Park Service people here today?

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chairman, it's 11:30 I
6 think now. Did you want to stop at 11:30?

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're going to stop at
9 11:30 and then be back at noon, and if want to check out
10 of the hotel. I was told you people want to make
11 arrangements for leaving today. We're going to be done
12 here early afternoon, and I want to check out of my hotel
13 and go home. And we only have a few reports left. We
14 have a little more business to do, you know, as a Council
15 we finish up the reports, and we only have a few reports
16 left. We have King Salmon, Lake Clark, Aniakchak, Bureau
17 of Land Management, and then we'll go into some business.
18 So I know we'll have a good report from the Park Service.
19 A committee of one. You can have just as much power as
20 you want on that particular situation.

21

22 So was there any other questions that you
23 had of Craig? I didn't mean for him to leave by the way.
24 Is everybody satisfied with that?

25

26 Shall we go ahead and be back here at
27 1:00 o'clock then? Okay. We're at recess.

28

29 (Off record - 11:24 a.m.)

30

31 (On record - 1:00 p.m.)

32

33 (Andrew Balluta not present)

34

35 MR. EDWARDS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
36 Council members. Mike Edwards, Fish and Wildlife
37 Service, King Salmon field office, fisheries biologist.
38 I'm going to give you a brief update of the subsistence
39 projects our office has been working on, and going to be
40 conducting this fall.

41

42 The first thing I'll talk about, which
43 was the topic of discussion right before break was the
44 customary and traditional trade recording form that the
45 RAC had, this Council had requested. And our office in
46 conjunction with the Subsistence Office and Park Service
47 got together last year after your request and developed a
48 form, got the form developed and got the form issued this
49 summer at the beginning of salmon season with the
50 assistance of ADF&G Subsistence. We used some of their

1 subsistence permit vendors in the Village of Togiak and
2 Ugashik and Pilot Point to issue these recording forms.
3 And we issued a total of five throughout Bristol Bay.
4 One was a phone call out of Ekok to our office, and then
5 the others came out of the Village of Togiak. So the
6 permit was about there, and they're not due back until
7 the first of the year, so we don't know what the amount
8 of cash sales there was occurring, but there were at
9 least five recording forms issued this salmon season. So
10 we'll find out, well, hopefully by the next RAC meeting
11 we'll have the results from this year.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. All right.

14

15 MR. EDWARDS: So any questions over the
16 recording form?

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, this might not have
21 got to do with what -- you know, what you're talking
22 about, but I'd like to know, you know, from King Salmon,
23 your office area, who is doing a king salmon study in
24 Togiak River, because the count.....

25

26 MR. EDWARDS: Who's doing it? The only
27 thing that's being done, our office submitted a proposal
28 to do a mark/ recapture on the Togiak that was rejected
29 -- well, not rejected. The TRC didn't think it was
30 strategic enough importance, and it wasn't approved for
31 funding. We got it approved to the investigation plan
32 stage, and that was as far as it went.

33

34 As far as I know, the only work that's
35 done on Togiak chinook are the State's aerial counts.

36

37 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, yeah, that's -- I
38 mean, especially this summer, they were in a critical
39 because of low water. Because I was over there all
40 summer long and I checked the tributary, I mean where
41 they usually spawn. Some areas, some spawning grounds
42 are dry, or some, you know, that much water. So they
43 were in the river, and the predators, because, you know,
44 shallow, the predators had a good time, you know,
45 catching those king salmon.

46

47 I think when I came yesterday, remember I
48 reported on the sports catch over there. None of the
49 subsistence catch, I guess somebody's counting those over
50 there I hope. And then not only that, there's a lot of

1 incidental commercial catch over there. So we --
2 somebody needs to look at the king salmon stock over
3 there more closely to see how they're progressing. I
4 think we only count about maybe in the neighborhood of,
5 what, 10 to 20,000 in the river.

6
7 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. I think the current
8 estimate of the population size is around 10,000. And
9 again that's based on the aerial survey data.

10
11 Like I said, we submitted a proposal to
12 try to try and get a basin-wide estimate of chinook in
13 the Togiak, and the project made it to the TRC and that
14 was as far as it made it.

15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: Maybe, you know, you guys
17 should submit another proposal.

18
19 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, we will. I mean,
20 we'll be revisiting the list of needs and issues that you
21 have, and then the strategic planning that Steve's
22 talking about. I mean, that's where we get our list of
23 projects that we submit for funding, and the call for
24 that's coming up this winter, so.....

25
26 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

27
28 MR. EDWARDS:the Togiak will be
29 back on the list again, I'm sure.

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: I think the ADF&G tried, or
32 tries, but, you know, they just don't have, you know,
33 money to do it.

34
35 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh. Well, the Togiak's
36 a very -- it's such a huge system. You've got all five
37 species. The State's doing it with the tower, but the
38 tower's way up at the lake, so there's a big lag time. I
39 mean, we did the feasibility study of putting a weir in.
40 It's too big of a system to weir. They tried sonar, but
41 then you had all the problems with species apportionment
42 of the sonar. The wave of the future may be this new
43 Ditson sonar, but it's still kind of in the developmental
44 phase. So if the Ditson works out that they can actually
45 ID species, that would be very applicable on the Togiak.
46 And again that's kind of -- still being developed at this
47 point.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, come on up,
50 Charlotte.

1 MS. WESTING: Charlotte Westing with the
2 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries.

3
4 We did get a complete survey this year
5 for Chinook Salmon on the Togiak drainage, and the goal
6 to see annually is over 10,000, and we, both Tim and I,
7 felt like we saw a good deal more than 10,000 this year.
8 The numbers are still preliminary, but we're thinking
9 it's probably somewhere around 12,000.

10
11 MR. ABRAHAM: See, if I talk enough about
12 salmon species, she'd come out. I was beating here.
13 Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you.

16
17 MR. ABRAHAM: I have -- I was involved
18 with the ADF&G one year, because when ADF&G comes and say
19 there are so many, you know, fish and stuff, you know,
20 the old folks over there don't believe, so I had to be up
21 there, you know, without knowing, I counted just like
22 you're counting. When I gave the number, I was there.
23 So I reported that to elders over there, they believed
24 it. But we need to look at this, you know, chinook
25 salmon more closely.

26
27 But as for tower counting up there, I
28 think there's no worry about it, because when we go like
29 150,000 or even 100,000 up there, well, we know we've got
30 more than 100,000, because of tributaries, you know, but
31 the fish at this time, this summer, were mainly in the
32 main river. You can see, you know, fish everywhere, but
33 not in tributary where they usually hang out. So this
34 year I don't know what's going to happen seven years from
35 now, or six years from now when they do come back. Maybe
36 it will be a different story. I'm never worried about
37 the tower up in Togiak Lake, because it has been, I mean,
38 very healthy.

39
40 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. She knows from the
43 records and stuff. And the people know about it, too.
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else.
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. EDWARDS: Oh, that's just -- I've got
50 a little information on the work down in Perryville we're

1 doing. Steve pointed out again we're going to be doing
2 the aerial surveys, looking at coho escapement in the
3 streams adjacent to, and this year we'll fly the
4 Kametolook and actually get a count on what's down there.
5

6
7 We had the crew, local hires, down there
8 last year trying to do the walking surveys, but high
9 water prevented them from access to a lot of the areas.
10 They did get some counting done in the sloughs near town
11 that they could get to. So we'll be back down there.
12 Those flights will start in the next week or so, as soon
13 as we get into our new fiscal year and have some money
14 again to do some flights.
15

16 And then we'll also -- there was the
17 ADF&G and the EVOS money allowed us this year to do some
18 more tagging of the late run sockeye in the Chignik
19 system. So in conjunction with those Perryville aerial
20 coho surveys, we're going to be tracking these late run
21 sockeye and find out what the run timing is of those fish
22 past the Chignik weir, and see if they're heading up the
23 Clark River, if they're going up to Black Lake. More of
24 the work we did back in 2000 again.
25

26 And other projects, we've got our Big
27 Creek weir project again. That's not really subsistence.
28 It's a base funded project. But the new thing we've done
29 with that this year is we're actually with our underwater
30 video camera, we're counting the fish as they swim
31 through the weir, so the only fish we have to handle are
32 ones we need to get age and sex link data from. And
33 we're also beaming that live, microwave transmission,
34 back to the visitor's center in King Salmon, so visitors
35 coming and going through King Salmon airport can check
36 out the weir at Big Creek, and see the salmon swim
37 through the stream, and that's been a real popular
38 outreach for our office there in King Salmon.
39

40 And that pretty much concludes, unless
41 anyone has any questions.
42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I was wondering
44 if you knew what Federal department is handling the
45 Yantarni research thing that's been going on. It went on
46 last year. They were there it seemingly months on end.
47

48 MR. EDWARDS: We were over there two
49 years ago, and that was part -- that was in conjunction
50 with our Kametolook habitat study. We were using the

1 Clear Creek and Yantarni as the healthy system, measuring
2 the habitat and the adult returns at that system, and
3 then compared that habitat to the habitat we found at the
4 Kametolook, to see if habitat was limiting the Kametolook
5 coho.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, who was there
8 last year, because I flew stuff in, supplies for those
9 guys, and they were there at least three or four months.
10 Until freeze up actually.

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: Three of them?

13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We took them out with
15 snow on their tents. It was -- yeah.

16
17 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, that had to have been
18 us. I may be just confused on my years. Last year may
19 have been the last year, but I thought it was -- I
20 thought we were only there two years ago.

21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that a refuge thing?

23
24 MR. LONS: It's fisheries, and it did
25 operate last year.

26
27 MR. EDWARDS: Last year, yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That answers it.

30
31 MR. EDWARDS: So I'm confused. Sorry.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34
35 MR. EDWARDS: So it was our -- it was the
36 last of our project.

37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That was a big effort.
39 That was, you know. Okay.

40
41 MR. EDWARDS: And anything on the coast
42 there, working with adult coho is very challenging,
43 because of the weather at that time of year.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm amazed that you'd
46 put that much effort into such a small stream.

47
48 MR. EDWARDS: Well, the reason was we
49 wanted to see, that system has a good healthy coho
50 system, so we wanted to get -- with our habitat model, it

1 would tell us, if you got this amount of habitat, you
2 should have this amount of juvenile coho, and that's what
3 we were comparing the two between. So it gave us
4 something to compare the habitat that we found at
5 Kametolook to, what we considered a healthy coho system.
6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought maybe you'd
8 go down to Boris' creek where it only has four or five
9 fish in it.

10
11 MR. EDWARDS: Well, we did. That's where
12 we -- we went to the Kametolook and measured all the
13 habitat in the Kametolook.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That, too. Oh,
16 I see. Yeah. Okay.

17
18 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. So it was a
19 comparison, yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cool. All right.
22 That's okay. Yeah.

23
24 MR. KOSBRUK: On your foot survey there,
25 do you have plans to -- you know, I'm getting information
26 from locals that there's more reds in there than there is
27 silvers. And then the aerial survey's saying that in the
28 early on, early in the season here, this fall I mean,
29 that there was a couple thousand silvers up there. That
30 was not silvers, they were reds.

31
32 MR. EDWARDS: We haven't even done any
33 flying yet this year.

34
35 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, yes, they have. The
36 plane, not you guys.

37
38 MR. EDWARDS: Oh, okay. Yeah. Fish and
39 Game.

40
41 MR. KOSBRUK: But to try to -- you know,
42 the only way, possible way to do that is by foot. And in
43 clear waters. You know, right in Kametolook river there
44 it's kind of hard, but there are tributaries.....

45
46 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

47
48 MR. KOSBRUK:that they go into.
49 One is that Spring Water. That's the main one there.
50 But I'm hearing is that it's mostly reds in there, you

1 know, and to mix them up with silvers in count is --
2 although this year was the best we've seen in silvers in
3 front of the village there.

4
5 MR. EDWARDS: Well, that's good.

6
7 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, it is.

8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the most
10 accurate method of counting, is it aerial or by foot?

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: A weir would be the best,
13 the most accurate but it's not real feasible. I mean,
14 for the -- between the two, you've got as many variables
15 between whether you walk -- if you've got walk, you've
16 got wind, rain, sun, and if you fly.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

19
20 MR. EDWARDS:you've got the same
21 variables. If you walk, you cover less ground, and
22 you're susceptible to high water, which seems to be very
23 prevalent down in that neighborhood in the fall. So at
24 least with the helicopter, if the streams are high, we
25 can at least still count, and we can count more streams
26 than we can walking, so.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Well, there is
29 an effort being made to do that. Do you have another
30 comment, Boris?

31
32 MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, but he's talking
33 about problems in walking. There's different streams,
34 and there's pink salmon in one stream, it's lower.
35 That's the lowest one down there. And then you have
36 Tim's Creek we call.....

37
38 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. KOSBRUK:and that's pinks and
41 dogs. Where the silvers and reds go, that's in the upper
42 end where the spring water comes from.

43
44 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

45
46 MR. KOSBRUK: So that would be no problem
47 walking that. That's not a problem. You can get there
48 on a bike and do that, you know, versus an airplane or a
49 helicopter, whatever.

50

1 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh. I just know that
2 -- I mean, I wasn't the primary investigator. Jeff
3 Anderson was. I know you're familiar with Jeff, Boris,
4 and we had local people on the ground down there, and
5 that was the reports we were getting was they were unable
6 to get across the streams to count everywhere. I mean,
7 they were able to count Three star or Timmy's, Cross
8 Creek Slough, Spring Creek, and Candlefish Slough, so
9 maybe those are the same areas you're talking about?

10
11 MR. KOSBRUK: No, I'm talking about -- I
12 trapped that whole area there, and I know every stream
13 there, you know.

14
15 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

16
17 MR. KOSBRUK: And I could tell you, I
18 walked the whole stream. You know, I just know it. And
19 the best way to count them there to see what species you
20 have, and that's how I get my report. They go in the
21 bank and to look at them. And it's reds and not silvers.
22 And we never had that during my trapping time, I tell you
23 that there was no reds there. But they just starting
24 here the last few years.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that good?

27
28 MR. KOSBRUK: Huh?

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that good?

31
32 MR. KOSBRUK: Oh yeah, we don't mind
33 that. It's just that to mix them up is.....

34
35 MR. EDWARDS: Well, and that's one reason
36 we did go with the helicopter surveys. They're more
37 expensive, but we can fly a lot slower, and it really
38 helps in your identification, so.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, the aerial survey
41 from, you know, the lower Bristol Bay all the way to Lake
42 Clark and Lake Iliamna is worked by ADF&G, and they've
43 done every stream.

44
45 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean, you know, year
48 after year they've done it, so at least they're not going
49 to walk those streams. I mean, they're just going to be
50 aerial type surveys.

1 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else.
4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. sure.
8
9 MR. ABRAHAM: Just a comment. You know,
10 we talked about coho. In Togiak, from the elders, you
11 know, we got knowledgeable elders over there, even though
12 they're not.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we don't have
15 knowledgeable elders?
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You want to have a
20 little debate on that?
21
22 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, a little bit. Yeah.
23 I think in month of July, an old guy says we are going to
24 have a lot of silvers this year, and, remember, I asked
25 you. You know, you even had the record of silvers and
26 stuff. I tell you, you know, we've got some biologists
27 over there, Native biologists, and the knowledge they
28 have impresses. I mean, they may not be right all the
29 time, but, by gosh, so does the biologists, they're never
30 right, 100 percent right. But he said, we're going to
31 have a lot of silvers this fall. Sure enough, you know,
32 we had lots of silvers over there. So I've got to find
33 that guy, or I've got to corner him, or I've got to bribe
34 him, how do you know. And I know a little bit about it,
35 but, shucks, you know, they look at -- they don't look at
36 things this way, you know. They look at everything
37 broad. They use different animals and birds to narrow it
38 down, you know, what they'll tell them.
39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Bribes are
41 good. That will work.
42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Yeah, so if you need
44 to know about cohos, come to Togiak and find out.
45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Dan.
47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, I just want to
49 apologize to the Council for getting back a few minutes
50 late and for missing part of it.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, that's okay.
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: If there's some points that
4 I've missed, maybe we can catch you at a break or
5 afterwards.
6
7 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. The only thing you
8 really missed, Dan, was the discussion of the recording
9 form. If you remember last year, this Council requested
10 a recording form for the tracking of customary sale of
11 subsistence-caught salmon from Federal waters. and we
12 got that out this year. We had them distributed in
13 Togiak, out of King Salmon, out of Port Alsworth, out of
14 Igiugig -- or, excuse me, Pilot Point, and Ugashik, and
15 we issued five permits total. And they won't be due back
16 until the first of the year, so I don't have any other
17 information other than the number of -- not permits,
18 excuse me, forms that we issued.
19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, and that was
21 good, because that's what we wanted as we talked about
22 earlier. And we went to the Federal Board, I mean, you
23 know, the Department of Public Safety came out and sat
24 there with their -- you know, armed and their guns and
25 everything, and said, oh, boy, this is a chore. We said,
26 well, have at it, because we want the record.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'd add my good work,
29 because I felt pretty strong about that recording, too.
30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Absolutely. Yeah.
32
33 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah. I think the hardest
34 part of that whole thing is the enforcement side, because
35 technically the fish have to come from Federal waters,
36 and how, if you're tracking a sale that's happening in
37 Anchorage, you prove where the fish were harvested is
38 beyond me, but I don't have to worry about that.
39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: On, I appreciate their
41 point, but still that's what we wanted, and the Federal
42 Board said yes.
43
44 MR. EDWARDS: Oh, yeah.
45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's good. Okay.
47 Well, thank you very much if there's nothing else.
48
49 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Lake Clark,
2 Katmai National Park and Preserve. And here comes a
3 power broker.
4
5 MS. MCBURNEY: Such as she is.
6
7 (Laughter.)
8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're glad you're here,
10 Mary.
11
12 MS. MCBURNEY: Well, thank you. Yeah, it
13 seems like I'm standing in for about four people I find
14 out, but.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the way to go.
17
18 MS. MCBURNEY: For the record, my name is
19 Mary McBurney. I'm the subsistence program manager for
20 Lake Clark National Park, Aniakchak National Monument,
21 and you can also throw in Katmai and the Alagnak from
22 time to time as well.
23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, we'll give you BLM,
25 too, if you want it.
26
27 MS. MCBURNEY: Yeah. Okay. We'll make
28 that six people that I can represent today.
29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: We're on 96?
31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
33
34 MS. MCBURNEY: I'm just handing out a
35 little bit of information to follow up on some of the
36 conversation that you had yesterday regarding the
37 proposed studies for the FIS study plan for the coming
38 year. And one of the questions that came up was what
39 have we learned from some of this escapement data from
40 the Newhalen counting tower. And it just so happened
41 that before I left, I did stick at least a quick report
42 in my briefcase, not really intending to share it with
43 you, per se, but it seemed really appropriate after
44 yesterday's conversation.
45
46 So what you're getting right now is an
47 escapement estimate summary for the past five years. The
48 FIS program first started supporting the Newhalen
49 counting tower in 2000 I believe. And last year was the
50 last year of funding that we had for that. This year at

1 Lake Clark we kind of cobbled together little bits of
2 milk money and other things that we could pull together
3 from various accounts to keep the counting tower going.
4 So this year's funding we cobbled together from various
5 park funds, which is why we do have some 2004 counts to
6 share with you.

7
8 But the person that I really should be
9 producing today is Dr. Caroline Woody who can certainly
10 answer your questions, which I'm sure you have many, in
11 greater detail, whereas me being a social scientist, I
12 can give you some very rough, glossed over
13 interpretations, but I would be happy to produce Dr.
14 Woody at your next meeting where she can be available to
15 give you a summary of her findings for the past four
16 years. She does have a report out now. And also it
17 would be appropriate perhaps to be talking about some
18 sort of a smolt out-migration proposal as well.

19
20 As long as I'm just touching on the smolt
21 out-migration proposal, one reminder I would like to put
22 out on the table is that Dr. Woody did develop a proposal
23 back in 2000 for a smolt out-migration study for Lake
24 Clark. And.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 2004 was it?

27
28 MS. McBURNEY: Pardon?

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 2004 or 2000?

31
32 MS. McBURNEY: For 2000, so this was four
33 years.

34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay.

36
37 MS. McBURNEY: And so it may be time to
38 pull that one out of the file cabinet and dust it off and
39 see what we might be able to do. While I tried getting
40 ahold of the copy, I know that I have one in my office.
41 Unfortunately as of yesterday and this morning, I
42 couldn't reach anybody that was able to retrieve it for
43 me.

44
45 But if it's the desire of Council to
46 pursue a smolt out-migration study and to reallocate say
47 funds from a whitefish study, which I believe was what,
48 \$77,000, we might be able to in the short term come up
49 with a feasibility study to address how to best go about
50 doing a smolt out-migration program. As I recall, one of

1 the problems that was raised with the initial proposal
2 back in 2000 was that there were questions from the
3 members of the Technical Review Committee about
4 feasibility and what might be the best methodology for
5 counting smolt. So I submit to you that perhaps one
6 appropriate way that we could approach this, if you
7 desire, would be to put together a feasibility study that
8 we could then put on the ground next summer and start
9 taking a look at how to best go about putting a program
10 together, and perhaps make a proposal for '06.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13

14 MS. McBURNEY: All right. Well, let me
15 just draw your attention very quickly back to the
16 escapement estimates, just so I can show you a few of the
17 swell numbers that we've come up with over the years.

18

19 The Department of Fish and Game, Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, a number of different agencies, have
21 counting towers all over the place, and the National Park
22 Service has been running the Newhalen counting tower now
23 for about the past five years. Previous to that it was
24 run off and on by I believe the University of Washington
25 and their program.

26

27 But one of the things that I feel very
28 strongly about regarding this particular counting tower,
29 is that after the fish pass Igiugig and the counting
30 tower down there, we have sort of a gross number of
31 what's made it at least to the top of the Kvichak. But
32 then once all of those fish disburse into the Iliamna
33 system, we have no idea where they go from there. And so
34 having that counting tower on the Newhalen river really
35 is the only way that we have any idea of how many fish
36 are actually making it into Lake Clark. And that the
37 biggest value for me since working with the subsistence
38 program for the Park, is that this is the only way that
39 we can be sure that, number 1, that we're coming anywhere
40 near escapement, which we really haven't.

41

42 And, number 2, that we are getting
43 adequate fish into the system, and that we're also able
44 to meet our subsistence needs. This population of fish
45 is very, very heavily relied upon by the people that live
46 particularly in Nondalton and Port Alsworth, and then
47 certainly downstream once they enter the Newhalen River
48 of the people that live down in Newhalen and Iliamna.

49

50 So what do these numbers tell us? Well,

1 you have actually two sets of numbers here. On the left-
2 hand side are the Kvichak River escapement numbers, and
3 for 2000, 2001, 2, 3 and 4, and then on the right-hand
4 side you have the Newhalen River escapement. If you then
5 skim down to the bottom of the page, you have the
6 cumulative season totals for each year, for each system,
7 the Kvichak and the Newhalen. And then I think in many
8 respects most interestingly the percentage return that
9 the Lake Clark component of the run represented of the
10 entire Kvichak run.

11
12 And this is one of the things that Dr.
13 Woody has also found particularly interesting, is that if
14 you take a look particularly at the years 2001, 2002, and
15 2003, that the fraction that the Newhalen River
16 escapement represented of the total Kvichak escapement
17 was quite significant. Everything from almost up to --
18 you know, from a fifth to almost a third of the run in
19 some cases. This year with five million fish, 5.4
20 million fish coming into the Kvichak, we did have a 5.5
21 hundred thousand escapement into the Lake Clark system,
22 which means that the Lake Clark component this year was
23 about 10 percent of the total run. But in the past, such
24 as in 2002, the Lake Clark system was actually
25 representing up to almost 29 percent of that run.

26
27 One of the other things that Dr. Woody
28 has found over the past five years, and this is also
29 something that has been confirmed with some TEK work that
30 I did about three years ago, looking at freshwater fish
31 utilized by the people of Nondalton is that there now
32 also seems to be a trend where the Lake Clark run is
33 becoming more condensed. The fish appear to be arriving
34 later, they're arriving in a more compact and higher
35 numbers, and then the run appears to be trailing off
36 earlier. And this is something that was also brought to
37 our attention by people in Nondalton in the TEK study,
38 that said that they are -- it's getting more and more
39 difficult to process the fish. They come in such a short
40 period of time that there almost isn't time to put up the
41 fish. You just are working constantly. And that's one
42 change that people have noted, that it isn't as -- well,
43 I don't suppose that going to fish camp was ever
44 particularly leisurely, but that it is a lot harder now
45 to get the fish and to put it up.

46
47 So I just wanted to share that with you,
48 that is the information that the research has revealed.
49 That we have certainly the support of the Regional
50 Advisory Council in funding and supporting the funding

1 for the counting tower. And I also thank you for your
2 continued support on this.

3

4 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Randy.

7

8 MR. ALVAREZ: Mary, yeah, I find this
9 pretty interesting, you know. I heard before that Lake
10 Clark system gets about 10 percent of the total Kvichak
11 run. And this last year kind of showed that, and then
12 again at 2000, but, you know, it was -- I found it
13 interesting that when we were having those failures in
14 the Kvichak system, that the Lake Clark system was
15 managing to get over 200,000, which is more than 10
16 percent of the 2 million that is required for the minimum
17 escapement goal. And I don't know why, but, you know,
18 these numbers show that. And if you look at the last
19 paragraph there, 2004, the Newhalen River escapement, it
20 looks like there's kind of a spike about around the 8th,
21 9th and 10th of July. It shows kind of a spurt there in
22 escapement for Newhalen River, and then it, you know,
23 builds up to there, and then it dies down until you get
24 down towards the 20th of July where there's a few days of
25 good escapement numbers. And it kind of looks to me like
26 for run timing, you could kind of go by how long it takes
27 for the fish to get to the tower when they're going
28 through the Bay you know, a good estimate. but from the
29 looks of things, it's kind of -- the last two years, 2004
30 and 4, there's been a spike around the 8th, 9th, and 10th
31 of July, and then it died down again, and then it picked
32 back up.

33

34 So, you know, I've fished the
35 Naknek/Kvichak all my life. I've fished for over 40
36 years, but, you know, people always said that sometimes
37 the Lake Clark, those fish, some of those fish were Lake
38 Clark fish that were going by early, which, you know,
39 these figures kind of, you know, make that statement
40 sound true, you know. And I find this -- you know, I
41 just want to comment I find this stuff pretty
42 interesting, that it does show that a little bit, you
43 know, that kind of a trend, you know. Although some of
44 those years where there was a problem with escapement, it
45 doesn't really show that in those years. So at least the
46 2001 and 2002, but it seems like for the other years,
47 especially the last couple years, it does show that,
48 so.....

49

50 I think, you know, like you were

1 mentioning that smolt, monitoring smolt out-migration
2 program, you know, it would be good, too, to find out
3 when those smolt, what would -- when they were out-
4 migrating, you know, what part of the Kvichak out-
5 migration were those in also.

6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mary, we have felt that
8 the State of Alaska had just done a terrible injustice to
9 the whole system to have cut down, to have done away with
10 the counting stations, you know. Kvichak is still in
11 place. Who funds the Branch River/Alakanuk? Is that
12 Federal or State?

13
14 MS. McBURNEY: Well, in past years it has
15 been kind of cobbled together between Federal and State.
16 But it sounds as though that the State has been able to
17 find base funding to keep that going. Am I correct in
18 that?

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go to 800,000 to five
21 and half million, somebody's got to come up with
22 something.

23
24 MS. WESTING: Yeah. Charlotte Westing
25 with Department of Fish and Game.

26
27 It sounds as though we'll have our
28 funding reinstated for next year, but as it stands, it
29 was not run by the State in this last year.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think the funding
32 came from the Federal side when it first was instituted.

33
34 MS. WESTING: Yeah, I'm not exactly sure
35 if it was a matching. For a while it was going to be a
36 matching program with Fish and Wildlife and I believe
37 BBSRI. I'm not sure what the ultimate conclusion of
38 funding was on that, but I know it wasn't State.

39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Thanks. Okay.
41 Mary -- you had a question there, Pete.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. You know, in Togiak
44 area where all their -- the refuge area over there, you
45 know, we worked on what you call it TEK, just like you
46 mentioned. There is a history in that area there. I
47 know some of us -- I know he probably knows, but there's
48 a history, untold history there. There's tiny little
49 things that you can put together, you know, find a lot of
50 information to why the, you know, the fish don't return

1 there, or why they don't. Throughout the -- I mean,
2 through working with the people in that region over there
3 where I come from, you know, those elders and some older
4 folks and stuff like you take Kanektok, that's Quinhagak
5 river, I didn't know nothing about that, because I don't
6 live there. And with Goodnews River and Togiak River.
7 We went through the cycles, three cycles, and you put
8 these three rivers together, and you look at a big
9 picture. There's a lot of information that ADF&G or U.S.
10 Fish and Wildlife I mean don't know. A tremendous change
11 in the weather, snow, water affects a lot of these, you
12 know, salmon family or freshwater fish. The information
13 might be right there when looking at I mean the Kvichak
14 and Naknek River, or the tribu -- I mean, the lakes. You
15 never know. It might -- I mean, what you need might be
16 right there in the TEK thing there.

17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's a boat in
19 Bristol Bay called You Never Know.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Oh, yeah?

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. It's a good
24 name. Where are you at, Mary?

25
26 MS. McBURNEY: Well, let's see. Those
27 were a couple of my high points. Otherwise I was just
28 going to quickly go through the report that you do have
29 in your book.

30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

32
33 MS. McBURNEY: Starting on Page 96. We
34 did have two SRC meetings scheduled for prior to this
35 meeting, and unfortunately we were not able to have a
36 quorum for either the Aniakchak or the Lake Clark SRC
37 meetings. But as Ted Krieg mentioned, we were able to
38 have a teleconferenced workshop with the Aniakchak folks
39 that were available. And so we did work our way through
40 the agenda. And Ted and Lem very graciously were on line
41 as we were all kind of hollering at each other through
42 the static, trying to, you know, make sense of what
43 everybody was saying.

44
45 But I think one of the things that we may
46 try doing again that was very successful with the Lake
47 Clark SRC this year, and some of the SRC members are very
48 interested in trying it again, is rather than having a
49 formal meeting where they take action on Federal
50 proposals, the SRC in April convened a meeting that was

1 just strictly a workshop where they gathered people
2 together, similar to what you were just describing, Pete,
3 to get people's observations and thoughts, concerns,
4 particularly about caribou and moose populations in the
5 area. And we had a really nice diverse group of folks,
6 of subsistence users, local residents, representatives
7 from Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, Fish and
8 Game, and people had an opportunity to sit down and talk
9 about what they've seen, and what they've been noticing
10 in terms of scarcity of game in the area, the fact that
11 caribou, for example, even this year have been nowhere
12 near the communities in the Lake Clark region. Not
13 exactly sure where they are at all. And I've been out
14 quite a bit, and I think I could probably count the
15 number of caribou on one hand that I've seen. It's been
16 very scarce.

17
18 So with -- as a result of the workshop,
19 people are interested in getting together on a regular
20 basis to compare notes so to speak. And also to perhaps
21 come up with ideas for studies that might be done in
22 order to address some of these issues regarding
23 populations of moose, caribou, and then also to deal with
24 some of the anticipated impacts that could potentially
25 result from development of the Pebble Creek mine.

26
27 And I think from a policy perspective,
28 one of the most significant things that did come out of
29 this workshop was a discussion of perhaps decertifying
30 the resident zone communities for Lake Clark National
31 Park, and moving more toward a community-based permitting
32 system, which is something that is done under National
33 Park regulations in Section 1344, which is sort of like a
34 Tier II kind of criteria-based eligibility, with the
35 intent being that if there are going to be anywhere from
36 several hundred to maybe a couple thousand new people
37 moving into the region, moving into resident zone
38 communities, that those new people that might be moving
39 in are not instant Federally-qualified subsistence users
40 that can then exploit what are already perceived to be as
41 finite and in some cases scarce game resources. So that
42 is something that we'll probably following up and
43 reporting back to you in the future. It's not going to
44 be a very rapid change. I think it's going to be
45 something that will have to move, you know, in an
46 incremental fashion, but it is something that the
47 communities are very seriously looking at at this point.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mary, we probably could
50 have a little discussion on that, because I think that's

1 pretty important. The Northern Dynasty, the people that
2 were doing the mining, and there's two, three other
3 organizations in there now surrounding that mile and a
4 half area that's been staked out there at Sharp
5 Mountain, and they're in there, and they've take up all
6 the other areas. They have claimed mines now. They
7 claimed, what do you call it, staked out the mines?

8

9

MR. DUNAWAY: Claims.

10

11

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Claims, yeah. They've
12 made the other claims, so there's at least three of four
13 digging in the ground for that. It's a big, big system.
14 And Tom Erwin, the Commissioner of Department of Natural
15 Resources, spoke to the BBNC Board, and told us that he
16 didn't think there was really much potential for any
17 amount of gold there. And I thought that was really
18 interesting, since he's the guy who had built Fort Knox
19 in Fairbanks. And they'll know probably within a year.

20

21

But the thing that is interesting, they
22 have molybdenum, I learned to say that word, molybdenum
23 and copper and gold. So if you have three, you may go to
24 the bank and say, hey, how about \$12 million and we'll
25 get this thing off the ground. They'll probably know
26 within a year if there's going to be a mine.

27

28

But I think in the interim, I think you
29 guys are doing it right. You get your start now, because
30 that year is going to go by so fast, and then you are --
31 and I really wanted to make sure that you mentioned the
32 community zones. Is that what they're called?

33

34

MS. MCBURNEY: The resident zone
35 communities.

36

37

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Resident zone, yeah.

38

39

MS. MCBURNEY: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

40

41

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Did that come
42 out of ANILCA, or where did that come from? How can you
43 guys change it?

44

45

MS. MCBURNEY: Well, it resides in
46 National Park Service regulations. And so Lake Clark
47 National Park has six named resident zone communities,
48 and they're Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Newhalen, Iliamna,
49 Pedro Bay land Lime Village.

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Oh, Lime
2 Village is in that then. Yeah.
3
4 MS. McBURNEY: Lime Village is also in
5 the mix. And, of course, the folks in Lime, they don't
6 really participate in the SRC process too much. I think
7 for the most part there's very little use, contemporary
8 use anyway that is taking place within the preserve or
9 the park.
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
12
13 MS. McBURNEY: But the other communities
14 still use the park and preserve area fairly intensively.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If the biologists are
17 at the mine, the bear, moose, caribou, plants, water, all
18 these people are there this year. They're looking at
19 every system.
20
21 MS. McBURNEY: Right.
22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. So -- yes, sir.
24
25 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman, Mary brought
26 up a pretty interesting point, because I had lunch with
27 some of our managers, and we were discussing eligibility
28 for resident for Tier II, and it sounded like it was
29 pretty vague compared to what they were saying the
30 regulations said about it, but -- and what Mary, you
31 know, was talking about, that it could be pretty well
32 defined, or we could, you know -- because it's going to
33 -- and it is going to be -- it already is a factor or,
34 you know, pretty.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Planes are full going
37 into Iliamna. Every flight.
38
39 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah. You know, it's
40 pretty important right now how -- the criteria of who can
41 hunt those caribou. And it's going to get -- it's
42 probably going to be -- not go away. You know, not only
43 caribou, but maybe fish. So it's probably -- it would
44 probably be a good idea to talk to -- to in the future
45 talk about who's eligible.
46
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, you can --
48 that's your job, and your SRCs will do that, right?
49
50 MS. McBURNEY: Yes. And they're

1 directing me to do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Great.

4

5 MS. McBURNEY: And I'd be happy to work
6 with you as well, Randy, if you'd like to be included on
7 some of the meetings, and if, you know, you've like to be
8 part of the process, you're welcome to help.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Screaming right
11 along.

12

13 MS. McBURNEY: Okay. Let's see. Again
14 Ted mentioned that we will be starting a subsistence
15 harvest survey for Nondalton and Port Alsworth this
16 coming year. And I've been working with Ted, Jim Fall,
17 and his other colleagues at the Subsistence Division, and
18 we're hoping to begin work on that this fall, and wrap
19 things up by next spring.

20

21 One of the things that was kind of neat
22 was I was able to come up with funding to do Nondalton
23 and Port Alsworth. And these two communities,
24 incidently, have not had harvest surveys conducted since
25 1983. So it's very old data that we have been working
26 with for quite some time. And this has been a very high
27 priority to me to get these surveys redone. And Jim
28 Fall got in touch with Northern Dynasty's contractor, who
29 is working on the socio-economic impact portion of their
30 -- I guess their study plan, Steven Braund & Associates.
31 And Steven Braund & Associates is now subcontracted with
32 ADF&G to do the other three communities in the Lake Clark
33 area so that we will actually have all five of the
34 immediate resident zone communities surrounding Lake
35 Clark surveyed at the same time. And I'm really very
36 excited about this, because this is something that it
37 would be incredibly valuable to have all of that time
38 data almost date stamped in the same year whereas right
39 now we have everything spread from 1983 to 1991 and 1996.
40 So I'm really looking forward to working with my
41 colleagues at ADF&G Subsistence Division to make that
42 happen.

43

44 We also had our third group of
45 biotechnician students go through our biotechnician
46 training program this summer, and I'm happy to say that
47 every summer it gets easier. And I'm really looking
48 forward to probably a really easy year next year. This
49 year was funded through the Fisheries Information
50 Service, and their support definitely made for a very

1 good experience for the students. We initially had 10
2 students signed up. Unfortunately, it being a good fire
3 year, three of them opted to go fire fighting. But we
4 did have seven graduates total, and that was with three
5 from Nondalton, two from Port Alsworth, a student from
6 Dillingham, and one young lady from Kwethluk that was
7 just an absolutely outstanding student.

8
9 So next year I'm going to be dialing for
10 dollars, so we'll see what we can come up with for
11 support for next year. It's primarily funding that would
12 support transportation and groceries. We're at the point
13 right now where we have everything else. But I do have
14 one more year of funding though for our cooperative
15 agreement with the Nondalton Tribal Council who provides
16 the space essentially for the camp, and also provides
17 many of the support services to keep it going.

18
19 Very briefly, we've had a couple of on-
20 going studies that the biological division of the park
21 has been conducting, primarily on Dall sheep and winter
22 moose habitat. Right now the data has not been analyzed,
23 so I have no real good preliminary report to give, but
24 hopefully by the spring we'll be able to let you know a
25 little bit about findings regarding populations of Dall
26 sheep in the Lake Clark region.

27
28 And also a report on a study that is
29 taking a look at the quality of habitat and forage in the
30 Lake Clark area to determine why it is that it seems that
31 we have a low density, but fairly stable population of
32 moose. One of the things that was very interesting that
33 I found talking with the principal investigator is that
34 she mentioned that of calf weights, that the weights of
35 the calves that she weighed this spring, were almost
36 twice as large as calves of similar age that she has
37 surveyed in other parts of the state. So opening up some
38 very interesting questions in her mind as far as what may
39 be going on here. We've got some pretty robust calves,
40 there's just not an awful lot of them. And so it will be
41 interesting to find out what we -- where this is leading.

42
43 And, let's see, one of the last things I
44 wanted to mention is that, and this will be a carry-over
45 into your spring meeting, we do have one SRC seat that is
46 appointed by the Bristol Bay RAC that is currently held
47 by Harvey Aneeland (ph), and his tenure expired in
48 November 2002. And repeated efforts to contact him to
49 find out if he's interested in being reappointed, I
50 haven't received any contact back. And we've written

1 letters, and have tried telephoning, and not too much
2 luck. So since the Lake Clark SRC was not able to meet
3 to make any kind of a recommendation to the RAC at this
4 meeting, I would anticipate that they would have a
5 recommendation for the next meeting.

6

7 And that concludes my Lake Clark report.

8

9 The Aniakchak.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe we should see if
12 there's any questions on Lake Clark.

13

14 MS. MCBURNEY: Oh, okay. Any questions?

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's it cost to run
17 that tower?

18

19 MS. MCBURNEY: To run the tower?

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22

23 MS. MCBURNEY: The Newhalen counting
24 tower, I think they've got it down to about 43,000 or
25 44,000.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And that's
28 Federally funded?

29

30 MS. MCBURNEY: It has been Federally
31 funded, yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And, you know,
34 we're not the experts on where the smolt are going to be
35 looked at, if the program goes through, and we would
36 certainly -- we passed the motion, so that's the
37 direction from this Council, and we don't know where the
38 counting is going to be or follow-up program, or what
39 took place when they left until they start heading back.
40 So we're going to need some direction from the experts on
41 what -- where and how to do this. Probably at our next
42 meeting. Yes.

43

44 MR. ALVAREZ: You're not an expert.

45

46 MR. EDENSHAW: I'm not an expert, right,
47 but I can.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let's ask Peter, he
50 knows what an expert is.

1 MR. EDENSHAW: But I could add some
2 insight into, you know, what the Council's motion, that
3 Robert said he would leave it up to the experts. And I
4 believe part of the criteria the Board, the Federal
5 Subsistence Board, said that they will fund projects, FIS
6 projects, and from the look of the smolt project, that
7 some of those smolt are going to go off of Federal
8 waters, so that will be something for you to wrestle to
9 the Board with in terms of the recommendation of the
10 Council.

11
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, it's going to
13 come off of Federal waters.

14
15 MR. EDENSHAW: And, you know, as one of
16 the criteria said that they wouldn't fund projects off of
17 Federal waters, but that's something that you can.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert could leave it
20 up to the experts, but we want to know when they leave
21 Federal waters and that, and they meet that beluga at
22 Levelock. I mean, these are all things that need to be
23 part of the puzzle.....

24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:or else it's not
28 going to bring them back. We can count how many smolts
29 goes out, but what happens to them? Where do they
30 disappear to? Why don't they have a return? We haven't
31 had a harvest in five years. So that's the bottom line.
32 Yes.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair, I think some of
35 what Mary brought up earlier about pulling that old
36 proposal off the shelf on smolt would probably be a place
37 to start. And to me it sounds like a good place, plus
38 just kind of looking at maybe an interim feasibility
39 exploration. And it might be that they'll need to come
40 back to us and explain either why they can't do it, or
41 what constraints they have. I did talk to Steve a little
42 bit after the meeting last night.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. And I know
45 Steve was looking for input, too.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: And, yeah, I think we're
48 all looking for more information.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: And that sounds like a
2 reasonable, to me, place to start on it, but I am
3 concerned. It would be interesting if we see lots of
4 smolt heading out of Lake Clark, but not showing up in
5 the Bay or, so.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's the bottom
8 line, you know. You can do a study all you want, but
9 like Dr. Caroline Woody says, you get about two to three
10 years consistency, and you've got a scientific fact, and
11 that's what we're looking for. And so that's just a
12 thought, Mary.
13
14 MS. McBURNEY: Sure.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's probably not your
17 problem, but it gets to be.....
18
19 MS. McBURNEY: Well, it always ends up
20 being my problem though.
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: You're in the hot seat.
23
24 MS. McBURNEY: But, you know, if you do
25 go back.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're going to blame
28 you if it doesn't work.
29
30 MS. McBURNEY:to the numbers that I
31 also gave you, that, you know, as Randy was observing,
32 there's several years though where obviously those Lake
33 Clark fish are surviving better than a lot of those that
34 are, you know, heading into the Iliamna system.
35
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. See, we can't
37 jump into the Iliamna system, because the Federal lands
38 are too far back. I mean, the streams that go into
39 Iliamna are Federal lands up in the Pile Bay area, Pedro,
40 and all those areas, the tributaries, but we certainly
41 can at Lake Clark lately.
42
43 Pete, did you want to make a comment?
44
45 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Did you mention Dall
46 sheep?
47
48 MS. McBURNEY: Yes.
49
50 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. You know, according

1 to some elders in Togiak area, I don't know whether the
2 Dall sheep or other kind of sheep in Togiak Mountains
3 over there. I think the people that usually see them
4 over there will see the tail end of the animals over
5 there. Our refuge pilot and -- oh, Andy, yeah, came in
6 the other day, and we talked about it a little bit, and
7 talked about reintroducing them to that region over
8 there. And I have kept -- you know, keep coming back,
9 you know, what if we were to reintroduce, you know, Dall
10 sheep or the other sheep in that region, because that's
11 -- I think that's a good habitat over there for them.
12 There are some people that used to see them over there,
13 you know, that reason. In fact, people over there used
14 to come to Iliamna Lake and stuff, and they'll talk about
15 the stories of Dall -- you know, sheep from over there.
16 And that's how long they used to travel. But over there,
17 I believe there used to be sheep over there, around
18 Togiak Lake and all that area there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along that same line
21 you know, if Andy doesn't watch it, we're going to take
22 those caribou back from the Nushagak Peninsula and put
23 them back on the Alaska Peninsula, too, you know.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I've been thinking
28 about that all day. That might be a motion before it's
29 all done.

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Mary, do you
34 want to go ahead?

35
36 MS. McBURNEY: Okay. Well, the last item
37 I just wanted to mention is that at the last RAC meeting,
38 the Aniakchak SRC did dedicate a bronze plaque to Tom
39 O'Hara commemorating his service to the SRC and to the
40 people of Bristol Bay. And that's now in the
41 headquarters office at King Salmon.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, a very nice
44 plaque. I've seen it. Yeah. It was much appreciated.

45
46 MS. McBURNEY: And that concludes my
47 report, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's for Aniakchak as
50 well?

1 MS. McBURNEY: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.
4
5 MS. McBURNEY: It's very brief for
6 Aniakchak.
7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So then we are -- okay.
9 All we have left is Bureau of Land. Any more questions
10 for Mary?
11
12 (No questions)
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mary, thank you for
15 your.....
16
17 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Jeff, tell us if you
20 found a bunch of timber or some gold.
21
22 MR. DENTON: Or somebody else. My name
23 is Jeff Denton. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm with Bureau
24 of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office.
25
26 And our activities are fairly limited in
27 Bristol Bay this last year, because of the acceleration
28 of the land conveyance program. That's where most of
29 BLM's efforts have been concentrated in Bristol Bay this
30 last year. Bristol Bay is one of the front end regions
31 to get the conveyances settled and the Native allotments
32 settled and all this, so that's where the primary
33 effort's going.
34
35 Relative to subsistence, however, we do
36 have -- we have just begun a land use planning effort for
37 the Bristol Bay area, and Goodnews Bay areas. And
38 subsistence has preliminarily been identified as one of
39 the major issues, especially the -- the reasons why this
40 land use plan has been actually put on an accelerated
41 schedule is this administration has a high interest in
42 basically lifting the withdrawals for mineral development
43 all through Bristol Bay. Since ANILCA it has actually
44 been withdrawn from mineral entry. That's claims and
45 development and so on with minerals. And this
46 administration has a very high interest in getting all
47 those mineral withdrawals lifted. And part of this
48 incentive is the Pebble Creek Mine project and the
49 extension of infrastructure that will be required for
50 development of that. That's haul roads, like the folks

1 from the Park were saying, maybe a large increase in
2 population, that even for the Park's, for the Park's
3 portion, they may be able to control the Federal
4 subsistence there. However, other Federal lands, they
5 are still -- all those folks would be eligible Federal
6 subsistence users. And the only other Federal lands in
7 the region that would be close to them are all BLM lands,
8 and so they may take a tremendous amount of increased
9 pressure potentially, because that would be the closest
10 lands available.

11
12 So there may be some issues associated
13 relative to subsistence, relative to mineral development.
14 We've had high interest in mineral development
15 exploration. In fact, we've had several projects in
16 other areas of Bristol Bay in the last year other than
17 the Pebble Creek thing actually on BLM and State selected
18 lands. There's been a lot of interest and a lot of
19 drilling activity occurring right now. So Pebble Creek's
20 not the only interest area. And Goodnews Bay is one of
21 primary interest, because it's a very highly mineralized
22 area.

23
24 So the winds of change may be blowing
25 here, and we're trying to get a little bit ahead of the
26 curve with this planning, so I encourage you folks with
27 the Federal RACs here to go back to the villages, and
28 when you talk to people, be sure they get involved in the
29 scoping process. We're going to have a rather rigorous
30 hopefully public input process. We're going to go to a
31 lot of the villages out there, but folks need to know if
32 they have subsistence concerns, particular areas of high
33 use or high interest that they feel need protection, they
34 need to bring those things up right then and there. This
35 may be the one shot they have at it. So I can't
36 emphasize enough, be involved and be specific on areas
37 you want to keep and resources you want to keep and so
38 on.

39
40 And I think a lot of you know Pat
41 McClanahan. BLM has actually hired her to coordinate
42 this Bay area plan. And she's.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She's knowledgeable.

45
46 MR. DENTON: Yeah. And I think she -- I
47 can trust her to probably do a very good job of getting
48 the public input. But it's -- I'm just trying to
49 emphasize to keep it right up front, because this
50 dictates how BLM will manage lands for probably the next

1 at least 10 years. And again mineral development is on
2 the platter in a big way with this administration,
3 so.....

4
5 Other things BLM has been involved in,
6 again we continue to be part of the inter-agency
7 coordination effort with Mulchatna caribou management,
8 both manpower-wise and dollars-wise to help that synergy
9 of all the agencies together trying to pool their
10 resources to do the monitoring and get the information
11 necessary on a caribou herd that large. And that's
12 probably one of the major efforts.

13
14 Somebody asked about predator control in
15 the McGrath area, how that went and so on and so on. I'm
16 slightly associated with that, because I also am the
17 biologist in that area for BLM. And as was said, the
18 bear removal has made a fairly significant difference in
19 calf mortality. And the jury's really still out on those
20 calves that survive to the beginning of winter, what the
21 wolf related mortality is, and what the survivorship
22 there is. Their effort up there was not real successful
23 last winter. They didn't take very many wolves. And
24 they're repeating that this year, but they're expanding
25 those areas a considerable amount.

26
27 And BLM lands are somewhat different than
28 parks and refuges, because the BLM lands, if the Fish and
29 Game meets the criteria and exceptions to the Airborne
30 Hunting Act, BLM lands are open. In fact, those control
31 efforts occur on BLM lands in the McGrath area now. So
32 as a -- we're always a little different I guess with BLM.

33
34 If there's any questions folks have
35 relative to BLM management and what's going on, you know,
36 please don't hesitate to ask them. I may not have the
37 answers, but I'll get them for you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

40
41 MR. ABRAHAM: Just, you know, a common
42 question. You know, him and I, you know, he's got the
43 thing to do with me over here. When I'm in Bethel, I eat
44 blackfish.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

47
48 MR. ABRAHAM:and seal oil. Yeah,
49 he's never forgotten about that.

50

1 I've got a question. I think last year
2 the people in Goodnews Bay were very nervous about
3 somebody, you know, camping up -- they thought it was in
4 the corporation land, or in the refuge. I think he said
5 around March I think. Found out he was camping in BLM
6 section there. I think he go to Togiak -- I mean,
7 Goodnews River, and then Middle Fork and goes up and
8 right. Head of Ozviak (ph) area somewhere there. Nobody
9 ever found out what he was doing there. Somebody brought
10 him over there with snow machine and left him there, and
11 one day he was gone. So people had a lot of questions,
12 and what -- you know, what was he doing there, and
13 somebody said looking for gold and looking for brown
14 bear. Nobody ever found an answer.

15
16 MR. DENTON: We didn't either. We had
17 heard about him, and, of course, it's public land. I
18 mean, you can go out there and you can camp, and you can
19 do things that don't require permits on it anytime, you
20 know, you want to. So -- I mean, we don't control
21 everything that happens out there by any means.

22
23 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, the reason why, you
24 know, they were nervous about it, because he was bringing
25 a whole bunch of equipment, you know, two-by-fours, and
26 tents and bear fence, and I flew back and forth there. I
27 never did see a person there, but you know, a tent
28 and.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What kind of -- he
31 brought heavy equipment in there?

32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: No, no, no, but, you know,
34 the active -- you know, shovels and things like that.
35 But nobody ever did find out what they were doing there
36 -- I mean, what he was doing there. And one day he
37 disappeared. He was gone. No tent, no fence, no
38 nothing. Maybe lots of gold.

39
40 MR. DENTON: Well, maybe.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, at least he didn't
43 leave a lot of garbage like some guys do.

44
45 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Well, no garbage out
46 there.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, good.

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: If he cleaned up after
2 himself.

3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Take it all out.

5
6 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Several things,
9 Jeff. One thing is our native corporation, I'm on a land
10 committee for the BBNC. I'm on the BBNC board, and I'm
11 also on the land committee, and to me that's probably the
12 number 1 thing that I'm interested in is the land
13 committee. And we have, as you know, our native
14 corporation is way ahead of the rest of the native
15 corporations in Alaska to getting all of our lands taken
16 care. It's pretty much all done. And we're really happy
17 about it, and we're continually working on any times
18 there's a conflict with a native allotment, and you guys
19 come to us and say, what do you think, we're always going
20 to favor that allottee. And that's worked out really
21 well.

22
23 And we have asked the oil companies to
24 come in to do exploratory work on BBNC land, and not on
25 -- it's not going to do us any good to put it on your
26 land or State land, or -- it's going to have to -- we
27 want it on our land. And so the big companies aren't
28 interested in coming in, but the mid level ones are.
29 They're not busy right now. And there's way more oil on
30 the North Slope and Arabia and other places, Africa, than
31 there is in Bristol Bay.

32
33 But this energy thing has to come in,
34 because we can't afford \$5 a gallon for fuel. And then
35 you can't even get fuel into Stu and Ekwok now and
36 Koliganak. You have to fly it in. Thanks to State of
37 Alaska with 3500-foot runways, you know. They should
38 have done 5500. And we're working on that, too.

39
40 So there's been really aggressive
41 exploratory work taking place down near Chigniks, that
42 area, for oil and gas and mining on our lands. And we've
43 had them go down there.

44
45 So one of the people we always look at is
46 BLM. I mean, BLM is a friend of our corporation.
47 They've done a good job helping us out. And so when
48 those -- and the minute Murkowski became Governor, we
49 went right to him and said, hey, we want Bristol Bay to
50 be your number 1 priority, and he made it number 1

1 priority. And it will be.....

2

3 MR. DENTON: I know DNR has a high
4 interest in coal methane development, and I don't know
5 what kind of coal reserves there are out there at all.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, man, Chigniks has
8 got some beautiful coal, but.....

9

10 MR. DENTON: But they're looking at that
11 for energy for villages, you know, not a commercial sort
12 of development, but for actually energy for villages.
13 But it's a very high impacting sort of development, so
14 walk into that with caution, but.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Our policy, no net loss
17 of fish and game, and.....

18

19 MR. DENTON: Right. And that's real
20 critical, that you need to communicate that very loudly.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That is the law. I
23 mean, that is the law. We didn't object to offshore
24 drilling of Bristol Bay. As long as there's no net loss
25 of fish, you know. They wanted to put a hydro plant in
26 up at Tazimina. We said, no way you can do that, because
27 you're going to impact fish.

28

29 MR. DENTON: Right.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So we're -- the sockeye
32 is the number 1 priority in our corporation, because
33 everything lives off the sockeye. It's driven all of
34 Bristol Bay. All the predators are sockeye driven.

35

36 MR. DENTON: Yeah, that's very
37 commendable.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And so that is
40 one of the things that happens there.

41

42 But this committee in relationship to the
43 Federal Board, since we deal with, you know, Sharp
44 Mountain up there, and believe me when a commissioner
45 comes and talks to our Board, BBNC Board, and a mining
46 company sits down with us for a couple hours, there's a
47 reason for that.

48

49 And Tom Erwin said the key for Mary and
50 some of the other land managers that are in the Lake

1 Clark/Bristol Bay area, is you've got to walk with us on
2 a shut-down policy if something happens. If all these
3 other studies show any change, there has to be a shut-
4 down policy on that mining. Absolutely the law. So the
5 lower Talarik or over there at the Kaktolik start getting
6 affected, shut her down. And that's pretty important
7 that we hear that.

8

9 MR. DENTON: Uh-huh. Well, that kind of
10 input is what we need for these land use plans, too.
11 That kind of, you know, those concerns and those kinds
12 of, you know, things that you guys want, need to be, if
13 we can, incorporated in, because.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Into the policy. It's
16 going to have to be the policy.

17

18 MR. DENTON:as a policy or whatever
19 for the agencies as well, but it comes from a public
20 input thing, from you folks. And that's what's real
21 critical. We can't generate this on our own. It's got
22 to come from the public for it to become an issue.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Rumor has it that these
25 mining guys are real nice. It's a 50-year plan, and the
26 last 10 years they get really nasty, and that's when the
27 damage gets done. And that is just the way those people
28 operate, because, you know, we've seen the record.
29 Randy.

30

31 MR. ALVAREZ: What?

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you've got your
34 hand up. Well.....

35

36 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, you know, maybe I've
37 been looking the wrong direction, because like, you know,
38 he says about, you know, fuel going up in price all the
39 time, you know, just higher, and then quantity, I don't
40 know, it's going to go down I guess later on.

41

42 I introduced a hydro project over there
43 several years ago and it died, a small hydro plant. I
44 have right now trying to re-open it again in our -- you
45 know, near our place over there, because the way things
46 are going right now, we won't be able to afford to heat
47 our homes with the fuel oil any more. The hydro plant is
48 the next thing that will heat your home, lights,
49 everything like that. But I've just got to make the
50 people understand what's behind it.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're making enemies
2 really fast.
3
4 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, maybe I've been
5 looking at the wrong direction.
6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're looking in the
8 wrong direction. Okay. Thank you very much, Pete.
9 Appreciate that. Any -- yeah, go ahead.
10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just going to ask Mr.
12 Denton, now, at this time are there any -- of this land
13 planning, are there any public meetings scheduled for
14 Dillingham, where and where?
15
16 MR. DENTON: Yeah, over the next year.
17 In fact, you folks are supposed to be on the mailing
18 list, and I'll confirm that again with Pat, but I have
19 before. You folks are on the list, and there should be a
20 schedule of when these meetings are going to occur, and
21 they'll occur sometime in the next 12 months. But there
22 are several phases to these plans. They take place over
23 a two to three-year period. But the up-front scoping is
24 one of the front end things, and that's supposed to occur
25 here in the next year. And I know there's a meeting
26 scheduled for Dillingham. I believe one in King Salmon,
27 Levelock. There's I think 10 different communities that
28 we're actually going to go to and actually try to
29 solicit, you know, input and so on and so forth, so.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nanci.
32
33 MS. MORRIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.
36
37 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Denton, I guess I got --
38 from what I'm hearing from you, it's starting to roll
39 around in my head, and I guess I would ask you, would it
40 -- I don't know how feasible it would be, and I don't
41 know that maybe we shouldn't take a look, Mr. Chairman,
42 at possibly putting together some sort of baseline type
43 position that we would have for our areas when it comes
44 to development so that perhaps the same questions would
45 not be asked of us again and again, and we could start
46 off from a baseline area, somewhat of a -- kind of like a
47 management plan for companies that are coming in. I
48 mean, if this is something that this is being pushed, and
49 we know that we're looking at meeting up with the
50 possibility of several operations within the upcoming

1 year, it might save us some time and energies by
2 instituting something.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Cliff can help me with
5 this, and, Jeff, if you want to jump in, too, but I
6 think, you know, I don't think there's going to be --
7 maybe on refuge lands development will take place. I
8 know the Park Service, you know, I'm surprised that they
9 let those guys kill those little animals up there in Lake
10 Clark National Park to look at whatever they were looking
11 at, and skin them out. My goodness. How barbaric can
12 you be in such a park, you know.

13

14 MR. ALVAREZ: You mean Katmai?

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Katmai, yeah. Anyway,
17 that was pretty interesting, yeah. Now, the refuge
18 people, you're a different type of animal, aren't you?

19

20 MR. LONS: A little.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: A little different. I
23 mean, you can mine in there, and you can do -- oh, no?
24 Oil?

25

26 MR. LONS: Well, it's possible, but not
27 without changing our management plan.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. But so then,
30 that's -- Nanci, that is a good point. Everything is
31 developing with what BLM is talking about. Now, this is
32 all State lands. And the reason that that mine probably
33 is going to be successful, because there's no Federal
34 permitting. And they're just happy about that.

35

36 MR. DENTON: That's right. Except for
37 infrastructure, haul roads or things like that that may
38 cross say BLM or other Federal lands. And that's likely.
39 Some of the proposals we're hearing actually are
40 proposing some haul roads through some very critical
41 habitats.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. To answer back
44 to Nanci's comment, which is a good one, and I hope
45 you're listening, Cliff, because your day's work is not
46 done. Some of these plans are to be put into place for
47 Pebble Beach are things that we could pick up on and look
48 at as far as policy goes on the long-term basis as far as
49 management goes, because if you don't, you know, and they
50 put the road in, and then they extend it on down to

1 Igiugig, there goes the neighborhood.
2
3 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah.
4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right out of -- you
6 know, the parasites in Anchorage will be at Ugashik -- I
7 mean in -- who's from Anchorage, by the way? I didn't
8 think you'd want to raise your hands. Be in Igiugig with
9 their Winabagos cooking fish with Randy.
10
11 MR. ALVAREZ: As long as they put a toll
12 gate right there.
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: My native allotment's
15 going to -- they're going to go through that, so --
16 anything more?
17
18 MR. DENTON: That's all I've got.
19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Things have
21 changed a little bit on energy and what BLM's happening,
22 it's.....
23
24 MR. DENTON: Oh, yeah. Right. It.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:a whole new ball
27 game going on out there.
28
29 MR. DENTON: A new administration, the
30 ball game changes.
31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. That's right.
33 Okay. I guess -- did you have.....
34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'll just -- it kind
36 of brings up a point, is some time ago there was some
37 group of folks out of Anchorage that put out a lot of
38 their own personal expenses and came out to here and King
39 Salmon and Iliamna, trying to get a unified effort on
40 creating a -- I think they were going to call it a
41 reserve on the six million acres of land in the Mulchatna
42 drainage. And for a while some of the communities were
43 pretty supportive, and then the rural communities, the
44 support kind of faded away. I think Robert and Robin,
45 too bad they're not here, they were more involved with
46 it, but sometimes then I see some of these other things
47 lurking, or no longer lurking, but actually getting out
48 in the middle of the road.
49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm kind of regretting,
2 maybe we hadn't got -- joined hands with some of the
3 Anchorage forces at that time to stake out some of that
4 country. But here we are.

5
6 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, I can -- I'll give
7 you a little information on that. I was on the advisory
8 committee, when I first got on there, we -- originally
9 like you said, we were part of it, but then after -- we
10 come to find out after more and more information that
11 that six million acres was mostly around Iliamna Lake and
12 down towards King Salmon. And we had entities from all
13 over the State, you know, as far as Anchorage, trying to
14 get involved in that management. And although almost all
15 the land was probably in the Kvichak drainage and down
16 towards Naknek, we would have had a lot more people
17 having a say so on how we did things. Because all this
18 -- most of this land was around us, and we decided we
19 didn't want any more, so dealing with the joint Boards of
20 Fish and Game, we convinced them that we didn't want that
21 any more. So they decided, well, since not everybody was
22 in consensus, they didn't want to deal with it.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I was under the
25 impression it was more up in the Mulchatna drainage and
26 such, so.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, it came.....

29
30 MR. DUNAWAY:appreciate the
31 information.

32
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:all the way down
34 the river, and all the way across and, you know, boy,
35 that really was quite a big movement when it first
36 started, and then they found out that the players were
37 starting to change.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

40
41 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, because I think they
42 were trying to make -- some people out of Anchorage
43 jumped on board. It might have been where it originally
44 started from. It turned it into a big park so that
45 they'll have some place to go out and play. And they'd
46 have a say in it, and anything that happened in all that
47 six million acres, and most of it was around Iliamna Lake
48 from Lake Clark over towards Mulchatna, all the way down
49 to King Salmon.

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And on Nushagak, yeah.
2
3 MR. ALVAREZ: Down behind Levelock.
4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nushagak.
6
7 MR. ALVAREZ: But I think it was kind of
8 follow the Rich, behind Levelock where the drainage
9 drained towards Kvichak, where the boundary line was, and
10 although we would have had -- we would have -- it would
11 have been mostly in our area, or the area that our
12 advisory committee represented, we would have had
13 probably only a quarter of the say, which in the long run
14 we didn't think we would have had any management. We
15 would have had, you know -- we would have lost control.
16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else.
18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I appreciate the
20 info. Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
23
24 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Before Jeff goes, and, you
29 know, Nanci raised some points, and just for my own -- in
30 terms of what the Council's going to do, Jeff, when you
31 mentioned that Pat's -- that they're going to do scoping
32 meetings. When I hear scoping, I immediately think of an
33 EA and EIS. Is that what BLM's going to do?
34
35 MR. DENTON: Yeah. When we do a land use
36 plan, it's accompanied by an EIS.
37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: An EIS. Okay.
39
40 MR. DENTON: It's a major Federal action.
41
42 MR. EDENSHAW: So that's just what -- you
43 know, in terms of the Council, so they'll be.....
44
45 MR. DENTON: Right.
46
47 MR. EDENSHAW:should be developing
48 some alternatives in terms of, is this in relation to the
49 mine and the impact?
50

1 MR. DENTON: Well, this will be for all
2 things that BLM does out there, whether it's OHV or off
3 road vehicles, off highway vehicle management,
4 subsistence management, wildlife management, habitat, the
5 things we'll do, you know, mining, oil and gas, all those
6 things. All these -- everything that BLM does and
7 permits. Outfitters, transporters, the whole -- I mean,
8 it covers the whole spectrum of what BLM does on these
9 lands. So it's fairly a large over-riding sort of plan.

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If there are no further
12 questions, we thank you very much, Jeff, for coming
13 before us.

14
15 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And we'll take a 10-
18 minute break, but when we get back, we're going to go
19 right through the business part of this Council and be
20 out of here in 20 minutes. Okay?

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. We are down to
27 charter review.

28
29 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
30 the Council members would look on Page 98. 98, 99 and
31 100. This is here is the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
32 Council charter, and basically it just outlines what this
33 Council does and its membership, and at this time
34 there's an opportunity for the Council to make any
35 changes to this charter. And currently what the Council
36 may do in regards to changing their charters, they may --
37 the Councils may request changes to the Council name,
38 membership size, how they conduct SRC appointments, and
39 criteria for removing a member. And then, you know, once
40 the council puts forth those recommendations, the Federal
41 Board will take it up at their meetings. For instance,
42 they would likely take it up at the January fisheries
43 meeting. And these charters are renewed every two years.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members, do you
46 see anything there that you want changed, or do you want
47 to add something to it?

48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

50

1 MR. ALVAREZ: That's a no.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Somebody second that?
4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: Ee-ee. (In Yup'ik)
6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Doy.
8
9 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We need an
12 interpretation, Pete.
13
14 MR. KOSBRUK: That part I understand.
15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: I read through it
17 yesterday, and.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're happy?
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I liked it. Yeah, so
22 no change. The way it is is good enough.
23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Unless, Nanci, this
25 would be the chance, or, you know, if you want to see
26 what you think about, or initiate it. You can certainly
27 make a recommendation, unless it's too early.
28
29 MS. MORRIS: Well, Mr. Chair and other
30 Council members, I had talked at the break a little bit
31 with Dan and Mr. Chair himself about the possibility of
32 this being the tool that a person could use to institute
33 some form of baseline of where the Council, as possibly a
34 subsection, or an addition to the charter for what we
35 stood for as far as the lands within our operating area,
36 and our position on development, and that sort of thing.
37 And I guess I would pose that to you, Cliff, as far as
38 how you would feel.
39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The initiation point,
41 Cliff?
42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: I wouldn't use the
44 Regional Council charter as a springboard for the
45 Council's position on mineral, lands, any kind of
46 development, period.
47
48 MS. MORRIS: I guess I would feel like it
49 should be something that we stood for, and this is
50 supposed to be what we stand for is this charter,

1 correct?

2

3

4 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, I think -- and I
5 don't have any extra copies of this, but under the
6 Regional Advisory Council, you know, if you look under
7 your operations manual, and under number 2 here, because
8 FACA limits -- and I'll go ahead and read from Page 34
9 what I have in front of me here is that the Federal
10 Subsistence Board -- let me start over, because FACA
11 limits the term of advisory committees to two years, the
12 Secretaries must renew Regional Council charters by
13 December of even numbered years at the fall meeting. In
14 odd numbered years, excuse me.

15

16 Each Regional Council may review its
17 existing charter and recommend changes to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board. The Councils may request changes to
19 the Council name, membership size, Subsistence Resource
20 Commission appointments, and those were what Mary
21 McBurney was talking about previously with the Lake Clark
22 and the Aniakchak SRC. This Council makes
23 recommendations on one seat to the Lake Clark SRC, and
24 I'm not sure, do we do one -- do we do any to the
25 Aniakchak SRC? Does this Council make recommendations on
26 Aniakchak?

26

27 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes, there are three seats
28 for you.....

29

30 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah. So there are three
31 seats on the Aniakchak. So that's reference to there.
32 And the criteria for removing a member. So that's
33 spelled out in terms of the charters on what the Council
34 may involve -- not involve, but what is included in their
35 charters. So the short answer from me would be, no, that
36 we could not sit there and implement or include in the
37 charter the Council's position on land development,
38 mineral exploration, oil.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's strictly
41 subsistence.

42

43 MR. EDENSHAW: I think that's better -- I
44 think from the discussion we had yesterday with the
45 Council's correspondence, I think that the Council as a
46 whole is far better off developing correspondence, you
47 know, on a case-by-case basis, whether it's oil
48 exploration, minerals extraction, you know, if someone
49 else is doing some fish farming here in the Bristol Bay
50 region, the Council would be better served by producing

1 correspondence as a whole, and then submitting that on a
2 case-by-case basis instead of -- we all know that under
3 Title VIII, this Council is here because of Title VIII,
4 and they're supposed to look after the best interests of
5 subsistence uses on Federal public lands, so that's where
6 I'd say that.....

7
8 MS. MORRIS: I guess the tool that
9 I'm.....

10
11 MR. EDENSHAW:so that's where.....

12
13 MS. MORRIS:envisioning would do
14 that. The tool I'm seeing is a statement as far as other
15 development entities as to our baseline of where we
16 stand. I don't see that we still wouldn't deal with
17 these issues on a case-by-case basis. So I guess my
18 question for you is how would you envision us putting
19 that tool together if everybody should decide that it
20 would be a tool we could use.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Dan, go ahead.
25 Sorry.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, okay. Now that I
28 look at this, I kind of see the charter is more about the
29 rules on how we're formed and how we operate, and it's
30 not a place -- from what I get from Cliff, it's not
31 really probably the appropriate place for a policy
32 statement. And so now that I understand the charter a
33 little better, probably we would have to separate the
34 two. This is more the rules of how we conduct ourselves,
35 how we are formed.

36
37 MR. ALVAREZ: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: And I don't have any
40 complaints about how it is now. And, yeah, I would see
41 it would be tricky to try to put policy into it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Randy.

44
45 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, I was kind of
46 thinking the same way as Dan there, because we have to be
47 -- our charter has to be renewed, and to have that in
48 there, what Nanci was talking about, would probably make
49 this charter invalid as it doesn't pertain to that, what
50 we do, or what we are.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Yeah, Nanci.
2
3 MS. MORRIS: I agree, Mr. Chair. I agree
4 after hearing Cliff's further definition of it. I agree
5 it's not -- because I also would not envision this --
6 this would be something that we could remold as
7 necessary, but not something we'd want to renew every two
8 years, so I guess we need a different tool in order to
9 make that happen.
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did you want to make a
12 comment?
13
14 MR. LONS: Yes.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.
17
18 MR. LONS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
19 Council members. Daryle Lons, refuge manager for the
20 Alaska Peninsula and Becharof refuges for the record.
21
22 I just wanted to point out in the charter
23 that one of the duties of the Council is to provide a
24 letter or a report to Secretary of Interior every year,
25 and in that report you can make recommended strategies
26 for the management of fish and wildlife resources, and
27 make recommendations concerning policy standards,
28 guidelines, and regulations to implement that strategy.
29 So that would be one tool that the Council could use to,
30 you know, put your position forward to the Secretary
31 which oversees all of the management plans for all the
32 Federal lands, so that would be one option that you could
33 do.
34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Okay. Well,
36 that's an avenue. Yeah. All right.
37
38 MR. EDENSHAW: And, Mr. Chairman, what
39 Daryle is referring to is that's the annual report the
40 Council submits each year, so that's the vehicle that
41 he's referring to.
42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Yeah. I'm
44 familiar with that. Good. Thank you, Daryle.
45 Appreciate that. So we'll leave it at that. But we will
46 also keep it open to, you know, what we're going to do in
47 the way of reporting to the Secretary of Interior. Does
48 that go in after the winter meeting? When do we submit
49 that?
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: No. At this meeting here
2 this afternoon, if there's no changes, then I would take
3 that back, and the Council, or the Board would take that
4 up in January.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So we'll be
7 getting this report back to each Council member here
8 before it's signed off and sent to the Secretary?

9
10 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, I'd prefer if the
11 Council, you know, just as Pete has said, if they've
12 reviewed and looked at the three pages, because that's
13 what the annual report here is, if there's any changes in
14 terms of what I read into the record here, what the
15 Council may make in regards to changes to the Regional
16 Advisory Council charter, that I'd prefer to go back to
17 the office here tomorrow and sit there and tell my --
18 prepare a written recommendation to -- or not a
19 recommendation, but the Council's recommendation stating
20 that they do have some changes they would like to have
21 changed, or else none.

22
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, apparently you're
24 going to have one. Okay. Anything else. Everybody else
25 happy with the charter.

26
27 (No comments.)

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Next.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: No changes recommended,
32 right.

33
34 MR. ALVAREZ: So do we have to move on
35 that?

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

38
39 MR. EDENSHAW: No.

40
41 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. We said it was good.
42 Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute now. Am
45 I confused here, or did Daryle say that we could make
46 this our annual report?

47
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Well, the annual report I
49 already -- Daryle brought up -- what he was referring to
50 is to the annual report, which is submitted to the Board,

1 and the Board has been delegated that authority by the
2 Secretary of Interior. So in essence that's what Daryle
3 is referring to is this Council may submit in their
4 annual report.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To the Board.

7
8 MR. EDENSHAW:the issue that Nanci
9 raised in terms of land use management.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.
12 Okay. That will be fine.

13
14 MR. EDENSHAW:in terms of, you
15 know, the various uses.

16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I understand that.

18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: So the annual report, the
20 Board just recently concluded approving and reviewing and
21 providing responses back to all 10 Regional Advisory
22 Councils. And I spoke to you.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

25
26 MR. EDENSHAW:after the last winter
27 meeting, and there was a report -- this Council didn't
28 submit a report. So when we meet in Naknek in February,
29 that will be the opportune time for this Council to take
30 up that issue again in terms of preparing their annual
31 report, which will be submitted to the Board.

32
33 MS. MORRIS: Then would it be appropriate
34 to suggest it as an agenda item?

35
36 MR. EDENSHAW: It will be included
37 in.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: February.

40
41 MR. EDENSHAW: It will be included as an
42 agenda item when I prepare the agenda, because there's
43 some things that we have to -- that are just included as
44 a rule of thumb, so.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That will be fine.
47 Okay. All right. So we're finished with this item?

48
49 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Under new
2 business, do we have anything.....
3
4 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, before, Steve
5 Fried wanted to come up and gather some information.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah.
8 Steve come on up and.....
9
10 MR. EDENSHAW:additional
11 information about a previous FIS project that the Council
12 had approved.
13
14 MR. FRIED: Thanks. I'm Steve Fried from
15 the Office of Subsistence Management, and I guess before
16 I left, I wanted to make sure I had clarification on what
17 the Council was recommending for the studies for 2005.
18 We had -- and I've been listening to some of the
19 discussion here with various investigators, and people
20 with other agencies about, you know, doing smolt work up
21 in Lake Clark.
22
23 And, let's see, we're kind of in the
24 middle of the 2005 study selection process, and, you
25 know, we've -- and the problem with trying to get a brand
26 new study funded at this point is that there really isn't
27 an investigation plan written for it, and there should
28 have been, you know. We should have one in front of us
29 now. So, I mean, there's really not a vehicle to start a
30 new study.
31
32 So a couple of ideas I had was, one,
33 which Mary McBurney spoke about a little bit, was to go
34 back to the investigators for the Lake Clark sockeye
35 salmon assessment, which right now was just for operating
36 a counting tower on Newhalen River, and seeing if they
37 would be interested in modifying that investigation plan
38 to include a component for doing I guess a smolt
39 evaluation project, to see if it could even be done
40 possibly, you know, in 2005. That's I guess one option.
41
42 I don't know if the Council members
43 realize that there actually -- I think there's still a
44 smolt project being done in the Kvichak River by the
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I think that's the
46 only.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They count. Yeah, they
49 count.
50

1 MR. FRIED: I think that's the only
2 remaining smolt project in all of Bristol Bay at this
3 point. At one point the Department had a smolt project
4 on every single major river system.
5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
7
8 MR. ALVAREZ: I think that one, this is
9 the last year.
10
11 MR. FRIED: That's what I can't get a
12 good feel about. You know, it might or might not be the
13 last year coming up.
14
15 MR. ALVAREZ: Well, budget. They say
16 budget. Plus they are saying.....
17
18 MR. FRIED: Right.
19
20 MR. ALVAREZ:the smolt out-
21 migration isn't a real good indicator for forecasting any
22 more like it used to be, but.....
23
24 MR. FRIED: And that's -- well.....
25
26 MR. ALVAREZ:that's their -- that's
27 what they tell me.
28
29 MR. FRIED: Not used to be. I mean, it's
30 -- there are several ways to do a forecast for Bristol
31 Bay sockeye, and sometimes smolt was -- came up with a
32 pretty good one, sometimes it didn't. I mean, there's
33 some questions about how accurate that estimate is. And
34 all these other factors. And all those smolt projects
35 are based hydro-acoustics. It's some old Bendex sonar
36 equipment that was developed specifically for smolt
37 counting, and they also run flight (ph) minutes to get
38 size and age of the smolt. So I mean, there have been --
39 there are some problems with, you know, that technique,
40 at least in the Bay. I don't think there's any place
41 else in the State where they use hydro-acoustics any more
42 to count smolt necessarily. They do some juvenile work
43 in lakes. I know in Kodiak there's a lot of mark-
44 recapture work done to estimate smolt. I believe those
45 are all much smaller river systems than the Newhalen. So
46 I mean, I think that's why it would be more -- you know,
47 I think that's why probably a feasibility study might be
48 more technically sound than kind of trying to launch into
49 some three-year smolt counting study. It might work and
50 might not.

1 The other thing is, there is that study
2 that's already going on on timing of Lake Clark sockeye,
3 and it's being done at the test fishing site. I kind of
4 mentioned that. It's a genetic study, because there's
5 several stocks in Lake Clark that actually are very easy
6 to distinguish genetically. So I suppose another
7 possibility, we'd see whether or not those investigators
8 would be willing to look at smolt samples, and if the
9 Department of Fish and Game was willing to provide fin
10 clips or whatever was needed from the smolt down in
11 Kvichak, I suppose you might get some idea of presence,
12 absence, timing, you know, relative abundance of Lake
13 Clark smolt, you know, through the Kvichak system where
14 the Department runs its project.

15
16 So I mean that's kind of two ideas to
17 maybe get something done fairly quickly.

18
19 I mean, the other thing would be to just
20 wait and put in a proposal for 2006, and try to get a
21 smolt project.

22
23 And I guess that also leads me to the
24 fact that, you know, if you look on Page 65 on that
25 strategic planning update, Table 1 is actually the
26 Regional Council's issues and information needs list
27 that's been developed, and this was the one that was
28 actually put out when we came out with the call for
29 proposals, and so this is what our investigators look at
30 when they're, you know, submitting proposals. Now, it's
31 not in any priority order. This one I just happened to
32 order by, you know, salmon, freshwater, harvest
33 monitoring, et cetera, just to give you an idea of what
34 issues there have been identified. And, you know, really
35 there isn't anything that specifically talks to smolt,
36 although when you're talking about assessment, assess and
37 monitor, I mean, you know, that might come into the
38 assessment part, I mean, as well as escapement
39 monitoring.

40
41 The other thing is under freshwater
42 species you might notice the third one is monitoring
43 status of whitefish along with some other freshwater
44 species of Becharof, Lake Clark, Ugashik. And that's
45 partly where the whitefish proposal came from, it's off
46 this Council's existing list. And also it's in response
47 to residents concerns in that specific drainage, Lake
48 Clark. They're having problems with whitefish, and
49 whitefish constitutes probably about 20 percent of their
50 subsistence harvest, so, you know, it's not an

1 unimportant problem.

2

3 So I was wondering, you know, when the
4 Council mentioned they'd like to take that money from the
5 whitefish studies to fund, you know, smolt work in Lake
6 Clark, I mean, is that the way I'm going to portray that?
7 Or am I just going to say that the Council feels smolt
8 work for Lake Clark is more important than whitefish. In
9 other words, what happens if we don't -- we're not
10 successful in getting any money for Lake Clark smolt work
11 this year?

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you've already
14 got the whitefish plan in place.

15

16 MR. FRIED: You know, so I mean, is it
17 okay -- do we then portray to the Board, well, okay, the
18 next thing in line would be whitefish and then the Togiak
19 chinook, or are we saying we don't want to fund white --
20 or are you saying you don't want to fund any whitefish
21 studies at all, period?

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Nanci.

24

25 MR. FRIED: I mean, it's a different.....

26

27 MS. MORRIS: It was my understanding, and
28 correct me, Randy, if it was not yours, and I spoke with
29 Andy and Randy, and I spoke with Robert who is also not
30 here. But it was my understanding that I felt like we
31 were saying that it wasn't not to study whitefish. We
32 did not want to see three years and the kind of money
33 that was being allocated for whitefish being put out
34 there. And we felt it would be wiser to put that money
35 towards the stock's recovery for that area for the
36 sockeye. And I guess that would be my stand and my
37 position on this Council is, no, I don't think the
38 whitefish are unimportant. I do not think they are
39 important to the degree of dollars that was allocated to
40 that resource.

41

42 MR. FRIED: So it's a lower priority? I
43 mean, if smolt work isn't funded, then that \$77,000 or
44 whatever it is could very well go to another region or
45 another project out of this region. I mean, would you
46 think that's a better way to spend the money? Is
47 whitefish that unimportant or not in your opinion?

48

49 MS. MORRIS: I guess my feeling about it
50 is I feel that if we are able to fund a project, even if

1 it's not this year, but the following year for the
2 sockeye and the recovery of those sockeye, and do a more
3 -- a less costly study for the whitefish, that would be
4 my wishes, because I feel like to spend 1.1 -- what was
5 it for next year for the whitefish?

6
7 MR. ALVAREZ: 101,000 something.

8
9 MR. FRIED: Total. Yeah, 77 in 2005,
10 and.....

11
12 MS. MORRIS: Yeah, it's like I think --
13 yeah, I think that I'm saying I don't want to see three
14 years and that kind of money going to a whitefish study.
15 I would rather have a more -- a less in-depth whitefish
16 study done, and allocate future funds towards truly
17 assessing a project that will give us money towards
18 sockeye information.

19
20 MR. FRIED: Okay.

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

25
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Just to get back to
27 Steve's -- I think the important point here is that the
28 Council made a motion, and they pushed ahead, and it's no
29 whitefish. They want the money to be used for sockeye
30 out-migrating smolt. And Mary said that they had a
31 preproposal that was done in 2000, and doesn't see why
32 they couldn't just slap that before the Board, and
33 whether the Board accepts it or not is something that Dan
34 will have to.....

35
36 MR. FRIED: Well, between now and then we
37 need to get it -- this is like taking something out of
38 cycle.

39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Right.

41
42 MR. FRIED: So between now and the Board
43 meeting, we've got to get it technically reviewed.

44
45 MR. EDENSHAW: Uh-huh. But I see.....

46
47 MR. FRIED: And the only other -- we've
48 actually funded things out of cycle before, but it's
49 usually been because it's been a resource emergency,
50 conservation type thing. So.....

1 MR. EDENSHAW: But I've seen this Council
2 when we first got into this program, where they've
3 rejected that the TRC said.....
4
5 MR. FRIED: Right. Oh, yeah.
6
7 MR. EDENSHAW:and they said they
8 wanted another project.
9
10 MR. FRIED: Right.
11
12 MR. EDENSHAW: And I don't see how
13 different this is.
14
15 MR. FRIED: And that's what I want to
16 understand is whether or not the Council really is saying
17 that it's -- that whitefish study isn't worth funding at
18 that.....
19
20 MS. MORRIS: No, I mean, I'm not --
21 you're not going to get me to say that, and I didn't
22 understand that from anybody else.
23
24 MR. FRIED: Yeah. That's what I'm
25 just.....
26
27 MS. MORRIS: But what we said is the
28 resource dollars that we have available, we did not deem
29 the whitefish to be worthy of that big of an allocation
30 of them. Is that also what everybody else understood?
31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Did you have a
33 comment you want to make?
34
35 MR. EDWARDS: I just had a comment. Mike
36 Edwards, Fish and Wildlife Service, King Salmon. I had a
37 comment on Cliff's comment. The instance Cliff is
38 referring to was the Tazimina, and in that instance,
39 there were two proposals.
40
41 MR. FRIED: Right.
42
43 MR. EDWARDS: One was not approved by the
44 TRC. And what this Council had done was they said they
45 don't want to fund this, we want to fund the Tazimina. I
46 think that's a very different situation than what you're
47 dealing with here. Here you've got one you don't want to
48 fund, and one you do.....
49
50 MR. FRIED: Right.

1 MR. EDWARDS: but you don't have a
2 proposal for the second one.....
3
4 MR. FRIED: Right.
5
6 MR. EDWARDS: so that's talking -- I
7 just wanted to address Cliff's comments.
8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. I think that's
10 where we stand. Yep. Dan, you had one more comment you
11 wanted to make?
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think so. It is
14 awkward that kind of leader of that, you know, Robert was
15 really pushing for it, and.....
16
17 MR. FRIED: I know. I'm sorry he's not
18 here.
19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: You know, I regret.....
21
22 MR. FRIED: Yeah.
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: We can't speak for him. I
25 know in my own mind if it comes down to the money going
26 somewhere else or staying in Bristol Bay, I want to see
27 it in Bristol Bay.
28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I don't want it to go
30 out of Bristol Bay. Yeah, we will agree on that.
31
32 MR. FRIED: Well, it's just -- I was
33 trying to figure out how to portray this. I mean, it's
34 one thing saying it shouldn't be funded, you know, no
35 matter what, because it's not important enough to even
36 fund. And it's another thing to say that it's just not
37 important as this, and we'd like to lower it down. And
38 the other thing is, I mean, if -- you know, if you had
39 that money and it couldn't be used for smolt, I mean,
40 would the whitefish be more important than the Togiak
41 chinook. I mean, I'm assuming the whitefish would be
42 more important, because, you know, I didn't hear
43 anything, you know, in support of Togiak chinook, except
44 afterwards I heard something in support of Togiak
45 chinook.
46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, in my mind, I would
48 say, yeah, then reinstate whitefish. I'm not recalling
49 that there was this smolt project that was put up at one
50 time. I was regretting that we didn't have the analysis

1 and maybe the arguments of why it wasn't funding then, or
2 what the pitfalls were. You know, we covered a little
3 bit about that last evening. I guess this comes back to
4 kind of the problem that we have a pretty short shopping
5 list that we were given from the TRC, and my
6 understanding is that there may have been -- you know,
7 last time, speaking of Tazimina rainbow project, we had a
8 bigger shopping list, and we could go here.

9

10 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: And here again if there was
13 like a brief commentary on all of the first level
14 proposals that came to you, and a brief description, and
15 a brief reason why they weren't elevated to us, it would
16 be real helpful. Maybe we would have seen either a
17 problem with this smolt idea, that maybe we realize we
18 don't want to go there, or -- and we'd still say, no, try
19 to find a way to make it work.

20

21 What I heard yesterday was there's a lot
22 of folks feel pretty strong that, let's see what we can
23 do with smolt. And if that means in my mind, like I said
24 earlier, an initial feasibility study, maybe rob the
25 whitefish study, do enough to -- and the idea of
26 capturing it under this Lake Clark salmon sockeye so that
27 you have -- and you already have something in place here
28 that you could add to and modify would -- this gets into
29 the gist of bureaucratic process of run it through the
30 system. And that would look good to me.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, let's -- you
33 know, I think Mary McBurney and Dr. Caroline Woody and I
34 had lunch a while back, and they were talking about -- or
35 Caroline Woody was talking about how that you can take
36 smolt, change the water temperature, get a marking, and
37 when the adults come back.....

38

39 MR. FRIED: You won't do that with wild
40 smolt. You have to hold the smolt -- actually she's
41 talking about otolith marking I'll bet you, because
42 that's what is done in hatcheries. Usually it's done in
43 a big way in Prince William Sound, and you do it at the
44 egg stage when they ride up.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh. Well, they
47 would know what to do more than these lay people sitting
48 around this table.

49

50 MR. FRIED: But there's a genetic -- some

1 of the fish, some of the stocks in Lake Clark are
2 genetically distinguishable, and that's why I mentioned
3 the other thing might be to get some smolt samples taken
4 from the Kvichak project, and look at that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, what we're
7 looking at is you don't have enough fish coming back, and
8 the whitefish is not going to solve the sockeye problem
9 in Bristol Bay. And we've been sitting on the beach for
10 five years with letting everything go by, and it still
11 hasn't helped.

12
13 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And so when we had the
16 good years of '79 through '93, you know, we just went to
17 the bank, and went on vacation, forget the sockeye. Now
18 we're getting 40 cents a pound. This is the whole issue
19 of Bristol Bay, and we didn't do any scientific research.
20 Now, this Council is saying, we want some scientific
21 research to find out why these things are not coming
22 back. If it's the ocean, is it predators along the way,
23 what went wrong here. And just -- you know, the
24 Department even up at Flat Island or up at Porcupine
25 Island there. They're not giving us any answers that we
26 can live with either. So I guess that's what we're
27 looking at from this Council, and that's what I'm looking
28 for anyway.

29
30 MR. FRIED: Right. I'm just playing
31 devil's advocate. I mean, the Department of Fish and
32 Game has run smolt projects for years, and we've been
33 through crashes and recoveries and crashes again, and I'm
34 not sure it's helped us understand production a great
35 deal.

36
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, let's give it a
38 shot and find out.

39
40 MR. FRIED: So, you know, what I'm saying
41 is that I don't know what this is going to get. Or if
42 it's even possible. But we could, you know, go forward
43 with that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think the thing
46 you have concrete right now is as Cliff said, there was a
47 possibility of some kind of a proposal out there that we
48 could look at to give you something in hand to deal with
49 smolt, that's the direction that's coming from this
50 Council.

1 MR. FRIED: Well, that's from 2000
2 though. It's not -- we're working with, you know, trying
3 to modify -- I'll see how far I can get that to go with
4 the powers that be.

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the direction of
7 this Council.

8
9 MR. FRIED: But that's -- you know, the
10 other thing I was wondering about is if -- you know, is
11 how those other two studies that wouldn't -- you know,
12 that weren't recommended for funding stack up against
13 this, too, if this doesn't go anywhere this year.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

16
17 MR. FRIED: So I guess I'll just play
18 that one by ear, too.

19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, you know, I
23 think what Steve's asking from the Council, and it's
24 something I would probably have to do when I get back to
25 Anchorage, is to sit down, and then what I'd have to do
26 is call up you and then go through and poll all the
27 Council members, because, you know, prior to the Board
28 meeting in January, and I think in terms of the
29 alternative, that the whitefish study was for three
30 years. And if the Council says that, and I'd have to go
31 back, you know, but I don't -- Pat left, and she was
32 helping me record, you know, what the -- the motion from
33 what I recall from what Robert and the Council voted on
34 was to forego the 2005 year for the whitefish study, and
35 say we want the priority is smolt. And what I could do
36 when I get back to Anchorage and get this all
37 straightened out and talk with Steve and Caroline and
38 Mary and the rest of them, and see how -- and I think the
39 question that Steve's asking is, or where the Council is,
40 is it possible to have a preproposal and, you know -- I'm
41 not sure the TRC, you know, what role they'll have, and
42 the Technical Review Committee of all these land managers
43 and other scientists who go through down there and
44 approve all these proposals. You know, my question to
45 Steve is, is it feasible -- how doable is this for 2005
46 for a smolt study to be ready and going for 2005.....

47
48 MR. FRIED: That's what I mean, yeah.

49
50 MR. EDENSHAW:in the spring, and

1 that's the big question right there. And if it's not
2 doable, then my contacting the Council then would be,
3 well, if it's not doable, shall we go ahead and fund the
4 whitefish study?

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, sure, we don't
7 want to lose that. We're not going to lose that money.

8
9 MR. FRIED: Yeah. Because if we go in
10 front of the -- yeah.

11
12 MR. EDENSHAW: So that's what I would do
13 after, you know, Steve and them determine if it's doable
14 for the spring 2005, to conduct an out-migrating smolt
15 study up there in the river, and if not, then I would
16 just inform Dan and the Council members for them to come
17 back with a recommendation that Dan can carry to the
18 Board and said, well, we tried this, but go ahead
19 and.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Is that okay,
22 Council members?

23
24 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's about the only
27 thing we can do really.

28
29 MS. MORRIS: I agree, but I guess one of
30 the things that bothers me, that I would ask for some
31 input from somebody on is that if indeed we go ahead, we
32 agree to go ahead and fund the whitefish study, I also do
33 not want to see us lose the funds, what happens in the
34 following year when we have something in place, and we
35 say, okay, we don't have not money for it, but we've got
36 this whitefish study going for another two years. I hate
37 to see us doing a whitefish study that we have to cut off
38 so we can fund something that we found. So I don't know.
39 I mean, just something to kick around in the back of our
40 minds on how we're going to deal with that, should that
41 happen if they can't get something else put together.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think we'll
44 know that in February.

45
46 MR. FRIED: Well, what I'm hearing, too,
47 is that if the whitefish was funded, you'd rather see it
48 funded at some lower level. And actually Carol Woody is
49 a co-PI on the whitefish study, so she might be able to
50 think of something. A little incentive.

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I would imagine
2 that it's going to have to -- you know, what the next
3 step is going to -- if this doesn't work, is going to be
4 February when we meet again to look.....
5
6 MR. FRIED: By then the Board's going to
7 make a decision on funding for 2005. It.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I know they will,
10 but.....
11
12 MR. FRIED:will be done, but.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:then at least
15 we'll have that information in hand.....
16
17 MR. FRIED: Right.
18
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA:and we can go and
20 say, well, we're going to recommend that this be adjusted
21 this way, and that's all we can do.
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Right. And by then the
24 Feds will be committed.
25
26 MR. FRIED: That's too late for 2005.
27 It's already.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, I understand
30 that.
31
32 MR. FRIED: Yeah.
33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're in 2005.
35
36 MR. FRIED: But for -- right.
37
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But, see if it's.....
39
40 MR. FRIED: And that's why that December
41 meeting for the strategic planning is going to be real
42 important, too, because that will help.....
43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. We'll be there.
45
46 MR. FRIED:put things in
47 perspective.
48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I will be there. I
50 will be there.

1 MR. FRIED: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And other Council
4 members want to be there, too. We'll work on that.
5
6 Okay. We need to move on from that now.
7 And that's.....
8
9 MR. FRIED: Thanks.
10
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Steve, for
12 taking the time.
13
14 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I appreciate that. I
15 just wanted to make sure I knew where I was going.
16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.
18
19 MR. FRIED: I thought I did, but.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We really appreciate
22 you explaining that. There's a lot of -- a quagmire
23 there that's pretty deep.
24
25 Let's deal with recreation vehicles.
26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: All right. For those of
28 you here, the Council members, there's one calendar in
29 here that's dated fall 2005, so if you could just go
30 ahead and look at that, and let me know which dates, you
31 know, you'd like to have our fall meeting.
32
33 MR. ABRAHAM: March.
34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: No. No, the one calendar
36 -- don't look in your book. Don't look in your book.
37 The one in the book is already taken care of. At the top
38 it should read fall of 2005.
39
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, this is -- is
41 this dealing with next year's fall meeting?
42
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. For fall.
44
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How about our next
46 meeting?
47
48 MR. ALVAREZ: Where are we at in the
49 agenda?
50

1 MR. EDENSHAW: No, that's the right one.
2 That's the right one, yeah.
3
4 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.
5
6 MR. ALVAREZ: So you went down to other
7 business then for fall meeting dates?
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.
10
11 MR. ALVAREZ: You skipped by all the rest
12 of that stuff?
13
14 MR. EDENSHAW: No.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we're going to get
17 ORV.....
18
19 MR. EDENSHAW: He said recreation first.
20 We'll get the easy stuff done first, Randy.
21
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: ORV and predator will
23 be coming up next.
24
25 MR. EDENSHAW: We'll get the easy stuff
26 done first. As you can see, they opened up the window a
27 bit earlier there, so that's August 28th through October
28 21st. Or 20th. 21st.
29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You want to meet in
31 October? October 6th and 7th? These guys have got their
32 money by then, and can come to the meeting.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Just so it's after moose
37 season.
38
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it has to be
40 after moose season.
41
42 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah.
43
44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And caribou can't be
45 interrupted either, because -- we'd like to have it.....
46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: That goes all winter.
48
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Huh?
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, for me it goes all
2 winter.
3
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah. And
5 that's fine.
6
7 MR. ABRAHAM: October 6th and 7th.
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: 6th and 7th.
10
11 MR. ABRAHAM: Fine with me.
12
13 MR. EDENSHAW: In Naknek or, no, this one
14 here, this will be still here in Dillingham. This is
15 September's, yes, so it will be.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, Pete is thinking
18 about inviting us to Togiak.
19
20 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Because I think we
21 have enough accommodations for, you know.....
22
23 MR. EDENSHAW: For this meeting?
24
25 MR. ABRAHAM: There's a couple of bed and
26 breakfasts over there now.
27
28 MR. EDENSHAW: Oh, okay.
29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: And for food an stuff, I
31 think people will provide. I know we've got a couple
32 places with cooking areas. Just go over there and
33 barbecue fish and king salmon and.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, Nanci can cook.
36
37 MS. MORRIS: Thanks for volunteering me.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MS. MORRIS: I'll cook all right. Yeah.
42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we may not
44 survive, but you'll cook.
45
46 MR. EDENSHAW: So, Mr. Chair and Council,
47 so should I put down Togiak and then Dillingham as a fall
48 back, because if we have the meeting in Dillingham -- I
49 mean, in Togiak -- October 6th and 7th in Togiak, we can
50 -- again, just the way the Council's done business in the

1 past, we could expect for most of those people, with the
2 exception of Boris and Virginia, the others would --
3 there would be a good chance they could fly out that
4 Thursday morning, and get into Togiak.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Come back Friday
7 evening.

8
9 MR. EDENSHAW:you know, and meet
10 Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. That's the only
11 precursor I have, is that, you know, travel, especially,
12 you know, for the ones that live here in Dillingham, it's
13 not a problem, except for weather, you know. And, of
14 course, that goes for all us.

15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: According to Togiak, Twin
17 Hills, Ekwok, Clark's Point, this is urban, so let's do
18 it in subsistence village. Togiak.

19
20 MR. EDENSHAW: So we'll go ahead and --
21 I'll put down Togiak them, Mr. Chair and Council members,
22 and then.....

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: A question for Pete. Yeah,
25 I'm up for it. Does Togiak have enough room for the
26 additional staff folks to come though?

27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All the -- yeah, we've
29 met there before.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: You can have an old school
32 to sleep in.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: We'll kind of weed them
35 out, you know.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MS. MORRIS: Send invitations to those
40 you want.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I noticed when I was
43 doing this, the farther afield we got, the fewer hangers
44 on came along.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The fewer bureaucrats
47 you got?

48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: We've done it before.

50

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We have met over there.
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: You have?
4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We had a good meeting
6 over there, yeah.
7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: We done it before, yeah.
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, did it?
11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: But, you know, this time
13 we've got more accommodations over there.
14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, got an old school
16 over there.
17
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, the old school
19 will be available.
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, the old school, you
22 know, has got all kind of room.
23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Lots of places to sleep
25 on the floor. Okay. March meeting. February meeting.
26
27 MR. EDENSHAW: That one's the 24th and
28 25th. We've already done that. In the back of the book,
29 the date was just wrong. If you look in the back of the
30 book, it had us scheduled for March 3rd and 4th, but it's
31 February 24th and 25th.
32
33 MR. ALVAREZ: Isn't that Nome?
34
35 MR. EDENSHAW: Hum?
36
37 MR. ALVAREZ: That's in where?
38
39 MR. EDENSHAW: That's in Naknek.
40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we meet in Naknek
42 because they have restaurants there open that can
43 accommodate everybody. Okay.
44
45 MR. ALVAREZ: We could go to Pete's house
46 in Togiak.
47
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're going to go to
49 Pete's steambath. That's for sure.
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: You betcha.
2
3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we'll be there.
4 Okay. ORVs. We got a letter from Joe Fowler, had it
5 passed out to you about the ORV situation in Kokhanok,
6 Igiugig, Levelock situation. Did you want to address
7 that, Cliff.
8
9 MR. EDENSHAW: Perhaps Mary would,
10 because Mary brought that to us. I'm not familiar with
11 it. Aside from doing correspondence with the Council and
12 their annual report.
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. I'll just brief
15 you. I met with Joe Fowler, and I asked him to put
16 something in writing, and it was passed out to you. I
17 don't know how in the world we got it separated from
18 ourselves. Maybe it's over here. And, Cliff, you made
19 copies, right?
20
21 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, I did, and it should
22 be there.
23
24 MS. MORRIS: Dan, if you wanted to borrow
25 mine, go ahead.
26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, I know I have one some
28 -- is this it?
29
30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here it is. Department
31 of Interior, Joe Fowler. He just mentions that the ATV
32 thing is ongoing, and there has been quite a study made.
33 And I happened to be the pilot for this group of people
34 when they went Kokhanok and had a public meeting, and
35 they had all of the pictures and testimonies and
36 everything of these people that have been using this area
37 up there, and the ATV thing is fairly new in that region.
38 It's my understanding that they don't do that in parks,
39 so ORV things are not done in parks. So we're trying to
40 get it in there as a subsistence use thing in the three
41 communities. And really nothing can proceed any further
42 than what's going to be happening with the rest of the
43 study being completed and the public hearings and all
44 these type of things that are going to be going on with
45 this study group that have been working for quite a
46 while.
47
48 All we want to do is just let the Council
49 know that it is still ongoing. We haven't dropped it.
50 It's going to be continuing on. In fact, when I watched

1 the program that they put on there at Kokhanok, it is an
2 incredible program of research that they've done. They
3 have really interviewed people, and taken a lot of
4 pictures, and it's quite a study. I was very impressed.
5 And so I'm happy that it's not just being sidelined, but
6 it's going to take its course over a period of time. So,
7 Council, that's all I had to say on it, if that's okay
8 with you. Okay.

9
10 The last item we had under other business
11 was Randy wanted to mention something under predator
12 control.

13
14 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I
15 would like to see this Council support the plan that
16 State and BBNA is doing on behalf of the villages to
17 develop a management plan. And I would move that we have
18 our Chairman write a letter in support of the action that
19 is being developed. You know, I'm not sure -- we have
20 yet to review the plan, you know. They have until
21 December before it has to be submitted before the Board
22 of Game. So they're still drafting it, but we're going
23 to review it, and I'm sure what they said, they were
24 going to send it to the villages for review before it
25 being finalized. But I would like to have this committee
26 -- or I would move that this committee have our Chairman
27 write a letter of support on that proposal.

28
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second on
30 the motion?

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Pete seconded
35 that. Any discussion.

36
37 (No discussion)

38
39 MR. ABRAHAM: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question. All those in
42 favor say aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Boy, Pete, you knew

1 something we didn't know.
2
3 MR. ABRAHAM: You betcha.
4
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. A motion for
6 adjournment.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Could I.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oops, excuse me, go
11 ahead.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: I have a question. Yeah,
14 go ahead.
15
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.
17
18 MS. MORRIS: Just did -- He isn't here
19 any more is he, Ralph Anderson. I'm wondering, Randy, if
20 can't just have him -- didn't he say something about
21 being able just to include our area in it? You just want
22 to review what he's got and then see if we want to
23 include our.....
24
25 MR. ALVAREZ: Well.....
26
27 MS. MORRIS:other area in it that
28 aren't included or.....
29
30 MR. ALVAREZ: Yeah, but we're not going
31 to meet until when, February.
32
33 MS. MORRIS: Understood, so maybe a phone
34 poll or something after that comes out or.....
35
36 MR. ALVAREZ: You know, I would like just
37 a generic support that we support a predator management
38 plan.....
39
40 MS. MORRIS: Okay.
41
42 MR. ALVAREZ:for our area, because
43 without one, we seem to be -- our hands seem to be tied
44 on submitting proposals the way it used to be. But under
45 the new -- as was stated, under the new administration,
46 it has changed somewhat, but I would still like to see a
47 predator management plan for Bristol Bay, you know, for
48 certain areas, you know, one that -- even if, for
49 instance, Mulchatna caribou seem to be doing fine, but
50 who knows what's going to happen 10 years from now, where

1 we might have to -- we could use our plan to implement
2 something there. For instance, you know, even though the
3 Mulchatna caribou are doing fine, they're so far away,
4 they might as well call them something else by now, you
5 know, and they might 10 years from now. So it's just a
6 plan, you know, for attack.

7
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could be the Aniak
9 caribou herd by then. They've been going up there. They
10 have been going up there.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: We've got a lot of wolves
13 up there, too.

14
15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And that's on State
16 land, too, by the way. That's not Federal lands.

17
18 Any other -- did you have a comment, Dan.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: I just had a quick question
21 separate from predator controls. But I think at the last
22 meeting somebody presented that Governor Murkowski had
23 requested some sort of closer interaction between the
24 Federal Subsistence Office and the State, and there was
25 -- we were given a letter establishing a State liaison
26 position for OSM. And I was wondering if, and this is
27 something that Cliff might know the answer, has anybody
28 been put in that position, or what's the movement on
29 that? Because we were given this, the fax date I have is
30 February 24th, that I forget if.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you give a report?

33
34 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council, I'll have to get you the correspondence, but,
36 yes, the Board did provide a response back to the State,
37 and there is a nonvoting member that they went ahead and
38 -- the letter that you have before you. What I can do is
39 when I get back to Anchorage, I can provide a copy of the
40 -- I'll fax you guys all copies of what the Board
41 responded.

42
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's just like the
44 State of Alaska has a liaison officer on their Fish and
45 Game Board, which does not exist. In other words, the
46 State of Alaska said, we would like to get on your Board,
47 but we don't want you on our Board. And they thought
48 that was kind of interesting. And I was at the meeting,
49 and exactly what you said is right.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Do you know who is serving
2 that position then?
3
4 UNIDENTIFIED: Duffy. Mr. Duffy, yeah.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Kevin Duffy.
7
8 MR. EDENSHAW: Yeah, or as it said in
9 there, or his designee, the representative. And in the
10 past Wayne Reglin's been attending a few of the meetings.
11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks.
13
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other topic
15 or issues that need to be dealt with here before we
16 leave.
17
18 (None raised)
19
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Motion to adjourn.
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: So move.
23
24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second?
25
26 MS. MORRIS: Second.
27
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're out of here.
29
30 (Off record - 3:25 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 103 through 236 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME

I, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Meredith Downing on the 28th day of September 2004, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Dillingham, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of October 2004.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 _