

00101

1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 VOLUME II

5  
6 Dillingham, Alaska  
7 September 30, 2003  
8 8:30 o'clock a.m.

9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

12

13 Daniel O'Hara, Chairman

14 Peter Abraham

15 Andrew Balluta

16 Robert Heyano

17 Boris Kosbruk, Sr.

18 Robin Samuelson

19

20

21 Coordinator: Clifford Edenshaw

00102

1

P R O C E E D I N G S

2

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(Dillingham, Alaska - 9/30/2003)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're ready to start.

8

We're still on 10B, and Steve were you going to be

9

handling that this morning?

10

11

MR. FRIED: (Nods affirmatively)

12

13

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good. Whenever

14

you're ready.

15

16

MR. FRIED: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

17

Regional Advisory Committee. I guess just to summarize

18

we finished going through all the study area proposals

19

for Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula. And the Council

20

basically, how would I phrase it, they approved all the

21

TRC recommendations except for one, on Tazimina rainbow

22

trout. And it's the Council's wishes that they would

23

like to see a study on Tazimina rainbow trout funded in

24

2004. So I will work with the applicants and see if they

25

can take their investigation plan and rewrite it to meet

26

the technical concerns that the TRC had and then we'll

27

bring it in front of the Staff Committee and then the

28

Federal Subsistence Board, then that would hopefully be

29

in place by then. So we would be able to assure them

30

that, you know, the applicant actually did at least meet

31

the technical questions that the TRC had so that would

32

take away that problem when the Board deliberates on that

33

particular study.

34

35

The next thing, I guess, would be the

36

interregional studies -- oh, wait, excuse me, no, I guess

37

--I guess we just went through the stock status and we

38

still needed to go through the harvest monitoring

39

traditional ecological knowledge. There's three studies

40

here, excuse me. So those would be on Page 93 in your

41

books. And really there's three studies, the TRC

42

recommended all three be funded. Only one of those three

43

is really in this region, that first one, 04-454,

44

sharing, bartering and trade and subsistence resources in

45

Bristol Bay. The other ones would really be within the

46

Kodiak/Aleutians study area.

47

48

So I don't know if you had anymore

49

questions about that one or if you just wanted to discuss

50

that among yourselves.

00103

1                   There's a description of it on Page 133  
2 and the justification for the TRC decision's  
3 recommendation for funding would be on Page 135.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want some action  
6 on that?

7  
8                   MR. FRIED: Yeah, I think where we left  
9 off yesterday, you were going to decide whether or not to  
10 support the TRC recommendations or make your own  
11 recommendations. And as I said it is recommended for  
12 funding, so I guess if you agreed with that. You could  
13 also not recommend it for funding or if you wanted  
14 something else covered that you didn't think was covered  
15 in the study, I guess we could make that suggestion for  
16 the applicants also.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What'd you guys do on  
19 that yesterday?

20  
21                   MR. HEYANO: We didn't take it up.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You didn't take it up,  
24 okay. So what are your thoughts on it, did you want the  
25 funding on it then?

26  
27                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, there was  
28 11 proposals, right?

29  
30                   MR. FRIED: Within this whole area?

31  
32                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Is that right?

33  
34                   MR. FRIED: Actually I think there were  
35 12.

36  
37                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Twelve.

38  
39                   MR. FRIED: And all but three were stock  
40 status.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. On 135, 2004-74,  
43 98 and 27 -- or 133, Page 133?

44  
45                   MR. FRIED: Oh, you're looking at the  
46 budgets for the three year study?

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

49  
50                   MR. FRIED: Right. And that's their

00104

1 estimated cost for those three years.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. FRIED: And it's a collaborative  
6 project between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
7 Division of Subsistence and Bristol Bay Native  
8 Association, Natural Resources Department.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Robert.

11

12 MR. HEYANO: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.  
13 Steve, I think you said yesterday that -- I think it was  
14 you that said about 20 -- you're estimating 20 percent of  
15 the subsistence harvest would occur on Federal -- in  
16 Federal waters?

17

18 MR. FRIED: Oh, that wasn't me, but,  
19 yeah, I recall somebody mentioned that that for salmon, I  
20 think it was, they figured about 20 percent of the total  
21 subsistence harvest was in Federal conservation units,  
22 yeah.

23

24 MR. HEYANO: And that's what this study  
25 is trying to determine, what amount?

26

27 MR. FRIED: Yeah. They would look at  
28 four communities and if the communities approved of it,  
29 they would try to take a look and see where, you know,  
30 survey the households, interview people and try to figure  
31 out, you know, where the fish were caught, how many and,  
32 you know, what kind of barter and customary trade was  
33 occurring.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: So what this proposal does  
36 is it's proposing to spend approximately 200,000 to try  
37 to document 20 percent over the three year period?

38

39 MR. FRIED: Well, I'm assuming they would  
40 document the entire -- you know, they're basically going  
41 to do the interviews and they're going to document what  
42 the people interviewed tell them. But really for this  
43 particular program, I mean, the only place that customary  
44 trade would be allowed would be salmon caught within  
45 Federal conservation units, at least that's my  
46 understanding of the way the law stands now. It's  
47 illegal if it was a salmon caught in State waters.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So what are the wishes  
50 of the Council?

00105

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: I'd move to fund project

6 04-454, 04-456, 04-457 as recommended.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second.

9

10 MS. KELLY: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to

13 address your motion?

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There

16 was 12 proposals submitted. The Technical Review

17 Committee has narrowed them down to three, project 054

18 would be one of three statewide projects aimed at

19 providing a better understanding of customary trade.

20 We've been dealing with that issue quite extensively.

21

22 I don't think since the early 70s a study

23 similar has been done by the State of Alaska on State

24 land, in early subsistence days, by State of Alaska.

25

26 I think the information is pretty sketchy

27 at this point in time and I think an updated study in

28 Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula and the Kodiak Island,

29 all three areas would be money well spent at this point

30 in time.

31

32 It's one thing to have subsistence,

33 another thing to document the subsistence activities.

34 And one thing we are really lacking, both on the State

35 and Federal level is documentation, and this would just

36 solidify the -- in my eyes the harvests and expansion of

37 the TEK knowledge of all three areas.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other Council

40 comments on the motion. Yes, Robert.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I

43 won't be supporting the motion. I think spending

44 \$200,000 for approximately 20 percent of the subsistence

45 harvest in only four communities and only in the Bristol

46 Bay region is pretty excessive. I would, you know, I

47 think that if the Federal Subsistence Board adopts our

48 regulation and there's problems with it from within the

49 region then I think it's more appropriate at that time to

50 advocate funding a study like this. But there seems to

00106

1 be a lot of money spent on four communities for only 20  
2 percent of the -- what's estimated 20 percent of the  
3 harvest in Bristol Bay. It doesn't pertain to any other  
4 region but Bristol Bay.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments,  
7 Council members.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing none, we'll go  
12 ahead. The motion was for what proposals -- give us the  
13 numbers again if you would?

14

15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, do we  
16 approve the three of them or do we just approve the one  
17 of them?

18

19 MR. FRIED: That would be up to you. You  
20 could do all three or just one, and I guess I just would  
21 clarify that that's true for salmon. I think this study,  
22 though, would also look at other fish. It doesn't really  
23 say here that it's just salmon, so I am assuming that it  
24 would also be focused on any freshwater -- you know,  
25 whitefish, char that are also bartered and traded.

26

27 MR. HEYANO: It's legal to trade  
28 freshwater species?

29

30 MR. FRIED: I would think so.

31

32 MR. HEYANO: It is?

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that covered in the  
35 motion then.

36

37 MR. FRIED: Yes, just for clarification I  
38 thought I'd bring that up.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's covered in the  
43 motion then if we do other species, too?

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The motion would cover  
48 all those issues?

49

50 MR. FRIED: Well, that's what the study

00107

1 would cover so I would assume that that's -- you know,  
2 unless you wanted to change the focus of the study that's  
3 what it would be.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
6 offer a friendly amendment to my own motion, I guess.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: That we only do 04-454,  
11 let them other regions of the state deal with their  
12 issues.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So 04.....

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: 04-454.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Only pertaining to  
21 Bristol Bay.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Who made  
24 the second on that? Would you agree on that?

25

26 MS. KELLY: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any other  
29 discussion on this issue then since we've made an  
30 amendment? What does that do as far as dollarwise, if we  
31 just only take the two proposals, does that change  
32 anything moneywise?

33

34 MR. FRIED: No, it shouldn't. I mean all  
35 you're -- really, you're just not taking any action on  
36 the other two. And that happens in other study regions  
37 where we have, you know, more than one Council involved.  
38 A lot of times each Council will just vote on their own  
39 -- on the studies within their own area and not say  
40 anything about the other ones unless there's, you know,  
41 something controversial or some other problems.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

44

45 MR. FRIED: The Kodiak/Aleutians Council  
46 hasn't met yet so they will meet in October -- probably  
47 mid-October and take a look at these studies also.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further discussion  
50 on the motion before us.

00108

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. HEYANO: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, question has been  
6 called for. And we will vote on the amendment and that  
7 will be 04-454, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: Aye.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Now, we go back  
16 to the main motion.

17

18 MR. HEYANO: No, I think, Mr. Chairman,  
19 it was offered as a friendly amendment so the vote was on  
20 the main motion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Five to one,  
23 okay. Steve, what else do you have there?

24

25 MR. FRIED: Okay. I think that brings us  
26 to the -- there's just two other things I'd like to  
27 discuss then. One would be the issues and information  
28 needs. I'd remind the Council that this November we'll  
29 be putting out a call for proposals for 2005 studies and  
30 as part of that process we make the issues and  
31 information needs available to the applicants, and then  
32 afterwards, as I mentioned, the Technical Review  
33 Committee uses it to make their recommendations and so on  
34 down the line.

35

36 I put copies of the one we used for the  
37 2004 call on the table there so you could take a look at  
38 it. I guess this would be a good time to either add  
39 issues that aren't there that you think are important.  
40 There is one issue -- well, there's one thing that I was  
41 going to take off the list. There's a bunch of issues  
42 and information needs that refer to the Naknek River, and  
43 really -- there really aren't any Federal subsistence  
44 fisheries under ANILCA, Title VIII that occur there.  
45 There is that red fish fishery but that's a special case.  
46 When the legislation, when forming Katmai National Park  
47 actually did not provide for any fishing or hunting  
48 subsistence uses, but they did provide for a red fish  
49 fishery, but it's my understanding that that does not  
50 fall under this program. It's just a special case. So



00109

1 there really isn't any tie to Federal subsistence  
2 fisheries, ANILCA, Title VIII in Naknek. So I don't  
3 really -- I think it just confuses people when they see  
4 that on this particular list.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They didn't make a  
7 provision for the red fish in the Park, Congress made a  
8 provision.

9  
10 MR. FRIED: Right.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Bristol Native  
13 Corporation submitted a bill and that's how it came  
14 about. Don't give the Park any credit for that because  
15 they didn't help out in that area.

16  
17 MR. FRIED: No, what I was just trying to  
18 indicate is that it's not a Federal conservation unit.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

21  
22 MR. FRIED: It's a special condition when  
23 they formed the Park, so the Federal manager that has  
24 authority doesn't really have authority to open and close  
25 that fishery, it would be the Park land manager that  
26 would do that.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any questions on  
29 that process, Council members?

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What else do you have  
34 Steve?

35  
36 MR. FRIED: Well, the only thing I would  
37 indicate is that, you know, that the list as it is now,  
38 it doesn't have any mention about rainbow trout studies  
39 or customary trade or things like that. So I don't  
40 believe it has any reference, either, to coho salmon and  
41 that South Peninsula, you know, Kametolook, Perryville  
42 area, so there are things that are being funded that  
43 really aren't on the list that have come up and, you  
44 know, the Council evidently thinks they're important too  
45 because they've been recommending they be funded, so I  
46 just thought this might be a good opportunity to, you  
47 know, amend the list and add any issues that aren't on  
48 there that you feel are important. And the other thing  
49 to keep in mind, if there are one or two issues that you  
50 think are very important then we can highlight those in

00110

1 the call and try to ensure that, you know, we'll get some  
2 proposals on those particular areas also.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comment from the  
5 Council members.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Apparently we  
10 think it's all right, so.....

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think that  
17 Kametolook down there and Perryville there should be  
18 added. As Boris alluded to, I've been in Board of Fish  
19 meetings where Boris has represented Perryville for a  
20 number of years on that stream, and the stocks have been  
21 declining. It's a stream that is readily accessible by  
22 the village.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: As Boris said, without a  
27 boat. And I know Boris has been working on that issue  
28 with the Board of Fish for a good many years trying to  
29 bring that river system back.

30

31 I don't know, I think you said yesterday  
32 or somebody said yesterday that it wasn't in Federal  
33 waters, did you say that?

34

35 MR. FRIED: No, I didn't.

36

37 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

38

39 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it's -- I think a lot  
40 of those waters are the Peninsula Refuge.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: You know, to me a lot of  
43 these things on this list are good things but when you  
44 got a conservation concern affecting the subsistence  
45 lifestyle, that should be a priority. And Kametolook  
46 sticks out like a sore thumb in my estimation.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Do you want to  
49 add that then?

50

00111

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes, I'd like to add that  
2 to the list.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do we need a motion to  
5 add that or can you just go ahead and add that to a list  
6 as a recommendation from the Council?

7  
8 MR. FRIED: However the Council wants to  
9 handle that, I mean, I could just add it or you could  
10 make a motion.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, I think we'll  
13 just go ahead and add this.

14  
15 MR. FRIED: You might want to remember,  
16 too, the discussions we had about the Tazimina rainbow.  
17 I mean that's something -- rainbow trout aren't even on  
18 the list right now.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any concern for the  
21 rainbow trout on this issue, Council members, do you want  
22 to add it, too?

23  
24 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That's the  
27 Perryville River issue and rainbow trout.

28  
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: Tazimina.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Tazimina.

32  
33 MR. HEYANO: Is it just rainbow trout or  
34 all freshwater species in Tazimina?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It all depends on how  
37 broad you want to make that.

38  
39 MR. FRIED: Yes.

40  
41 MR. HEYANO: You know, I think Andrew's  
42 concern was for all freshwater species in Tazimina  
43 including rainbow trout.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who's was that?

46  
47 MR. HEYANO: Andrew's.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, Andrew's, yeah.

50

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1 MR. HEYANO: If I recall that.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it could be worded, you  
4 know, freshwater species, you know, particularly and they  
5 we could say Tazimina rainbow or however you wanted to  
6 focus it. I mean depending on if you just wanted to  
7 focus it on Tazimina, or more broadly.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, which did we want  
10 here? Robert, did you have wording that we could use to  
11 maybe get that into the process.

12

13 MR. HEYANO: I would leave it broad for  
14 now, Mr. Chairman.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All species.

17

18 MR. HEYANO: .....to include all  
19 freshwater species, yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. You got  
22 that Steve?

23

24 MR. FRIED: So would that be all  
25 freshwater species for Tazimina River?

26

27 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else?

30

31 MR. FRIED: Well, other things that have  
32 come up are -- we've been doing work in the Togiak River,  
33 and there is something on the issue about a Togiak weir,  
34 but we've already found out that a Togiak weir really  
35 isn't feasible with the technology we have now a days.  
36 We did fund some video work that Fish and Wildlife  
37 Service is doing and they're writing a final report on  
38 that right now. So I was wondering whether or not we  
39 should either reword that particular issue to just have  
40 something like improved salmon assessment on Togiak River  
41 or if you wanted to remove it because we can't do a weir  
42 or how you'd like to handle that one?

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How would you go about  
45 doing that study if you can't use a weir, what other  
46 method would you use?

47

48 MR. FRIED: Well, like I said they were  
49 looking at video and they're thinking possibly that they  
50 can at least do some tributary assessment. There are

00113

1 some new types of sonar equipment called a Didsen (ph),  
2 it's a new piece of equipment they're looking at. I  
3 don't know if that would be suitable for, you know, the  
4 mainstem Togiak. And then the Department came up  
5 yesterday and said they were a little worried about the  
6 tower might not be funded so I mean I don't know where  
7 we're going but if Togiak is important you might want to  
8 have something on the list to indicate that it is.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete, what do you  
11 think?

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: There's some concerns over  
14 there in the village that the State might not fund the  
15 tower up there. Although they had a study several years  
16 ago, I think Aaron Archibeque was involved there in the  
17 river. There's some good possibility areas there for  
18 radar, there's some channels, right now you can tell the  
19 bottom of the river is flat, because it's shallow right  
20 now, we're running out of water, we might have to use  
21 ATVs to go up river in a few more days.

22

23 I'll talk with the people over there,  
24 maybe, you know, find out their concerns, because that's  
25 their lifestyle over there.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, Steve, you know,  
28 everything else we do in Bristol Bay, the emergency order  
29 process is either an aerial observation over a tower  
30 count and so the State of Alaska is thinking about not  
31 doing a tower count to determine what the escapement  
32 levels is; is that what you're saying?

33

34 MR. FRIED: Well, it's my understanding  
35 that last year they were faced with some pretty large  
36 budget cuts and they were asked to list projects that  
37 would not be funded if those budget cuts occurred.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

40

41 MR. FRIED: .....and so Togiak tower  
42 ended up on that list but I guess the funding level at  
43 the Legislature finally approved was high enough so that  
44 they really didn't have to make that cut.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

47

48 MR. FRIED: So I think that's what they  
49 were concerned about. I think you'll hear more about  
50 that when the Department comes up later in the report

00114

1 section.

2

3

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This is one of those  
4 issues where we have a Federal program and Federal lands  
5 but the State has jurisdiction on the waters, is that  
6 what we're looking at in the Togiak River?

7

8

MR. FRIED: No. It's another situation  
9 where there's dual management. I mean you know, in  
10 general, you know, the State has management authority  
11 until the Constitution and ANILCA don't quite, you know,  
12 mesh anymore, and so we're in this dual management thing.  
13 But they do manage the commercial fishery.

14

15

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, yeah.

16

17

MR. FRIED: But the Federal manager, you  
18 know, since the river drainage is on a refuge, you know,  
19 I mean he could open and close that area to fishing  
20 depending on how the subsistence fishery was going and  
21 escapements were going.

22

23

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I think probably  
24 that issue, if they do decide to cut the funding for the  
25 tower then we're going to come back and look at the issue  
26 at the Federal level. So let's just kind of leave it at  
27 that right now then. Andrew can gather some information  
28 on it.

29

30

MR. FRIED: Yeah, no, my question was  
31 whether or not you wanted to take that issue that's on  
32 there, instead of just having it focused on a weir, make  
33 it a little bit more general so it just will encompass  
34 any sort of improvement in salmon escapement monitoring.

35

36

MR. ABRAHAM: To something to think about  
37 over there, but, you know, you say the river is too wide  
38 and too deep, the problem with the tower up in the Togiak  
39 River, way up there the ADF&G don't open the fishery, the  
40 fishing season until they count the fish up there in the  
41 tower, although they survey the river with airplanes, but  
42 it's never accurate.

43

44

I'd like to hear Aaron Archibeque's, you  
45 know, he was involved in that monitoring that was, you  
46 know, just right above the Refuge. I don't seem to.....

47

48

MR. FRIED: Are you talking about the  
49 sonar project that they tried to do a few years ago?

50

00115

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I think it was that.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Yeah, there was some problems  
4 with that. Of course, that was older sonar technology,  
5 but I think the main problem was, I think one was species  
6 apportionment. They really had a problem with what they  
7 were counting. And I think they might have had some  
8 resident fish that were milling around like char, you  
9 know, dolly varden that were a problem.

10

11 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, uh-huh.

12

13 MR. FRIED: So it's a tough river to do  
14 that in but they could take another look. The problem  
15 with the weir, I think, is they had high flows during  
16 part of the season and so even if you put in one of those  
17 resistance board, those floating weirs, they kind of bend  
18 down when the flows are too high so the weir doesn't wash  
19 out but that would also allow fish to go above it. And  
20 when they were looking at the flows, they thought that  
21 would happen too many times and so there would be too  
22 many times during the year when that happened, when you  
23 couldn't count. So that's why they decided that weir was  
24 probably not feasible.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I remember that,

27 yeah.

28

29 MR. FRIED: Yeah. And so that's why they  
30 went and took a look at video to see whether or not, one,  
31 they could look at the tributaries and get some counts  
32 because those don't get counted except for aerial surveys  
33 because they're below the current tower site. And they  
34 also too the video and put it in the mainstem, they were  
35 thinking maybe they could do species apportionment so in  
36 case they did look at sonar again maybe that would help.  
37 And I'm not sure how that worked. It kind of depends on  
38 the water clarity.

39

40 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, there was a project  
41 at Unvanaik (ph), but of course Unvanaik's shallow and  
42 they had monitors there for a couple of years.

43

44 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want Aaron to  
47 address this issue?

48

49 MR. ABRAHAM: I think he asked pretty  
50 much what -- what is the problem.

00116

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  What's the problem with  
2  putting a weir in?

3  
4                   MR. FRIED:  It's high water flows during  
5  part of the year and it happens enough so that the weir  
6  would really not be operational a fair amount of the  
7  season when the salmon are migrating.  And they're just  
8  afraid that too many fish are going to go across the weir  
9  accounted so you wouldn't get a very good count.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  The weir in Chignik has  
12  worked pretty well.  They had a videocamera posed in  
13  front of the weir and regardless of, apparently, that's a  
14  pretty big river, pretty fast river.

15  
16                   MR. FRIED:  Yeah, and it's a different  
17  set up.  I mean they come in there every year with pile-  
18  drivers and then it's.....

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  Oh, they put a little  
21  more money into it.

22  
23                   MR. FRIED:  Yeah, it's not just a  
24  floating weir, it's almost like a dam with a slot for the  
25  fish to go through and they force the fish through so  
26  there's only maybe one or two fish going through at a  
27  time so the camera can do that.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  Okay.

30  
31                   MR. FRIED:  It's a nice operation.  It's  
32  a little bit bigger engineering job than they were  
33  looking at for Togiak.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  Yeah, they got quite an  
36  operation down there where they set the gate farther  
37  commercially and then seine them at the end of the gate,  
38  nice little trap there and it's worked perfect.

39  
40                   MR. FRIED:  Uh-huh.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA:  If they need a little  
43  more fish they just swing the end open let them go in and  
44  video them as they go by and then they're done.

45  
46                   So, okay, well, we could spend a lot of  
47  time on this but if you want to we can, if not we're  
48  going to move on on that issue.

49  
50                   Okay, go ahead, Robert.



00117

1 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman,  
2 in being in consistent with our priorities and following  
3 up on your comments yesterday, I think we should add the  
4 cause of the decline.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In Togiak?

7  
8 MR. HEYANO: In the Lake Clark sockeye  
9 salmon stocks.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, yeah. Do you  
12 want that put into this position paper?

13  
14 MR. HEYANO: I would like that added to  
15 the list.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that'd be great,  
18 okay. Why don't you go ahead and add that Steve.

19  
20 MR. FRIED: Yeah, there actually is a  
21 Lake Clark issue on Page 18 under stock status. There's  
22 one document run time in spawning areas for Lake Clark  
23 sockeye salmon stocks.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the page?

26  
27 MR. FRIED: Eighteen.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

30  
31 MR. FRIED: In that handout, that  
32 separate handout.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35  
36 MR. FRIED: I mean maybe it needs to be  
37 reworded.

38  
39 MR. HEYANO: Right. I think Dan was right  
40 yesterday in his comments, you know, we should focus on  
41 trying to identify the cause.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, go ahead and put  
44 that in there then. Do you have something in there  
45 already for the study issue?

46  
47 MR. FRIED: Well, Lake Clark, we've had,  
48 you know, two studies, at least two, probably more than  
49 that on Lake Clark already but like I said they were  
50 focused on -- one was to identify all the spawning sites,

00118

1 there's a radio tagging study and it found spawning sites  
2 were didn't even know existed before, looked at the run  
3 timing and we got a lot of good genetics information.  
4 And then we also ran counting towers on the head of  
5 Newhalen and also on Tazimina to get some counts the last  
6 two or three years. So that's what's been done on Lake  
7 Clark so far. And then there was this proposal this year  
8 to take a look at run timing using the genetics  
9 information.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

12

13 MR. FRIED: But as you mentioned, you  
14 know, you think there's further studies that need to be  
15 done to look into decline.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we don't know  
18 what happened to the smolt.

19

20 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think that's one of  
23 the big issues we have. Either there isn't enough food  
24 supply. And I think they've probably studied the food  
25 supply in Lake Iliamna and I'm sure they did a study on  
26 that on Lake Iliamna, probably the FRI people. But  
27 they've never been able to challenge what happens with  
28 those smolt when they came out of the Kvichak and they  
29 mix with the Naknek and the Egegik and Nushagak and that  
30 type of system. And, you know, as lay people we don't  
31 understand how you're going to deal with the smolt once  
32 it gets past the mouth of the Kvichak and the strength of  
33 that -- or the capability of that smolt versus the smolt  
34 coming out of the Naknek and Becharof, for instance, now,  
35 someone is going to have to figure that out. Where do  
36 they go? Where do they feed? You know, and after 1979,  
37 I think it was, when the fish came roaring back we just  
38 kind of fished and fished and fished and thought we'd  
39 never come to the end of this, the rainbow that we were  
40 at, and then you know in 1988 I think we got 2.40 a pound  
41 or something like that I thought I'd never have to worry  
42 about going to the bank again and then down at 40 cents a  
43 pound, look at your paycheck this year, you know,  
44 something drastic happened.

45

46 We didn't follow through, Dick Russell  
47 and people like that talked to us about, well, you got to  
48 do research all the way to the high seas and find out  
49 where these guys are going, what's happening, what  
50 they're eating, and, of course, we wouldn't do that, but

00119

1 now, I don't know I think it should be taken back to the  
2 Staff and be looked at anyway so just mark it down if you  
3 would.

4

5                   Anything else, Council members, that we  
6 need to look at here?

7

8                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Were you just addressing  
9 Lake Clark or Lake Iliamna in general, Mr. Chairman?

10

11                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Both. But I don't know  
12 if the Federal funds would cover Lake Iliamna study but I  
13 know good and well if they'd cover Lake Clark it's going  
14 to be at least a smolt from the area that's troubled.

15

16                   Your fund can only deal with what comes  
17 out of your Federal system, basically, isn't that right,  
18 Steve?

19

20                   MR. FRIED: Basically it needs to focus  
21 on the -- yeah, on the Federal fisheries and the Federal  
22 resources.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay.

25

26                   MR. FRIED: But as you mentioned  
27 yesterday, that doesn't mean the study has to be done on  
28 a conservation unit it can be done off unit, but as long  
29 as there's that link back to the fishery.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

32

33                   MR. SAMUELSEN: But to me, Mr. Chairman,  
34 we spend a lot of money on CarolAnn Woody's study  
35 documenting the spawning beds and what not in Lake Clark.  
36 You know, this year it was 3-some million fish went up  
37 the Branch River.....

38

39                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay.

40

41                   MR. SAMUELSEN: .....and nothing up  
42 Iliamna Lake and it's tributaries to speak of.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

45

46                   MR. SAMUELSEN: And to me, as a lay  
47 person, I find it quite ironic that the Branch is just  
48 booming and the Iliamna Lake and its tributaries are way  
49 down, their historical averages even, and at times  
50 bordering on sustained yield principal. I think anything

00120

1 that we could do to compliment the different studies, I  
2 mean it's fine, I think, always funding the projects are  
3 nice but, you know, the Federal money is going to dry up  
4 in another year when the President is going to run for  
5 reelection, the State's already talking 250-billion  
6 dollars in budget cuts as ADF&G said yesterday that the  
7 funding for a lot of these -- the basic tools of good  
8 research management and fisheries management are going  
9 away. I mean you could probably go through a list of  
10 three or four pages of the tools that the Department of  
11 Fish and Game had in the mid-80s to what they have today.  
12 And when you start talking about taking out counting  
13 towers in Togiak and Ugashik and them places, basically  
14 all their management tools are going out the window. But  
15 that's the basic stuff that they need.

16

17                   Lake Clark/Iliamna, you know, we've  
18 gotten petitions, you know, many calls -- and the folks  
19 up there just a few years ago weren't even meeting their  
20 subsistence needs, regardless of what stream they were  
21 in. And to sit here and say, well, if it isn't in a  
22 Federal conservation unit, well, it may be in the lake,  
23 but the fish swim through that lake and go into them  
24 Federal streams and I think that we need to take a  
25 proactive approach and try to get some coordination  
26 between the State, the Federal folks, the PBSRI, a number  
27 of organizations and a collaborative approach to solving  
28 some of these puzzles that are out there that are  
29 affecting these stocks.

30

31                   I don't care if it's on a Federal  
32 conservation zone or not, they're fish, they're swimming  
33 there, and by and large Federal waters are going to be  
34 affected if nothing's swimming up the Kvichak River  
35 system. I don't think any one agency has the dollars to  
36 do the funding, but I think collaborative efforts by a  
37 number of different agencies and the working group to  
38 look at them stocks to try to figure out what's happening  
39 up there would be well worth the while.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I notice that the State  
42 of Alaska has cut out the out migration counts anymore,  
43 too, from almost all the streams. They still do Kvichak  
44 and so some research is needed.

45

46                   And I guess that's about all I have to  
47 say about it. I don't know how we're going to work that  
48 Steve.

49

50                   MR. FRIED: Okay. Well, I will modify

00121

1 the list and make sure I do the rewording and add those  
2 issues and you know those are the issues that will go out  
3 in the 2005 call.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

6

7 MR. FRIED: And are any of these issues  
8 that you think should be priorities that we should  
9 particularly point people towards when we do the call or  
10 should we just send out the list and let them, you know,  
11 provide studies on any of this and not worry about the  
12 priority right now?

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I don't know the  
15 Kvichak is your biggest system and known to mankind, you  
16 know, I don't know why -- that would be a pretty top  
17 priority. I don't know the -- it's been five years since  
18 there's been even -- no one has actually taken any  
19 harvest on those creatures in the last five years.  
20 Everything has been an end river fishery, so no one's --  
21 and the lower Peninsula, I don't know what the seiners  
22 are doing way down, they're probably not doing much and  
23 the upper Peninsula as the gillnetters, you know, from --  
24 would be from Moeller to just below let's see -- above  
25 Three Hills, are probably taking some fish but I don't  
26 think there's been any appreciable amount of fish taken  
27 anywhere that's affected the Kvichak system, yet, on  
28 itself is not even coming back -- if you leave it alone  
29 it's not coming back.

30

31 So you might put down on your notes that  
32 you could combine some things that State of Alaska is  
33 doing with the Federal programs and see if we could have  
34 better use of our dollars. I don't know what your  
35 cooperation between those two would be.

36

37 MR. FRIED: Well, we do try to do that  
38 whenever possible, try to work with other agencies, other  
39 organizations to try to put our monies together to try to  
40 get the most bang for the buck.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

43

44 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess determine the  
45 effects of beaver dams and natural blockages on fish  
46 populations, spawning grounds with the Nushagak River.  
47 There's very little Federal.....

48

49 MR. FRIED: I would think so, yeah.

50

00122

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....on the Nushagak  
2 River, so why is that even in there? The chances of the  
3 Feds doing anything about that is.....

4  
5 MR. FRIED: That's a good question as to  
6 why it's in there or not. The only thing I could say is  
7 the fact that the Togiak Refuge boundaries and they go up  
8 the Wood River Road and then it goes down to shore and  
9 even though there's some -- that land in there has been  
10 -- it's within the Refuge even though it's been provided  
11 to the city and the Native corporations and stuff so it  
12 is under this program. And I suppose if there's any  
13 fisheries that go in there that happen to catch Nushagak  
14 salmon and I guess there's some link, however weak there  
15 is, but I think you're right, I think that would be on  
16 the bottom of the list. You could take it off the list  
17 but, I mean it's kind of one of those not very strong  
18 links.

19  
20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. I mean relocate  
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game sonar site used to  
22 count salmon entering Nushagak River, and we got no say  
23 so in that on the Feds side, that's going to be the  
24 Department of Fish and Game. This seems like this is a  
25 Christmas tree wish list.

26  
27 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's what I think  
28 most of these lists were when they first started. And I  
29 think, you know, as time goes on we kind of refine them  
30 and fix them and make them more focused. So I mean we  
31 could take that off if it's the Council's wishes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Robert.

34  
35 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman, my  
36 recommendation would be to prioritize those stocks where  
37 we have a conservation concern.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, let's do it. You  
40 have your pencil out, ready to go. Do you have a listing  
41 here that you'd like to give us?

42  
43 MR. HEYANO: No. I think based on our  
44 discussion this morning that would be Lake Clark sockeye,  
45 Kametolook coho, and Tazimina River freshwater species.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And Togiak is covered,  
48 do you think?

49  
50 MR. HEYANO: Well, I don't think we have

00123

1 a conservation concern at Togiak, it's more of a  
2 management too type issue.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: And I'm not advocating to  
7 take anything off the list, I'm just trying to respond to  
8 Steve's question on what should we prioritize.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11

12 MR. FRIED: And the only other thing I  
13 can think of where subsistence users had expressed a  
14 little concern in meeting their needs was down in Chignik  
15 for late run sockeye and there's some studies that are  
16 being done there now. But that would be the only other  
17 place that really jumps out right now that there's a  
18 possible concern with a declining run and people having  
19 problems, and that would be Clark River.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Okay. Have we  
22 flogged this horse enough here now to go on?

23

24 MR. FRIED: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. What's your  
27 next step, Steve?

28

29 MR. FRIED: Well, if we're done with  
30 that, you know, I'll revise the list before the November  
31 call.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. FRIED: And if the Council doesn't  
36 have any more questions on that then I've just got one  
37 more quick item.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that means that  
40 Cliff will have your revised list off to the Council  
41 prior to the deadline. All right, good. Okay, we're  
42 ready.

43

44 MR. FRIED: Okay. Would the Council,  
45 should I -- when I revise it would you like me to e-mail  
46 the list back?

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we'd like that.

49

50 MR. FRIED: And you can look at it once

00124

1 more before November?

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

4

5 MR. FRIED: Okay, I will do that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

8

9 MR. FRIED: The last thing I'd like to  
10 bring to your attention would be the Partners for  
11 Fisheries Monitoring Program. There's a little one page  
12 summary of where we are to date on Page 161. Currently  
13 we've -- basically the positions are in support of the  
14 Monitoring Program. They're funded through OSM but the  
15 positions are hired by local organizations. There is one  
16 fisheries biologist position within Bristol Bay, within  
17 BBNA.

18

19 I think maybe what would really be of  
20 interest too is the fact that OSM is going out for a call  
21 for one more position. It would be a social scientist  
22 position. I think that call will be coming out fairly  
23 soon. And I guess it's just a heads up that if there's  
24 an organization within this area that would be interested  
25 in hiring a social scientist to help out with the  
26 Fisheries Monitoring Program, then this would be an  
27 opportunity to do so.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Under Tab E, is that  
30 where you're at?

31

32 MR. FRIED: Uh-huh, on Page 161.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35

36 MR. FRIED: It'd be the very, very last  
37 page right before Tab F.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

40

41 MR. FRIED: And that's just a summary of  
42 the program. You know currently there's six fishery  
43 biologist, one anthropologist, social scientist and also  
44 seven student interns, and it cost about a million  
45 dollars to operate the program this year.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And you want to add a  
48 little bit more cost?

49

50 (Laughter)



00125

1                   MR. FRIED: Well, basically what happened  
2 was there was an approval for a part-time social  
3 scientist, I think it was for the Yukon-Kuskokwim area  
4 and that position was never filled so there's that money  
5 that's still available. And they were going to use that  
6 money to fund a 12 month period. And since I think these  
7 were funded for five years, the idea was to fund this one  
8 for three years to bring it into synch with all the other  
9 positions so that it would end, you know, in the five  
10 years and then they could renew at that point all the  
11 positions at once.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What does this do for  
14 putting more fish in the streams?

15

16                   MR. FRIED: Well, basically it's somebody  
17 on the ground that would basically work with communities  
18 to either, you know, develop studies, operate studies,  
19 interpret data so.....

20

21                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, this thing  
22 has taken such an incredible life that sometimes you look  
23 back and you don't even know where you started from.  
24 This thing masses out into something -- I wouldn't be  
25 interested in it but of course maybe the Council would  
26 be.

27

28                   MR. FRIED: Yeah, I mean there is quite a  
29 bit of interest statewide in the program and basically,  
30 you know, what it does is get a professional person  
31 working directly with a local organization or an Alaska  
32 Native organization that's, you know, outside an agency.  
33 So some people think that's quite important. And, you  
34 know, I guess the flip side would be either using more  
35 money to hire more agency people or using more money to  
36 do more studies or something like that. But this,  
37 hopefully, will get the local people and users a lot more  
38 involved in operating studies and being actively involved  
39 in subsistence management.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Whatever the wish of  
42 the Council is fine with me.

43

44                   MR. FRIED: This is just information.  
45 You know, the fact that there will be one more position  
46 filled and I just want to let the Council know that, you  
47 know, it's a possibility if an organization within your  
48 area puts in it there could be a position within this  
49 area.

50

00126

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if they're going  
2 to put a few more smolt back up in the Kvichak and Lake  
3 Clark, fine, you know, if you're going to fiddle around  
4 running around the villages all the rest of your life and  
5 not putting fish back up there, as far as I'm concerned  
6 it's a waste of time. But you can do what you like.

7  
8                   Any other comments that you have?

9  
10                  MR. FRIED: No, I'm finished.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, it took  
13 you a long time to get done.

14  
15                  MR. FRIED: Well, Larry just reminded me,  
16 did we not do inter-regional stuff?

17  
18                  MR. EDENSHAW: No, I didn't see any in  
19 there.

20  
21                  MR. FRIED: Okay, that will be.....

22  
23                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Steve, is that all you  
24 have or do you have something else?

25  
26                  MR. FRIED: Well, Larry just reminded me,  
27 I don't know if we studied on the inter-regional studies  
28 on Page 145.

29  
30                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we might as well.

31  
32                  MR. FRIED: There were three inter-  
33 regional studies that were under -- that are being  
34 considered for funding in 2004.

35  
36                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Page 145 under Tab E?

37  
38                  MR. FRIED: Under Tab E. And of those  
39 three there's really only one that would have anything to  
40 do with the Bristol Bay area, it's 04-751, subsistence  
41 harvest database update report preparation.

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

44  
45                  MR. FRIED: And the description of that  
46 one would be on Page 157 and basically what it is is it's  
47 a request for funding to update the Alaska Subsistence  
48 Fisheries Database and would expand the -- it's the  
49 database that's up -- I think it's on the web now and the  
50 State is the manager of the database. It would add

00127

1 information for several years, add some historic data  
2 prior to 1988, would also expand the database to include  
3 non-salmon fish, marine invertebrates for several years.  
4 And it was recommended for funding by the Technical  
5 Review Committee. And basically it is the database  
6 that's very widely used by a lot of the agencies and  
7 organizations to find subsistence information by species,  
8 by community.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Steve, it talks about  
11 there in 04-751, that it would be funding the State of  
12 Alaska to help on this database of 78,000; is that right,  
13 on Page 145 at the bottom?

14

15 MR. FRIED: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That would be Federal  
18 monies going to them?

19

20 MR. FRIED: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

23

24 MR. FRIED: Yeah, this would be provided  
25 to the State and it would be for one year and it would be  
26 about \$78,000.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We would give the State  
29 of Alaska to help out on this monitoring program 78,000?

30

31 MR. FRIED: Right.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay.

34

35 MR. FRIED: And that's the investigator  
36 would be this Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
37 Division of Subsistence.

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comment, Council  
40 members.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: You said it was for  
43 statewide?

44

45 MR. FRIED: Right. It would be  
46 statewide, so it would include the Bay but it would be  
47 statewide.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: It would include the Bay?

50

00128

1 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it would.

2

3 MR. HEYANO: And we're talking about 04-

4 701?

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, 751.

7

8 MR. FRIED: 751.

9

10 MR. HEYANO: 751.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Page 145 at the bottom.

13

14 MR. FRIED: Yeah, the other ones don't

15 include the Bay.

16

17 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

18

19 MR. FRIED: One is a database for Arctic/

20 Yukon/Kuskokwim.

21

22 MR. HEYANO: Okay.

23

24 MR. FRIED: The other one's eulacon.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

27

28 MR. FRIED: So that's the only thing I

29 forgot to bring up. And as you know with the other

30 studies, the Council's can either accept the

31 recommendation or not accept the recommendation or not

32 take action.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments,

35 Council members.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, thank you very

40 much Steve, unless there's something else from the

41 Council members that needs to be addressed here.

42

43 Cliff.

44

45 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, what Steve was

46 suggesting, that Project 04-751 is if the Council would

47 give a thumbs up in a motion to have that funded.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, somebody needs to

50 say this is an action item then and we'll act on it.

00129

1 MR. HEYANO: Move to support Project 04-  
2 751, Mr. Chairman.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second.

5  
6 MS. KELLY: Second.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further discussion.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question called for.  
15 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

20  
21 (No opposing votes)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that your report,  
24 Steve?

25  
26 MR. FRIED: Okay, thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you very  
29 much. We appreciate you helping us out with that. And  
30 just in case where you're wondering where Andrew is at  
31 this morning, his mom had a heart attack last night about  
32 the time we walked out the door and she was in Anchorage  
33 and was at Alaska Native Medical Center and we ran him  
34 down to the airport and they had a standby seat and he  
35 went back to Anchorage to see his mom, so that's where  
36 Andrew is at right now. And he said tell everybody sorry  
37 he couldn't make it all the way through.

38  
39 How about if we take a 10 minute break.

40  
41 (Off record)

42  
43 (On record)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're back to order.  
46 We're down to agency reports. And U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
47 Service, Office of Subsistence Management, number 1,  
48 Draft Predator Management Policy and Daniel LaPlant, I  
49 believe is going to be handling that.

50

00130

1 MR. LaPLANT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
2 For the record my name's Dan LaPlant, and again I'm with  
3 the Office of Subsistence Management. And the briefing  
4 for you on the Draft Predator Management Policy is behind  
5 Tab F in your book.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: F, okay.

8  
9 MR. LaPLANT: So you might want to turn  
10 to look at that.

11  
12 In August of this year, the Federal  
13 Subsistence Board approved for Regional Advisory Council  
14 review a draft predator management policy and that policy  
15 is based on an analysis that's in your book; starting on  
16 Page 169 is the complete analysis and it's available for  
17 your review and comment. That analysis is about a 15  
18 page document and it includes some background information  
19 on cultural and traditional practices on predator  
20 management and a little bit of history on predator  
21 control. It outlines all the Federal agencies  
22 regulations and policies on predator control, and there's  
23 a discussion section on the role of the Federal  
24 Subsistence Board in predator control and predator  
25 management.

26  
27 If you're interested in the short  
28 version, on Page 165 is a two page executive summary of  
29 that analysis. So you can take a look of that in lieu of  
30 or in addition to the full analysis. And then on Page  
31 167 is the policy itself, the draft policy. And I need  
32 to make a correction on that page, on Page 167, it should  
33 say the Draft Predator Management Policy of the Federal  
34 Subsistence Board, the Board has not adopted this yet,  
35 they'll be taking it up at their December meeting. The  
36 word draft here, I guess, got removed when we sent this  
37 to the printers, I guess since it was being printed they  
38 could remove the word draft, but this still is the draft  
39 policy.

40  
41 So that's what the Board is making  
42 available for Council review. Now, they had a work  
43 session a year ago in August and at that time the Federal  
44 Board looked at ANILCA Title VIII references relative to  
45 their role in predator management. They reviewed  
46 existing regulations and authorities, responsibilities  
47 and previous program guidance that they have received  
48 from the Department -- yeah, and from the Secretaries and  
49 they also looked at predator control as compared to  
50 habitat management.

00131

1                   And influencing elements in that review  
2 that helped formulate this policy were the fact that in  
3 Section .802 of ANILCA, paragraph two, it talks about  
4 subsistence use and the Board's role in providing  
5 opportunities for subsistence use or for subsistence take  
6 for subsistence use. And in Section .803 it defines  
7 subsistence use as being for direct, personal and family  
8 consumption.

9  
10                   Another influencing item that the Board  
11 looked at was the environmental impact statement and  
12 record of decision from 1992 that established the Federal  
13 Subsistence Program. And in that environmental impact  
14 statement it specifically says that predator control is  
15 not part of the Federal Subsistence Program. Predator  
16 control, it says, is the responsibility of the individual  
17 Federal management -- Federal agencies, the land  
18 management agencies.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now say that again,  
21 because see that's the key right there. You can talk  
22 about it all you want and then it goes down.....

23  
24                   MR. LaPLANT: Right.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....to the individuals  
27 like the Park Service, where they just as soon sit there  
28 and let everything eat each other and you watch them eat  
29 each other too and never make a provision for subsistence  
30 so what do you mean by that?

31  
32                   MR. LaPLANT: Well, each agency has a  
33 mandate in ANILCA to manage lands according to the  
34 various purposes of the land unit. And predator control  
35 is part of those responsibilities. It's compared to  
36 habitat management. Each agency has a responsibility to  
37 habitat management on their particular lands. That's  
38 the decision that was made by the Secretary when the  
39 Federal Subsistence Program was initiated, was that  
40 predator control, like habitat management is the  
41 responsibility of the individual agencies. The Federal  
42 Subsistence Board, of course, is made up of the agency  
43 heads as a group would not have responsibility for  
44 predator control or habitat management.

45  
46                   So that's the extent of the discussion in  
47 the environmental impact statement about predator  
48 control, just that it's not in there.

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like an

00132

1 example of how it doesn't work? You fly through Lake  
2 Clark Pass, have for many, many of thousands of hours and  
3 you can see -- you can count every moose and bear in the  
4 pass at 500 feet. Well, you don't have to worry about  
5 counting anymore moose in Lake Clark Pass because there  
6 are no more moose in Lake Clark Pass, the wolves ate all  
7 them up. Then you take the practical side of the guy who  
8 lives in Nondalton who has a Lund who's trying to get an  
9 animal and he doesn't have a Supercub to go and a  
10 backpack outfit, you know, to go to Long Lake or  
11 someplace like that and get an animal, and yet I just  
12 fail to see where some of these government divisional,  
13 such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Refuges and the  
14 Park Service, and BLM -- it may be a policy on paper but  
15 it's not working where the rubber meets the road type of  
16 thing as far as -- and so I do appreciate you coming  
17 before us and looking at this predator control type  
18 thing, it's very, very important.

19

20 MR. LaPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 The purpose here was to review the existing regulations  
22 and assist the Board in determining, you know, what  
23 authorities do they have and what responsibilities do  
24 they have in making these decisions and I'm just  
25 reporting to you the result of that review process that  
26 the Board undertook.

27

28 Again, those were the influencing  
29 decisions that helped them develop the policy. And as a  
30 result of that, they decided that they needed a policy  
31 that differentiated between predator control, which is  
32 the controlling of one species for the benefit of another  
33 species, which, according to this background information  
34 they don't have the responsibility for. And predator  
35 management, which is a more comprehensive approach to  
36 dealing with predators much like they would deal with any  
37 other species of wildlife, controlling populations,  
38 providing subsistence harvest opportunities and so on.  
39 So they do have a role in predator management as they do  
40 with any other wildlife, but they don't in predator  
41 control. So they needed to differentiate between the  
42 two.

43

44 So the policy, if you look on Page 167,  
45 you know, I'll spare you going through the first two  
46 paragraphs there, I kind of paraphrased that already, but  
47 paragraph A and B, there in the policy is the meat of the  
48 policy.

49

50 And the first paragraph then says that



00133

1 the Federal Subsistence Board will consider all Federal  
2 proposals to regulate seasons and dates, methods and  
3 means, harvest limits and customary and traditional use  
4 determinations for subsistence take of fish and wildlife.  
5 The Board will ensure that the primary effect of the  
6 decision is to provide for subsistence take and use of  
7 the subject species. The Board will also take into  
8 account approved population objections, management plans,  
9 customary and traditional uses and recognize principles  
10 of fish and wildlife management.

11

12 So that's the predator management  
13 responsibility or role that the Board has, setting  
14 seasons and harvest limits for subsistence take for  
15 personal and family consumption.

16

17 And then the other part of it is the  
18 predator control part, paragraph B, that says the Board  
19 will direct the Office of Subsistence Management to  
20 return to the proponent all Federal proposals that  
21 specifically indicate that the reason for the proposed  
22 regulation is to reduce the predator population to  
23 benefit the prey population, in other words, predator  
24 control. It says proposals returned to the proponent  
25 will include an offer of technical assistance from OSM  
26 Staff to promote understanding of the Board's role in the  
27 management of predators. Proponents with predator  
28 control objectives will be referred to the appropriate  
29 Federal land manager or the Alaska Board of Game to seek  
30 resolutions of their concerns, however, the Board will  
31 monitor actions taken by the agency to address such  
32 concerns and will provide appropriate support where  
33 necessary to ensure the continuation of subsistence  
34 harvest opportunities. And what that means is that most  
35 predator control efforts that have taken place in the  
36 past have been part of a species recovery plan and  
37 predator control is only a portion of that.

38

39 I guess a good example of that would be  
40 the Fortymile Caribou Herd recovery plan where the State  
41 actually implemented predator control. There was a  
42 sterilization project, it was wolf relocation. But the  
43 Federal Subsistence Board made adjustments in the harvest  
44 seasons and harvest limits to accommodate that recovery  
45 plan. So there's a role for the Board to play as there  
46 was a role for the Board of Game to play, but the  
47 specific predator control parts of that plan in this case  
48 were carried out by the Board of Game and the State. And  
49 in other instances, they could be carried out by the  
50 specific Federal agencies, but not by the Federal

00134

1 Subsistence Board.

2

3                   So the Board said that they will monitor  
4 such activities in the future and see where their role  
5 might be.

6

7                   So anyway, the Board does recognize that  
8 they have received in the past two different types of  
9 requests for liberalizing the harvest of predators, one  
10 to provide for subsistence harvest opportunities for  
11 personal and family consumption and one to control  
12 predators for the benefit of prey. So they do need to  
13 differentiate between the two and that's the purpose of  
14 the policy, to state up front what's going to influence  
15 their decision when they get such requests and how one  
16 type of request is different from the other.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, and I think  
19 that's very important, Dan, because you can't kill off  
20 every beaver on the Alaska Peninsula because he's damming  
21 off a stream, there has to be a balanced management  
22 system for the species within the system itself, such as,  
23 you know, you need to have enough moose and caribou for  
24 wolves to eat and then you got to make sure that the  
25 management system works so that we have enough  
26 opportunity to take the animals for use as well. I mean  
27 it's a very delicate management system. It really is  
28 very important and we have to work very hard at making  
29 sure this management system is balanced.

30

31                   You don't want to lose a species in the  
32 process of wanting to eat a moose. I don't want to  
33 indicate that we would do otherwise.

34

35                   Go ahead.

36

37                   MR. LaPLANT: That's correct. Well,  
38 anyway, Mr. Chairman, the Board intends to -- they said  
39 they intend to adopt this policy that resulted from this  
40 process following Council review and consideration of  
41 anything the Councils have to say about this draft  
42 policy. So they also said that they believe that this  
43 predator management policy statement will provide  
44 clarification to Federally-qualified subsistence users  
45 and others regarding predator management  
46 responsibilities, and they anticipate that the benefits  
47 of a clear policy would be more consistent expectations  
48 of those people that are asking for the Board to take  
49 such action and help individuals to understand what  
50 factors the Board will consider when they do receive such

00135

1 proposals.

2

3                   So that's the policy and like I said,  
4 they plan on taking this up at their December meeting,  
5 and they would like to hear from the Councils as to any  
6 comments you might have about it.

7

8                   That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's a pretty brief  
11 summary. Anybody have comment from the Council members.

12

13                   Yes, Robert.

14

15                   MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman,  
16 in reviewing the document.....

17

18                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's a revised version  
19 of your red there in your notes and a reflection upon  
20 what you're going to talk about regarding predator  
21 control.

22

23                   MR. HEYANO: Right. You know, we're  
24 charged here with providing subsistence opportunities for  
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users. And I guess this  
26 is the problem I have, if we can't consider all the  
27 causes that the Federally-qualified subsistence user  
28 isn't receiving the opportunity then what good are we  
29 doing here? You know, a prime example is that what's  
30 close to our area is the North Peninsula Caribou Herd.  
31 We took every other use out of it, we restricted the  
32 subsistence users and you'll recall in this latest report  
33 it looks like it's still going downhill, you know, so do  
34 we quit? I don't think that's right and I don't think  
35 that's the intent of Title VIII of ANILCA.

36

37                   So it almost looks to me, Mr. Chairman,  
38 I'm venturing to guess they had a result in mind and then  
39 they went back and got the documentation to justify their  
40 results. You know, it says in here on Page 170, and it  
41 talks about in Northwest Alaska, after introducing  
42 reindeer in the late 1800s government representatives  
43 responsible for teaching herding practices to Alaska  
44 Natives attempted to instill the concept that predators,  
45 especially wolves, were the enemy. Joe Clark, who  
46 resides in Clark's Point, as a young man on the Kuskokwim  
47 was actually a reindeer herder. I think if you listen to  
48 some of his stories and the impacts wolves had on the  
49 herd he was responsible to manage, I don't think any  
50 Western practice instilled that to him, it's just common



00137

1 on how to bring the North Peninsula Herd back, need more  
2 wolf control, bear control of what, what do we need to  
3 do?

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think what's clear  
6 to me, Mr. Chairman, it wasn't the non-Federally-  
7 subsistence users responsible for the decline of that  
8 herd.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

11

12 MR. HEYANO: You know, and there was some  
13 discussion about range conditions and, you know, we heard  
14 that through a series of studies maybe that wasn't the  
15 problem either. I mean when you have poor calf survival,  
16 you can get pretty narrow on the cause.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well.....

19

20 MR. HEYANO: But if we're not allowed to  
21 do anything, you know, it's kind of a joke.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other comments,  
24 Council members. Boris.

25

26 MR. KOSBRUK: Aren't there -- anybody who  
27 knows we have this caribou situation down south?

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, Sellers is  
30 usually the guy who addresses that and he's not here. I  
31 don't even know if he's around anymore or not, did he go  
32 away? He went away?

33

34 (Nods in audience)

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You guys better hire  
37 him back so we can get some information, I guess. I  
38 don't know what the answer to that is, Robert. Did you  
39 have a comment?

40

41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chairman. So predator control, the way I read this, is  
43 basically out of the purview of the Regional Councils.  
44 Predator management we could deal with within the  
45 Council, right?

46

47 MR. LaPLANT: That's correct, yes.

48

49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

50

00138

1                   MR. LaPLANT: But if I could explain a  
2 little bit further. It doesn't say that predator control  
3 cannot occur. It specifically says that the Board does  
4 not have a role to play in predator control. Predator  
5 control, you know, is the responsibility of the agencies.  
6 And it varies with each agency. Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service on Refuge lands, for example, has a prohibition  
8 against same day aircraft hunting of wolves, so that  
9 method of predator control is not one that could be used  
10 on Refuge lands. And I'm sure that that same thing is  
11 true on Park lands.

12

13                   So the methods that would be used for  
14 predator control vary from land management agency to land  
15 management agency, therefore, the Secretaries determine  
16 that it's the responsibility of those land management  
17 agencies to carry out that job of predator control when  
18 necessary and to determine when it's necessary. The  
19 Federal Subsistence Board is not involved or does not  
20 have a responsibility for predator control. I think  
21 that's the main message here.

22

23                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. Under predator  
24 management then we have the options to change seasons and  
25 dates, methods and means, harvest limits like we've done  
26 on, I think, bear species. We've done it for  
27 subsistence. We've done it on beavers species. We could  
28 even do it -- we could take wolf populations, say down at  
29 Perryville the wolves, we know that the wolves are  
30 numerous in that area and you guys have documented it,  
31 quote, under predator management, we could raise the bag  
32 limits and extend the seasons under the predator  
33 management arena but not under predator control.

34

35                   MR. LaPLANT: That's correct. As  
36 necessary -- as the Board determines necessary to meet  
37 subsistence needs.

38

39                   MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah. Well, I got to  
40 agree with Mr. Heyano, you know, that that statement  
41 there on Page 180, at least one court has said that  
42 harassment should be defined very narrowly and any time  
43 that an airplane directs the movement of an animal, that  
44 animal has been harassed. You know, Katmai National  
45 Park, I'm sure there's snipes and a plane landing could  
46 be interpreted as being harassed by a landing Beaver full  
47 of people.

48

49                   In my former life I sat nine years on the  
50 North Pacific Fishing Management Council and when you get

00139

1 these weasel words, and that's what I call these words,  
2 weasel words, precaution every principle on managing fish  
3 stocks, it sounds really good, you know, it's pretty  
4 sexy, everybody could agree with that. But when you got  
5 these conservation groups running around with pockets  
6 full of money the precautionary principle means, before  
7 you set a net you got to prove you're not going to do any  
8 damage to habitat, that you're not going to infringe upon  
9 a snail's movement, and if you set a net and you're  
10 disturbing the bottom and you're disturbing the snail in  
11 his habitat, you're in violation of the precautionary  
12 principle. And these folks have successfully gone and  
13 found a judge that would listen to them and tied the  
14 Council as well as NMFS Staff up in knots.

15

16           You know, I see where this is going, it's  
17 going to be tied up in knots because I think the  
18 definition is pretty narrow. And whenever a group of  
19 folks wants to, for whatever reason, wants to make the  
20 case that an airplane redirects the movement of an animal  
21 regardless of what that animal is they're going to use  
22 that as a crutch to change the management within some  
23 Federal conservation unit. You know, we're charged with  
24 the responsibility of managing a resource and providing  
25 that resource to the benefit of the subsistence users,  
26 and I think that dealing with and looking at  
27 predator/prey relationships is a component. A component  
28 is looking at habitat. We don't want habitat destruction  
29 to happen.

30

31           I guess all we've got to do is get  
32 creative under the disguise of predator management.  
33 That's about our only option I see reading through this  
34 paper if the draft is going to be adopted by the Board.  
35 It looks like to me if we come in with any kind of  
36 predator control it's going to be in File 13 right away.

37

38           CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, Dan.

39

40           MR. LaPLANT: Mr. Chairman, if I could  
41 respond to that. I think the main message here is that  
42 predator control is not prohibited by the policy but the  
43 Board is saying that in order to carry out predator  
44 control, the subsistence users and the Council need to  
45 work with the individual land management agency because  
46 each agency has different regulations that would allow it  
47 at the various degrees, it would allow various methods  
48 and means to accomplish it. So it's not saying that  
49 predator control is not an acceptable practice, it's  
50 saying that it recognizes that most agencies have stated

00140

1 that it should be used very limited. But it is a  
2 recognized tool for wildlife management but it comes  
3 under the responsibility of the individual agencies.  
4 So.....

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I've sat on this  
7 Council since its inception, what '92 there, Tom, when  
8 was -- '92, I have yet to have a Federal agency come to a  
9 Bristol Bay RAC meeting and say we have a predator  
10 problem on all the Federal lands, but I've had  
11 subsistence users come from like Perryville and the  
12 Chigniks that can't catch caribou, that's -- you know,  
13 we've gotten letters that wolves are eating dogs right in  
14 the village that are chained up. On the Nushagak  
15 Peninsula, I think it was my question or Mr. Heyano's  
16 question was asked if there was -- at one Council meeting  
17 if there was bears on the Nushagak Peninsula and wolves  
18 and the answer was, you know, pretty much we don't know,  
19 and then we've got pilot reports that people flying along  
20 the coast and see bears and wolves within that area and  
21 we see the herds start going down, the numbers start  
22 dropping. I don't know if I'll live to the day to see  
23 that the agency would say they got a predator problem on  
24 their land.

25

26 Not under this definition. I mean it's  
27 going to be, you know, I think the opinion is basically  
28 taking away a pretty strong management tool, not only for  
29 the RAC Boards but also for the full Board. And it's a  
30 fact of life that -- look at them poor folks up in the  
31 Interior there, the McGrath area with their predator  
32 problems. I remember when I was -- back in the '60s I  
33 went firefighting and landed in McGrath and you could see  
34 moose right around the airport in McGrath and in the  
35 paper, you know, moose are far and few in between in that  
36 area. But the predators are -- I've heard at the Board  
37 of Game and read in the newspaper the predators are at an  
38 all time high.

39

40 I'm sure that if we had a predator  
41 problem with pike eating rainbow trout and was decimating  
42 the world class trophy Western Alaska rainbow trout we'd  
43 be seeing all kinds of predator control practices being  
44 implemented to kill them pike, and there'd be a whole new  
45 set of rules developed on the predator/prey relationship.  
46 But since we're dealing with bears, with wolves, as you  
47 say the mind set has changed and the society, values have  
48 changed.

49

50 I think that's a Lower 48 assessment, the



00141

1 society, it sure isn't the people that rely on the  
2 resource around the villages throughout rural Alaska.

3

4 That's all I have to say Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pretty interesting.

7 Yes, Dan.

8

9 MR. LaPLANT: Mr. Chairman, this wasn't  
10 necessarily an action item by the Council but the  
11 opportunity is here if you'd like us to take a specific  
12 message back to the Board and you want to do that in the  
13 form of a motion or whatever.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

16

17 MR. LaPLANT: .....we could carry that  
18 message back to the Board for you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm sure you will. Go  
21 ahead Boris.

22

23 MR. KOSBRUK: I just want to enlighten  
24 Robin's statement there, in Perryville, a couple winters  
25 ago -- I've got six boys of my own and a couple of them  
26 go ptarmigan hunting quite a bit and other local boys,  
27 too, and they reported back one day that they found a  
28 moose surrounded by wolves with its throat hanging and  
29 they went after the wolves and they were just all along  
30 the alders there, they could see them, they couldn't get  
31 at them because of the alders. But that winter they  
32 counted five moose that were struck by wolves. And that  
33 one particular wolf there was standing on four legs with  
34 his throat hanging down, they couldn't touch it because  
35 they were afraid of rabies.

36

37 And we just can't hunt them there. You  
38 can pass the law that shoot and fly and land the same --  
39 land and shoot the same day but you can't do that, you  
40 got to get them from the airplane, it's the only way you  
41 can get them, and there's a lot of wolves. A couple of  
42 winters ago a guy got attacked at the airport. Thank God  
43 he was young and husky but he had to go to the hospital.  
44 You got a bunch of kids walking down for about three-  
45 quarters of a mile in the wintertime in the dark,  
46 walking, that's dangerous. I was on the school board, I  
47 mentioned that to them, tried to get a bus to take them,  
48 no funds.

49

50 So we have no caribou. We're down to

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1 counting moose on one hand or two hands. But the wolves  
2 are there. I tracked eight of them before I come up here  
3 on the beach. They can't -- you can't land in Perryville  
4 -- or you can't go hunt them. You can't chase them  
5 because of the alders, it's not flat and you don't get  
6 the snow to cover all that stuff either.

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN: I got one more.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, go ahead.

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I got one more question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Boris.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: In compliance with the  
17 EIS and the NEPA requirements, have you guys done a  
18 scoping paper to see how long it would take to comply  
19 with them two requirements, or either one? How long  
20 would it take a Federal agency to comply with the NEPA  
21 requirements documentation?

22

23 MR. LaPLANT: Well, the -- well, you're  
24 talking about revisiting the environmental impact  
25 statement, revising the environmental impact statement,  
26 it would be a lengthy process, yes, a lengthy public  
27 review process.

28

29 MR. SAMUELSEN: So if Deb Liggett came in  
30 here in our next meeting and said, boy, we've got a  
31 predator problem in our conservation unit, it's probably  
32 safe to say that throughout this process you're probably  
33 looking at a good two years, maybe three years in order  
34 for, quote, the NEPA process to flow through; am I  
35 correct?

36

37 MR. LaPLANT: That's probably a very good  
38 assessment, yes.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, and that's pretty  
41 fast.

42

43 MR. LaPLANT: I think the original  
44 environmental assessment for the subsistence program took  
45 two years.

46

47 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. LaPLANT: It was approved by the  
50 Secretary in '92, so it probably started in '89 or 1990,

00143

1 something like that. So that's what the original took,  
2 yes.

3

4 MR. SAMUELSEN: And I'm only doing that  
5 to point it out. I've worked under NEPA and EIS as a  
6 Council member. To me, Mr. Chairman, once you enter that  
7 arena, you're entering the abyss.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, this is quite an  
12 interesting rat maze that you're bringing up here today,  
13 Dan, because whereas the Federal Board says it's up to  
14 each agency to deal with the predator issue, that's  
15 really pretty far removed from the Advisory Council and  
16 the Federal Board is -- I just -- I don't see any future  
17 to it really. I don't see where much progress is going  
18 to be made. Either that or we're going to have to work  
19 awfully hard. But it's an interesting system anyway.

20

21 Any other comments you have?

22

23 MR. LaPLANT: No, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

26

27 MR. LaPLANT: That's it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Council members.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there any action  
34 required now on this or this is just a report?

35

36 MR. LaPLANT: Again, Mr. Chairman, it's  
37 not required but I'm here available to listen to any  
38 action you might want to take and bring that message back  
39 to the Board.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Take it Robin.

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I would like a  
44 scoping paper developed, not only for this Council but  
45 the other Regional Councils on compliance with the EIS  
46 and NEPA requirements and a timeframe. To put it in --  
47 you know, it says here that habitat and predator control  
48 programs are the responsibility of each land management  
49 agency, that's fine, and are beyond the scope of the  
50 document. The statement also pointed out that such

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1 programs or projects are subject to both NEPA  
2 documentation, ANILCA, Section .801 evaluation. But I'd  
3 like to show the other Regional Councils what's all  
4 involved in NEPA regulation -- compliance rather.

5

6 MR. LaPLANT: Yeah, that.....

7

8 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't think people  
9 realize that it's such a long tedious process. That you  
10 may have a -- you may recognize a problem today and  
11 you'll be dealing with it four years down the road  
12 because your NEPA process hasn't been completed.

13

14 MR. LaPLANT: There again, that statement  
15 refers to if an individual agency is to take on predator  
16 control.....

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: That's right.

19

20 MR. LaPLANT: .....an activity, correct,

21 yes.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: I mean.....

24

25 MR. LaPLANT: Same timeline.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....the point is that  
28 once you enter that zone the chances of getting something  
29 done are pretty 'nil.

30

31 MR. LaPLANT: It is a lengthy process,

32 yes.

33

34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, if we have great-  
37 grandkids, maybe something will get done so we'll work at  
38 it.

39

40 It's a tedious process, Dan, and I sure  
41 do appreciate you coming before us today and giving us  
42 the information but I think it's up to this Council to  
43 give advice to the Federal Board on what direction we  
44 want to go and there's Department heads sitting here  
45 today that can go back to your supervisors to pretty much  
46 see where we're coming from as far as predator control.

47

48 Any other comment.

49

50 Yes, Boris.

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1 MR. KOSBRUK: I was going to bring up the  
2 issue of hopefully trying to transplant some caribou back  
3 down south there, but if you can't do anything about the  
4 wolves then I don't see no benefit there.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Yeah,  
7 interesting. I think that's all we have, Dan, thank you  
8 very much, appreciate it.

9  
10 MR. LaPLANT: Okay.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The next one is  
13 Glenn. Glenn, I believe, is going to come talk to us  
14 about the -- Glenn Chen. Good morning, Glenn.

15  
16 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good  
17 morning Council members. For the record my name is Glenn  
18 Chen. I'm a member of the Staff Committee for the Bureau  
19 of Indian Affairs.

20  
21 I'm here today on behalf of the  
22 Interagency Staff Committee, as it's representative and  
23 I'd like to discuss an issue with you that's very  
24 important to us and that has to do with the role of the  
25 Staff Committee in the process of developing subsistence  
26 regulatory proposals. The material I'm going to present  
27 to you is found under Tab F starting on Page 187.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What tab?

30  
31 MR. CHEN: Tab F, Page 187.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: F, Page 187, okay,  
34 thank you.

35  
36 MR. CHEN: As described in the Federal  
37 Subsistence Management Regulations, the Staff Committee  
38 was established to provide assistance to the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board. Our Board members rely on us for  
40 support and advice regarding procedures, policies and  
41 technical matters in the Federal program. But recently  
42 there's been some concerns raised by a number of Councils  
43 and Council Chairs regarding the Staff Committee's role.

44  
45 There are perceptions that we are having  
46 an undue influence on the Federal Subsistence Board,  
47 especially with regard to the decision-making process for  
48 subsistence regulatory proposals as well as the Board's  
49 consideration of RAC recommendations on these proposals.  
50 These concerns were most recently expressed at the May

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1 2003 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage. And  
2 in response, Chairman Demientieff directed that a review  
3 of our role in the process of developing Federal  
4 subsistence regulations be conducted.

5

6 To date, the Staff Committee and the  
7 Board have met several times following the Chairman's  
8 direction. And at this point we have developed a number  
9 of proposed changes to the Staff Committee's role that  
10 we'd like to present to the Council for your review and  
11 feedback. I'd like now to present these proposed  
12 changes, and to make it easier to follow my presentation,  
13 I would offer the suggestion that you use the table found  
14 on Page 189 of your Council book. This table was  
15 developed by Peggy Fox from OSM and provides an excellent  
16 summary of the process that the Staff Committee currently  
17 uses for reviewing regulatory proposals and how the  
18 proposed changes could modify this process and address  
19 some of the Council concerns.

20

21 So if you look at the table there, the  
22 first step that it describes is the stage of the proposal  
23 analysis. And as you know, once a proposal is received  
24 at OSM, OSM Staff then provides an analysis of the  
25 proposal and the Staff Committee, along with members from  
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game meet prior to the  
27 Council meetings to review the analysis and offer  
28 suggestions to OSM Staff on how the analysis might be  
29 improved and so forth. That's the current process that's  
30 used. The proposed change would actually be not much  
31 different. We'd still review the analysis with ADF&G  
32 Staff and OSM Staff, but in addition the Staff Committee  
33 would develop talking points to present at the Council  
34 meeting.

35

36 The next step, of course, is the Council  
37 meeting like this one here. And at present, our  
38 attendance at these meetings is option and there really  
39 isn't a role that's been identified for the Staff  
40 Committee at the Council meetings. What we propose  
41 changing are as follows: That we would, first of all,  
42 ensure that a Staff Committee representative would be  
43 present at every Council meeting and we would discuss the  
44 proposals with the Council, so there would actually be a  
45 formal presentation by Staff Committee members. Upon  
46 request, the Staff Committee would provide assistance to  
47 the RAC on policy, procedure and technical matters as you  
48 might need. And we would also provide briefings on other  
49 subsistence issues that the Federal Subsistence Board is  
50 seeking RAC comments on.

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1                   What we're hoping to do with these  
2 changes are to accomplish the following: And one, it  
3 would give the Staff Committee the opportunity to provide  
4 support to the RAC during its meeting and we would  
5 establish direct communication between the Council and  
6 the Staff Committee on all these proposals early in the  
7 process, rather than later as is done now.

8  
9                   Following this Council meeting then the  
10 Staff Committee meets again with representatives from the  
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and we currently  
12 develop recommendations on the proposals, and we consider  
13 the Council's recommendations as well. At present,  
14 sometimes the Council Chairs are invited to participate  
15 in the Staff Committee meeting but this is not formally  
16 identified as a step. What we're proposing to change  
17 here is that we would formalize the involvement of the  
18 Council Chairs in the Staff Committee meeting, and that  
19 we would change the way we would review the proposals, we  
20 would not provide a formal recommendation to the Board,  
21 but instead we would provide an assessment of the  
22 proposal that would include the Regional Council's  
23 recommendation and we would provide comments to our Board  
24 members. So we would not provide a minority/majority  
25 recommendation or a Staff Committee recommendation to the  
26 Board.

27  
28                   Here's what we're hoping to accomplish  
29 with these changes at the Staff Committee meeting, and,  
30 that is, we would, again, allow direct communication  
31 between RAC Chairs and Staff Committee on all proposals  
32 prior to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting.

33  
34                   This would then also allow the RAC Chair  
35 to present back to the Council recommendations and  
36 discussions from the Staff Committee.

37  
38                   And we would also give the RAC Chair the  
39 opportunity to provide to the Staff Committee and Alaska  
40 Department of Fish and Game representatives, the  
41 Council's position and why they're making the  
42 recommendation.

43  
44                   Following the Staff Committee meeting, of  
45 course, there's the Board meeting, and we would propose  
46 some changes to the procedures that we currently do.

47  
48                   At present, the Staff Committee gives a  
49 formal presentation to the Board at the Board meeting,  
50 providing its recommendation, and this recommendation

00148

1 follows the presentation of the Council's recommendation.  
2 We would propose changing that though. We would, again,  
3 not have a formal role, would not give a formal  
4 presentation of the Staff Committee recommendation. The  
5 Staff Committee's analysis/assessment of the proposal  
6 would be provided in the Board book for the Board members  
7 to review.

8

9                   At present the Staff Committee sits  
10 behind the Board and it's been commented that some of the  
11 discussions that the Staff Committee has during the Board  
12 deliberations appeared to be distracting to the Board  
13 members, also it seemed that the Staff Committee was  
14 holding on the side discussions about some actions that  
15 the Board might take. We would then eliminate the side  
16 conversations and hold any sort of discussions that we  
17 need to have outside the Board room.

18

19                   At present, the Board, when it conducts  
20 its deliberations of the proposals, the Board tends to  
21 deliberate -- begins its deliberations with adopting the  
22 Staff Committee recommendation or perhaps the Council  
23 recommendation as they develop their own responsive  
24 proposal. The change that we would then make here is  
25 that the Board would begin its deliberations with a  
26 motion based on the Council's recommendation only.

27

28                   So this will hopefully accomplish a  
29 number of objectives here. One is that it focuses the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board on the deliberations of the RAC  
31 recommendations. It would emphasize compliance with  
32 ANILCA, Section .805(c) and Section .815. It would  
33 ensure that the Staff Committee is not viewed to be on  
34 the same level as the Regional Advisory Councils.

35

36                   If you turn to Page 190 of your Council  
37 book, this describes the timeline that the Board is  
38 currently considering for resolution of this issue.  
39 There would be a Staff Committee representative like  
40 myself present at every Council meeting this fall to give  
41 a briefing to Council members. As I mentioned before,  
42 the Board is seeking your feedback on these proposed  
43 changes to the Staff Committee's role, and the Board  
44 would also like to hear about any additional suggestions  
45 that the Council might have or offer for resolving this  
46 issue.

47

48                   Following the Council's meeting, the  
49 Board would then consider all the Council comments and  
50 suggestions and discuss this issue with the Council



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1 Chairs at its December meeting. The Board plans to make  
2 a decision either during the meeting or soon after to  
3 resolve this issue and direct the Staff Committee to  
4 implement the desired changes.

5

6 We'd like to point out that the  
7 opportunity for comments by the Council are not just  
8 limited to this meeting. We invite all members of the  
9 Council to provide any feedback or suggestions to us  
10 throughout the next couple months. And we would invite  
11 you to please feel free to contact myself or any of the  
12 Staff Committee members directly by phone or by mail with  
13 your comments and suggestions.

14

15 That concludes my presentation.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Very good, thank you.  
18 Any comments, Council members.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me give you a  
23 graphic example of what Glenn's talking about today. We  
24 went in for the subsistence use of rainbow in the Federal  
25 streams and it got to be a really hot issue and, of  
26 course, the guides, it took them by surprise, that  
27 particular user group did not know about it, they didn't  
28 show up, but the media was there and even the Board asked  
29 for a compromise on that rainbow trout issue that the  
30 Bristol Bay RAC brought up, and the Staff was split on a  
31 recommendation to the Federal Board, and that has a lot  
32 of influence on what the Federal Board does when the  
33 Staff does something like that and I could see it coming  
34 and, you know, you had to really argue hard to get that  
35 -- what we wanted done. And even a Federal Board member  
36 said let's do a compromise here and I said there is no  
37 compromise, there's a yes or no, that's just the way it's  
38 going to be. And I think the Staff's job is just to give  
39 that information to the Federal Board, let them, with the  
40 RAC wrestle with the issue of how that's going to be  
41 handled.

42

43 And it goes back to the same old story of  
44 what university you went to and what your concerns might  
45 be about conservation, environment, what each Federal  
46 agency is going to be doing about what they want to do on  
47 predator control or management, and it gets to be so far-  
48 fetched, and so many voices coming in and you're right,  
49 the Staff member sitting behind the Board member  
50 whispering in their ear, the Board -- we're privileged if

00150

1 the Board would ask  
2 the Council for their input, you know, and the other  
3 side, you got 10 Chairs sitting over there and they're  
4 all of one voice, Staff is out there, the Board is there;  
5 it is quite a system.

6  
7 You have brought up something very, very  
8 critical here. It sounds like Cam Toohy has been  
9 talking to somebody because the lines need to be drawn a  
10 little more clearly and, you know, I think this is a very  
11 critical part of what's going to be happening with  
12 decisions on the Federal Board. And they're going to  
13 have to stand alone pretty much on some of those issues,  
14 each representative of different agencies.

15  
16 Any other comment from the Council  
17 members.

18  
19 Yes.

20  
21 MR. HEYANO: So in your opinion, Dan,  
22 these proposed changes are sufficient to address the  
23 issue you brought before us?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think it's a big  
26 improvement. A big improvement. For instance, you know,  
27 when the Board, again, asked for one more bit of  
28 information on this rainbow trout issue, which was the  
29 most contentious one that we had, you know, that was the  
30 toughest one to deal with, I believe, unless I'm wrong,  
31 coordinator, there was a split even in the Staff on how  
32 this operation should go. And poor old Cliff over here,  
33 he's got to come talk to me, and talk to the Staff and  
34 then he's got to be the whipping boy in some areas.

35  
36 I think these are good -- I think it's a  
37 step in the right direction.

38  
39 I think the advice to the Board will be a  
40 little more direct and influential and Staff is going to  
41 do the research, give the information, let the Federal  
42 Board make up their mind with the RAC, you know.

43  
44 I made a comment on what university  
45 you're from, take it as you like, you know, these are all  
46 educated people sitting there, many degrees out here  
47 sitting today, probably not one individual without a  
48 degree there today, and how have they been influenced on  
49 what a wolf does to a caribou versus a predator  
50 management program. And the various type Federal people

00151

1 that come to us are influenced greatly and their budgets  
2 by somebody else, somewhere else with a lot more  
3 congressmen and senators that we have, you know, and  
4 that's why we deal with -- and Alaska's one of the last  
5 places where you have the kind of resources that we're  
6 dealing with. And these people are looking at us and  
7 saying, hey, these are the only people who've got a wolf,  
8 you got to take good care of it, I can understand what  
9 their thinking are.

10

11 But I think this is very critical and I  
12 really do appreciate this, these comments today, Glenn.

13

14 Any other comments.

15

16 Yes.

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: You know, I kind of like  
19 Staff recommendations when we're going through proposals.  
20 We get ADF&G comments and then we get public comments and  
21 we've got to weigh Staff, ADF&G, public comments as well  
22 as institutional knowledge on the region and render a  
23 decision. I don't know if the Staff's going to render a  
24 comment they got to have justification.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's fine.

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: And what I've  
29 noticed.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....about, at least this  
34 Council, I won't speak for the other Councils, is that,  
35 you know, we're not intimidated by Staff's recommendation  
36 in any way, shape or form, some of them we go along with,  
37 some we don't and we build our case if we're on the  
38 opposite side of Staff, but I think that's the process.

39

40 I also think, as the vice Chair, and  
41 taking your place a few times to the Board meeting.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....that some of the  
46 Regional Councils have unrealistic expectations on what  
47 really Title VIII of ANILCA is going to do for them. And  
48 I've sat there a couple of times where it's gone way off  
49 in right field and I've been asked to join and I've said,  
50 hell, no, I'm not joining that cause, come on now.

00152

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: But I think it's, you  
4 know, to me, you got to have a transparent process, we  
5 got to have the public's input, those are the keys as far  
6 as perceptions that Staff Committee is having an undue  
7 influence on the Board.

8

9 And I look at our track record, this  
10 RAC's track record on bringing proposals before the Board  
11 since it's inception of Federal management and we've got  
12 a pretty good track record, this Council.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I don't know about the  
17 other Councils, I haven't followed their -- had the time  
18 to follow them, but I could agree with some of the points  
19 but I'd like to see Staff's recommendations come forth if  
20 we're going to get ADF&G's recommendations, we ought to  
21 have Staff's recommendations. And sometimes, Mr.  
22 Chairman, you know, Staff's recommendations, ADF&G's  
23 recommendations been on the opposite side.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, a lot of times.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: And it's good to hear  
28 both sides of the story before we go into public  
29 testimony sometimes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think that's a good  
34 healthy process. We have agencies disagreeing and the  
35 public agreeing and disagreeing and then somebody's got  
36 to make a call and a recommendation to the Board. And I  
37 think it strengthens this RAC when we do go forth with a  
38 recommendation to the Board because of those different  
39 views that we've taken into consideration.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other -- excuse me,  
42 go ahead, Glenn, and then we'll have Robert.

43

44 MR. CHEN: Yes, if I could respond to  
45 you, Mr. Samuelson. We're not proposing to change the  
46 process of the OSM Staff developing a recommendation,  
47 they would still provide a recommendation to the Council  
48 as part of their analysis, that would still remain. What  
49 we're proposing to change, though, is the following  
50 recommendation, the follow up recommendation of the Staff

00153

1 Committee after the Council meeting. We're proposing to  
2 not provide a Staff Committee recommendation as part of  
3 the.....

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: At the Board level?

6

7 MR. CHEN: Correct. To the Board, right.  
8 Right now after the Council meets, the Staff Committee  
9 then takes a look at the analysis, looks at the  
10 recommendation of the Council and we provide our  
11 recommendation to the Board, that process would be  
12 eliminated in this proposal.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin, go ahead.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, that even scares me  
17 more because the Board doesn't know what's happening out  
18 here. Most of them probably haven't even visited -- they  
19 might have come to Dillingham or King Salmon, but they  
20 haven't gone out to the villages. And, you know, they'll  
21 have the RAC recommendation, they'll have the Staff  
22 recommendation and it seems like, you know, if we build  
23 our case strong enough that history has dictated that the  
24 Board is pretty much going to go along with the RAC or a  
25 slight compromise with the RAC and Staff recommendation.  
26 Having 10 members of a Board sitting up there with no  
27 recommendation is pretty frightening to me.

28

29 MR. CHEN: Well, the Board would still  
30 have the Regional Council recommendation, they'd also  
31 have our Staff Committee's analysis of the proposal of  
32 the Council's recommendation and so forth provided to  
33 them in a written format in part of the Board book, we  
34 would still continue to brief our Board members prior to  
35 the Board meeting, but there would not be something  
36 called a formal Staff Committee recommendation that we  
37 currently do right now. So we would still be able to  
38 brief our Board members properly on the issues and so  
39 forth.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The Federal -- excuse  
42 me, go ahead.

43

44 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, I'm done.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, you had a  
47 comment there.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think that, you  
50 know, I look at it a little bit different than Robin

00154

1 there. I think his concern is addressed by Staff  
2 Committee develops comments to the Board.

3

4 MR. CHEN: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: So it's not like the Board,  
7 the Federal Subsistence Board would look at it void of  
8 any Staff comments, those would still be there. But, you  
9 know, I guess you got to have a little faith in the  
10 system from the Regional Council to the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board, you know, we're all charged with  
12 protecting the resource and then, you know, providing a  
13 subsistence priority.

14

15 So I think, you know, with the Staff  
16 people being involved on the Council level helps us make  
17 that good decision and then in the event that there is  
18 some disagreement, Staff still will provide their  
19 comments to the Board and then the Board will decide  
20 what's the appropriate action. I think it just takes the  
21 role of Staff getting into an advocacy in the public  
22 process.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That is the issue, I  
25 feel, is what we need to be careful about, is we don't  
26 want to get in a confrontation type, divide this thing up  
27 and see how the Staff is going to affect the Board. And  
28 I think that's what I've had to deal with on the Board  
29 level when we've gone in there to deal with it.

30

31 MR. HEYANO: You know we had some  
32 examples of that when we were dealing with special  
33 actions on 17(A) moose.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.

36

37 MR. HEYANO: You know, on that particular  
38 issue we were concerned for the resource and there was  
39 some Staff members that didn't have those same concerns.  
40 So, you know, I think this should work pretty good.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I think you've gotten a  
43 few good comments to take back to your people, Glenn.

44

45 MR. CHEN: Uh-huh.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Granted, Robin has been  
48 on the North Pacific Council and Fish Board where you can  
49 be as contentious as you ever want to be and really learn  
50 to dislike each other intently and those types of things

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1 and really, you know, really going for the resources,  
2 it's incredible, the allocation process. And we  
3 certainly want the Staff input, that -- I mean we've got  
4 to have the Staff input. And when this Council needs  
5 advice, I see Dave Fisher is probably still here today,  
6 we have people like that, you know, Pat, and other ones  
7 who come before us and help us in all these decisions.

8

9 That's my comments anyway.

10

11 Do you have anything else?

12

13 MR. CHEN: No. Just to point out again  
14 that we still invite any further comments or suggestions  
15 up until the Board meeting and that the Chairman will  
16 discuss this issue with all the RAC Chairs prior to the  
17 Board making a decision as well.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When is that Board  
20 meeting going to be?

21

22 MR. CHEN: December. I believe it is  
23 December 9th there in Anchorage.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's when the Federal  
26 Board meets?

27

28 MR. CHEN: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

31

32 MR. BOYD: 9th through 11th.

33

34 MR. CHEN: 9th through 11th.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. And then are the  
37 Chairs going to meet on the 8th?

38

39 MR. EDENSHAW: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

42

43 MR. EDENSHAW: No, just that morning when  
44 they convene on December 9th.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're going to meet  
47 with the Chairman of the Federal Board a little while?

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: No, it would be the whole  
50 Board.

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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

2

3 MR. CHEN: You would meet with the whole  
4 Board.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, the RAC Chairs  
7 and the full Board will sit down at the table again and  
8 hash over this issue.

9

10 MR. CHEN: Exactly.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, that's fine.

13

14 MR. CHEN: This issue.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's fine with me,  
17 yeah. Okay, if you have no other further comment, well,  
18 thank you very much Glenn, do you have anything else for  
19 us today?

20

21 MR. CHEN: That's it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

24

25 MR. CHEN: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Clifford, who  
28 has the next report here?

29

30 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, if the Council  
31 members would look on Page 191, this was a regulatory  
32 cycle review. This is in regards to how, you know, just  
33 as Glenn was speaking briefly on the Staff Committee role  
34 on how our Regional Council meetings, the winter, the  
35 fall and the Board meetings, how those are all scheduled  
36 and in regards to -- as well as the Board of Fish and the  
37 Board of Game. So that's for the Council's review --  
38 informational, and that's on Page 191. And if there were  
39 any questions regarding that we could pause and answer  
40 those, but, again, it's just for the Council's  
41 information.

42

43 And then what we're going to do is Tom  
44 Boyd was going to provide the Council with a briefing on  
45 this letter that I passed in front of you which was a  
46 request from the Governor to have a representative sit on  
47 the Federal Subsistence Board, a non-voting, so Tom's  
48 going to provide the Council with a briefing on that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that going to take



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1 place now?

2

3

MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tom Boyd, would you like to come -- oh, there he is. You've given us a letter, right, Tom?

7

8

9

10

MR. BOYD: Yes. I think Cliff passed that out to you, Mr. Chair.

11

12

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13

14

15

16

MR. BOYD: The letter from Governor Murkowski to the Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton. You may want to reference that as I speak.

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. BOYD: Of course, this letter was dated July the 17th and it was sent to the Secretary of the Interior and basically the request from the Governor was that a State official be appointed by the Secretary as a non-voting member of the Federal Subsistence Board.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

You can read that letter for yourself and I think the intent of the request was to seek a greater role for the State in the deliberative process of the Federal Subsistence Board. I think they want to be able to deliberate with the Board and ask questions of witnesses, essentially deliberate with the Board through the process up until a vote is taken and then they would, of course, not participate. The idea of a non-voting member.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

In considering the request, the Staff, we in the Office of Subsistence Management as well as the Federal Subsistence Board has reviewed -- and as well as the Staff Committee has reviewed the record of decision for the Federal Subsistence Management Program and, of course, this record of decision was the decision document that proceeded from the environmental impact statement that was prepared back in 1992. I think, Cliff, did you provide an excerpt of the record of decision as well?

46

47

MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, it is also there.

48

49

50

MR. BOYD: Okay. The record of decision provides for a State liaison to be appointed by the -- let's see, to be essentially nominated by the Governor

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1 and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, that's  
2 what the record of decision provides for. And to date,  
3 we've not ever gone through that process. The Governor  
4 of the State has never nominated anyone nor has the  
5 Secretary appointed anyone. What we have had at the  
6 Board members, as you're well aware, Mr. Chair, is some  
7 State Staff who have been serving in the role of -- one  
8 could argue in the role of liaison but essentially they  
9 are there to provide the comments of the State on each  
10 regulatory proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It works very well, the  
13 process.

14

15 MR. BOYD: The Secretary is certainly  
16 aware that this is a matter of considerable sensitivity  
17 to a number of folks. We've received three letters to  
18 date since the Governor's -- since receiving the  
19 Governor's letter, one from the Alaska Federation of  
20 Natives, one from the Wilderness Society and one from the  
21 Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida Tribes of Southeast  
22 Alaska. All oppose the Governor's request. Essentially  
23 citing conflicts with Title VIII of ANILCA, the State not  
24 being in compliance with ANILCA and those sorts of  
25 things, and expressing concern about the Governor's  
26 request.

27

28 The office of the Secretary, that's Mr.  
29 Toohy, has requested that the Board convene and develop  
30 a recommendation for the Secretary to consider. The  
31 letter that -- letters, I should say that the Mr. Toohy  
32 sent out to the various people who wrote letters, AFN,  
33 Tlingit-Haida and Wilderness Society have indicated that  
34 the Board would meet on the 26th of September, last  
35 Friday, to make a recommendation. The Board, in fact,  
36 did meet last Friday to discuss the Governor's request.  
37 It was the Boards, sort of initial opportunity to have a  
38 discussion, kind of get their arms, collective arms  
39 around the issue and understand -- try to understand  
40 where the Governor was coming from. And the Board  
41 decided that it would not make a recommendation at that  
42 meeting and they met in executive session. I think the  
43 concern was that there had been a number of people  
44 calling, various people, primarily the Chair, Mr.  
45 Demientieff, expressing their concerns and the Board  
46 decided that it would be more prudent to kind of open  
47 this up and allow the concerned entities to respond to  
48 the Board about this before they developed a  
49 recommendation. So our plan is to initiate a public  
50 comment period culminating in a Board meeting sometime in

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1 early to mid-November that would allow an opportunity for  
2 concerned people to express their concerns to the Board.

3

4                   They don't have a date yet for that, and  
5 we're still trying to work that out. We've targeted  
6 tentatively the week of November 13th, but, again, that's  
7 not set in stone.

8

9                   In short, that's where we stand right now  
10 on this letter. And, of course, I think as we're opening  
11 this process up, I think it's fair to say that the Board  
12 would welcome comments from the Regional Advisory  
13 Council.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Would you like to  
16 address a little more fully the liaison type -- Title  
17 VIII says that the State of Alaska is not going to have a  
18 voting member on the Federal Board; is that true?

19

20                   MR. BOYD: Well, Title VIII.....

21

22                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean they're not  
23 there to make decisions with the Federal Board?

24

25                   MR. BOYD: Yeah, Title VIII does not say  
26 that per se.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean -- yeah.

29

30                   MR. BOYD: Go ahead.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, it's my  
33 understanding that if you were to have a member from the  
34 State of Alaska on the Federal Board allowing this  
35 position that the Governor's requesting, they're not a  
36 voting member even if the position would be approved by  
37 the Federal Board; is that true?

38

39                   MR. BOYD: That's true.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So what's the  
42 different between, a liaison type person coming in from  
43 the State of Alaska to sit with the Board, what would be  
44 their function then?

45

46                   MR. BOYD: I think it would be to provide  
47 the State's perspective on each regulatory proposal. And  
48 I think they wanted -- as I read this and this is my  
49 perception and as I've understood where they're coming  
50 from, is they want an opportunity to actively or

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1 proactively deliberate with the Board so that as issues  
2 arise that they either have a different perspective on or  
3 could bring further information on an issue, that they  
4 would like the opportunity to be able to speak freely as  
5 any other Board member would speak during -- you know,  
6 during an active deliberation on an issue. I think at  
7 this point they feel that the Staff presenting -- they  
8 have a point in the meeting where they provide comments,  
9 but they don't have an opportunity to actively deliberate  
10 with the Board when issues are further developed by the  
11 Board in that meeting and they would like that  
12 opportunity. That's what I'm hearing.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, really  
15 what it boils down to is the member would be the liaison  
16 individual coming to the Federal Board level could really  
17 influence the voting of the Federal Board versus just the  
18 information given by the Staff member sitting over on the  
19 side. Now, that's really the bottom line.

20

21 MR. BOYD: I think that is a fair  
22 assessment.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That is the bottom  
25 line.

26

27 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Because whenever I have  
30 a conflict of interest in a Board meeting I'll say I want  
31 the record to show that I did not participate in this  
32 conversation and even better I'd leave the room so that  
33 my presence or my speech or anything does not influence  
34 the direction that thing goes. And so, of course, I like  
35 to have the way the system works right now, have the  
36 State of Alaska make a presentation, make their  
37 recommendation just like the Staff makes their  
38 recommendation and then let the Federal Board and the  
39 Council wallow through the decision that's to be made.

40

41 That's mine.

42

43 Have you considered this, Council  
44 members, any more thoughts that you might have?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want a  
49 recommendation from this Council on what we would do as  
50 far as having someone on the State of Alaska?

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1 MR. BOYD: Well, I think my intent is to  
2 inform you that this is going on.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

5  
6 MR. BOYD: If you wish to provide a  
7 recommendation, I think that's good.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

10  
11 MR. BOYD: If you don't, that's all right  
12 as well.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

15  
16 MR. BOYD: But we just want to shine the  
17 light on this so you can feel free to speak your mind.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comments, Council  
20 members.

21  
22 Yes.

23  
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I think the status  
25 quo we should keep the books currently. I would hate one  
26 State representative to show up -- I remember over in  
27 Naknek when we've had our meetings and dealing with the  
28 caribou on the Peninsula, you know, Dick Sellers used to  
29 show up and all their Fish and Game staff over there,  
30 here, we've got different agency staff, Department of  
31 Fish and Game, instead of listening to just one person,  
32 that one person may not necessarily be from the region  
33 that's appointed by the Governor.

34  
35 You know, we've got a state of mind in  
36 our Alaska Legislature. I read in the paper the other  
37 day that the Tlingit-Haida invited, I think it was an  
38 Anchorage Legislature, a Senator down and the response  
39 was when hell freezes over he would show up, they're out  
40 of compliance with ANILCA, and I think until they get in  
41 compliance with ANILCA we've got our role to do, the  
42 subsistence and the State of Alaska's got their role to  
43 do. I like it when the various departments, Fish and  
44 Game come in and give us testimony, I see collaboration  
45 in projects on the grassroots level away from Anchorage,  
46 at least, out in this area that we're seeing the Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game, the Federal Subsistence  
48 Board folks working together on a bunch of collaborative  
49 projects, not only for research but in education of  
50 village people, pooling their monies together. But, you

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1 know, on a grassroots level we're getting along fine, the  
2 grown ups are having a problem in Anchorage and Juneau.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: But to have them sitting  
7 here at the table, a non-voting member, I think at this  
8 time is premature.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Any other  
11 comments, Council members.

12

13 Yes, Robert.

14

15 MR. HEYANO: If it's in order then, Mr.  
16 Chairman, I would move to incorporate Mr. Samuelsen's  
17 comments as our position on the non-voting member  
18 requested by the State of Alaska.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Is there a  
21 second to that.

22

23 MS. KELLY: I'll second that motion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Any further  
26 comment. Would you like to speak to your motion, Robert?

27

28 MR. HEYANO: No, I think Robin did very  
29 well, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Eloquently done, all  
32 right. Call for the question.

33

34 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say  
37 aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pete. Peter. Hello.  
46 I guess he's not here, it's a yes vote.

47

48 Any other comments, Tom.

49

50 MR. BOYD: No. This was for, I think, we

00163

1 intend to keep the Council, through the Chair.....

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Aye.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We've got a pretty good  
12 size budget Tom, I notice they didn't offer you a  
13 position as a liaison on the Fish or Board of Game Board  
14 either, did they?

15

16 MR. BOYD: Well, we actually -- just to  
17 provide some information, we have to representatives from  
18 my office, Mr. LaPlant is one of them, who sits with the  
19 Game Board as a liaison from our office and then Pete  
20 Probasco sits at the Fish Board. And I think, if I could  
21 characterize their role it's to provide information  
22 relative to the Federal Subsistence Board.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

25

26 MR. BOYD: .....on those proposals that  
27 are relevant to this program, and to share information as  
28 requested from those respective Boards. And I think they  
29 are treated fairly in that deliberative process. So we  
30 do have counterpart Staff that attend those meetings to  
31 make sure that issues get bridged that need to be  
32 bridged, and they certainly aren't members of that Board,  
33 nor do they actively deliberate -- I'm looking at Dan to  
34 confirm that, but, you know, as the Board deliberates.  
35 So I think we have more or less equal counterparts at the  
36 present time.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If we don't have any  
39 further comment.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much.

44

45 MR. BOYD: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take a 10 minute  
48 break.

49

50 (Off record)

00164

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call the meeting back  
4 to order.

5

6 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Andy Aderman, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. What  
8 Cliff just handed out is an information bulletin, it's  
9 not in the books and I provided some copies over on the  
10 table that are being passed around.

11

12 I just wanted to mention or give a brief  
13 update on a few of the projects the Refuge is involved  
14 with. On Page 2 on the bottom, we've completed the first  
15 phase of the rainbow trout study over in Pete's area. We  
16 plan to implement Phase II which you guys discussed  
17 yesterday in the fisheries projects proposals. I might  
18 also mention that we employed an intern from Togiak on  
19 this project this year for one month.

20

21 Moving on to Nushagak Peninsula caribou,  
22 due to the lack of snow we weren't able to get a  
23 population count last winter. However, we believe the  
24 population right now is between 700 and 800 animals. The  
25 reported harvest last year was a total of three caribou,  
26 and those were taken in the fall. It's kind of  
27 interesting, we caught some animals this year, radio-  
28 collar and the weights were up significantly from over  
29 the last five years. They were, on average, 10 pounds  
30 heavier than all the calves we've caught in the last five  
31 years.

32

33 Next week we plan to do some composition  
34 work, get an idea of the number of bulls and calves in  
35 relation to the number of cows. We plan to have a  
36 Nushagak Caribou Planning Committee meeting here sometime  
37 in the next month and a half and look at all the biology  
38 and make recommendations on what we want to do for the  
39 winter hunt. We did have a fall hunt this year. Today  
40 is the last day of that. There's been a total of 30  
41 permits issued and no reported harvest as of last Friday.

42

43 Moving on to moose, for the 17(A) hunt  
44 last fall there was a total of eight bulls reported  
45 harvested. We didn't have the snow conditions to do a  
46 population survey. We radio-collared some young female  
47 moose this spring. I might mention those Togiak moose,  
48 10, 11 month old females are among the heaviest in the  
49 state, they're running about 465 to 470 pounds average.  
50 We continue monitoring the adults that we have radio-



00165

1 collared. We had excellent calf production this spring.  
2 It shakes out to about 143 calves per 100 cows. We'll  
3 get an estimate of calf survival in November. I might  
4 also mention, too, that the twining rate was 76 percent  
5 which was.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The twining rate?

8

9 MR. ADERMAN: Twining rate.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, okay.

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: So that's pretty  
14 impressive.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

17

18 MR. ADERMAN: That indicates that this  
19 population is still on a very high nutritional plane.  
20 Obviously the winter or lack of winter that we had last  
21 year helped moose out greatly.

22

23 Also interesting is we had five two year  
24 old females that we radio-collared them last year and  
25 this spring they turned two years old, out of those five  
26 two year olds four of them had calves. Three of them had  
27 single calves and one had twins. And that's unheard of.  
28 i mean you won't see that anywhere else -- or I haven't  
29 seen it anywhere else in the state.

30

31 We continue to work with the western  
32 villages in Unit 18. Of course they're interested in  
33 seeing a similar response in moose in their area as we've  
34 seen in 17(A).

35

36 Moving on to Page 4, brown bear.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before you finish  
39 moose, what about the predator situation in that Togiak  
40 area? It doesn't seem to me like they have any?

41

42 MR. ADERMAN: They do have predators.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They do?

45

46 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What are they?

49

50 MR. ADERMAN: And that's what I was going

00166

1 to speak to here on Page 4.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

4

5 MR. ADERMAN: Kind of two items relating  
6 to brown bears. One is we just concluded a nine year  
7 cooperative study with radio-collared bears up in the  
8 very northern part of the Refuge. The second thing is  
9 this spring we initiated a brown bear population  
10 estimate. And it's going to require another year of data  
11 to get that estimate so our plans are for this, for next  
12 May is to continue that to get a -- it'd be our first  
13 baseline estimate of brown bear for the Togiak Refuge.  
14 And that'd be for the entire Refuge.

15

16 And I guess the last thing that I had is  
17 I just wanted to make mention on Page 5, we've had a few  
18 personnel changes. Gale Collins that worked with brown  
19 bears and that, and her husband, Aaron Collins who is the  
20 Park Ranger for the Refuge, they accepted positions with  
21 the Tetlin Refuge in Tok. We have wildlife biologist  
22 Michael Winfree just came on board a couple of weeks ago.  
23 And then of course, our Refuge manager who's been here  
24 most of 14 years will be departing shortly.

25

26 And with that I'll pause for any  
27 questions.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comments, questions  
30 Council members.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the wolf  
35 population like in that area or have you noticed  
36 anything?

37

38 MR. ADERMAN: You know incidental  
39 observations, for whatever they're worth, indicate that  
40 the population is increasing and it stands to reason  
41 going from very few moose, very few caribou to what we  
42 have now that they're going to respond favorably.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So on the Nushagak  
45 Peninsula you've had a greater predator situation move  
46 in, is that the decline of the herd?

47

48 MR. ADERMAN: It's possible.

49

50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could they have gone in

00167

1 with another herd or wandered farther off?

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: That's also a possibility.  
4 I forgot to mention when I was discussing Nushagak  
5 caribou that we did have one radio-collared animal that  
6 left the Peninsula, I think it was last year at this  
7 time, hung out up by Togiak Lake and then this April it  
8 was seen just outside Dillingham. It was seen Fourth of  
9 July weekend upon the Nushagak River. And the last  
10 location I had was up in the State Park in July. So that  
11 animal apparently joined the Mulchatna.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So that's possible?

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: Right. I believe it's a  
16 combination of hunter harvest, you know, predation and  
17 there's possible some range -- you know, the range is  
18 being impacted. I think it's fairly still in good shape,  
19 but that's a possibility for further decline.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions  
22 from Council members.

23

24 Yes, Pete.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. What about the moose  
27 migration towards Cape Newenham way?

28

29 MR. ADERMAN: We've had some radio-  
30 collared individuals last summer move southwest, they  
31 were caught in the mid-Togiak Valley and they've gone out  
32 Matogak, Osviak and actually into southern Unit 18 around  
33 Chagvan Bay. All those, with the exception of one has  
34 kind of returned back to the main Togiak Valley. The one  
35 that did not return, it hung out in the Matogak, that was  
36 actually the two year old that had twins and my last  
37 location on her was just west of Chagvan Bay or east of  
38 Chagvan Bay. But had an animal we caught this spring, 10  
39 month old female, last location on her was Southfork  
40 Goodnews River. And whether, you know, those animals are  
41 going to stay put or move back to the east remains to be  
42 seen.

43

44 MR. ABRAHAM: Well, they're kind of  
45 migrating toward Goodnews in there or not, what you call  
46 that Matogak?

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. ADERMAN: There are some moose that

00168

1 do that, and I guess just a point of clarification,  
2 migration is like what the birds do, they leave and go  
3 someplace with the intention of coming back.

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: It's, you know, some moose  
8 do that, some moose just stay in one area their entire  
9 lives. And what, I guess, I was speaking to is whether  
10 or not those animals that move out west, whether or not  
11 they return, if they don't return that's called  
12 dispersal.

13

14 MR. ABRAHAM: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. ADERMAN: Those animals are  
17 dispersing out to new areas.

18

19 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. One more question.  
20 What's the estimate population of Cape Constantine  
21 caribou down there, I mean as of this year?

22

23 MR. ADERMAN: We believe right now it's  
24 between seven and 800.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: What was the peak, what,  
27 four or five years ago?

28

29 MR. ADERMAN: I believe about '98/99. It  
30 was right around 1,400, 1,500.

31

32 MR. ABRAHAM: So those are killed by  
33 predators or hunters, so you said you had one collar  
34 radio up on Togiak Lake -- yeah, I think those --  
35 remember we used to have about 80, 100 caribous between  
36 Twin Hills, are they still hanging around that area  
37 there?

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: There's still a few caribou  
40 that hang in that area and I haven't seen as many as in  
41 the past. I'd say it's probably less than 50 right now.

42

43 MR. ABRAHAM: What about those down  
44 around by Cape Pearce, it seems to be about 200 in a  
45 group there, about three years ago when we had that snow  
46 and when I was hauling fuel and gas for the camp down  
47 there, are they still hanging around there?

48

49 MR. ADERMAN: There were some caribou  
50 that were down in the Cape Pearce, Cape Newenham area

00169

1 this summer. Most of those were bulls. And there's  
2 various little groups of caribou kind of throughout the  
3 Refuge and especially over in Unit 18, large percentages  
4 of those are bulls. It's our feeling that those are  
5 probably Mulchatna caribou.

6

7 MR. ABRAHAM: So what they became  
8 residents there?

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: Well, they summer there.  
11 You know, we don't have radio-collars on bulls so we  
12 don't have a good understanding of where they go. There  
13 are a few cows with newborn calves that are seen out  
14 there and where they're from.....

15

16 MR. ABRAHAM: Every fall when people go  
17 there picking -- they go down toward Cape Pearce area,  
18 there's always reported some animals down there and some  
19 do get some. I think more than -- I think we get from  
20 Togiak River or Togiak Lake area, but the summer seems  
21 like I see more caribou up in Togiak Lake than I do in  
22 the river. I mean there's a possibility of just, you  
23 know, permanent residence in that area there. I know  
24 there's permanent residence over there, but I think those  
25 are from Cape Const -- they just wander off there and --  
26 because I notice when Mulchatna herd comes around -- you  
27 know, winters there around Togiak River, when they leave,  
28 them animals take off with them and come back. So I  
29 think it would be very fortunate to have resident caribou  
30 over there, Togiak -- you know, the drainages.

31

32 Thank you, Andy.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Other comments.

35

36 Yes, Robert.

37

38 MR. HEYANO: Andy, is it possible to  
39 secure funding to do a document of the history of the  
40 Togiak Wildlife Refuge, similar to what John Branson has  
41 done for Lake Clark?

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: I'm sure it's possible, I'd  
44 have to look into it. That's all I can really tell you.  
45 I think other than Park Service mandates fall a little  
46 bit more in line with what John Branson did compared to  
47 Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, but, yeah, I could  
48 certainly look into it.

49

50 MR. HEYANO: Thank you.

00170

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If you had a John  
2 Branson like that on your staff it'd be done. That's  
3 really what it boils down to.

4  
5 MR. HEYANO: Maybe we could borrow him.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We tried to buy him and  
8 Deb wouldn't let him go.

9  
10 (Laughter)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin's dad, Harvey and  
13 I said we'd set it up and the educational department of  
14 BBNC to hire him to do a history book for young people of  
15 our region and she's got a strangle-hold on him so.....

16  
17 MS. LIGGETT: No, no, I'm completely  
18 supportive of that.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We would but we didn't  
21 want to tie it to the Park or nothing like that, there's  
22 no reason why he couldn't be -- no reason why we couldn't  
23 share the expense of those type of things and have a  
24 history book, you could -- things you talk about today,  
25 it's just -- I mean like how do you get those things into  
26 a classroom, you know, great information.

27  
28 Thank you very much if we don't have any  
29 more comment.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We appreciate that  
34 report. Who's next on the docket here, Clifford?

35  
36 MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, excuse me, do you  
39 have more?

40  
41 MR. ADERMAN: Well, it's my understanding  
42 yesterday on the approval of the agenda that Robert  
43 brought up 17(A) moose and I didn't know if you wanted to  
44 deal with that now or if that was under new business?

45  
46 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, it was right under  
47 this agenda item.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, good. Robert.

50

00171

1 MR. HEYANO: Well, I thought we addressed  
2 the issue with your comments or when Robin was the  
3 Chairman he expressed desire to do a special action or  
4 support a special action. So this Council supported  
5 drafting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to expound  
8 on that a little bit more? What do you mean?

9  
10 MR. HEYANO: Well, Mr. Chairman.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: An actual agenda item?

13  
14 MR. HEYANO: .....agenda item number 8  
15 there were several proposals that this Council adopted  
16 for draft.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

19  
20 MR. HEYANO: And one of them was dealing  
21 with the issue of Unit 17(A) moose because it looks like  
22 some of us weren't available for the September 26th  
23 meeting.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh.

26  
27 MR. HEYANO: And Andy indicated it  
28 probably wouldn't be until November, past the proposal  
29 deadline before another attempt at having that committee  
30 meet so we went ahead and supported a draft proposal.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So you're saying it's  
33 been taken care of already? Yeah, go ahead, Robin.

34  
35 MR. SAMUELSEN: I thought there was some  
36 talk about having to include 9(B) on caribou on the  
37 second part of that.

38  
39 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think that's a  
40 separate issue and I have that under 12, new business.

41  
42 MR. SAMUELSEN: So we're taken care of  
43 the 17(A) moose?

44  
45 MR. HEYANO: I think 17(A) moose is taken  
46 care of under the draft of proposals.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Then it will go  
49 forward then.

50

00172

1 MR. ADERMAN: All right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You happy Pete?

4

5 MR. ABRAHAM: One more. Carl, can I  
6 explain about traditional knowledge gathering we're  
7 working on a little bit?

8

9 CARL: Yeah.

10

11 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, thank you. What  
12 we're doing is on traditional knowledge gathering, it's  
13 an ongoing thing. There's three of us that translates  
14 the stories of some of the elders. What we do is we when  
15 we gather the information of an aged person, an elder, we  
16 ask a person what was it like when he came to -- the  
17 abundance of the animals, and mid-life, there was a  
18 change, until the old age. Those shows significant  
19 change in fish and animal and it's an ongoing thing. It  
20 will be audio, it'll be a written book and then it will  
21 be in the computer whenever we get it done. And this  
22 will be helpful for the Refuge over here, you know, in  
23 the future. And we had at least 34 interviews from the  
24 villages, and 19 of the interviews have been translated  
25 from Yup'ik to English, and so it will be an interesting  
26 thing when we get done.

27

28 Thanks to Carl and Mark and all the Staff  
29 in the Refuge over here. We got super people here, that  
30 are doing -- you know, the Staff from our Refuge over  
31 here.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

34

35 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you. Okay.

38

39 MR. ADERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I might add  
40 that the project Pete was talking about is at the top of  
41 Page 2 of my report.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

44

45 MR. ADERMAN: It gives a summary on  
46 what's been accomplished this far.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, is that it?

49

50 MR. ADERMAN: That's it.



00173

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

8

9 MR. EDENSHAW: Just some clarification  
10 from the Council. So currently the Board of Game has a  
11 winter moose hunt for 17(A) on the books so that will  
12 occur this year, so we have a deferred proposal and it's  
13 the wishes of the Council to not submit a special action  
14 as Robert conveyed then, perhaps that proposal should  
15 just be withdrawn off the books then?

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the proper  
18 step?

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: I mean it's an option.  
21 I'm just -- because the proposal that's been deferred  
22 that the Council recommended last year requested a winter  
23 moose hunt at that time for '03 and they went ahead and  
24 deferred that based on the Council wanted the management  
25 to meet and discuss the components of that winter moose  
26 hunt. And so now Robert -- or not Robert, but the  
27 Council has asked that a proposal be submitted to close  
28 Federal lands in 17(A) to non-subsistence users, which is  
29 one portion of the wishes of the component to that  
30 proposal, that will be addressed in February '04 when we  
31 come to Naknek, that portion of the proposal. The  
32 deferred proposal may still remain on there and that  
33 portion of the analysis will be addressed -- brought  
34 forth to the Council again in February and the Board will  
35 address that in '04.

36

37 So I guess when we reconvene this  
38 afternoon, when we adjourn, is it my understanding then  
39 to forward on to our regulation specialist that the  
40 Council would like that deferred proposal just to move  
41 forward in the regulatory process so that the Council  
42 will have an opportunity to address that in February?

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that the wish of the  
45 Council, is that what you kind of did yesterday?

46

47 Yeah, Robert.

48

49 MR. HEYANO: No. Because what I  
50 understand the deferred proposal only addresses the

00174

1 winter season.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: And the proposal we  
6 supported yesterday was to close both the fall and the  
7 winter season to non-qualified Federal subsistence users.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So what step do you  
10 take then to get a winter hunt with for the qualified  
11 subsistence users?

12

13 MR. HEYANO: As Cliff explained, they'll  
14 do it for this hunting season under the State  
15 registration permit system.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So they will have a  
18 hunt but does not have the blessing of the Feds as far as  
19 -- other than just a qualified subsistence user, so  
20 that's the way this Council is going to leave it?

21

22 Yes?

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I think we need to  
25 back up a couple of steps here. If you look at the -- I  
26 think Mr. Heyano put the motion on the table for  
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users, once that passes  
28 then a meeting of the stakeholders was going to happen,  
29 which didn't happen.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....and from there after  
34 that meeting, I think the motion that Robert made goes to  
35 the Federal Subsistence Board and we'll see how they  
36 deliberate and render an opinion on that and then the  
37 stakeholders meeting takes place and that will probably  
38 generate.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Special action?

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....possibly a special  
43 action or a regulatory proposal. I think we need to be  
44 careful we don't put ourselves out ahead of the  
45 stakeholders meeting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the issue, okay.  
48 So there is no action required.

49

50 Yes.

00175

1 MR. HEYANO: I don't think that answers  
2 Cliff's question because there's a deferred proposal and  
3 I think what he's looking for from this Council, what is  
4 the recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board on  
5 what to do with that deferred proposal. Correct?

6  
7 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct, Robert. Part of  
8 the regulatory process is that when the last Council  
9 meeting is held next month, as part of the public  
10 process, is that, all the wildlife proposals for '04 to  
11 be considered will be published in the Federal Register  
12 to give the public an opportunity to review those and  
13 provide comments to the office. And so this proposal was  
14 deferred from last year and if the Council wishes -- and  
15 the public -- and specifically if the Council wishes to  
16 review that process, that proposal, then that should be  
17 moved forward through this public process and it should  
18 be included in the Federal Register and if the Council  
19 would rather just have it deferred then so be it and they  
20 can just keep it on the books.

21  
22 I guess the concern, what I'm trying to  
23 raise is that if Robert or the Council is intending to  
24 submit a whole different proposal based on, you know, the  
25 management gets together and meets in Togiak, this  
26 proposal for '04 that is going to be submitted by the  
27 Council to close Federal public lands, then -- then what?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, then you're going  
30 to have to have a special action, right, because the only  
31 people who are going to be qualified are going to be the  
32 Federal subsistence people, user group, and the State of  
33 Alaska can't handle that, can they?

34  
35 No.

36  
37 MR. EDENSHAW: Or else the simpler  
38 question is, is there a need for the Council to have  
39 Proposal 24, which is deferred, on the books in a  
40 deferred -- to carry it through this next cycle or else  
41 would they rather put it in the public notice so that  
42 when the Council meets in February they can sit there and  
43 make another action or take action on that proposal at  
44 that time? Either the proposal continues to be deferred  
45 through this next cycle after October 24th or else the  
46 Council, we can go ahead and put through the Federal  
47 Register and when we meet in February, when Dave presents  
48 the analysis the Council then can take action on it then.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the issue.

00176

1 There are two things you're dealing with.

2

3 MR. EDENSHAW: Actually just one, the  
4 deferred proposal.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, but if we decided  
7 to take it to the Federal Register then it's going to  
8 come back in February for us to take action on.

9

10 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct, Mr.  
11 Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's the issue, okay.  
14 Otherwise it goes on for -- I didn't understand that,  
15 okay. So what is the wish of the Council, do you want to  
16 leave it deferred or do you want to take action on it and  
17 put it into the Federal Register and bring it up in the  
18 February meeting; that's what we got to deal with?

19

20 Yes.

21

22 MR. HEYANO: I'm not so sure if that's  
23 something we should decide because that wasn't our  
24 proposal, it was submitted by some other people if I  
25 remember correctly.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Can you?

28

29 MR. HEYANO: It wasn't submitted by this  
30 Council.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If we took action today  
33 to put it on the track of going to the Federal Register  
34 and had a meeting with the concerned people who have this  
35 to deal with the issue in February, would that take care  
36 of it, would that be the timeframe to handle that? In  
37 other words, you do want to have the input from the user  
38 groups that want the special action, which we haven't  
39 had.

40

41 MR. HEYANO: It won't be a special  
42 action.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, it will not be a  
45 special action if it goes through the Federal Register,  
46 it's going to become an issue that we're going to deal  
47 with in February.

48

49 MR. EDENSHAW: That just means that the  
50 Council and the public will have an opportunity to weigh

00177

1 in on the proposal because it was deferred in '03. And  
2 if the Council at that time, when we meet in February,  
3 makes a motion to reject the proposal or else modify it  
4 or accept it as it is then that provides the public,  
5 prior to the Board meeting, and at the Board meeting, to  
6 provide public input to that proposal which is what's  
7 before the Council.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And if we do nothing  
10 it's just deferred?

11

12 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So what does the  
15 Council want to do here, let's just make a decision on  
16 this issue?

17

18 MR. HEYANO: Defer to the February  
19 meeting. Have it go into the Federal Register as a  
20 proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

27

28 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Native)

29

30 MR. HEYANO: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say  
33 aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Very good. Boy, that  
42 was a long round about way of getting it done. But sorry  
43 I was not part of that loop and I just didn't understand  
44 the process.

45

46 Where are we at Clifford?

47

48 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chairman, we're going  
49 to go ahead and move on with Mark Koebse, who's the  
50 deputy Refuge Manager for the Alaska Peninsula and Ron

00178

1 and Orville.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Ron, how are you  
4 doing today?

5

6 MR. SQUIBB: Good morning, Council. Ron  
7 Squibb with Alaska Peninsula Becharof Refuge and I'll  
8 give our agency report. It's in the book on Page 193.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What letter?

11

12 MR. SQUIBB: I'd be Tab F, I believe.  
13 Yes, Tab F, Page 193.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, 193.

16

17 MR. SQUIBB: I'll just move through the  
18 different sections one at a time and if there are any  
19 questions from the Council at the end of any of the  
20 subsections please feel free to ask.

21

22 First, I'll talk about the post-calving  
23 count for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd. In  
24 2003 our Refuge count of 2,200 was the lowest we got  
25 since 1997, down from 3,400 the previous year. I don't  
26 think this necessarily indicates a one-third decline in  
27 the herd, per se, because of several reasons. First, in  
28 the spring before Dick Sellers, recently retired area  
29 biologist, departed, he found 22 of 23 collared caribou  
30 alive that had been alive in autumn 2002 and the collar  
31 that he didn't find alive was the end of its battery life  
32 so among the radio-collared animals we had no indication  
33 of major mortality. Those are all adult females alive at  
34 this time.

35

36 And second, of 17 satellite collared  
37 animals we have, which those at this time don't have VHF  
38 radio beacons on so we only get the information of  
39 location after the fact, but of those 17 -- excuse me  
40 please -- collars, transmitting in the autumn of 2002, 16  
41 were transmitting alive in the summer of 2003 and again  
42 the 17th one was alive and transmitting in December when  
43 the battery failed. So again we have 38 animals, I  
44 believe, the sum of those two that we've had no mortality  
45 among those adult females.

46

47 And so in other words, then why is the  
48 Refuge count down by one-third and some of the reasons  
49 may be that the Refuge count is in the mountainous area.  
50 The area we have to count is a huge area and the radio

00179

1 collars tend to be distributed more on the Bristol Bay  
2 flats and we count the Refuge lands which are mostly  
3 mountainous. And our technique is to concentrate in the  
4 mountains, where typically in the summer that period of  
5 late June and July, the caribou have moved up in the  
6 mountains and often times they're on snow fields on the  
7 days that are good flying survey days tend to be light  
8 winds and high ceilings or clear skies so you've got the  
9 situation where the caribous move up on the snow fields  
10 and so that's where we normally get our high counts, but  
11 this year with such a mild winter the snow fields were  
12 half or less than they are in a normal year so our  
13 sightability was down is one factor. Further, the lack  
14 of snow on the high ground has an affect on vegetation  
15 quality up there, you know, we don't know why all the  
16 reasons the caribou go in the mountains but I know in  
17 normal years we got spring like vegetation quality all  
18 the way through summer, into September as the snow fields  
19 melt and the plants follow the snow fields up the slope.  
20 So that wasn't as good as condition I would presume. And  
21 also with drier conditions down below because of the dry  
22 summer and the poor snow winter the caribou may have had  
23 less reason to move into the hills to get away from  
24 insects.

25

26                   So those are all maybes. I can't tell  
27 you what the reason was. But that's the best I could  
28 come up with in terms of explanation of why our count was  
29 down when we had no indication of a lot of mortality.  
30 And my statement in the report that we should we prudent  
31 to assume that, you know, the herd is declining is just  
32 for management decisions. In other words, we shouldn't  
33 be changing the harvest limit at this time since the data  
34 certainly don't indicate that it's leveled off. I think  
35 that's just a prudent decision to go with.

36

37                   Any questions -- I know that's an  
38 important issue, any questions?

39

40                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

41

42                   MR. HEYANO: So what's the total  
43 estimated population?

44

45                   MR. SQUIBB: With Sellers being gone an  
46 area -- an Anchorage biologist came out for Fish and Game  
47 and I can't speak for him but he was there for about a  
48 week and weather was bad and he had one flying day and  
49 was not able to find all the radio collars so their  
50 count, likewise, is incomplete. That's the other great





00181

1 several years ago we asked for a number when we get into  
2 a predator situation, I guess that was never provided to  
3 us that I can recall. So I'm pretty curious, somebody  
4 establish a number when you don't want to allow any more  
5 human harvest.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Maybe you could deal  
8 with that and maybe have an answer for that at the  
9 February meeting.

10

11 Anything else?

12

13 MR. HEYANO: No, thanks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Ron -- oh,  
16 Shirley.

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: Good question. Yes,  
19 Shirley.

20

21 MS. KELLY: I'm wondering about the  
22 habitat study in relation to the -- what is the habitat  
23 look like?

24

25 MR. SQUIBB: Basically the plots we put  
26 out over the years indicate that lichen availability is  
27 very low. And that certainly hasn't changed. That's a  
28 real long-term recovery, plant, it doesn't come back very  
29 fast. In that regard, we've got two enclosure sites,  
30 sort of experimental things to see how we could --  
31 whether it would be practical to monitor lichen recovery  
32 over the years. Basically we have fenced areas that are  
33 -- they're called enclosures because the purpose of the  
34 fence is to keep caribou out rather than, you know,  
35 normally you have fences to hold things in. We set two  
36 of those up and those will be real long-term study plots  
37 to see what's going to happen if caribou are off in an  
38 area. In a few years, basically if the fences work well,  
39 we may expand that program. Right now we just have two  
40 out.

41

42 And so in terms of the -- you know, since  
43 we're -- since we have no before, I can't tell you how  
44 it's different from before. The only before we got, you  
45 know, if you will, is we did Nakmenak Island, I believe,  
46 in Chignik Bay, we went out there -- I wasn't there, but  
47 the botanist went out there to compare the potential  
48 range condition that we knew was ungrazed by anything for  
49 75 years with the mainland and there lichen cover is very  
50 heavy and they found that similarly some years before

00182

1 that on one of the islands off of the -- that was  
2 ungrazed off the southern Peninsula, you know, down  
3 closer to Cold Bay and found the same situation when the  
4 southern herd was in decline. So basically we found it  
5 before, I can't tell you what it is. We have a baseline  
6 now for the future so I can't tell you, you know, from  
7 that what -- because we don't know what the condition was  
8 at the time the herd was at its peak or going to its  
9 peak, if you will.

10

11 So all I know is that, you know, common  
12 forage, winter forage it's normally important in the  
13 interior for caribou which are lichens is very low on the  
14 Peninsula.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Does that answer your  
17 question Shirley?

18

19 MR. SQUIBB: I'm sorry I can't give you a  
20 better answer than that.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Boris has a comment  
23 here.

24

25 MR. KOSBRUK: On Page 193.

26

27 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

28

29 MR. KOSBRUK: I see you did a survey on  
30 the north side of the Peninsula.

31

32 MR. SQUIBB: Well, we surveyed Refuge  
33 lands and some adjacent lands from Kujulik Bay just up  
34 the Peninsula from Chignik Bay all the way to the Katmai  
35 Park border and basically out to the ends of the --  
36 outlets of the major lakes.

37

38 MR. KOSBRUK: My question is did you go  
39 to the south side, Stepovak Flats?

40

41 MR. SQUIBB: We didn't get -- that's not  
42 part of our normal survey area.

43

44 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, who does that?

45

46 MR. SQUIBB: Basically because we're  
47 aware there's so few caribou there that we don't survey  
48 that normally as a regular part of the count.

49

50 MR. KOSBRUK: We'll be lucky if there's

00183

1 any but we're concerned about it, though.

2

3 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

4

5 MR. KOSBRUK: And I think I asked about  
6 it last year, that there be a study, a survey done in  
7 Stepovak Flats and that Flats there, it goes right around  
8 Perryville. And that area, in the area above Perryville,  
9 there should be a few moose around there.

10

11 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, we do survey when  
12 conditions are good. The Anchor and Evon Bay areas, we  
13 were able to survey that last year for moose in the fall.

14

15 MR. KOSBRUK: I think I see that here in  
16 Page 199 on the -- or 198, on the top, it says Anchor and  
17 Evon.

18

19 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

20

21 MR. KOSBRUK: Is that Anchor Bay?

22

23 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

24

25 MR. KOSBRUK: It's also called Red Bluff  
26 -- known as Red Bluff.

27

28 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

29

30 MR. KOSBRUK: But locally we call it  
31 Anchor Bay. The bay was missing, I was a little confused  
32 here. And Evon Bay is missing again, but I caught it. I  
33 was trying to look for some -- any caribou spotted in  
34 that area.

35

36 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, that was a moose  
37 survey. The surveys we did in the Red Bluff area and  
38 Evon Bay was moose.

39

40 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, you should have seen  
41 some caribous if there was any around there, they hang  
42 around between there and Evon.

43

44 MR. SQUIBB: I cannot recall what, if  
45 any, caribou we did see last December, December of '02.

46

47 MR. KOSBRUK: I guess my main concern is  
48 that I'd like to see some surveys done in that area, in  
49 Stepovak and in that area.

50

00184

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: At least an aerial, try  
2 to get some numbers. You know, I think Andy mentioned  
3 that they're going to be counting over on the Nushagak  
4 Peninsula, I imagine because it's a rut season everything  
5 is gathered together. If you don't have snow count, you  
6 know, that's possible.

7  
8                   Any other comments, Council members.

9  
10                  Sure go ahead.

11  
12                  MR. SQUIBB: Okay, continuing.

13  
14                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want more,  
15 Boris, did you want to talk to him again?

16  
17                  MR. KOSBRUK: Well, you know, that path  
18 that goes from the Bristol Bay side on that side of --  
19 going to Stepovak, Sandy Lake, it's called?

20  
21                  MR. SQUIBB: Sandy Lake, yes, sir.

22  
23                  MR. KOSBRUK: I've packed caribou from  
24 there, down, so I know the area pretty well. I've packed  
25 it. But that -- the portage for the caribou to go but  
26 then there's six, seven, eight cabins right there. Does  
27 that have any effect? I know we had a meeting at  
28 Dillingham, at King Salmon there about seven or eight  
29 years ago and they -- a Fish and Game guy was there and  
30 mentioned that they had that problem in Anaktuvuk, they  
31 had the same problem, they said they had the cabins  
32 removed and that solved the problem. I'll never forget  
33 that. We just started to lose our caribou then, because  
34 I brought it up at Naknek. But that pass there, I'm sure  
35 that's where they pass over to Stepovak from the north.

36  
37                  There used to be hundreds of them over in  
38 Stepovak. I flew there for 20-some years. But they're  
39 gone.

40  
41                  I'm done.

42  
43                  MR. SAMUELSEN: Isn't that pass closed to  
44 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users?

45  
46                  MR. SQUIBB: Yeah, all Federal public  
47 lands on 9(E) are closed to non-local rural residents for  
48 caribou.

49  
50                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There isn't any

00185

1 recreational -- hardly any recreational -- there isn't  
2 any recreational taking place on the Alaska Peninsula,  
3 even on the State side. Tier II qualification. They're  
4 just way down in numbers.

5  
6 Any other questions.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's your next  
11 subject?

12  
13 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. The next subject is  
14 basically just to make brief mention on the satellite  
15 telemetry project. The collars that we put on in '98,  
16 the study, the movements between the Southern Peninsula  
17 Herd and the Northern Peninsula Herd, the last two of  
18 those are still moving along and active. They're well  
19 past their battery death date, but we have data on that  
20 and basically saw -- to review, we've seen no major  
21 movements between those two herds over that period.

22  
23 We have 16 collars active on the Northern  
24 Peninsula Herd at this time in addition to those on the  
25 Southern. And we have six collars that we hoped to put  
26 out last winter to study the overlap of the Mulchatna and  
27 the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd in winter and we  
28 didn't deploy those since there was no snow -- excuse me,  
29 since the Mulchatna herd never moved south of the  
30 Kvichak. Hopefully we'll be able to do that this winter.

31  
32 And then next spring we're working with  
33 ADF&G to do another caribou collaring project to put VHF  
34 deacons back on -- or more on yearling female caribou as  
35 well as to put some more satellite collars out.

36  
37 And then also this coming October,  
38 between the 21st and the 23rd, weather permitting, we  
39 will begin the composition counts of the Northern Alaska  
40 Peninsula and Southern Peninsula Herds in which we work  
41 with Fish and Game to get bull/cow calf ratios for the  
42 herd involved.

43  
44 And also we have -- let's see, also we  
45 discuss in the report that Federal distribution -- excuse  
46 me, distribution of Federal caribou permits, the Fish and  
47 Wildlife Service again issued 40 permits this year, 10  
48 percent of the State's distribution. Factors considered  
49 in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service distribution were  
50 first. The distribution of Tier II permits, and on Table

00186

1 1 on Page 197 you can see the distribution of Federal  
2 permits in comparison to State Tier II permits among the  
3 different villages. And basically we tried to make up  
4 for deficits in some villages that were under represented  
5 in the Tier II distribution. And the other factor we  
6 considered was the communities in the Naknek River area  
7 have access to the Mulchatna caribou in 9(B) so we chose  
8 to give no permits to those villages. They did very well  
9 in the Tier II distribution. And so the 40 permits we  
10 issued went to Chignik Lake, Chignik Bay, Pilot Point and  
11 Egegik. And Orville Lind worked with the village  
12 councils to distribute those permits.

13

14 So any questions on that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, any comments.

17 Robert. Shirley -- Shirley, go ahead.

18

19 MS. KELLY: Well, I don't have a question  
20 on the permits but I'm wondering, are you going to do any  
21 more studies on the health of the herd, like the calf  
22 weights?

23

24 MR. SQUIBB: We don't have that planned  
25 for -- I was thinking of calf mortality study. We will  
26 take calf weights when the calves -- or animals in the  
27 spring for collaring. They're targeting female calves.  
28 Basically they're the calves that were born the previous  
29 May/June when we capture them in April they'll be --  
30 they'll be almost yearlings, they'll be 10 months old or  
31 something. So at that point we'll get weights. And we  
32 have, from the past, calf weights from collaring animals  
33 at that time, so that will give us calf weights for  
34 comparison of body condition.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anybody else. Robert,  
37 you had a concern.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: Yes. Any idea of the 343  
40 permits that were issued in '02 under the Tier II and  
41 Federal, how many caribou were harvested?

42

43 MR. SQUIBB: I don't have those data with  
44 me so I can't answer that. I'd ask the State for that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Along the same line, I  
47 think there's Anchorage people who qualified, too, under  
48 Tier II?

49

50 MR. SQUIBB: There were -- if you look,

00187

1 in the totals across the bottom of Federal permits --  
2 excuse me, Tier II permits, 600 were issued in '99 where  
3 we show 579, those -- the difference went to people  
4 outside. The totals I list here are those communities.  
5 So anything less than 400 on those numbers indicates the  
6 number that went to people outside of these local  
7 communities.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else.

10

11 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, sure, go ahead.

14

15 MR. HEYANO: I guess is it possible to  
16 get that information?

17

18 MR. SQUIBB: Yes.

19

20 MR. HEYANO: And then past information so  
21 we can see if there's any trends of more successful, less  
22 successful.

23

24 MR. SQUIBB: Basically all the harvest  
25 data from the State and Feds.

26

27 MR. HEYANO: Thanks.

28

29 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What else do you have  
32 Ron? What else do you have?

33

34 MR. SQUIBB: Moose.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

37

38 MR. SQUIBB: We do repeat the moose trend  
39 surveys in here, but that's old news, we discussed it  
40 earlier. Our moose habitat study going on at Ugashik  
41 Lakes is making major progress. This year the graduate  
42 student, Corey Adler worked in the field looking -- you  
43 may recall these moose have GPS collars on them that can  
44 be remotely downloaded and they're scheduled -- they're  
45 programmable, so in the wintertime you had six fixes a  
46 day of location and he went and looked at those data and  
47 went to those areas where the moose had browsed and  
48 looked at their browsing trying to get an idea of  
49 utilization on the range there. And he will do that  
50 again next year.

00188

1 Corey also was working on a vegetation  
2 map and he's hoping to integrate a map of vegetation  
3 types in that area where the moose are browsing so  
4 hopefully that will give us a little better indication of  
5 moose habitat when that study's done.

6  
7 In addition, since we have the moose  
8 collars out we wanted to take advantage of every  
9 opportunity so we checked on moose calf production during  
10 that period. And of 18 cow moose we documented 14  
11 calves. And that was 14 calves out of -- we only  
12 documented calves on 10 of the 18 cows. And again, we  
13 were not going -- we did not have collars on the calves,  
14 only on the adults and we were visiting only every three  
15 days, so we probably missed a few. And we checked them  
16 again -- we checked them through June and then checked  
17 them once in July and checked them most recently here  
18 last Thursday and of the 14 calves two survived, which is  
19 14 percent survival rate and that is low compared to  
20 other areas in the interior, and obviously lower than  
21 what Andy just reported to you for Togiak.

22  
23 We're not able to document causes of  
24 mortality since we do not put radio-collars on the calves  
25 and it was not an intense study. But bears are very  
26 common in the area in the spring.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You made note in there  
29 that you weren't aware of any wolves.

30  
31 MR. SQUIBB: We didn't see any when we  
32 were doing searches for the calves. It was radio-  
33 telemetry, we're not trying to search for anything.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No.

36  
37 MR. SQUIBB: We documented everything we  
38 saw but we didn't see wolves, we saw bears fairly  
39 commonly and caribou.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But they are there.

42  
43 MR. SQUIBB: Oh, yeah.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right. They are there.  
46 We don't want to indicate they're not there because  
47 they're a big time predator.

48  
49 MR. SQUIBB: And then our moose abundance  
50 estimate we were planning to do last -- or rather



00189

1 planning to begin last winter didn't happen because of  
2 lack of snow. We're, again, planning to do the same  
3 thing, hopefully we'll have a good cold winter and good  
4 snow cover and be able to make progress on that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Before you go on from  
7 that, Ron, I think that something this Council needs to  
8 deal with in February. A few years back, there was seven  
9 voting members of the Federal Board, four of them said  
10 that they would not have a moose hunt on the Alaska  
11 Peninsula if there wasn't a moose count. So about May  
12 the 27th cows and bulls are both counted.....

13

14 MR. SQUIBB: '99.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....and everybody took  
17 off in the wilderness and that's fine. And when Sellers  
18 was counting he'd run out of money about the time he got  
19 to Ugashik or Meshik and then there wasn't anymore moose  
20 count. And so if we don't get a better handle on the  
21 moose count come February, I think maybe we better start  
22 thinking about putting a restriction on the number of  
23 animals taken on Federal land by the commercial users.  
24 You know, I think that's something that this Council, if  
25 we don't get the count, then you better start the  
26 reduction. If you have that kind of a calf mortality --  
27 the browse is great in there, it supports -- I mean it is  
28 wonderful for a moose to live in that area and grow, it's  
29 just incredible and there seem to be a good number of  
30 animals. I mean I fly that every day. I look at those  
31 animals every day. But I think until we get a little --  
32 some more hard numbers, we better take a look at what's  
33 happening with the animals in that area.

34

35 That's the Council's responsibility and  
36 that will become an issue in the February meeting.

37

38 MR. SQUIBB: Just for clarification, the  
39 moose abundance estimate, we have two things going on.  
40 We have the trend areas that we try and do every winter  
41 and we've been doing very well at that. You see the ones  
42 documented on the -- in my report on Table 2 on Pages 198  
43 through 99, those are ones we've done in recent years  
44 that the Refuge was involved in. And we do those  
45 regularly in cooperation with Fish and Game and the  
46 National Park Service to get ideas of, first, the  
47 composition of bull/cow calf and bull by size so we get  
48 an idea of survival through the calf composition. And  
49 then also it, to some degree, gives us a trend in terms  
50 of those areas that are counted regularly, those -- most

00190

1 of those are long-term trend areas going back, some of  
2 them in the '60s, that ADF&G established. So we do those  
3 every year.

4

5 The moose estimate we're trying to do now  
6 is one that will give us a better -- will give us a  
7 number that we can extrapolate, it will give us a  
8 density, so many moose per unit area, per square mile for  
9 the areas we're studying. We can extrapolate that to the  
10 greater Peninsula as a whole. And the last time that was  
11 done was 1983 when they did a gasaway survey in that  
12 area. So, you know, we are -- we do maintain monitoring.  
13 We have maintained monitoring regularly since then but  
14 it's not -- you know, this will give us a cleaner number  
15 to estimate a population for the Peninsula.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, we need a number  
18 to deal with on that chunk of land between where the  
19 Federal lands begin at Big Creek on down to Perryville  
20 where Boris gets to eat a moose.

21

22 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's what we  
25 need to have. And you need snow coverage to do that,  
26 it's just almost impossible to do it without it, I  
27 understand that.

28

29 MR. SQUIBB: Yes, sir.

30

31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, continue on.

32

33 MR. SQUIBB: Okay. Just a couple more  
34 comments. We've had -- we had Federal moose hunts on Big  
35 Creek and we issued 11 permits on that. I don't yet know  
36 the success rate on that. And then we also issued five  
37 bear permits, several bear permits in Ugashik and Chignik  
38 areas so far.

39

40 So that's the end of my report, if you  
41 have any more questions.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any comments Council  
44 members.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right, thank you  
49 very much, Ron, I really appreciate that.

50

00191

1 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good job. Who's next?

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, if you look on  
6 Page 201 and Council members, under Tab F is a report by  
7 the King Salmon Fisheries office. And Mike Edwards is  
8 here in the back here if the Council has any questions  
9 they'd like to ask him. If not, you know, it's just  
10 mainly for the Council's own information.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I thought Orville was  
13 on the agenda there, too, Orville, did you have any  
14 comments on this report that's been given to us now?

15

16 MR. LIND: Not at this time. I guess I  
17 will probably be giving some information under 12, new  
18 business, on some wolf data.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. That will be  
21 under new business?

22

23 MR. LIND: (Nods affirmatively)

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Jim Larson.

26

27 MR. LARSON: Mr. Chair, that's what I was  
28 referring to on Page 201 is a report that Mike Edwards  
29 from the King Salmon Fisheries Office and Jim Larson  
30 provided me the briefing for inclusion in the book for  
31 the Council members, and if they had any questions Mike  
32 would be available for answering those, and if not we can  
33 just proceed with the next report.

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who is handling on the  
36 Alaska Refuge, whether it's U.S. Fish and Wildlife or the  
37 Refuge or at the Bay, Yantarni? Who's doing that  
38 research program over there on the cohos?

39

40 MR. EDWARDS: On the coho?

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep.

43

44 MR. EDWARDS: Our office is, Mr.  
45 Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. You could  
48 probably give us a little report on it if you could.

49

50 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. For the record, Mike

00192

1 Edwards, Fish and Wildlife Service, King Salmon Fish and  
2 Wildlife field office.

3

4                   And as Cliff pointed out, on Page 201 of  
5 your book is my written report. And as far as the  
6 Kametolook project, again, we've been down there for the  
7 last two years doing the habitat survey. That was  
8 completed this spring and as of yesterday the biologist  
9 in charge of the project was headed down there, didn't  
10 make it yesterday, he was going to try again later this  
11 week or next week to begin the walking surveys to get the  
12 estimates for the coho down there this year.

13

14                   And the Yantarni project is up and  
15 running right now. At last count they've only passed, I  
16 think, like 20 or 30 coho passed the weir. They're  
17 waiting on the rain, they're seeing the fish stage down  
18 river, but they've not had any rain over there like we've  
19 had on this side either. So we feel as soon as the rain  
20 hits the coho will begin to move up to Clear Creek over  
21 there.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How many people do you  
24 have in the field out there, eight or nine people down  
25 there?

26

27                   MR. EDWARDS: On the Yantarni part of it?

28

29                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

30

31                   MR. EDWARDS: Three.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We kept flying you in  
34 there with Caravans and I've been flying in there with  
35 PenAir and I know you -- you're going to be there  
36 through, how long, November?

37

38                   MR. EDWARDS: As late as we can keep them  
39 out there, through November, yes.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

42

43                   MR. EDWARDS: So right now, currently, we  
44 have three people out there on the field, on the ground.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

47

48                   MR. SAMUELSEN: That's like exilism.

49

50                   (Laughter)

00193

1 MR. EDWARDS: They like it.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. EDWARDS: It's a great place to be.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's gorgeous. That  
8 one lady that's there, she just said I just as soon stay  
9 here.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Really?

12

13 MR. KOSBRUK: They have people at  
14 Yantarni?

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yeah, they have a  
17 whole.....

18

19 MR. KOSBRUK: And there's nobody in  
20 Perryville.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was hoping somebody  
23 would bring that up.

24

25 MR. KOSBRUK: .....explain that to me.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They don't have any  
28 fish there.

29

30 MR. EDWARDS: No, we have people down  
31 there, Boris. As you know, Jeff tried to get Perryville  
32 yesterday, couldn't get there because of weather.

33

34 MR. KOSBRUK: You're talking about twice  
35 a year, two days a year, four days.

36

37 MR. EDWARDS: Well, the way that that  
38 project was set up was to go down there and look at the  
39 habitat and map all the habitat in the Kametolook and the  
40 Long Branch and Three Star, and they finished that this  
41 spring. They finished all the habitat mapping. And then  
42 we're also mapping the habitat up on Clear Creek at  
43 Yantarni. The Clear Creek system has a healthy coho run  
44 so our approach is to see if the habitat in the  
45 Kametolook is what's limiting. So we've completed all  
46 the habitat work down in the Kametolook area and we've  
47 completed it on the Yantarni and so now we're trying to  
48 compare those two systems to determine if it's the  
49 habitat in the Kametolook that's limiting the production  
50 down there.

00194

1 MR. KOSBRUK: I understand you now. I  
2 didn't understand you -- nobody else will understand you  
3 either. That would kind of shake them up.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

6  
7 MR. KOSBRUK: But now we got the answer.

8  
9 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, I mean.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I'm just amazed  
12 at the effort you put into that little creek with the  
13 little amount of fish you have there and the amount of  
14 money you're doing to do that. Incredible. But that's  
15 okay, you've got the money, go for it. Research is  
16 great.

17  
18 MR. EDWARDS: Which system is that?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yantarni.

21  
22 MR. EDWARDS: The Yantarni one. I mean  
23 what we're doing is that one -- that's the closest system  
24 to the Kametolook that has a healthy run so we're using a  
25 model that was developed in Oregon that determines if  
26 habitat and what type of habitat, if that is limiting.  
27 And from what Jeff has been able to look at so far, it  
28 appears that overwintering habitat is going to be the  
29 limiting factor in the Kametolook as well as the one in  
30 Yantarni.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You know, down there at  
33 Boris' creek that you're dealing with you've got a cape  
34 fishery, I don't know if you've got a fishery in Yantarni  
35 or not.

36  
37 MR. KOSBRUK: Very little.

38  
39 MR. EDWARDS: Very little that we're  
40 aware of.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Oh, yeah, I mean  
43 it's pretty obvious that, you know, if you're going to be  
44 out there seining on the capes that you may not get any  
45 fish if you got a problem depending on where that creek  
46 is at. But Yantarni is quite a ways up north and -- but  
47 that's okay, if you got the money to do it. I just  
48 thought maybe you'd be sitting in a creek trying to beg  
49 those cohos to come in a little closer at Yantarni. I'd  
50 go to Yantarni for six weeks.

00195

1                   Yep.

2

3                   MR. KOSBRUK: Yeah, I'd like to find out  
4 another thing that Kametolook, Yantarni you asked about  
5 catching fish out there earlier.

6

7                   MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Capes.

10

11                  MR. KOSBRUK: That's our concern there in  
12 Perryville, you know, they're cape fishing out there and  
13 island fishing with no concern about escapement. They're  
14 just test fishing they say.

15

16                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The percentage of fish  
17 taken by the Kodiak intercept fishery and the lower  
18 Peninsula fishery should be a Federal issue. You  
19 probably should have observers on those boats and find  
20 out, you know, how many chums and cohos are being caught  
21 designated for those rivers because it's the same as a  
22 Kuskokwim-type operation. And I don't know if the Feds  
23 are going to deal with that or not.

24

25                  Yep.

26

27                  MS. KELLY: I have a question, you talked  
28 about the habitat study, doing the Yantarni to see what  
29 might be happening on the Kametolook.

30

31                  MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

32

33                  MS. KELLY: What are you doing? I mean  
34 are you going to do an enumeration study?

35

36                  MR. EDWARDS: I'm sorry?

37

38                  MS. KELLY: An enumeration study?

39

40                  MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, that's another part  
41 of the project. We're trying to get the crews out there  
42 this week, as we speak, to do some walking surveys to  
43 estimate what coho -- what the escapement is this year on  
44 the Kametolook. And then we've also got a weir on  
45 Yantarni to estimate that run size there, which is part  
46 of the modeling. You need to know how many adults have  
47 returned to determine if what you're seeing in adult  
48 returns, if the model agrees with what you're seeing.  
49 The model basically tells you if you've got X amount of  
50 habitat in the overwintering and the spawning habitat,

00196

1 that system should produce Y amount of adults. So that's  
2 why we're using the Clear Creek as kind of the comparison  
3 to the Kametolook because it's the closest healthy coho  
4 system we have to the Kametolook.

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Why couldn't you get  
7 into Perryville yesterday?

8

9 MR. KOSBRUK: Weather.

10

11 MR. EDWARDS: Weather.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Weather. I think  
14 PenAir had too many bear hunters, you're probably down  
15 the list a little ways.

16

17 MR. EDWARDS: That wouldn't surprise me.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I'm pretty sure.

20

21 MR. EDWARDS: But, yeah, the airport was  
22 pretty packed.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Called me on my day off  
25 to take all the bear hunters, yeah, which we like taking  
26 out bear hunters.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

31

32 MS. KELLY: So this is just baseline  
33 information that you're getting?

34

35 MR. EDWARDS: Well, we're trying. You  
36 know, as everyone knows the State's been down there for  
37 years with the egg box trying to get that run to come  
38 back and have seen very little results. So we're kind of  
39 taking a different approach to see, since the -- you  
40 can't get eggs if you don't have any fish. So we're  
41 trying to find out why there are no fish and we're coming  
42 at it from the habitat approach to see if habitat is  
43 what's limiting that system or was it something else. I  
44 mean that's been approach with the Kametolook.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We need to take a break  
47 here, probably very shortly because we're going to go a  
48 little past lunch on our reports today, however, you  
49 know, we're going to try to get some of you -- is there a  
50 flight out of here at 3:00 o'clock?



00197

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: 2:30.

2

3 MS. KELLY: 2:15.

4

5 MR. SAMUELSEN: 2:15.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Well, it's  
8 going to be tough but we need to take a lunch break and  
9 we need to take it within five minutes. Because if we  
10 don't we're not going to get into the restaurants. Can  
11 we do anything in five minutes here or are -- you're  
12 done, aren't you?

13

14 MR. EDWARDS: I just have one other  
15 comment. Some of the other work we are doing, as Steve  
16 pointed out, since the effort at the Kametolook has been  
17 restricted, efforts going to other streams, so we are  
18 going down there this fall to fly some aerial surveys on  
19 the streams adjacent to the Kametolook to get a count  
20 because we have no idea what the coho runs are in those  
21 streams either, so that's some other work we will be  
22 doing down in that area this fall and things we'd like to  
23 do again next fall. So that is on the books for us to do  
24 this year.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the other best  
27 stream just north of Hook Bay area that's really good  
28 with silvers?

29

30 MR. EDWARDS: I'm not real familiar with  
31 that area, the actual biologist.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You call Jay King and  
34 he'll tell you because he's got everyone of them nailed.

35

36 MR. EDWARDS: Okay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: With the  
39 sportsfishermen going in there.

40

41 MR. EDWARDS: And I know Boris.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And there's some good  
44 ones.

45

46 MR. EDWARDS: .....has provided a lot of  
47 input to Jeff.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's some really  
50 good ones there.

00198

1 MR. EDWARDS: .....that the  
2 biologist.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, there's some  
5 excellent streams. What can you do in five minutes?  
6 You're finished, right?

7  
8 MR. EDWARDS: Yes. Unless.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You better leave the  
11 podium.....

12  
13 MR. EDWARDS: .....you have anymore  
14 questions?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....so we can get  
17 somebody else up here.

18  
19 (Laughter)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much, we  
22 appreciate that.

23  
24 MR. HEYANO: Why don't we take a lunch  
25 break now.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

28  
29 MR. HEYANO: And come back at quarter to  
30 1:00.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 12:30. Uh?

33  
34 MR. HEYANO: Come back at quarter to  
35 1:00.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: One hour, okay. We'll  
38 take an hour break starting right now.

39  
40 (Off record)

41  
42 (On record)

43  
44 MR. SAMUELSEN: King Salmon office and  
45 then we're done. You're next.

46  
47 MS. BROCK: Good afternoon.

48  
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Good afternoon.

50

00199

1 MS. BROCK: My name is Becky Brock. Good  
2 afternoon.

3  
4 MR. HEYANO: Good afternoon.

5  
6 MS. BROCK: I'm with the National Park  
7 Service. I manage the concessions and commercial  
8 operations for four Park units, Lake Clark, Katmai,  
9 Aniakchak and the Alagnak. My office is in Anchorage.  
10 The question that I received as I understood it, from the  
11 Council, is how many commercial outfitters, guides and  
12 transporters are using NPS lands for hunting in the  
13 Bristol Bay area and the Council would like to know -- an  
14 update on recent enforcement actions taken to stop wanton  
15 waste.

16  
17 So what I've prepared for you is a  
18 briefing statement that just came around as a handout.  
19 And what I thought I'd do is go through the briefing  
20 statement. The first page and a half describes the  
21 background of the concessions program nationwide. It  
22 will give you some status and some stats, and then what  
23 we're doing about enforcing it. And then the rest of the  
24 handout is up to date statistics, which I thought I'd go  
25 over very briefly each page.

26  
27 So to start with, the Concession  
28 Management Act of 1998, you need to know, drastically  
29 changed the former Concessions Law, which was dated 1965  
30 and very outdated. So the Act of 1998 made several  
31 changes but I wanted to point out two of the most, I  
32 feel, most important that you need to know about in this  
33 new law. One of them is on the front page of your  
34 handout, one of them is Section 415(c) which recognizes  
35 ANILCA in our concessions law. It says nothing in this  
36 title amends, supersedes or otherwise affects any  
37 provision of the Alaska National Interests Lands  
38 Conservation Act relating to revenue producing visitor  
39 services. The second, I think, important note that you  
40 need to know about in this law follows right under that,  
41 Section 418(d) has to do with commercial use  
42 authorizations. We currently call these incidental  
43 business permits. One in the same. And what this is  
44 says is the Secretary shall have no authority under this  
45 section to issue more authorizations than are consistent  
46 with the preservation and proper management of Park  
47 resources and values.

48  
49 So in other words, the law now gives us,  
50 which is brand new, the tool that we need to limit the

00200

1 permits/authorizations, one in the same, and this relates  
2 to hunt transporters.

3

4                   The only catch is we don't have the  
5 regulation yet.

6

7                   In the next paragraph you'll see it says,  
8 commercial use authorizations and this is a little  
9 background on what's happening with the regulation that  
10 we're hoping for to implement this piece of the law. So  
11 let me reiterate right now we do not have the regulation  
12 to implement that part of the law that will allow us to  
13 limit the number of hunt transporters or any other guided  
14 activities under this category.

15

16                   So what's happened is is the Park Service  
17 did come out with draft regulations to the public last  
18 November 2002, that closed in January 2003. There was  
19 overwhelming dissatisfaction from the public about these  
20 regulations so we went back to the drawing board and are  
21 now conducting what's called a negotiated rulemaking for  
22 this particular regulation. A multi-disciplinary work  
23 group has been put together nationwide. This is not just  
24 Alaska, this is nationwide. That work group began  
25 meeting April 29th of this year. They broke out into  
26 three subgroups based on the comments that were received  
27 by the public. The three major comments the public  
28 talked about was -- or was concerned about was how to  
29 limit the number of commercial use authorizations, right  
30 now they're unlimited. They were concerned about the  
31 issues relating to administration of these permits and  
32 authorizations. And they were also concerned about the  
33 fees associated with this. So three subgroups have been  
34 working since April 29th, meeting independently  
35 throughout the year.

36

37                   I might add that Thursday of this week  
38 I'm going to Seattle to attend a regular meeting of this  
39 entire group where they will be putting together their  
40 final presentations for the Concessions Advisory Board.  
41 So I'll have more information after Thursday on how that  
42 group is going.

43

44                   If you'll flip to Page 2 of the briefing  
45 statement, up at the top I enclosed a simple chart to  
46 help familiarize you with the difference between our  
47 contracts and our permits in the National Park Service  
48 concessions world. Contracts are competitive. It's a  
49 competitive process. The number of operators are  
50 limited. There's a preferential right to renew in



00202

1 -- this year there were a total of 139 companies  
2 providing commercial services -- and that's a total for  
3 Lake Clark, Katmai, Aniakchak and the Alagnak. Remember  
4 these permits, as I said are unlimited. We have no  
5 regulation now to limit these. These companies offer 12  
6 different types of guiding services beside hunt  
7 transporting, and I'll show you that chart when we flip  
8 back through the guts of this thing here in a minute.

9

10                   Beginning in 2002, for the first time we  
11 required a copy of the Alaska State Big Game Commercial  
12 Services Transporter Activity Report from our hunt  
13 transporters. That's brand new. We started that last  
14 year. That's the report that they don't always turn into  
15 the State and the State does not -- they've told me they  
16 do not have enough personnel to follow up on that report.  
17 I've added it to our stipulations. It's due February 3rd  
18 of each year and I do have the stats on that report when  
19 they turned it in. So that's something new that we're  
20 trying to do to get a handle on what kind of activity is  
21 out there.

22

23                   Moving on down towards accountability and  
24 what are we doing with these two programs until we can  
25 get the regulation, is that, we are able to use for the  
26 first time the franchise fees and the fees from the  
27 permit program to help pay for law enforcement patrols  
28 during hunting seasons. These funds have also paid for  
29 ranger -- seasonal rangers in the field that we've been  
30 able to retain some of them through hunting season which  
31 we haven't been able to do before. So we're able to  
32 divert these fees into those sort of resources, which is  
33 new for us.

34

35                   On the second point, we do do in my  
36 office, annual evaluations of all the concessions  
37 contracts and the permits. I believe we're the only  
38 office in the National Park Service that evaluates the  
39 permits. These are the unlimited ones. I've talked to  
40 my peers outside, they don't do it, they don't have time  
41 to do it but we do it because I think it's important to  
42 know if they're adhering to the permit terms and  
43 conditions and stipulations. What happens is they can  
44 receive a satisfactory, a marginal or an unsatisfactory,  
45 this is both guided sportshunting, hunt transporters and  
46 anyone else offering commercial services. In the  
47 contract world, if they receive two marginal ratings at  
48 any time during the length of the contract or one  
49 unsatisfactory rating, they lose the contract, it is  
50 terminated and/or they lose the preferential right to

00203

1 renew.

2

3

4 For the contracts, for the concession  
5 contracts, this is a very big deal. My office has given  
6 some marginals out, unfortunately. But it is a big deal,  
7 they know they're going to lose their contract if they  
8 don't adhere to these terms and conditions.

8

9

10 The other tool that we have for the  
11 permits, again, these are the unlimited ones, we have a  
12 suspension restriction, revocation and denial policy and  
13 we're the only four parks in Alaska that use this policy.  
14 You won't find it any other parks. It's not in use  
15 outside. My cohorts outside say that they don't have  
16 anything like it either. This is another tool we can use  
17 to restrict, deny or suspend these permits that are  
18 unlimited. We have invoked that twice, last year, they  
19 both appealed, we were upheld. We used it once this  
20 year, it hasn't yet gone through an appeal process and I  
21 haven't heard anything so it seems to work.

21

22

23 The fourth thing that we're doing is  
24 requiring the permittees, these are the unlimited guys to  
25 meet with us, with my office, once a year before they get  
26 their permit. They have to meet with us. We go over the  
27 stipulations, the rules, the regs, we usually invite in  
28 the State, Fish and Wildlife, any other agency that wants  
29 to join us and give out information also. It's a  
30 required meeting. If they can't make the meeting because  
31 they live outside, I will talk to them on the phone, mail  
32 the information to them and require a signature before  
33 they get the permit that they got the packet, and that  
34 seems to be working real well. Compliance rose from 60  
35 percent to -- oh, 60 percent, it was about 90 percent  
36 after we started requiring the meetings. This is the  
37 third year of required meetings.

37

38

39 If you'd like to flip to the stats, the  
40 first chart, I'll just run through quickly with you is  
41 entitled guided sportshunting concessions contracts. And  
42 I thought you'd be interested in seeing who is holding  
43 big game sportshunting contracts in Lake Clark, Katmai  
44 and Aniakchak. The names of the operators are there.  
45 The number of annual clients that they're permitted to  
46 have and then it's easy to follow down by year the total  
47 hunters for each year and the total successful hunters  
48 for each year.

48

49

Go ahead.

50

00204

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Triple A, that's a  
2 guiding service out of Pilot Point, they don't hunt?

3  
4                   MS. BROCK: The name again?

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Triple A.

7  
8                   MS. BROCK: Tripe A. I don't recognize  
9 them as one of our permits, no.

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

12  
13                  MS. BROCK: Permittee.

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

16  
17                  MS. BROCK: So there's one, two, there's  
18 three pages for the guided sportshunting. And the next  
19 page is the permits, they're called incidental business  
20 permits. And the chart's showing by park compared with  
21 2002, the number of permittees, the number of permits,  
22 and you'll see an increase from 1995 to 2002 for Katmai  
23 of about a 60 percent overall increase, about a 73  
24 percent increase in air taxi operators just for Katmai;  
25 Aniakchak has shown a 23 percent increase overall and a  
26 six percent increase in air taxi.

27  
28                  The rest of the chart is self-explanatory  
29 for you, I'm sure. A number of the operators hold  
30 permits in more than one park and that shows in the  
31 middle of the page. In other words, in 2003, 69  
32 operators had one park on their permit, 53 had two parks  
33 identified on their permit, and so forth. For a total of  
34 139 businesses that had this type of permit, again, this  
35 is unlimited.

36  
37                  As it compares to the rest of Alaska, we  
38 carry about 45 percent of all the permits of this type in  
39 the state of Alaska in the National Park Service.

40  
41                  And then the next four pages are kind of  
42 a little tiny chart showing at the top the type of  
43 permits that are -- the type of activities that are  
44 permitted, such as, air taxi, backpacking, boat trips,  
45 bear viewing, charter boats, et cetera, and that includes  
46 big game transporters. The year is on the left-hand  
47 column, so you can see how that compares to the previous  
48 10 years and then down at the bottom, once again, is the  
49 number of companies each year. So in other words, one  
50 company may indicate more than one activity on their



00205

1 permit form if that makes sense to you.

2

3                   So you're looking at each of the four  
4 parks, Katmai, Aniakchak, the Alagnak and Lake Clark, are  
5 on separate pages.

6

7                   So on the next page, which is the last  
8 page in your packet, I extrapolated just the hunt  
9 transporters and I kind of blew it up so it's easy to  
10 read. And you'll see by year for Lake Clark, Katmai,  
11 Aniakchak and the Alagnak how many operators indicated to  
12 us on their form that they would be transporting big game  
13 through these parks and preserves. And on the back side  
14 of that, on the very last page, this is the first  
15 statistic that we have of requiring the State of Alaska's  
16 Big Game Commercial Services Transporter Activity Report,  
17 again, it's due February 3rd of each year, so this would  
18 be for the 2002 year. And as you'll see in Lake Clark,  
19 out of 14 of these permittees that said they were  
20 transporting, zero turned in the form. Out of Katmai 10  
21 said they were going to be transporting, two of these  
22 operators turned in the form. The total was 20 clients  
23 for these two operators and they reported harvesting two  
24 moose. Aniakchak, there were three permittees, none of  
25 them turned in the forms. And then in the Alagnak there  
26 were four companies, one of them submitted the form and  
27 they had four clients and harvested one moose.

28

29                   So in summary, the bottom line for us is  
30 that we fully support this negotiated rulemaking process  
31 for the new commercial use authorizations which is the  
32 permits that are unlimited. We fully support that  
33 process. We need that regulation so that we can  
34 implement a better -- get a better handle on the hunt  
35 transporters. We're also fully committed to continuing  
36 the funding to our rangers, to getting them out there,  
37 using the fees generated from these operators.

38

39                   That's my report. May I answer any  
40 questions?

41

42                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council  
43 members.

44

45                   (No comments)

46

47                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The total number of  
48 commercial operators offering the following services, I  
49 see that Katmai National Park has 316. Number 2 would be  
50 Lake Clark with 207. And the least is Aniakchak. So I

00206

1 guess it's just hard to get there, uh?

2

3 MS. BROCK: You know, that's what they  
4 tell me, is that, the weather.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

7

8 MS. BROCK: .....you know, blows them  
9 out. We've had actually more permittees now requesting  
10 river run.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In Aniakchak?

13

14 MS. BROCK: Yeah, in Aniakchak, I think  
15 there's three that I'm aware of now. I don't know their  
16 names off the top of my head but I thought that was  
17 interesting that they're looking for that eco-tourism  
18 challenge, you know, and they want to get remote and they  
19 want to get dangerous and they've never been there.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, it's remote.

22

23 MS. BROCK: Yeah.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You were there?

26

27 MS. BROCK: I was there, yeah. Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions or  
30 comments, Council members.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that's a bunch  
35 of.....

36

37 MS. BROCK: This will give you food to  
38 chew on.

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was going to say,  
41 yeah, there's a lot of stuff we got there in a very short  
42 time. And thank you very much we appreciate that.

43

44 MS. BROCK: You're welcome.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Let's see who's  
47 next here.

48

49 Yes, you are with Lake Clark, all right.

50

00207

1 MS. LIGGETT: Mr. Chair, members of the  
2 Council. I am Deb Liggett with the National Park  
3 Service. The outgoing superintendent of Lake Clark and  
4 Katmai National Parks, and I'll talk about that here in a  
5 minute. I believe I was first here before you four and a  
6 half years ago and I've tried to be a regular, haven't  
7 made absolutely every meeting but most of them, and I've  
8 found that those meetings have been very productive for  
9 the Parks because I can meet with my peers and other  
10 agencies as well as have an opportunity to visit with the  
11 Council.

12  
13 You need to know, though, that the most  
14 embarrassing moment of my career, to-date, took place in  
15 the corner right back there when on my first meeting  
16 Randy Alvarez asked me if the kids from Igiugig could go  
17 to Brooks Camp. And I was a little dumbfounded, you  
18 know, and I couldn't figure out why the kids from Igiugig  
19 hadn't been to Brooks Camp, and I said, you know, how  
20 many kids are in the school, Randy, how hard can this be?  
21 And he said 17, and I said, Randy we can get the kids  
22 from Brooks Camp to Igiugig, and we did. And I don't  
23 know, 17 kids with eight chaperons showed up that first  
24 year, and by the end of their session, which included  
25 elders and storytelling and biology, I'm a little unsure  
26 who was having the most fun, the rangers or the kids.  
27 The reports that I had were that the kids were wearing  
28 ranger hats and had swiped the radios from the rangers  
29 and they all seemed to be enjoying this.

30  
31 But I would like to tell the Council how  
32 much I believe in this and how I believe that it's  
33 important. Subsequent to that, at least, three villages  
34 down the chain Kakhonak, villages in here have been to  
35 the Park, and I think that that's imperative that we  
36 continue that. We are, I believe, losing our educational  
37 specialist, but I will commit to you on behalf of the  
38 next two superintendents that that's a program that the  
39 Park Service would like to continue. And I tell that to  
40 my peers outside and everywhere else about this  
41 embarrassing moment because I was just aghast that it  
42 hadn't been going on all along.

43  
44 I also had come to these meetings just a  
45 couple of times and I realized that perhaps my favorite  
46 fantasy, which just goes to show what happens when you're  
47 bureaucrat was that I could appear before you as a Refuge  
48 manager and just talk about, you know, moose and caribou,  
49 calf and cow ratios, mortalities and things like that  
50 instead of having to talk to you about other issues.

00208

1 I have three things that I'd like to  
2 share with you today, I'd like to share something about  
3 Mary McBurney; I'd like to talk with you about Igiugig  
4 and the ATV report; and I'd like to talk to you about the  
5 reorganization of these two Park units.

6  
7 What I want to share with you about Mary  
8 McBurney is that, besides being a terrific employee with  
9 the National Park Service and having, you know, in her  
10 short tenure with us received many awards, she was also  
11 recently granted associate professorship at the  
12 University of Alaska-Fairbanks based on her biotech  
13 fisheries program, which had a second year. So I would  
14 encourage you, you know, for the couple of years that  
15 this is good, Mary says the only privilege she thinks she  
16 gets out of it is Staff snack room privileges. That  
17 perhaps, if you just referred to her occasionally as  
18 Professor McBurney, but we're very proud of that. We're  
19 very proud of the fisheries technician program that Mary  
20 has done two years in a row and we really look at that as  
21 a work force development program for the State and the  
22 Federal agencies represented here.

23  
24 The Igiugig ATV issue, which I know at  
25 least the Chair will be interested in, is, I actually  
26 have in my briefcase the draft report done by Don  
27 Calloway and Bill Schneider in hopes that I could give it  
28 to Dan Salmone here today. Don Calloway from our  
29 regional office and Bill Schneider have done oral  
30 interviews with the members of the community, have been  
31 back to the community to see if what they took down was  
32 actually accurate and now we have Don's draft report,  
33 which we would like Dan and the members of the community  
34 to see. At that point in time, Don will put, both, the  
35 Kakhonak report and the Igiugig report in a final form.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They've done an  
38 exceptional job. I happened to be their pilot when they  
39 went up for the public hearing in Kakhonak and they were  
40 on a standby time so as a Chair getting paid standby time  
41 listened to what they had to say, nice, incredible work  
42 that they have done.

43  
44 MS. LIGGETT: Right.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And they have done.....

47  
48 MS. LIGGETT: So we are still working  
49 along that process.

50

00209

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, that's good.  
2 Appreciate that a lot.

3  
4                   MS. LIGGETT: And now I'd talk briefly  
5 with you about the reorganization. In 1995, review was  
6 done of these four southwestern park units and it was  
7 decided at that time to put the Parks under a single  
8 superintendent, whereas in the past there had been two, a  
9 superintendent living in King Salmon for Katmai, and a  
10 superintendent who lived part of the year in Port  
11 Alsworth and part of the year in Anchorage. And for  
12 apparently budgetary reasons, this change was made,  
13 although when I arrived Bill Pearce had been doing the  
14 job for a couple of years and I couldn't quite ever  
15 figure out the math on how we had saved money doing that.

16  
17                   But for some time I've talked to two  
18 regional directors now about my concern that there simply  
19 isn't enough of the superintendent to go around and to  
20 provide focused management to each park unit. And so  
21 this spring a position management study was done and the  
22 members of that group agreed. And the National Park  
23 Service will now move to reverse what they did in 1995  
24 and will put a Katmai superintendent living back full-  
25 time in the community of King Salmon, and the Lake Clark  
26 superintendent living in Port Alsworth four or five  
27 months of the year and in Anchorage the remainder.

28  
29                   What I felt is that it is imperative that  
30 we have policymakers also living in the communities  
31 closest to the Park. It's just too difficult to do it  
32 from Anchorage.

33  
34                   The Park will continue to share some  
35 resources, there simply isn't enough money to wave our  
36 magic wand and make it happen over night and, in fact, I  
37 will probably stay involved in the next six or eight  
38 months to help with an implementation plan. I was  
39 offered my choice of the two positions and I chose the  
40 choice not offered. My friends in the Lower 48 said,  
41 yeah, Deb, that's very typical you were given choices A  
42 and B and instead you chose C. And because at this point  
43 in my life I would like to live with my spouse full-time,  
44 which I haven't been able to do in every assignment, I  
45 asked to be reassigned to the regional office, and I will  
46 go to work sometime within the next month or so on the  
47 regional director's staff to kind of do, troubleshooting,  
48 special projects, other duties not yet defined. So I'm  
49 really not here saying goodbye today, I'm just saying I  
50 might not see you as often and Jay and I don't have any

00210

1 plans to leave Alaska. And so that's what it means for  
2 me.

3

4 The Park's will continue to share some  
5 resources. Mary McBurney, obviously will continue to do  
6 subsistence management for all four parks. Becky Brock,  
7 who you've just met will continue to do concession  
8 management for all four parks. Gene Schaff, our chief of  
9 cultural will continue to do cultural resources for all  
10 four parks. The things that are really working well, we  
11 don't want to break something that's not broken but we  
12 want to provide more focused management in each staff.

13

14 They're very competitive jobs. The  
15 Katmai superintendency had more than 20 applicants. The  
16 Lake Clark superintendency had more than 39 applicants.  
17 And I would expect a decision to be made on those  
18 sometime in the next month. And so come February you  
19 will have, not just one superintendent to talk to but  
20 you'll have to suffer through two.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That makes our meetings  
23 longer or what?

24

25 MS. LIGGETT: Yeah, it might make your  
26 meetings longer, Dan.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll have more people  
31 to pick on, that's all.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. LIGGETT: I guess as the outgoing  
36 superintendent I would take a little liberty here with  
37 the Council and just give you a little bit of a view from  
38 a Park manager's point of view.

39

40 I've heard Robin talk about this and I  
41 think this is imperative, not just in Council  
42 proceedings, but within the Parks themselves, is a 10  
43 year plan for how the Federal Subsistence Fisheries money  
44 is going to be spent. You know, are you going to look  
45 back in 10 years and have answered the questions you need  
46 to have answered? You know, if the framework is the  
47 Christmas tree, you know, when you hang the ornaments on  
48 there, have you hung them on in such a way that you'll be  
49 able to answer or continue answering the questions? I've  
50 been in the government long enough to know that

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1 eventually all good money dries up and I guess that is  
2 something that if I were going to stay I would continue  
3 to try to get someone to put in a proposal on how that  
4 might be done.

5  
6 I want to also tell you that this part of  
7 ANILCA really works, Section .805, the establishment of  
8 the Regional Advisory Councils, and then for us, the  
9 establishment of the Subsistence Resource Councils. I  
10 can think of nothing comparable in my 23 years with the  
11 government that even begins to measure up to this system.

12  
13 For us, the Subsistence Resource Council,  
14 it's been pointed out to us recently is that Park  
15 superintendents are only supposed to be utilizing them  
16 for hunting plans. This superintendent and my guess is  
17 all the superintendents around the state use that  
18 Subsistence Resource Council in a much broader manner,  
19 anything about subsistence. I consider those folks to be  
20 essentially my kitchen cabinet and the people that we can  
21 turn to as Park managers when we need a perspective on  
22 subsistence.

23  
24 Your purview, of course is much broader,  
25 it's both fish and wildlife. And that, I guess I see  
26 that as a potential problem in the future, is if the SRCs  
27 are limited to hunting plans only. And it may be  
28 possible through .805, that this Council could actually  
29 extend or codify the role that you see those SRCs playing  
30 as they feed into you.

31  
32 One of the reasons, and I had an  
33 opportunity to have Fran Ulmer out this summer, and what  
34 I've been telling to people in State government, is that,  
35 when -- one of the reasons that I think subsistence users  
36 on Federal lands became disenfranchised with the State  
37 system is because this system with the Federal Board is  
38 so timely. That someone can put a proposal in and in  
39 less than a year, the Federal Subsistence Board, it can  
40 go through the steps and review and in less than a year a  
41 change can be made, and so this system is very timely and  
42 responsive, whereas the State is stuck with a much more  
43 difficult problem, you know, and now down to holding  
44 Board of Fish meetings every three years, and so it takes  
45 a long time under the State system to get a reg changed.  
46 And so I, you know, I'm sure that you're all aware of  
47 that but I compliment both the folks that had the  
48 foresight to write the law and those of you that have  
49 implemented it for how it works.

50

00212

1 I'd also like to encourage you, and we've  
2 had this discussion previously and actually it's an issue  
3 within the National Park Service ranks, is, and not to  
4 suggest that any of us are getting balding or sagging or  
5 long in the tooth, but I'm concerned about who the next  
6 generation of SRC members are, of who the next generation  
7 of Regional Advisory Council members are. You know, 20  
8 years from now there's going to be some poor Park  
9 superintendent sitting here and needing that guidance.  
10 And I don't know what you do. I don't know if you, you  
11 know, rope a kid and drag him to the meetings and  
12 convince him they're fun. Mary's written letters, like  
13 when we met in Nondalton last week to the school  
14 superintendent there inviting the superintendent to bring  
15 their kids or asking him if he would and none of them  
16 came. And I'm wondering, for those of you that are  
17 involved in school boards and other things, if, you know,  
18 if that's something that we don't try to encourage.

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Career Day. When we do  
21 Career Day, you people should be there. And Mary did a  
22 good job -- or somebody did a good job, the Port Heiden  
23 student body came out, wow. You talk about the energy  
24 off to the people who are sitting there. I see a BBNC  
25 board member sitting over there and one of the things  
26 that I really emphasize in our informational meetings  
27 going around and it will happen, or there will be some  
28 accounting if it doesn't happen is Career Day in our  
29 Dillingham schools and Bristol Bay schools, LakenPenn,  
30 when you bring students back who have made careers, this  
31 would be an excellent time for you people to show up with  
32 us and start showing this program that we might get some  
33 people with less grey in their beard here than what we  
34 have today.

35

36 MS. LIGGETT: Right. Don't get me wrong,  
37 I wouldn't replace.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, no.

40

41 MS. LIGGETT: .....any of you, but some  
42 day, and I'm concerned because I don't see them. The  
43 Park Service is concerned because we're an aging work  
44 force, and young people don't come to work for us  
45 anymore. And so I don't know what the answer is but it's  
46 one that we should bumble along together on.

47

48 Finally, I will touch on the issue of  
49 predator control for the National Park Service.  
50 Because.....



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1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Here we go.

2

3 MS. LIGGETT: .....because I simply can't  
4 resist.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. LIGGETT: And I don't want you to get  
9 all prickly now, because I know this is a prickly topic.  
10 And let me start out with a party line here, and that is  
11 that as you already know and as you alluded to, it is the  
12 National Park Service policy to not do predator control.

13

14 And I would ask you to consider this.  
15 I'd like you to kind of see this through the  
16 superintendent's of Lake Clark's eyes for a minute. What  
17 I think of -- when we talk about predator control is I  
18 think of the poor superintendent getting backed into the  
19 corner and being made bloody. And the Park Service has  
20 tried to work at every turn with the SRC and with the RAC  
21 on both increased bag limits and season limits, and  
22 that's really the latitude that a superintendent has to  
23 work with. And then there's this little voice in the  
24 back of my head that says, you know, for instance, at  
25 Lake Clark we have a year-round subsistence bear hunt for  
26 10 bears. The permits would -- or the season would end  
27 if four sows are taken. The last several years, we have  
28 never had more than two or three bears taken in that  
29 season.

30

31 It's my understanding that the Council  
32 just increased the bag limit for wolves. And so I guess  
33 I would say before you put a Park superintendent in a  
34 place that they really don't have much room to negotiate  
35 or move in, that the first thing that we would like to  
36 see is taking the number of animals permitted, without  
37 having to talk about predator control. I think that that  
38 superintendent might want to see what, you know, two or  
39 three or four years of 10 bears being taken would cause  
40 to happen.

41

42 Are you going to grill me on that or  
43 should I go on?

44

45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, no, that's  
46 something we haven't really gotten in the way of the  
47 information, and that's good news but they're still not  
48 doing it, neither are they selling many wolf pelts  
49 because it's not a popular thing to do and you don't have  
50 the snow to get them anyway. So some of these things are

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1 out of our control.

2

3                   However, are these commercial permits?

4

5                   MS. LIGGETT: No, I'm talking -- Becky  
6 has the number on how many animals the commercial users  
7 are taking, but this is for subsistence users, there is a  
8 hunting program that allows the taking of 10 bears a  
9 year.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For qualified Federal  
12 subsistence users?

13

14                   MS. LIGGETT: Yes.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: In other words, you  
17 would not open that up to the general public?

18

19                   MS. LIGGETT: Right.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So that is the  
22 difference?

23

24                   MS. LIGGETT: Right.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

27

28                   MS. LIGGETT: Finally, I would like to  
29 say that over the past five years or so I've had the  
30 opportunity to study under, what I believe are the  
31 experts, and that is this Council and the people in this  
32 room who -- between -- and you alluded to it earlier, the  
33 people assembled here, there is a tremendous amount of  
34 knowledge. I have never come to this meeting and not  
35 learned lots. And so I wanted you to know that I hold  
36 this Council, especially, in high regard as I know that  
37 others in the state do. You run a good meeting Dan and  
38 Robin. I always know when I'm being put through my  
39 paces. I always know what the message is that I should  
40 take home and, yet, I think it's done in a way that we  
41 have a great exchange of information and a candid  
42 exchange on really difficult topics. And so I would like  
43 to thank you for this opportunity. I've left here afraid  
44 to come back. I want you to know that I admire and honor  
45 the work that you do on your own time and your own dime  
46 that takes you away from your families and your jobs. I  
47 want you to know that, you know, you do all this  
48 tremendous work for free for not only people now but down  
49 the road and I consider it to be the highest form of  
50 public service.

00215

1 I would also like to honor the work that  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service does, administratively, to  
3 staff these meetings. I really believe that this is a  
4 system that works. I think you're a Board that makes it  
5 work extremely well. I won't say goodbye, I'll just say  
6 see you later and I thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Don't leave yet, now,  
9 we're not quite done with you yet, you're not getting off  
10 that easy.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MS. LIGGETT: All right, this is your  
15 last chance.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You almost made me like  
18 the Park Service, that's a wonderful speech.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Geez.

23  
24 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, I had to hit him  
25 alongside the head, geez, Dan, wake up, Dan.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, he hit me real  
28 hard.

29  
30 MR. SAMUELSEN: Wake up Dan.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, we appreciate all  
35 that you've done, too, Deb. And who was the Park  
36 superintendent before you?

37  
38 MS. LIGGETT: Bill Pearce.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Bill Pearce, yeah.  
41 He's the guy that started moving things farther away, and  
42 I realize that and that's okay. But I appreciate the  
43 fact that you've maybe, at least, the Katmai National  
44 Park person, in such a big spread area and so many people  
45 to be in contact with, they really need to have a  
46 superintendent there, they really do. And King Salmon is  
47 not necessarily a fun place to live but it's not bad  
48 either, so that's good.

49  
50 So you really cannot deal with predator

00216

1 control but -- I mean that's just the Park's policy  
2 nationally?

3

4 MS. LIGGETT: It is a Park policy  
5 nationally.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. And I think we  
8 need to understand that so when we start making comments  
9 that we do it in the proper channels.

10

11 MS. LIGGETT: The only instances I know  
12 where the Park Service has engaged in predator control  
13 has been in relation to an endangered species. And it's  
14 been something -- and predator control has been part of a  
15 bigger picture, and the only one that comes to mind for  
16 me is like protecting eggs of nesting and endangered sea  
17 turtles and maybe shooting a few skunks and raccoons.

18

19 The issue here in Alaska, just beside the  
20 policy issue, is involved with -- what do we call them,  
21 charismatic megafawna, is the politics for the Service,  
22 because we are, you know, a nationwide service, the  
23 politics of predator control throughout the nation.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If I were to go to the  
26 national director and have a little conversation with  
27 him, I would say that the weakness of the National Park  
28 Service of America is their lack of support for  
29 enforcement, which is pretty important in our area. I  
30 mean talking about digging up archeological sites,  
31 talking about wanton waste, which Katmai and Lake Clark  
32 has done very well on, I think we cannot back off from  
33 that support. Your husband is in that department,  
34 doesn't he do law enforcement?

35

36 MS. LIGGETT: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So I just wanted to  
39 make sure that that got taken to the proper people  
40 and.....

41

42 MS. LIGGETT: I just.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....it will go higher  
45 up as time.....

46

47 MS. LIGGETT: Well.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....goes on.

50

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1 MS. LIGGETT: And, you know, I'm a  
2 realist, and I'm a Park superintendent, so, you know,  
3 sometimes policy doesn't always work and I've been an  
4 advocate that policy can be changed. But what I wanted  
5 to encourage the RAC to think about is the area in  
6 between on which things can really be done that might  
7 positively affect this, like if 10 bears were taken at  
8 Lake Clark several years in a row, you know, that's  
9 something that could be done now by subsistence users who  
10 have concerns about predators. The same would apply to  
11 wolves. And that's not predator control, I mean that's  
12 an established.....

13  
14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Use.

15  
16 MS. LIGGETT: .....use.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

19  
20 MS. LIGGETT: Right. Any time, and  
21 you're aware of it, any time we're backed into the corner  
22 of predator control, the fireworks begin to go off. If  
23 we talk about bag limits and season limits that's a place  
24 where any superintendent can negotiate, you know, and be  
25 guided by the opinion of all of our biologists.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, you made a bunch  
28 of people miss their flight but that's okay.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MS. LIGGETT: Including me.

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I was only kidding you  
37 Deb, thank you very much.

38  
39 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute, we got  
42 another question here from our legal department.

43  
44 MS. LIGGETT: Wannabe attorney.

45  
46 MR. HEYANO: No, the question I have,  
47 Deb, is, as you're well aware that there's -- in the last  
48 couple of years there's been a lot of talk and a lot of  
49 support for development in the Bristol Bay area, hard  
50 rock mining, roads, oil and gas development, are you

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1 aware of any of the Federal agencies gearing up to study  
2 what the potential impacts on all this development could  
3 be to the resource or to the Federally-subsistence user?

4

5 MS. LIGGETT: Interestingly enough, Mary  
6 and I just had that conversation after visiting with the  
7 Chair last night about, you know, some hard rock mining  
8 that was going -- and I actually think that that plays  
9 into my, you know, first thought in terms of a 10 year  
10 strategic science plan. You know, what do we need to get  
11 out there now to -- before those things happen and let  
12 along after to see if there's an impact. We'd really  
13 ideally like to know what those impacts might be before  
14 they do the compliance on them because, you know, in a  
15 perfect world the NEPA, the National Environmental Policy  
16 Act, is designed to help managers and planners make  
17 better decisions.

18

19 So Mary and I had talked about it but I  
20 don't think there's been any comprehensive sit down with  
21 Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service and the  
22 State on that. It would be very prudent.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert, there's an  
25 interesting plan that took place in '83 called the  
26 Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan, and the Federal  
27 government did not cooperate but the plan was done and  
28 they laid out the corridors for oil prior to -- and the  
29 oil companies were furious, they said, you don't lay out  
30 a corridor until you find the oil, and we said no you're  
31 going to get the corridors and take care of the fish  
32 before you get the oil, and we didn't have any of the  
33 industry people on it, it was local, Federal and State,  
34 and that is an exceptional plan. And one of these days  
35 when it gets difficult they will dig that plan back up  
36 again and look at it, because it is doing exactly what  
37 you're talking about, because oil and gas was already,  
38 Lease Sale 92 was on -- on, and the.....

39

40 MS. LIGGETT: And Tom Hawkins from.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....well was -- they  
43 dug already.....

44

45 MS. LIGGETT: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....is still there.

48

49 MS. LIGGETT: And Tom Hawkins from BBNC  
50 has, you know, commended that plan to my reading.

00219

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, he was on the  
2 plan. He was the Chairman of the plan and then he left  
3 and then I became the Chairman when he went to DNR.

4  
5                   MS. LIGGETT: So that would be a good  
6 place to start.

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So he knew the plan  
9 real well. Absolutely.

10  
11                  MR. HEYANO: Yeah, it's funny you should  
12 mention the plan, Dan, because I just received a notice  
13 in the mail that DNR is going to be looking at it and  
14 revising that plan.

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, I'll give  
17 you an example, when BBNC dug that well at Jensen Strip,  
18 and they put in the runway, when they found an empty hole  
19 with a lot of natural gas, they plowed that field under  
20 and you'll never know it existed today. That's what the  
21 plan called for. Those are things we can't ignore and  
22 overlook.

23  
24                  Very controversial to do a plan like that  
25 in 1983. And the computer was the size of this room.

26  
27                  (Laughter)

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now, my grandkids are  
30 packing around computers the size of that paper.  
31 Different times. Well, anyway, anymore questions here.  
32 Robin.

33  
34                  MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I'd just like to  
35 thank Deb for the kind words.

36  
37                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

38  
39                  MR. SAMUELSEN: I agree with what she  
40 said on -- with Mary McBurney. I remember when Mary was  
41 working for us at WOFTA (ph), that idea kind of hatched  
42 in her head one day as our executive director, and she  
43 proceeded down the path and got it implemented.

44  
45                  As far as young folks go, that's my  
46 concern. I really didn't want to reup this time and I  
47 searched really hard for a replacement for me and nobody  
48 wanted to put their name in. I don't know, the pay's not  
49 that great, Boyd, but.....

50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SAMUELSEN: But, you know, I think in  
4 Bristol Bay we've come off a time that we've never seen  
5 before, the '80s and '90s in the fishing industry, and  
6 where a young person could go out and make a pretty good  
7 living and that bubble has burst now and I'm fortunate  
8 enough to be working for a group called BBDC that  
9 provides scholarships, BBNC, BBNA, and I see this  
10 younger, well-educated younger generation getting  
11 educated out there from all over Bristol Bay. So I think  
12 we got a pretty bright crop of people coming up. The  
13 trick is to entice them to move back into their region  
14 and become productive citizens of the region.

15

16 And on a personal note, I guess I think  
17 the first time I met you in this meeting you took Robert  
18 Heyano on an issue and I was sitting here, wow, she's  
19 going toe to toe with Heyano, and then.....

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....the ATV issue came  
24 up and that was Danny's issue and I'm sitting over here,  
25 wow, she's taking Danny on. I guess on a personal note,  
26 when you say jump how high, does your husband jump?

27

28 MS. LIGGETT: You know, he doesn't jump  
29 at all anymore, he doesn't even hear.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. LIGGETT: But one of the reasons this  
34 Park superintendent is so tired is she has to spend her  
35 life, you know, tucking into the slip stream of the Mary  
36 McBurney's and the Becky Brock's and the other ones of  
37 the world. It's a challenge to just keep up with this  
38 outstanding staff.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, it's been a  
41 pleasure knowing you and working with you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes, it's been great  
44 fun. And it's nice to have people just stand up and talk  
45 to you, we appreciate that.

46

47 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: If we could think about  
50 maybe -- you know, if I could have kept track of all the



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1 credits offered and all the different seminars that I've  
2 gone to for Fish and Game, bottom fish and all these  
3 things, I'd have a Ph.d., in something, you know, and  
4 then would be totally worthless because it'd be just  
5 fragmented so much, you know. But I think if we were to  
6 offer the possibility of a couple of college credits for  
7 the juniors and seniors to attend a Regional Council and  
8 give that towards whatever university they were going to  
9 go to, that is a very, very valuable thing, to go to the  
10 North Pacific Council and listen to the committee, the  
11 scientists, these are people who have one pink sock on  
12 and one red sock on and their hair goes in all direction  
13 and they talk at the wall when they speak to you, they're  
14 so bright that they don't make any sense. You've heard  
15 them, right?

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They amaze me. They  
22 have never seen a hairbrush. People need to go listen to  
23 these guys, they're the smartest people in the world.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So thank you, before we  
28 get sidetracked and we're not getting productive here.

29

30 MS. LIGGETT: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it, yeah.  
33 We have a public comment period.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: I hope my hair's neat

36 Dan.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dunaway, where are you  
41 at? Come on up here and talk to us, I like your subject.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thanks, I just kind  
44 of thought about this from yesterday and thought I ought  
45 to speak up. My name is Dan Dunaway, just an interested  
46 public.

47

48 But I wanted to thank the Council here  
49 for supporting the Tazimina rainbow trout study. Back in  
50 my previous life as a fisheries biologist for Fish and

00222

1 Game, that was becoming a higher priority for me. I  
2 talked at length with folks up in that area and Andrew  
3 and Park Service, and I believe it's a priority item.  
4 And so just from the public, there is support, and I have  
5 no doubt that if this meeting was held in Nondalton or in  
6 Iliamna you'd have heard a lot of support for work in  
7 that area.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you for taking  
10 the time to come in and encourage us. We'll take those  
11 left over funds and see what we can do.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What do we got left  
18 here?

19

20 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, Ralph Andersen of  
21 BBNA said he'd be five minutes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: But he's not here.

24

25 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe we ought to ask  
26 who's leaving on the plane here?

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, who's leaving at  
29 2:15, anybody want to catch that 2:15 flight, needs to  
30 go? You're not going anywhere, you're staying right here.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We know what you get  
35 paid and it's a lot more than what we get paid.

36

37 MR. SAMUELSEN: They cancelled the  
38 evening flight because of high winds, so we've got lots  
39 of time.

40

41 MR. KOSBRUK: They did again?

42

43 MR. SAMUELSEN: No, no, just.....

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Apparently there's not  
48 anyone that has to leave at 2:00 o'clock. Yes.

49

50 MR. EDENSHAW: I was just going to go on

00223

1 then, Mr. Chair, in regards to the Council has a hand out  
2 here and I'm not sure if Mary and also Joe -- is Joe  
3 still here, no, he's gone, but Mary's going to.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: She's here.

6

7 MR. EDENSHAW: She's here. I'm unsure if  
8 she was going to -- if she'd like to present -- there was  
9 a hand out that I was talking with Janet Koslowski in  
10 Anchorage and at this moment, if Mary would like to  
11 provide some comments regarding that she's more than  
12 welcome.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right.

15

16 MS. MCBURNEY: Okay, well, thank you.  
17 For the record I'm Mary McBurney, the subsistence program  
18 manager for Lake Clark, Katmai, Aniakchak and the Alagnak  
19 Wild River. And Janice Koslowski was unable to make this  
20 meeting so she asked that I, at least, present the  
21 information, the update on the water resources management  
22 plan for -- excuse me, I'm a little breathless, I had to  
23 go out and get Deb's luggage out of my trunk, for the  
24 draft Katmai/Alagnak Water Resources Management Plan.

25

26 Copies of the draft plan are going to be  
27 available in January, at which time there's going to be a  
28 60 day public comment period and Janice wanted to be sure  
29 that people were aware that this plan would be available  
30 and that she would very much like to have public comment  
31 on it.

32

33 The purpose of the water resources plan  
34 is to assist the development of a Park-wide strategy that  
35 will basically help to protect, utilize and enhance the  
36 water resources in the Katmai National Park and Preserve  
37 and the Alagnak Wild River. There are a number of  
38 different issues that the plan addresses. Some of them  
39 include the impacts associated with recreational use of  
40 those waters, back country facilities and their impacts  
41 on local water. Water resource issues that are  
42 associated with development at Brooks Camp. Climate  
43 change. The effects of airborne contaminants. And lack  
44 of information on water resource issues. And issues  
45 associated with oil and gas exploration in the Cook Inlet  
46 area.

47

48 So again that draft should be out in  
49 January. The complete report, I understand is well over  
50 300 pages long, but Janice assures me that there will be

00224

1 an executive summary that will be available for those  
2 folks that are not interested in investing 300 pages  
3 worth of time to review each and every item. So you can  
4 contact Janice with the National Park Service in  
5 Anchorage or a local contact here in the region is Troy  
6 Hammond, who is the resources chief for Katmai National  
7 Park in King Salmon.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that it?

10

11 MS. MCBURNEY: That's it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions, Council  
14 members.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much,  
19 Mary, appreciate that. Has Joe gone home, or he's not  
20 here? Bureau of Land Management, Jeff.

21

22 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 Council members. My name is Jeff Denton. I'm with the  
24 Anchorage BLM, the Anchorage Field Office of BLM.  
25 Amazingly, several things have come up today that BLM  
26 needs to comment and bring some folks up to speed on and  
27 some things that haven't been mentioned.

28

29 The first thing, a major move from  
30 Senator Steven's office is to speed up the conveyance  
31 process -- processes in the state. BLM is gearing up for  
32 a major acceleration of that program. Senator Stevens  
33 has given us a target of 2009 to finish all conveyances  
34 in the state. Now, whether we'll hit that target or not  
35 is hard to say, but he has already entertained the  
36 Congressional Legislation to streamline the process and  
37 eliminate a great number of the administrative procedural  
38 stalling thing that have been plaguing this program for  
39 20 years.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank God for small  
42 favors, yeah.

43

44 MR. DENTON: And he's also said money's  
45 not an objective. We've been staffing up, both survey  
46 folks, we're putting on as many as 16 new surveyors. Our  
47 lands and conveyance staff has also put on, I believe,  
48 nine people, at fairly high levels to coordinate this.  
49 But the total package isn't together yet, how they're  
50 going to go about it and proceed, but it's basically

00225

1 moving along quite rapidly.

2

3

4 The Native allotment programs in a given  
5 priority area will be taken care of first, and then  
6 mostly the Native corporative -- both village and  
7 regional corporation conveyances and then state  
8 conveyances. So there's kind of an orderly progression  
9 that has to occur.

9

10

11 The significance to the Federal  
12 Subsistence Program in Bristol Bay, it will be mostly BLM  
13 lands because over selections and these sort of things  
14 will -- once this program concludes in this area,  
15 there'll be up to possibly two million acres of land  
16 coming back into the Federal program that are currently  
17 under State administration for wildlife management for  
18 subsistence and other use of wildlife, but these will  
19 come back into the Federal public land system once these  
20 conveyances are complete.

20

21

22 The Refuges and Parks are already under  
23 the Federal Subsistence Program whether they're selected  
24 lands or not, so even those lands and conveyances will  
25 take place, it probably won't make much of a difference  
26 to the Federal program.

26

27

28 So that's the first thing you folks need  
29 to be advised of because we're going to see those -- you  
30 know, the yellow BLM lands on the maps and then in the  
31 Federal regulation books probably change over the next  
32 few years fairly significantly each year as these  
33 conveyances progress. And this is a statewide program,  
34 so, you know, how the State preferences fallout and what  
35 lands come back to the BLM and so on and so forth will be  
36 up to statewide priorities. So it's bigger than the  
37 region as far as the state's concerned. But just be  
38 advised that this program is going to move along at a  
39 very much faster pace in the next few years.

39

40

41 Second thing, minerals and roads and  
42 these sorts of things have come up several times, and of  
43 course BLM is responsible for subsurface minerals  
44 management on Refuges as well as our own lands as well as  
45 some of the split state lands across most of the state,  
46 all the Forest Service lands, so the minerals hat that  
47 the BLM wears is considerable. And we're going into --  
48 currently large scale land use plans, which Bristol Bay  
49 area is coming on line in the next couple of years, and  
50 we've had both regional encouragement, I guess is the way  
51 to put it as well as industrial encouragement, to lift

00226

1 all the minerals withdrawals on BLM lands in this part of  
2 the state, which means people can stake claims and go  
3 about minerals development under the 1892 mining laws,  
4 which could have considerable impacts to hard rock mining  
5 and placer mining things. And some of these things  
6 actually have been asked to be accelerated in front of  
7 our land use planning efforts. There's one area between  
8 the Kaskanak Creek and some of those streams that flow  
9 into the Kvichak from the west and the north, there's a  
10 fairly large area there that's been actually -- Bristol  
11 Bay Native Corporation has asked an acceleration of  
12 lifting the withdrawal to start developing minerals in  
13 that area.

14

15                   So it may be coming down the pike, this  
16 group needs to very definitely be involved, and as far as  
17 impacts on subsistence use in some of these areas,  
18 because it will definitely change lifestyles and way of  
19 living. Once you get roads it changes the entire, you  
20 know, the entire complexion of a region very rapidly. So  
21 those are things that are hanging on the forefront here  
22 that folks need to be aware of and, you know, at least  
23 psychologically gear up for becoming involved in here in  
24 the near future.

25

26                   Down to the more basic stuff, BLM still  
27 is participating as the coordinator or cooperator in the  
28 Mulchatna Caribou Herd management. We contribute mostly  
29 funds, logistically, we don't put a whole lot of  
30 personnel effort out here, but we provide quite a bit of  
31 support through aircraft support for Fish and Game and  
32 Fish and Wildlife Service out here to monitor Mulchatna  
33 caribou so we can have multi-agency good data across the  
34 board to make appropriate changes in any management  
35 having to do with that caribou herd.

36

37                   We have completed our -- we've brought up  
38 several times in the past land cover map and habitat  
39 mapping for, at least, all of the BLM lands and most of  
40 the State lands in the drainages draining into Bristol  
41 Bay. Those projects are now complete, and so we can  
42 start using that information for habitat assessments and  
43 distribution of animals and to see -- actually quantify  
44 some of these habitat and habitat distributions, also  
45 climatic change is actually creating some changes in  
46 vegetation in Bristol Bay. It's pretty apparent. A lot  
47 of -- this is a drying trend we're in and it's starting  
48 to show up in vegetation. Different vegetation has taken  
49 over a large regional complex this year, and many of the  
50 lakes and ponds are drying up. I mean it's real obvious

00227

1 when you start looking at it. There's a lot of fisheries  
2 in the lakes and pond areas that are actually fading out  
3 of the picture completely and so there are some things  
4 going on there.

5  
6 We also, this summer, we had other work  
7 going on but I did some assessments to kind of  
8 groundtruth the moose surveys we've done in 2001 and 2002  
9 and take a look at browse use and in these areas where we  
10 were concerned that moose populations were either  
11 declining or nearly absent, we're having two to three  
12 years of willow growth without any use on it, and that's  
13 fairly widespread throughout the BLM portions of Bristol  
14 Bay that we've notice, and we visited a lot of different  
15 sites this summer. So there's definitely a tie between,  
16 of course, easy winters, moose not moving quite down into  
17 some of the areas where they would in harder winters, but  
18 our field work covered all the areas, and we're seeing  
19 actually there's habitat and feed and foraging areas in  
20 very good shape compared with the numbers of moose and  
21 the occupancy by moose in those areas in the winter  
22 period.

23  
24 So basically everything confirms what  
25 we're seeing, whether we're on the ground or in the air.

26  
27 And as far as caribou habitat, we also  
28 looked at that and I think it's pretty common knowledge  
29 the drainages and the uplands between the Kvichak and the  
30 Nushagak Rivers where Mulchatna caribou wintered in large  
31 numbers several years ago, the lichens there are pretty  
32 much depleted, compared with, say, 12 years ago, first in  
33 this country and spent a lot of time out there in '92 and  
34 '93 with pretty luxurious lichen growth, now those same  
35 areas have virtually no lichens at all except in drift  
36 pattern areas where the snow depths are such that they're  
37 unavailable in the wintertime. So we're looking at  
38 probably a long-term recovery for large numbers of  
39 caribou wintering probably in that country.

40  
41 I wanted to mention 9(B), I think you  
42 guys got a handle on that for consistency in the regs.  
43 9(B) also needs to have that one bull language that you  
44 approved here yesterday for 17 and 18 because it's a  
45 similar language regulation there that applies to another  
46 area of the Mulchatna herd coverage.

47  
48 I guess I can touch slightly on predator  
49 control, BLM has a pretty convoluted policy. We have  
50 interim internal policy now, we're waiting for a

00228

1 Washington office policy. Predator control in BLM is  
2 very common in the Lower 48 with coyote control, but it's  
3 primarily to protect the livestock industry and it's --  
4 actually BLM doesn't do it itself. We have another  
5 agency of government that -- it's called the animal  
6 protection health -- well, APHIS is their word, it's  
7 Animal Protection Health and Inspection Service, which is  
8 Department of Agriculture. Through requests, if BLM has  
9 enough requests from interested parties that need  
10 predator control, and it's a State director-type  
11 decision, they go through a lot of process to justify it,  
12 then BLM can request this APHIS group to do the NEPA and  
13 actually implement predator control. However, predator  
14 control in wildlife situations in Alaska is considered a  
15 state issue because it's population management of  
16 predators, and currently it's considered a state issue  
17 and a state issue only, not to say that if Fish and Game  
18 and a consortium of other interests want to ask the BLM  
19 for it, we can consider it. But for wildlife populations  
20 and wildlife related issues -- you know, I've got about  
21 30 years with BLM with predator control, a lot of that in  
22 the Lower 48, I have never seen it other than tiny  
23 species or a transplanted population of predator control  
24 for wildlife purposes was ever instituted.

25

26                   And it's a very controversial subject in  
27 the Lower 48, and some of the abuses in that program in  
28 the Lower 48 are partially the reasons for a lot of the  
29 anti-predator control outside interests that,  
30 unfortunately, affect predator control attitudes in  
31 Alaska. And it's very unfortunate because we have  
32 definite predator problems in portions of Alaska and on  
33 BLM lands. But right now it's considered a state issue.  
34 I guess that's the company line. And until, you know,  
35 the information and enough public demand for BLM to  
36 actually enter into that kind of program up here and to  
37 bring in another government agency, we consider it a  
38 state issue unless it reaches, you know, somewhat larger  
39 proportions and much greater input than we have right  
40 now.

41

42                   So that's all I have for now. If you  
43 have any questions, I'll be glad to entertain them, I  
44 guess.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any questions.

47

48                   (No comments)

49

50                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Interesting that the



00229

1 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act took place in 1971  
2 and the Bristol Bay Native Corporation still has 10  
3 percent of its land that has not been conveyed over to  
4 them. And one of the reasons that we are glad to hear  
5 this and it is moving is that whenever lands exchange  
6 hands, there's always a concern within BBNC of the  
7 subsistence use first of all, and so -- you said  
8 something rather interesting though, you said that the  
9 BLM has responsibility for the subsurface of Federal  
10 lands such as the Refuge?

11

12 MR. DENTON: Refuge, like ANWR for the  
13 below -- subsurface mineral management is still a BLM  
14 responsibility as it is on the Forest Service as well.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I didn't realize that.

17

18 MR. DENTON: So in the case of ANWR, BLM  
19 would actually be writing the down hole subsurface  
20 environmental impact-type portions of those documents.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep. Well, there's a  
23 lot of Refuge on the Alaska Peninsula.....

24

25 MR. DENTON: Yes, for sure.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....Becharof, and the  
28 Alaska Peninsula. Well, thank you very much, we really  
29 appreciate it.

30

31 MR. SAMUELSEN: One question Dan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right here.

34

35 MR. SAMUELSEN: That lichen between here  
36 and Naknek where the caribou are eating, how would you  
37 rate the depletion, severe or moderate?

38

39 MR. DENTON: Severe.

40

41 MR. SAMUELSEN: Severe, uh.

42

43 MR. DENTON: Uh-huh.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe that's why they're  
46 all camping over in the Kuskokwim.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

49

50 MR. DENTON: Yeah, very much so. You

00230

1 take a look at habitats over there, they have a lot of  
2 country to expand into that have actually very vigorous  
3 lichen and, you know, they just prefer it, they don't  
4 necessarily have to have it but they prefer it. Now,  
5 there's some caribou populations in this state that have  
6 no lichen whatsoever and they're doing fairly well. But  
7 where they can have access to it they prefer it and those  
8 are the areas they end up kind of gravitating to.

9

10 MR. SAMUELSEN: Do you go down towards  
11 Yetlin Peninsula and do your lichen surveys and move  
12 north or do you just pick an area north?

13

14 MR. DENTON: Well, yeah, the BLM country  
15 through this country is mostly King Salmon on north. We  
16 do have some scattered tracks further down the Peninsula,  
17 clear down to Port Moeller and a little bit beyond there,  
18 but they're very small. And the amount of time we spend  
19 down there, I'm probably the only BLM person that's been  
20 down there in probably 30 years to give you an idea how  
21 often we get there.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much,  
30 Jeff, appreciate it.

31

32 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're down to Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game, ADF&G. Is there anything  
36 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game today that  
37 needs to come before the Council? Any ADF&G concerns  
38 that people might have.

39

40 MR. SAMUELSEN: Ted.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Ted.

43

44 MR. KRIEG: I think Craig was going to go  
45 -- are you ready to go or -- yeah.

46

47 MR. SCHWANKE: Craig Schwanke, Alaska  
48 Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division. I'd  
49 just like to give the Council a brief overview of what we  
50 completed this summer for research projects and what

00231

1 we're going to do next year.

2

3                   Basically we had three research projects  
4 this past year. Our major one was the stock assessment  
5 of the chinook on the Naknek River. We conducted a  
6 mark/recapture abundance -- estimate of abundance there.  
7 We captured fish in the lower river with gillnets by  
8 entanglement, used transmitters as our mark and used the  
9 weir at Big Creek run by the Fish and Wildlife Service as  
10 a recapture event and we also conducted a recapture event  
11 on the mainstem of the river.

12

13                   We got 13 recaps and we'll work up the  
14 data this winter and hopefully have an estimate of  
15 abundance for the chinook fishery.

16

17                   We also have started a long-term rainbow  
18 trout project on the Wood River Lake system. This was  
19 the first year of that project. We put out 60  
20 transmitters at the Gouldlock and Gouldpack Rivers, and  
21 we're hoping to learn seasonal distributions and  
22 population dynamics on that study. Basically the first  
23 phase of the study is to figure out where those fish are  
24 spawning. And then from there examine some spawning  
25 populations.

26

27                   We have also conducted a krill survey at  
28 lower Tulara Creek, it's mainly a user survey of the  
29 rainbow trout fishery there.

30

31                   And that was about it for projects this  
32 past season.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tell us about lower  
35 Tularak, what did you find?

36

37                   MR. SCHWANKE: In general, the last two  
38 seasons fish have been a little bit smaller.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: They have.

41

42                   MR. SCHWANKE: We're not seeing as many  
43 big fish. And this year the water has been low.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

46

47                   MR. SCHWANKE: And that may have  
48 contributed to the fact that there weren't as many large  
49 fish.

50

00232

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You've had an awful  
2 small amount of sockeye going in the last five years.

3  
4                   MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I mean very, very few.  
7 The bears have almost all gone away, hard to find a bear  
8 anymore.

9  
10                  MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah, there's definitely  
11 not as many bears as we've seen in past surveys.

12  
13                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: This year you got a few  
14 fish, they were schooled up in the mouth and they went  
15 into the creek, and so that's an incredibly large rainbow  
16 trout fishery.

17  
18                  MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah. And that's kind of  
19 why we continue to do that project.

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

22  
23                  MR. SCHWANKE: Because it gives us a good  
24 insight as to what's going on in the Kvichak especially  
25 recently with these poor sockeye runs.

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

28  
29                  MR. SCHWANKE: We can monitor at least  
30 one rainbow trout population consistently over all these  
31 years and compare it to historical data.

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So you catch them and  
34 measure them and weigh them and things like that?

35  
36                  MR. SCHWANKE: Yeah.

37  
38                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

39  
40                  MR. SCHWANKE: Actually most of those  
41 samples are collected from the recreational fishery. We  
42 have a volunteer crew there that actually participates in  
43 the fishery, samples sportfish caught, sport caught fish.  
44 And then we also get demographic information.....

45  
46                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Fly fish.....

47  
48                  MR. SCHWANKE: .....from the anglers as  
49 well.

50

00233

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure. Fly fish, hook  
2 and release only.

3  
4                   MR. SCHWANKE: Correct.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's right. Okay,  
7 only the good guys go there. Anything else?

8  
9                   MR. SCHWANKE: Well, next season we're  
10 going to continue with another season of the Naknek River  
11 chinook abundance. We're going to continue the rainbow  
12 trout -- or Wood River rainbow trout research. It's  
13 actually a long-term research project. It's kind of  
14 unique in that we've gotten funding through the Rainbow  
15 Trout Initiative to study a population of rainbow trout  
16 in Bristol Bay and we chose Wood River Lakes just because  
17 we have very little information on those populations.  
18 It's a unique system with five lakes with quite a few  
19 tributaries and the main rivers that connect and some of  
20 the lakes that have large populations of rainbow trout,  
21 so that's a long-term project and we're going to continue  
22 with that one.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

25  
26                   MR. SCHWANKE: And we do have a few other  
27 projects in the works for the future, possibly Tazimina.  
28 It sounds like, with yesterday's meeting, that may be a  
29 possibility in the next couple of years.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll have to follow up  
32 with the Federal Subsistence Board to see if we can get  
33 that funding.

34  
35                   MR. SCHWANKE: Uh-huh.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Anything else.

38  
39                   MR. SCHWANKE: Nope. I just wanted to  
40 give you a brief overview of what we're doing for  
41 research.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Your last name was  
44 what?

45  
46                   MR. SCHWANKE: Schwanke.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, Schwanke, okay, all  
49 right. Any questions Council members.

50

00234

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much for  
4 taking the time, we appreciate it. Ralph. Ralph  
5 Andersen -- oh, Krieg, go for it.

6

7 MR. KRIEG: If you'll bear with me for a  
8 second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We'll take a break --  
11 yeah, we'll take a 10 minute break.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (On record)

16

17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Ted's going to  
18 give us a presentation, you're on.

19

20 MR. KRIEG: Okay, Ted Krieg, Subsistence  
21 Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Mr.  
22 Chairman and Council members.

23

24 Today I just wanted to give you a little  
25 background on this project first and then this, you know,  
26 this is like a product of some of our work. And this  
27 project was the Northern Alaska Peninsula Fish  
28 Traditional Ecological Knowledge project. And we've been  
29 reporting about this project for a couple of years and  
30 actually today is the deadline for this project.

31

32 It's a cooperative agreement with BBNA  
33 and Subsistence Division. BBNA's had -- there's been a  
34 number of people that have worked on this in BBNA, Hans  
35 Nicholson, his daughter, Jennifer Nicholson, worked on  
36 this project. Ralph has been involved, Ralph Andersen,  
37 and Karen Pletnikof with BBNA.

38

39 And I guess what I wanted to -- let's  
40 see, initially there was a project designed to put past  
41 fish TEK and information that had been collected over the  
42 years, like since the beginning of subsistence division,  
43 field notes, Molly Chythlook has taken a lot of notes on  
44 TEK on fish and these things have just been sitting in  
45 files, so there was -- Subsistence Division put in for  
46 funding to get all of this stuff into a database, and  
47 it's called the AskSam Database. And the product of that  
48 was this, from NecaTetepa (ph) a database with  
49 traditional knowledge about the fish of Bristol Bay. So  
50 this started it out. Now, this is Version II that we're

00235

1 looking at on the screen right now.

2

3                   And what we did is we did a series of  
4 three or four interviews in each of the nine Northern  
5 Alaska Peninsula communities, Egegik, Pilot Point,  
6 Ugashik, Port Heiden, and then we went over to the three  
7 Chigniks, Perryville, and actually nobody was living in  
8 Ivanof Bay at the time that we did the interviews, but  
9 there was one Ivanof Bay person, family living in  
10 Perryville and there were plans for people to move back  
11 there so we did one Ivanof Bay interview, and then this  
12 incorporated some past traditional knowledge that had  
13 been -- and local knowledge that had been documented. So  
14 what I did here, I'm not going to -- this isn't like a  
15 how to, but what I've done is gone into the AskSam,  
16 NecaTetepa, Version II, and I did a -- once I got in I  
17 did a search for rainbow trout and it came up with 94  
18 different documents that have something about rainbow  
19 trout. And I guess, you know, I picked this one because  
20 it's for Egegik and the fellow here -- and I don't know  
21 if I said that already, but we took sections of the  
22 interview, just took them as they came out and then put  
23 them into -- you know, each one is like it's own little  
24 file, I guess -- or document, and I guess you can barely  
25 see it down on the bottom, but this is document 468 of  
26 2,533 so there's a lot of documents in there.

27

28                   And so this fellow talked about, you  
29 know, to catch rainbow trout they go to the King Salmon  
30 River. One of the things that we didn't plan on  
31 initially for this project, but it was including maps in  
32 this database and Pippa Kenner who is working on this in  
33 Anchorage, they saw where they could do this, so we  
34 compiled the information, what we call the place names  
35 that were documented during the interviews and I'll try  
36 to go into this map now and hopefully this will work.  
37 There's place names maps right here, Egegik, Pilot Point,  
38 you can see -- yeah, Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port  
39 Heiden, I'm going to go into the Egegik map and it takes  
40 a little bit of time to load here.

41

42                   (Pause)

43

44                   MR. KRIEG: So we can see where the King  
45 Salmon River is anyway. And then throughout some of the  
46 other documents, we do have numbers when a place name  
47 came up, in some cases we did have a number that we put  
48 in with the interview that corresponds to the number on  
49 the map. But anyway, here's the map and it's small, I  
50 can enlarge it. But I'm not going to do that yet. When

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1 I was trying to enlarge this before I had problems with  
2 the screening switching off. So anyway, Egegik is right  
3 in here and you can see there's number 1, number 3, but  
4 here's the King Salmon River, so that's a place to go to  
5 get rainbow trout.

6  
7 Let's see if I can get into this next  
8 screen, and there's the list of place names or local  
9 names. So anyway, there are 48 places. You can see the  
10 last ones were just places that people identified as  
11 being seal haul-outs at the mouth of the Egegik River.

12  
13 Anyway going back to the map and I'll try  
14 to enlarge this a little bit. Just click on the  
15 magnifying glass pull that down and then -- so anyway,  
16 there you can see the different locations, those are the  
17 seal haul-outs that people identified and Egegik, these  
18 numbers -- this is actually -- there might be few a  
19 changes on this before the final product comes out, so  
20 maybe -- one of the things I noticed is maybe, I think,  
21 21 belongs to this dot and three belongs to this one and  
22 16 to this one, so maybe we can clean that up a little  
23 bit. But anyway, that's -- you know these are all of the  
24 place names that were listed on the list of place names  
25 that showed up in the interviews.

26  
27 So that's all I've got for this, if  
28 there's any questions. I just wanted to show you, you  
29 know, one of the products of our work.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The method, system?

32  
33 MR. KRIEG: Yeah.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, okay. Is that it  
36 then, Ted?

37  
38 MR. KRIEG: That's all I have.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, good enough,  
41 thank you very much, appreciate that.

42  
43 MR. KRIEG: Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Ralph Andersen.

46  
47 MR. ANDERSEN: Good afternoon, Mr.  
48 Chairman, members. My name is Ralph Andersen. I'm the  
49 natural resources program manager for BBNA. They saved  
50 the best for last.



00237

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MR. ANDERSEN: There are a couple of things that I'd like to touch on before I introduce John Chythlook. One of them is I really appreciated Steve Fried's presentation yesterday and this morning regarding the Fisheries Information Service projects and the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

9

Something that caught my attention was I really liked your question, too, Mr. Chairman, I mean asking Mr. Fried regarding the Partners Program, you asked him how does this put more fish in the water. And it perked up my attention because I thought maybe he came up with a magic pill to fix all our fish problems.

16

But you know, the answer that he gave to that question, I think, was relevant, in that, it's more of an indirect way that it puts more fish in the waters, through research, finding answers to -- or finding ways to put more fish in the water.

22

But I think the Partners Program deals more directly with a concern that Shirley raised yesterday, regarding process, how do we explain -- or how do villages get to know or get to participate in the fisheries process. And I think through this Partners Program that we're able to facilitate that.

29

And because we know that the Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't have really the funding or the Staff or the time to travel to each region to conduct priority information needs assessments for the past -- well, in 2000 and again this past year we've taken it upon ourselves to go out and hold meetings with village councils to collect that information. To collect priority information needs and to hear the concerns and to document them in the subregions of Bristol Bay. This past February, if you remember, we presented to the Council copies of our report, in that, we printed 200 or close to 200 copies of that and circulated it to the world.

43

One of the things that I heard this morning and expressed, both, by Deb Liggett and something that Robin said was bringing younger people back into the region after they get an education. Well, it took me 20 years to come back here. After I received my degree I worked somewhere else, and part of it was because -- well, there was some personal things involved, but the

50

00238

1 thing is that I came back.

2

3

4 And one of the things that we were able  
5 to do was we were lucky to find John Chythlook. John has  
6 got a master's degree in biology from the University of  
7 Alaska-Fairbanks. He's work with ADF&G at the Fairbanks  
8 office, he's familiar with the Federal Subsistence  
9 Fisheries Program. He supervised a couple of projects up  
10 there. And so he's coming in as our fisheries biologist  
11 with some experience under his belt, which I think is  
12 really good. He started with us back in May, in late  
13 May. His first assignment was to sit through a week of  
14 training at the Fish and Wildlife Service, and I think he  
15 walked away from that with a lot more under his -- you  
16 know, than what he walked in with. John has gone through  
17 his first season with us, his first field season, and I  
18 think for him it's been a learning process in becoming  
19 familiar with the region and the concerns in the region,  
20 of the projects that we have going. And, you know, now  
21 that we have a biologist on board, you know, we're trying  
22 to expand or would like to expand our involvement in  
23 research for more than capacity building, you know, local  
24 hire is basically what it boils down to, to getting into  
25 more of the science aspect of it and data analysis. That  
26 would be putting John's skills and expertise, I think,  
27 right to work.

27

28 And with that, I guess, having said all  
29 that I'd like to introduce John Chythlook who will give  
30 you a rundown on both himself, I guess, and I'll have him  
31 introduce himself and talk about some of the projects  
32 that he's been involved in.

33

34 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Well, thanks. I feel  
35 like I'm running for Pope.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Well, I don't really have  
40 too much more to add for background. I think Ralph was  
41 pretty complete about that. But I would like to kind of  
42 plug the Partners Program a little bit here and say that  
43 it's a unique opportunity, in that, it provides a  
44 fisheries biologist or a social scientist to locations  
45 that might otherwise not be able to get one for the local  
46 community. It also provides kind of a sounding board for  
47 local residents to be able to bounce ideas off of or get  
48 some insight on how to create projects that are relating  
49 to some concerns that they have over subsistence fish  
50 resources and that kind of thing.

00239

1                   With that being said, I haven't done too  
2 much on that yet besides some initial community outreach  
3 for that that's kind of developed into a couple different  
4 proposals that are in process. One relating to Togiak  
5 spawn on kelp, and the other with a contaminant study on  
6 fish in Snake Lake and Lake Aleknagik, which we might  
7 have to actually end up pursuing funding from other  
8 sources for.

9  
10                   But as far as projects for this summer,  
11 like Ralph said, most of our projects are providing  
12 support and cooperation with agencies and providing staff  
13 through -- or providing capacity building through  
14 staffing of all our six Federally funded projects. So  
15 what we have here, I'll just go ahead and list them and  
16 do a few one or two liners on each project, and this is  
17 not in any particular order.

18  
19                   We had Alagnak tower, which is a  
20 cooperative project between BBNA, ADF&G and others. I  
21 had two local hires for this project, both from -- one  
22 from Levelock and one from Dillingham, and this project  
23 went especially well this year. Ralph managed to secure  
24 funding for this project through various sources and  
25 through a no cost extension of funds left over from  
26 previous years. And this was important because this  
27 years count was estimated at 3.7 million to Alagnak River  
28 and, of course, this is of interest to anyone that's  
29 interested or concerned about Kvichak. So we'll work on  
30 pursuing funding, continuing funding for this for next  
31 year over the course of the winter.

32  
33                   Togiak subsistence monitoring. This is a  
34 cooperative project with ADF&G, Togiak National Wildlife  
35 Refuge. We had a little bit of trouble keeping two local  
36 hires on staff throughout the summer so we didn't have as  
37 many results for this as we'd like to have initially, but  
38 hopefully with the surveys that are coming in for the  
39 fall it'll round out the data for that.

40  
41                   For Kvichak freshwater fish TEK. This is  
42 a project that's nearing completion and surveys are  
43 probably going to be happening -- the final surveys are  
44 going to be happening next week with Ted Krieg there and  
45 Molly and Hans Nicholson and others doing the final  
46 surveys up in the Kvichak villages, probably finishing up  
47 toward the end of next week.

48  
49                   And these next two, Mike Edwards  
50 addressed mostly so I won't do more than touch over them.

00240

1 We're providing staff for Clark River Lake coho and  
2 sockeye assessment and Kametolook coho escapement and  
3 carrying capacity projects. And we're still looking for  
4 staff for Clark River, but Kametolook's off to a running  
5 start for the last part of that. So those two projects  
6 are still in progress.

7

8 And last, but certainly not least, we had  
9 Ugashik coho counting tower, which that project went  
10 quite well. We had two local hires from Pilot Station.

11

12 MR. ANDERSEN: Pilot Point.

13

14 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Or Pilot Point, oops, I  
15 just came from the Interior, you can tell.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. CHYTHLOOK: And that just wrapped up  
20 last week. And I don't know the results for that yet.  
21 But it was a successful project.

22

23 That's all I have.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is that it?

26

27 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thank you.  
30 Council members, do you have any questions of Ralph or  
31 John.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much.  
36 We really appreciate you taking the time to come and talk  
37 with us today.

38

39 MR. ANDERSEN: Steve Fried just whispered  
40 in my ear that I should mention that as part of the  
41 Partners Program, we have a student intern position that  
42 we had filled previously. Karen Pletnikof was a student  
43 intern last summer, and this past summer we had Kay Blair  
44 as a student intern and she worked out really well. She  
45 works under the supervision of John. Kay is a student at  
46 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, I believe, or is it  
47 Anchorage.

48

49 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Fairbanks moving to  
50 Anchorage.

00241

1 MR. ANDERSEN: Fairbanks moving to  
2 Anchorage.

3  
4 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

5  
6 MR. ANDERSEN: She's studying fisheries  
7 biology. One of the really interesting things that we  
8 are able to -- because I asked her, what was the  
9 highlight of your summer and she said, well, the whole  
10 summer was a highlight. I asked her to be more specific,  
11 and John got her involved in an FRI project up at  
12 Aleknagik that really turned her on. She was able to do  
13 some hands on field work with biologists that was really  
14 in her area of study.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good. Any comments,  
17 Council members.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, thanks for taking  
22 time today, appreciate that Ralph and John, and we're  
23 glad to have you here in Dillingham.....

24  
25 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Glad to be back.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: .....in the program.  
28 Yep. Okay, I think we have one more presenter today, and  
29 we did save the very best to the last, Joseph Chythlook,  
30 you want to come up and talk to us and then you remind me  
31 if we have any more presenters after this because I don't  
32 think we do.

33  
34 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I just  
35 wanted to update you on the Board of Fish process for  
36 this coming year. As you're aware Bristol Bay and AYK  
37 and all the other exciting regions around us here, Area  
38 M, and as we speak the Board Staff are probably traveling  
39 to Anchorage for the first work session which starts  
40 tomorrow in Anchorage. And as in the past, this year as  
41 well as other divisions of the Department have been hit  
42 pretty hard by budget cuts and Board Support Section was  
43 not, you know, it was also hit. So as a result at our  
44 last staff meeting we were told to streamline as much as  
45 we can with the budgets that we have. So there'll be --  
46 we're trying to hold -- restrict advisory committee  
47 meetings, as I mentioned yesterday, to one a year. And  
48 then also this summer, both Board of Game, Board of Fish  
49 had a joint teleconference and decided to cut their  
50 meeting dates down. And then besides -- as they were

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1 doing that they also moved the original tentative meeting  
2 areas, like Bristol Bay was planned to be here, they  
3 moved them all back to Anchorage to save dollars, and I  
4 don't know what -- how many dollars that savings amounts  
5 to but anyway they moved the meetings all to Anchorage.

6  
7           And then another thing, as a result of  
8 budget cuts this year, you'll see a lot less of Board of  
9 Fishery or Board of Game booklets because they've cut  
10 down a lot on the publication of these booklets.  
11 However, you can get them on line through the Board's web  
12 page. And also we're trying to -- we also had to cut the  
13 Bethel office, the coordinator from Bethel resigned last  
14 February and they elected not to replace the coordinator  
15 up there and so they've divided the four advisory  
16 committees up there to three of our regional coordinators  
17 in the state and I ended up with two more from up there  
18 to coordinate besides Bristol Bay. However, I gladly  
19 gave up Kodiak and the Anchorage area has Kodiak.

20  
21           I guess if we had a wish list, you know,  
22 I wish we could have lots of money like National Park  
23 Service has and be able to hold a meeting every year to  
24 call for proposals to change regulations. However,  
25 because of the budget cuts, you know, we're down to doing  
26 the best we can with what we have, you know.

27  
28           I appreciate the opportunity to let you  
29 know what our plans are this year. And as in the past,  
30 as we hold advisory committee meetings we will try to  
31 accommodate any of the Bristol Bay RAC or Federal  
32 Subsistence proposals that fit into our schedule.

33  
34           So that's all I have, Mr. Chair, and  
35 Council members.

36  
37           CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Joe, thank you. Two  
38 things, what's the date of when Bristol Bay, the finfish  
39 comes up in Anchorage, October?

40  
41           MR. CHYTHLOOK: Mr. Chair, Bristol Bay  
42 finfish meeting will be December 9th to 17 in Anchorage.

43  
44           CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

45  
46           MR. CHYTHLOOK: And then Alaska Peninsula  
47 meeting will be February 15 to 26 in Anchorage. And then  
48 AYK finfish meeting will be January 12 in Fairbanks.

49  
50           Mr. Chair.

00243

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The 9th through  
2 what?

3  
4 MR. CHYTHLOOK: 9th to 17th.  
5

6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To the 17th, okay. And  
7 then did you have a Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee  
8 Board meeting this year?

9  
10 MR. CHYTHLOOK: I've been in touch with  
11 the Chairs over there, they haven't scheduled a date yet.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh.  
14

15 MR. CHYTHLOOK: And then one other thing  
16 that we're going to try to do and to at least alert the  
17 public a little bit more of our advisory committee's  
18 meetings is we're going to try to -- if the advisory  
19 committee chairs let me know ahead of time when their  
20 meetings are going to be we're going to try to put them  
21 on the web page in Juneau so anybody, you know,  
22 throughout the state or wherever they're from, can get  
23 into our web page and find out when our meetings are  
24 going to be held.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Good.  
27

28 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Because we don't have  
29 enough proposal books and what not, we're trying to  
30 accommodate the public.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other questions  
33 that you might have Council.

34  
35 (No comments)  
36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Joe.

38  
39 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Okay.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's always good to see  
42 you here at the meeting. Thank you for being here today.  
43 Does that conclude the reports coordinator?

44  
45 MR. EDENSHAW: It does, yes, Mr. Chair.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, then we're down  
48 to other new business.

49  
50 MR. SAMUELSEN: I thought that under the

00244

1 reports we were going to get impacts on Bristol Bay  
2 resources.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: From who?

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: By development. That's  
7 what I had down here. Do you have that question?

8

9 MR. HEYANO: I asked the question to Deb.

10

11 MR. SAMUELSEN: Tom -- oh, okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Are you satisfied with  
14 that, did you get an answer?

15

16 MR. HEYANO: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. So we're happy  
19 with what we had in the way of reports?

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. How about new  
24 business?

25

26 MR. SAMUELSEN: Tim Sands.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

29

30 MR. SANDS: I'm Tim Sands with Alaska  
31 Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries here in  
32 Dillingham. And I spoke right at the end yesterday. I  
33 just wanted to let the advisory committee know that  
34 there's a potential for Togiak tower or -- and/or Agushik  
35 (ph) tower to be cut. These towers have been operating  
36 for over 40 [sic] years, so a break in the data would be  
37 very unfortunate. These cuts aren't final, but they seem  
38 likely, at least one of them seems likely. And I think  
39 the step I'm going to take is to try and apply for out of  
40 cycle funding through whatever avenues I can apply  
41 through. But I wanted to let the Council know that that  
42 was in the works and if something comes up that you see  
43 an appeal for funding for this, you could look favorably  
44 upon it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Tim, you said that  
47 there's a possibility the tower will close at the Togiak,  
48 what was the second thing?

49

50 MR. SANDS: Agushik.



00245

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Agushik.

2

3 MR. SANDS: And that serves the village  
4 of Manokotak, the Agushik River drains Emanka and Realik  
5 (ph) Lake.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. All right.

8

9 MR. SANDS: And that's it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

12

13 MR. SANDS: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wait a minute, we've  
16 got one question. Robin.

17

18 MR. SAMUELSEN: Isn't there other funding  
19 cuts throughout the Bay, in other river systems?

20

21 MR. SANDS: It was mentioned earlier that  
22 the only smolt project left in the Bay is Kvichak smolt  
23 and the Nushagak sonar was cut back by a month. You  
24 know, over the past several years we've had other cuts,  
25 Agushik in river test fish was cut. Nuakuk tower, the  
26 funding ran out, it was the Western Alaska Disaster  
27 Relief money, that's been taken over by BBSRI as has the  
28 commercial catch sampling been taken over. So the  
29 budget's been trimmed a little bit every year for the  
30 past several years. And it looks like it's just going to  
31 keep being trimmed so I'm trying to plan ahead at this  
32 point.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Anything else  
35 Council members.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Tim.

40

41 MR. SANDS: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Appreciate it. Under  
44 new business I want it to be clearly understood that Ron  
45 Squibb and Darryl Lons and Orville Lind have the  
46 responsibility of a moose survey if possible if we snow  
47 on the Alaska Peninsula, and that would be your Big Creek  
48 is where your Federal lands goes all the way on down to  
49 the end of, maybe, the Moeller.

50

00246

1 MR. SQUIBB: Mr. Chairman, Ron Squibb.  
2 In answer to that, we're planning to do all lands on the  
3 Peninsula, or survey design.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You are, uh.

6  
7 MR. SQUIBB: .....is to do that  
8 regardless of jurisdiction.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

11  
12 MR. SQUIBB: It's a cooperative project  
13 with the Fish and Game as well as with the National Park  
14 Service.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: November and December  
17 you still have horns so you can kind of get a separation  
18 of the animals there.

19  
20 MR. SQUIBB: Exactly. You know, normally  
21 if we knew we were going to have good snow every winter  
22 we would do trend survey areas with fixed wing like we  
23 always do and then come January we'd switch over to this  
24 density estimate. But given the last two years, we're  
25 planning to just start, you know, this density estimate  
26 as soon as we get good snow. And when the antlers -- you  
27 know, before December 10th when the antlers are still,  
28 you know, mostly on, then we'll be keeping those data in  
29 the areas we do the density estimate method and try and  
30 apply that to the other composition for the fall as well.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Orville, did you have  
33 any comment?

34  
35 MR. LIND: No comment on that. I've got  
36 some information on a new effort by the Fish and Wildlife  
37 Service on wolf data collection.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

40  
41 MR. LIND: My name is Orville Lind with  
42 the Fish and Wildlife Service out of King Salmon.

43  
44 As you know the questions we received in  
45 the last few years was actually who had numbers of wolf  
46 populations or is there even an effort? Well, upon that,  
47 with the guidance of Darryl Lons, who's the Refuge  
48 manager, working with Staff biologists, came up with an  
49 effort to actually design a wolf observation card to  
50 distribute out through with guides, air taxis and locals.

00247

1 And also having a wolf collection box that these cards  
2 will go into. I have had the opportunity of distributing  
3 those boxes to all the villages, from Perryville,  
4 Chigniks, Port Heiden all the way up to King Salmon, also  
5 we have some at the ADF&G office, the PenAir office, and  
6 collect this information -- so far we started August 7th  
7 and I collected the information prior to coming up to  
8 here and I've collected seven wolf sightings from 9(C)  
9 and 30 wolf sightings from 9(E). And those are people  
10 only I've talked with and gotten information from the  
11 cards. Every box is at the village council office. And  
12 we encourage people, and working with our RIT down in  
13 Chignik, Charles Dimond (ph), often gives them a call to  
14 remind them that if they've seen wolves to get that  
15 information on the card filled out and we will collect  
16 them shortly after.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: When I bought gas  
19 yesterday to come over here, King said here's your wolf  
20 card to fill out if you see a wolf, write this down, so  
21 the system is working.

22

23 MR. LIND: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's it, thank you  
26 guys.

27

28 MR. LIND: Thank you.

29

30 MR. SQUIBB: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other business to  
33 come before the Council today.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing none, election  
38 of officers.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, yes.

43

44 MR. HEYANO: I have a couple additional  
45 proposals for the Council's consideration. And one has  
46 to do with caribou in Unit 9(B) and in order to be  
47 consistent with the State regulations for the  
48 conservation reasons of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, I  
49 would like the Council to consider in Unit 9(B) five  
50 caribou, however, no more than one bull may be taken from

00248

1 July 1st to November 30.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: To what 30?

4

5 MR. HEYANO: November.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: November 30. You want  
8 to take bulls during the rut still?

9

10 MR. HEYANO: Well, under the.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I guess so.

13

14 MR. HEYANO: .....existing language, Mr.  
15 Chairman, they're able to take five bulls before the 1st  
16 of October and then two bulls after from October 1 to  
17 November 30.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Now, when we make a  
20 proposal like this, does it have to be in the form of a  
21 motion or is this considered that the proposal comes from  
22 the Council and you write it up and it will go into our  
23 -- go through the process?

24

25 MR. EDENSHAW: It would be preferable for  
26 a motion to come from the Council.

27

28 MR. SAMUELSEN: Second.

29

30 MR. EDENSHAW: And then when.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

33

34 MR. EDENSHAW: .....I come back to  
35 Anchorage and write it up and I can fax it back for your  
36 signature.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

39

40 MR. EDENSHAW: .....from the Council.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. A motion was  
43 made, and seconded, everyone understand the motion,  
44 reduce the bulls from one to five -- five to one, excuse  
45 me, okay.

46

47 Would you like to speak to your motion?

48

49 MR. HEYANO: No. I just incorporate all  
50 my comments from yesterday, Mr. Chairman, is that the

00249

1 management plan for the Mulchatna caribou has 35 bulls  
2 per 100 cows and at the last count it was down to 26 and  
3 the recommendation from the State, we need to reduce the  
4 harvest of bulls for the conservation reasons of the  
5 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

6

7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Time to take action.

8

9 MS. KELLY: Question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say  
12 aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Aye's have it. What  
21 else do you have Robert?

22

23 MR. HEYANO: Well, then, Mr. Chairman, I  
24 would move that this Council draft a proposal requesting  
25 a positive C&T for same day airborne for caribou and  
26 moose in Bristol Bay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is there a second.

29

30 MR. SAMUELSEN: He never quits does he --  
31 second.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Would you  
36 like to address your motion there, Mr. Heyano.

37

38 MR. HEYANO: Well, I guess on the  
39 discussion yesterday, Mr. Chairman, from what I  
40 understand this is the correct way, procedurally to  
41 determine if there is customary and traditional use of  
42 same day airborne for the taking of moose and caribou in  
43 Bristol Bay. And I thought in the past we have done  
44 that, we went through that exercise, but apparently not,  
45 so I think we need to move that forward and see what the  
46 determination comes out to.

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. There's been a  
49 motion made and a second, any other discussion by the  
50 Council members.

00250

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes.

4

5 MR. EDENSHAW: Some clarification from

6 Robert, is that for Unit 9 and 17?

7

8 MR. HEYANO: Yes.

9

10 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Boris.

13

14 MR. KOSBRUK: I just wanted to -- is  
15 there a time limit to put proposals in, say, between now  
16 and the next meeting?

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the deadline?

19

20 MR. KOSBRUK: Is there a possibility, I  
21 mean?

22

23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What's the deadline?

24

25 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, the deadline  
26 for submitting proposals, wildlife proposals is October  
27 24th.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: October then.

30

31 MR. KOSBRUK: That passed.

32

33 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: No, no, October, you've  
34 got another month.

35

36 MR. EDENSHAW: This is September. This  
37 is September 30th, October 24th is the deadline.

38

39 MR. KOSBRUK: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Did you have one you  
42 wanted to put in Boris?

43

44 MR. KOSBRUK: No, I want to discuss it  
45 with you guys first.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

48

49 MS. KELLY: Question.

50

00251

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Robert, did you  
2 still have a comment?

3  
4 MR. HEYANO: (Shakes head negatively)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Shirley, did you  
7 have a comment?

8  
9 MS. KELLY: I just called for the  
10 question.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, call for the  
13 question. All those -- pardon me?

14  
15 MR. SAMUELSEN: Mr. Chair.

16  
17 MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, if I may.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, go ahead.

20  
21 MR. SAMUELSEN: That woke him up.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: The sleeping giant has  
26 come forth.

27  
28 MR. BOYD: What did Mr. Heyano say -- no.  
29 Just a point of clarification so I understand what the  
30 motion is and that we can react appropriately or respond  
31 appropriately, as I understand the words are, a C&T  
32 determination for same day airborne for moose and  
33 caribou; is that correct?

34  
35 MR. HEYANO: Correct.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: For qualified  
38 subsistence users.

39  
40 MR. BOYD: Is the question more  
41 appropriately posed as a regulatory change to allow same  
42 day airborne for moose or caribou; is that what you're  
43 asking or are you asking us to look into whether or not  
44 it is a customary and traditional practice?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: C&T.

47  
48 MR. HEYANO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. From the  
49 discussion yesterday, it's my understanding that that  
50 needs to be determined first before a regulatory change

00252

1 can be requested.

2

3 MR. BOYD: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: And let me tell you the  
6 first thing that's going to happen. That lawyer that you  
7 have on Staff -- the first thing that's going to happen  
8 is that lawyer that you have Staff, yes, sirree, he'll  
9 pull up the same information he gave me earlier,  
10 highlighted in red saying that there's a very good  
11 possibility of C&T for aircraft use on moose and caribou.  
12 That is the earliest practice even on wolves, and that's  
13 what will happen if this proposal goes forward.

14

15 MR. BOYD: Well, then given the response,  
16 Mr. Chair, the way I will interpret this as a -- just so  
17 we have an understanding is that we will look into  
18 whether or not it's a customary and traditional practice  
19 but we will not treat it as a regulatory proposal at this  
20 point, is that what I understand?

21

22 MR. SAMUELSEN: Right.

23

24 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, Robert.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're all going to miss  
29 our plane here pretty soon.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. HEYANO: No, just for clarification,  
34 if it's a proposal for C&T findings, then your Staff  
35 would go and do the research and report back, correct,  
36 that's what gets the ball rolling is a proposal for C&T?  
37 No different than what we did for like Egegik and Ugashik  
38 and, you know, the halibut issue and the herring issue  
39 and all that.

40

41 MR. BOYD: Okay.

42

43 MR. HEYANO: We asked for C&T, a proposal  
44 for C&T determination.

45

46 MR. BOYD: Well, as I understand it and I  
47 don't have all the regulations in front of me, currently  
48 there is a customary and traditional use determination  
49 for moose and caribou. The question, really, in my mind  
50 is whether or not it is an appropriate means to use



00253

1 aircraft the same day to harvest moose and caribou and  
2 whether that is a customary and traditional practice, not  
3 necessarily a customary and traditional use  
4 determination, per se. I may be confusing the issue here  
5 a bit, but I can read it either way. I can read it as  
6 you're asking us to look at this matter to determine  
7 whether or not same day airborne was a customary and  
8 traditional practice or I may read it as you're asking  
9 for the regulation to be changed to allow for same day  
10 airborne of moose and caribou.

11  
12 Is that -- it's one or the other, and I  
13 don't know exactly what you're proposing.

14  
15 MR. HEYANO: It's my understanding from  
16 yesterday's discussion that there is not C&T finding for  
17 same day airborne of moose and caribou in Bristol Bay.  
18 That determination has not been made; is that -- it's  
19 further my understanding that that determination needs to  
20 be made first before the request.....

21  
22 MR. BOYD: Before a regulatory change is  
23 made?

24  
25 MR. HEYANO: To allow it.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robin.

28  
29 MR. SAMUELSEN: As the seconder of the  
30 motion, I would assume, Tom, that you would bring it back  
31 to us in the February meeting and possibly at that time a  
32 regulation would be -- a regulatory action would be  
33 taken, promulgate the regulation.

34  
35 MR. BOYD: Okay.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you very much,  
38 appreciate you coming.

39  
40 MR. BOYD: All right. I just wanted to  
41 make sure that we were clear on what was being proposed.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep, that's fine.

44  
45 MR. BOYD: Okay.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah. Well, as the  
48 manager of the Subsistence Program, you've got it  
49 straight.

50

00254

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question's been called.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Question's been called.

4 All those in favor say aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any other business to

13 come before this Council today. Aaron, you're leaving

14 us, where are you going?

15

16 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: To New Mexico.

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Couldn't you do better

19 than New Mexico?

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hey.

22

23 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: What's that?

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Some of us were born

26 and raised in New Mexico.

27

28 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sorry, sorry, sorry.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, we just wanted

33 to, as a Council, thank you for your work and your

34 participation and I'm going to ask the Council for two

35 motions today, one for Shirley who is -- this is her last

36 meeting with us serving on the Council and giving us

37 advice and input, and, you, in your management position,

38 we really, really do appreciate that, we'll miss you, and

39 we would like to ask the Council to make a motion today

40 that we would write you just a letter of appreciation and

41 we'll sign it and you can put it in your file, and the

42 same for Shirley. We thank you for that, and we'll miss

43 both of you, and appreciate your service.

44

45 MR. ARCHIBEQUE: Thank you. I've really

46 enjoyed working with you. It's, obviously with a sad

47 heart that we're leaving Alaska but it is getting back to

48 family and so -- we've been here almost 14 years and we

49 really appreciate it.

50

00255

1                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, well, that's  
2 good, let's give him a good hand.

3  
4                   (Applause)

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Anything  
7 else for new business.

8  
9                   MR. KOSBRUK: I got a question on this  
10 wolf problem we have down there.

11  
12                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

13  
14                  MR. KOSBRUK: Is there anything in the  
15 agenda for next time?

16  
17                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Wolf in the Chignik,  
18 Perryville area.

19  
20                  MR. KOSBRUK: Perryville, yeah.

21  
22                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Clifford, help us. Do  
23 you want something for February?

24  
25                  MR. KOSBRUK: (Nods affirmatively)

26  
27                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

28  
29                  MR. EDENSHAW: What would you like,  
30 specifically, Boris?

31  
32                  MR. KOSBRUK: Eliminate them, that's what  
33 I want.

34  
35                  (Laughter)

36  
37                  MR. EDENSHAW: Well.....

38  
39                  MR. KOSBRUK: By February.

40  
41                  MR. EDENSHAW: Well, from.....

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN O'HARA: By February.

44  
45                  (Laughter)

46  
47                  MR. KOSBRUK: Okay.

48  
49                  MR. EDENSHAW: Because Boris, if you look  
50 in our first portion of the book, under the .805 letter,

00256

1 when the Board last met and addressed wildlife proposals,  
2 the Board increased the bag limit for wolves from five to  
3 10, and the State at their previous -- they met just a  
4 week or two before the Board, the Federal Subsistence  
5 Board, there aren't any harvest limits. So.....

6  
7 MR. KOSBRUK: But what I'm trying to get  
8 at is it's not the limit or anything like that, it's just  
9 you can't get anybody to get them. You know, it makes  
10 you think of the days they had bounties on them.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I remember that.

13  
14 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess, Mr.  
15 Chairman.....

16  
17 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Go ahead.

18  
19 MR. SAMUELSEN: .....I'll try it. Boris,  
20 we've tried to address that issue on a number of fronts,  
21 and under Tab -- oh, we talked about predatory management  
22 and policy by the Board that they have in place now and  
23 predator control is going to be next to impossible to do.  
24 Predator management is something within our purview. You  
25 know, if you think that there's a chance that same day  
26 airborne will be opened up down on your side of the  
27 Peninsula, I'd pretty much say you're pipedreaming on it.

28  
29 We've grappled with a number of predator  
30 issues, bears and wolves and I think it prompted the -- I  
31 don't know who did this, the solicitor general or  
32 whoever, whoever wrote this legal opinion in here, you  
33 know, unless there's a big snowfall and people get out  
34 and trap them and what not, boy, it's next to impossible  
35 to touch them.

36  
37 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, the thing is, you  
38 know, we're going to eventually lose our moose there if  
39 there's any.

40  
41 MR. SAMUELSEN: But I think it's  
42 regretfully in the -- what do they say, in today's  
43 society, that's all right Boris, because the wolves got  
44 priority over you, regretfully.

45  
46 MR. KOSBRUK: I know we got a lot of  
47 those environment -- those animal lovers.

48  
49 MR. SAMUELSEN: Yeah, we've tried -- this  
50 Council's tried on a number of fronts to get a handle on

00257

1 this, and, you know, you're not the only one complaining  
2 from down there. I mean they're complaining at BBNA --  
3 representatives from those communities down there have  
4 been complaining to BBNA natural resources, not only your  
5 area but the high abundance of caribou, I think, and  
6 these warm winters, the moose and bear populations have  
7 been exploding around here -- I mean the wolf and bear  
8 populations and now we're seeing a little dip in our  
9 numbers in caribou like in the Southern Peninsula and  
10 Nushagak and that's when the predators are really going  
11 to factor in.

12

13 MR. KOSBRUK: Well, that's my concern is  
14 that we won't have any subsistence.

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I think the reality is,  
17 do we like it, no, is there anything we can do about it,  
18 very little. I think that's the reality and the box that  
19 we're in right now.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert.

22

23 MR. HEYANO: Well, I think, Mr. Chairman,  
24 maybe what we ought to do is write a letter to the manger  
25 of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and  
26 request exactly what Boris is asking for. It seems like  
27 that's the only avenue left open to us and whether it's  
28 two years or four years we might as well get started.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Do you want to open up  
31 that can of worms and write a letter?

32

33 MR. KOSBRUK: Anything is better than  
34 nothing.

35

36 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Mr. Coordinator.

37

38 MR. EDENSHAW: If that's what the Council  
39 desires.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: That's what we direct  
42 you to do.

43

44 MR. EDENSHAW: And can you repeat that  
45 again, Robert, please, a letter to the Refuge manager  
46 asking.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: How did you word that?

49

50 MR. HEYANO: You didn't catch it the

00258

1 first time? Well, you know, what Boris is asking for is  
2 to implement some type of predator program.

3

4 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yep, Robin.

5

6 MR. SAMUELSEN: Maybe Tom could come up.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You're going to put a  
11 little map on -- Tom, you're going to put a little map on  
12 your travel that says I'm not coming here anymore.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. SAMUELSEN: I guess what we'd be  
17 asking for, Tom, in a motion, would be to start the NEPA  
18 process, the documentation on wolf control in the  
19 Southern Alaska Peninsula, is that sufficient to get the  
20 process rolling?

21

22 MR. BOYD: Well, as far as you can make  
23 it roll Mr. Samuelson. I think if you're asking if it's  
24 within your prerogative to request that the process  
25 start, yes. And I think the basis for such a request has  
26 been clearly stated in previous discussions of this  
27 Council during the meeting. And I think we can sort of  
28 capture the basic rationale and help you draft that  
29 letter. Obviously it will be coming from the Council,  
30 but, as Staff to the Council we certainly want to support  
31 you in that endeavor, at least, from the administrative  
32 standpoint and we'd be happy to do it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

35

36 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay.

37

38 MR. BOYD: I think we've heard the  
39 rationale and, I think, you know, we can certainly help  
40 you with that communication.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay. I feel more like  
43 Mr. Flintstone making the motion, square tires, it ain't  
44 going to roll too far, I don't -- so that's my motion,  
45 that will start the process.

46

47 MR. BOYD: And will certainly garner a  
48 response.

49

50 (Laughter)

00259

1 MR. SAMUELSEN: Oh, yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: There's been a motion,  
4 is there a second.

5

6 MR. HEYANO: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All right. Did you  
9 want to address farther, your motion? You understand  
10 that we're going to start looking at this wolf problem on  
11 the Alaska Peninsula?

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Well, I don't think it's  
14 an isolated incident, Mr. Chairman. There's been a  
15 pattern down in that area and we've heard from them  
16 subsistence users for at least five of the 10 years that  
17 I've been here every year.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. SAMUELSEN: And from all them  
22 villages on the south side as well as on the other side,  
23 Port Heiden, we've heard from them people.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Right.

26

27 MR. SAMUELSEN: We've heard from Egegik  
28 folks. But this is only addressing the subsistence  
29 shortage of caribou which has been the mainstay of them  
30 people down there for thousands of years.

31

32 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. The letter will  
33 be going forth, that will be fine. No further  
34 discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Call for the question.

39

40 MR. HEYANO: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Pardon me.

43

44 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. So  
45 that letter will just go to the Alaska Peninsula Refuge  
46 manager?

47

48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. Darryl Lons.

49

50 MR. SAMUELSEN: It goes to these guys, to

00260

1 the Board, start the NEPA process.

2

3 MR. BOYD: Well, I think I heard the  
4 motion from Mr. Heyano to the Refuge, that's what I was  
5 addressing.

6

7 MR. SAMUELSEN: Okay, just Refuge manger  
8 then?

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Who made the motion?

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I did.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You did, okay. All  
15 right, and who seconded it.

16

17 MR. HEYANO: I did.

18

19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Robert did, okay.

20

21 MR. HEYANO: And that's based on the  
22 comments in the draft where it's the responsibility of  
23 the conservation unit manager, correct, and not the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Just nod your head.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Dan, what's his name,  
31 talked to us about predator control, is he still here?

32

33 MR. BOYD: Yeah, I agree with that.

34

35 MR. HEYANO: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: What was Dan's last  
38 name, predator control.

39

40 MR. BOYD: LaPlant.

41

42 MR. SAMUELSEN: LaPlant.

43

44 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Is he gone?

45

46 MR. BOYD: Must be, yeah.

47

48 MR. SAMUELSEN: He's gone.

49

50 MR. BOYD: No, that's as I understand it.



00261

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BOYD: Currently it's a draft policy  
4 but currently the draft policy essentially relegates that  
5 issues regarding predator control be delegated or  
6 assigned to the land manager.

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, that is the issue  
9 right there, that is the answer right there, and Dan gave  
10 it to us and we didn't pick up -- I don't know if we all  
11 picked up on it or not but it's going to have to go to  
12 the land managers and from there that system's got to be  
13 worked there and that's a possible. That's the only --  
14 each division has their own system, so we must deal with  
15 land planning process through these agencies to change  
16 the system. And it's a good start.

17

18 When I heard that I said there's a  
19 possibility that something could be done.

20

21 Call for the question.

22

23 MR. SAMUELSEN: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All those in favor say  
26 aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Any more new  
31 business to come before this body today.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hearing none, election  
36 of officers. Mr. Coordinator, you've got the Chair.

37

38 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 I'll go ahead and assume that responsibility as we elect  
40 the Chair. And the Chair is elected for a one year term.  
41 And upon electing the Chair I'll turn the meeting back  
42 over to he or she so that they may also elect the vice  
43 Chair and secretary.

44

45 MR. SAMUELSEN: Nominate Dan O'Hara for  
46 Chair.

47

48 MR. EDENSHAW: There's a nomination for  
49 Mr. O'Hara for Chair, is there a second?

50

00262

1 MR. HEYANO: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Could I make a speech  
4 as a candidate for the Chair?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: I want wolf control.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: I make a motion that  
13 nominations be closed.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. KELLY: Second.

18

19 MR. HEYANO: Second.

20

21 MR. EDENSHAW: Nominations have been  
22 closed. What is the wish of the Council. If there's no  
23 objections from the Council, I'll go ahead and declare by  
24 unanimous consent that Mr. O'Hara be elected as Chair.  
25 So done.

26

27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Well, thank you  
28 very much and shame on you guys for not getting another  
29 Chairman, work harder at trying to get somebody else to  
30 work at it, but I guess that's fine, I'm privileged to be  
31 the Chair, and I thank you for that.

32

33 I'll open the floor for nominations of a  
34 vice president [sic].

35

36 MR. KOSBRUK: Mr. Chairman, I nominate  
37 Robin Samuelson.

38

39 MR. HEYANO: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Any further  
42 nominations.

43

44 MR. HEYANO: Move they be closed for vice  
45 chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second.

48

49 MS. KELLY: Second.

50

00263

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, here we are.

10 Thank you very much.

11

12 MR. SAMUELSEN: Dumb and dumber.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Isn't the next meeting

17 all set up?

18

19 MS. KELLY: Yes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: February what?

22

23 MR. EDENSHAW: February.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: 28th?

26

27 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, the 26th and 27th,

28 that will be a Thursday and Friday at Naknek.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay. Come in on

31 Thursday morning and start the meeting at noon to 5:00 on

32 Friday.

33

34 MR. EDENSHAW: Are you going to elect a

35 secretary?

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, are we supposed to

38 do that?

39

40 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay, I'm sorry. I'll

43 open up the floor for nominations of secretary for the

44 Council.

45

46 MR. HEYANO: I nominate Boris.

47

48 MR. KOSBRUK: No, be quiet.

49

50 (Laughter)

00264

1 MR. HEYANO: Second it.

2

3 MS. KELLY: Second.

4

5 MR. HEYANO: Move the nominations be

6 closed.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Let me see now, who's  
11 the candidate here?

12

13 MR. SAMUELSEN: Boris, he's got it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Boris.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. KOSBRUK: No. Robert.

20

21 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well.....

22

23 MR. KOSBRUK: I said I decline.

24

25 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Oh, you don't want it?

26

27 MR. KOSBRUK: I know that I said that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: You don't want it? You  
30 don't? Okay, Robert.....

31

32 MR. SAMUELSEN: We won't make you take  
33 minutes Boris.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: It's just a title.

38

39 MS. KELLY: You don't have to take

40 minutes.

41

42 MR. HEYANO: Yeah, you don't have to.....

43

44 MS. KELLY: You don't have to take

45 minutes.

46

47 MR. KOSBRUK: It's not the minutes that's  
48 bothering me, it's that I got to sleep.

49

50 (Laughter)

00265

1 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Well, I guess, Robert,  
2 if he declines you're the candidate.

3  
4 MR. HEYANO: Well, Andrew's a standing  
5 member.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah, and so is Pete.

8  
9 MR. SAMUELSEN: So you declined it, then  
10 I'll nominate Andrew.

11  
12 MS. KELLY: Second.

13  
14 MR. HEYANO: Move that nominations be  
15 closed.

16  
17 MS. KELLY: Second.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: All in favor say aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Opposed.

24  
25 (No opposing votes)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Thank you, Andrew.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Hey, the next -- we  
32 have the place of the meeting -- I'm sorry we forgot the  
33 secretary there.

34  
35 MR. EDENSHAW: That's okay, Mr. Chair.  
36 For the Council members, there's a loose-leaf calendar I  
37 have here, and if you'll please note on September 22nd  
38 and 23rd, the Seward Peninsula is meeting for those two  
39 days. And we already have the 8th and 9th taken up by  
40 the North Slope.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: So what are you talking  
43 about?

44  
45 MR. EDENSHAW: For the fall, 2004  
46 meeting.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Okay.

49  
50 MR. EDENSHAW: And then also the meeting

00266

1 will be held in Dillingham.

2

3 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yes. So we're still  
4 set up for 2004 in October -- or, no, in September?

5

6 MR. EDENSHAW: We're set up for the  
7 February '04 meeting, the winter meeting.

8

9 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Yeah.

10

11 MR. EDENSHAW: And we'd like dates firmed  
12 up from the Council for fall '04.

13

14 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: These dates work fine.

15

16 MR. EDENSHAW: These dates?

17

18 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Sure, same dates.

19

20 MR. EDENSHAW: Same dates, okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Motion to adjourn.

23

24 MR. SAMUELSEN: So moved.

25

26 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: Second.

27

28 MR. HEYANO: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN O'HARA: We're out of here.

31

32

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00267

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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, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 102 through 266 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 30th day of September 2003, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock A.m. at the Assembly Chambers, Dillingham, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of October 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04   □