

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Moravian Church Fellowship Hall
9 Bethel, Alaska
10 October 1, 2010
11 9:00 a.m.

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 14
15 Lester Wilde, Sr., Chairman
16 Greg Roczicka
17 Paul Manumik
18 William Brown
19 James Charles
20 Raymond Oney
21 Harry Wilde
22 Mary Gregory
23 Elias Kelly
24 Aloysius Unok
25 John Andrew
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27
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/1/2010)

(On record)

(Mary Gregory not present)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting to order. The time is now 9:00 a.m.

MS. DOWNING: Your microphone, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. We call the meeting to order. 9:00 a.m. We're down to Proposal No. FP11-09. Mr. Buklis or Mr. Jenkins, you may proceed.

MR. JENKINS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Counsel members.

You have before you Proposal FP11-09. It's the third of three on customary trade that we've discussed. And this proposal was submitted by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and it has three parts to it. It requests first that the Federal Subsistence Board limit customary trade of Chinook salmon in the Yukon River management area. Second, that the Federal Subsistence Board require a customary trade record keeping form. And, third, that the Federal Subsistence Board impose a geographic constraint to the customary trade of Chinook salmon caught in the Yukon River management area. What this means is that customary trade, including the delivery of fish to a purchaser, should only occur in the Yukon River management area. So those are the three requests of this proposal. By the way, it starts on Page 161 if you're looking for it in your Council book.

Now the proponent states that limiting the sale of Chinook salmon under customary trade and requiring a record keeping form would have three consequences. First the proposed regulation would curtail abuses of customary trade by limiting commercial transactions that operate under the guise of customary trade. Second, the regulation would provide, and I'm quoting now from the Council, an enforcement or tracking mechanism to ensure that customary trade sales

1 are limited to fish that have been legally taken in
2 Federal subsistence designated waters. And, third, the
3 proposed geographic constraint would preclude sales of
4 Chinook salmon under customary trade outside of the
5 Yukon River management area. So such sales could only
6 happen within the Yukon River management area and not
7 outside it.

8

9 Now, note, if you look at the Page 162,
10 that the proposal seeks to limit customary trade under
11 the regulation that refers to rural residents and
12 others. It doesn't target the Federal language that
13 refers to customary trade between rural residents and
14 rural residents. We had this discussion yesterday with
15 the other proposal. So as submitted the current
16 proposal doesn't target all of the relevant Federal
17 regulations.

18

19 Let me mention a little bit about the
20 customary trade reporting requirement that this
21 proposal requests. As noted in the draft staff
22 analysis for FP11-05, the Federal Subsistence Board has
23 reviewed and adopted two regional proposals defining
24 the upper limits of customary trade, one for Bristol
25 Bay fishery management area and the other for the Upper
26 Copper River District. Now, both of these proposals
27 submitted by proponents within their respective regions
28 resulted in regulations for a customary trade record
29 keeping form, which you can see in Appendix A on Page
30 169 of your book. So this is the record keeping form
31 that the Federal system is using in Bristol Bay and in
32 the Upper Copper River District.

33

34 Now, you can ask the question, how
35 frequently or how effective have these record keeping
36 forms been in these two other districts. Well, the use
37 of the record keeping form appears to be limited. In
38 the Bristol Bay area since the Federal record keeping
39 requirement was made in 2004, there have been no
40 customary trade reporting forms distributed for the
41 Bristol Bay area. In the Upper Copper River District,
42 it's a little different. There have been since the
43 2005 regulation fewer than six customary trade record
44 keeping forms requested annually. So in Bristol Bay
45 there have been none and in the Upper Copper River
46 District there have been each year fewer than six
47 requested.

48

49 Let me touch on briefly the geographic
50 constraint that this proposal requests. Limiting the

1 customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon to the
2 confines of the Yukon River management area would
3 effectively curtail customary trade in urban centers
4 such as Anchorage. The geographic constraint would
5 apply to both selling and purchasing of subsistence-
6 caught Chinook salmon. Geographic constraints on
7 customary trade were not anticipated in ANILCA and have
8 not been implemented in other regions, but ANILCA does
9 not appear to preclude this sort of imposition. So it
10 seems to be something that you can in fact request.

11
12 So what are the effects of the
13 proposal. The proposal, if adopted, would limit
14 customary trade of unprocessed subsistence-caught
15 Chinook salmon to no more than 200 pounds per household
16 per calendar year. That's the limit. What would that
17 do if you limited it in that way? You would diminish
18 whatever cash generated by the sale of subsistence-
19 caught salmon to these 200 pounds. Again, such sales
20 would be limited only to the Yukon River management
21 area, effectively eliminating customary trade between
22 rural residents and others, which is allowed under the
23 other paragraph, the other regulation, Paragraph
24 27(c)(12). A possible exception would be customary
25 trade to residents in Fairbanks, an urban center in the
26 Yukon River management area.

27
28 So as I mentioned, the proposal
29 concerned with rural to rural customary trade is
30 governed under a different paragraph, and as submitted
31 it doesn't address rural to rural customary trades.

32
33 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 oppose this proposal. And why oppose it? Well, one
35 reason is that the target of the proposal doesn't
36 appear to be legitimate customary trade, but sales that
37 rise to the level of a significant commercial
38 enterprise. This is something we talked about
39 yesterday. And from that discussion, it seemed clear
40 that we don't know what the difference is or where
41 customary trade ends and a significant commercial
42 enterprise begins. And this, as we noted yesterday, is
43 a significant difficulty.

44
45 It may not be that limiting customary
46 trade, which is a legitimate subsistence activity, is
47 the appropriate avenue for curtailing sales that exceed
48 the definition of customary trade. In other words, why
49 limit customary trade when what you're really
50 interested in limiting is significant commercial

1 enterprise.

2

3 There are portions of the proposal that
4 refer to reselling fish obtained in customary trade and
5 selling subsistence-caught fish to fishery businesses.
6 These portions of the proposal replicate existing
7 regulations and are unnecessary, because they're
8 already in regulation.

9

10 Now, the proposal also seeks, and this
11 is maybe the real intent of it, but it seeks a
12 reporting requirement. As I mentioned, Bristol Bay and
13 the Upper Copper River have such reporting
14 requirements, but the number of forms requested and
15 returned remains very small in the Upper Copper River,
16 while no record keeping forms have been requested in
17 the Bristol Bay area. We may or may not find similar
18 limited use of record keeping forms in the Yukon River
19 management area.

20

21 Let me make one further point.
22 Customary trade is included as you know in the
23 definition of subsistence. If limitations based on
24 conservation concerns are necessary, it may be
25 appropriate to conduct an analysis under ANILCA Section
26 .804 which requires the Federal Subsistence Board to
27 select amongst subsistence users and not subsistence
28 uses based on the premise that all subsistence uses
29 equally qualify for the subsistence reference. This is
30 the idea that every subsistence use is important, and
31 there are no unimportant subsistence uses.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
36 Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Buklis. Mr. Unok.

37

38 MR. UNOK: How many people do you think
39 do customary trade in Yukon?

40

41 MR. JENKINS: We don't have numbers on
42 how many people up and down the Yukon engage in
43 customary trade. As far as I know, there have been no
44 numbers collected on that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
47 questions.

48

49 MR. UNOK: There's not very many people
50 do customary trade with money. There's maybe 100

1 people, there would be only maybe 5 people out of 100.

2

3 MR. JENKINS: Is that your observation,
4 that there's about 5 out of 100? So it's a limited
5 number you're suggesting.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
8 discussion. Mr. Buklis.

9

10 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Either now or later in your treatment of this proposal,
12 I am prepared to take you through the language you had
13 proposed and given your action on FP11-08 yesterday,
14 suggest to you the effect of your action yesterday on
15 what you're considering today in terms of changes you
16 might want to consider, but we can do that later if
17 you'd prefer.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Why don't we go
20 ahead with it now, Mr. Buklis, so we can get a good
21 idea of what the alternates are as opposed to the one
22 that's already presented.

23

24 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I'm certainly not advocating one way or the other, but
26 given what you did yesterday, I'm just trying to help
27 you administratively with the language you have today.

28

29 So if you look on Page 163, in that
30 first clause (a) where it's the introductory statement,
31 the second line says Chinook salmon is permitted. You
32 might want to strike Chinook and make it salmon is
33 permitted, because yesterday your action was on salmon
34 customary trade, not Chinook salmon. And then the next
35 line talks about subsistence taken fin fish. Given
36 your focus on salmon, you might want to change fin fish
37 to salmon. So it was Chinook salmon becomes salmon and
38 fin fish become salmon.

39

40 Next, in item number (1) once again
41 there's two places, the fourth line down and the fifth
42 line down use the word fin fish, and it might be more
43 appropriate to say salmon.

44

45 That's all I had on that page. So
46 these are sort of clerical adjustments.

47

48 More importantly, on the next page,
49 Page 164, top of the page you've got an item (b) as in
50 bravo, and that gets into limits and specifications.

1 My notes from yesterday indicated you would apply your
2 \$750 limit to this section (12) as you did to section
3 (11) yesterday. And I believe that would supplant this
4 item (b) here. So we'd substitute your model from
5 Bristol Bay here for rural to others exchanges. That's
6 the most substantive point I had.

7

8 And then finally there's two more
9 places that say fin fish. Item (c), first line, talks
10 about subsistence taken fin fish and you might want to
11 say salmon. And then item (e) as in Edward, the first
12 line says a sale or purchase of fin fish, and you might
13 want to say salmon.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Buklis. Any discussion on this. Mr. Greg Roczicka.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
21 and thanks, Larry, for running through that. What I
22 was considering, and I'd like your thoughts about it,
23 would be if we took the same approach with this
24 Proposal 11-09 as we did with 11-08 and following
25 language that's already been through the mill pretty
26 well, and just generating this whole discussion as far
27 as putting a threshold for what's a significant
28 commercial enterprise and so forth, and giving the
29 enforcement the help they need.

30

31 If we would actually go back to
32 adopting that language that's in the Bristol Bay
33 management area, replace it with the Yukon River
34 fisheries management area, and just put the \$750 in
35 there, it does have the recording forms and so forth,
36 and have that replaced as the modification for Section
37 (3) rather than have all of that criteria. And it also
38 would then put to rest or put aside that geographical
39 concern and what that whole debate might hold up
40 consideration once it gets to the Federal Board. It
41 would bring in a whole new idea or aspect to the
42 customary trade issue. You know, it's something we
43 could go with in later years down the line once we get
44 something on the books.

45

46 And I'd like your thoughts on that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

49

50 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Yes, I understand what you said, and that is -- I was
2 just working as an editor working with proposal
3 language you did have on the table, but, yes, if you
4 wanted to supplant what is now item (3), all that bold
5 language on the Yukon and simply bring in the Bristol
6 Bay model and adapt the dollar amount that you spoke of
7 yesterday, that's certainly an alternative way. And
8 it's an example of the regulations having the main
9 point and not all the details. And the type of form
10 and what's on the form can follow administratively.
11 And we try to do that so the regulations don't get
12 overly lengthy. And what you have now is fairly
13 detailed and prescriptive, and we could accomplish that
14 through a parallel language with Bristol Bay, and deal
15 with the administrative details of the form and who you
16 turn it in to through stipulations. They don't have to
17 be in the regulation booklet. So, yes, that would
18 work.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Again, I confess
21 when I was asked to draft this that my other occupation
22 that I report sometimes as being petty bureaucrat does
23 show through.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
26 discussion on this? Everybody understand the proposed
27 change for our proposal on Section (3) as suggested by
28 the two gentlemen here? Do you guys understand what
29 the number (3) is? Okay. We could take that into
30 consideration if you want down when we get to our
31 section 8.

32

33 Go ahead, Mr. Nick.

34

35 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex
36 Nick, Council coordinator, for the record.

37

38 I just wanted to clarify something that
39 I've been hearing a lot between the discussion of
40 customary trade. I think a lot of people mix up,
41 excuse me, barter and customary trade as one. There
42 needs to be a good understanding that customary trade
43 under Federal definition, and correct me if I'm wrong,
44 Larry, under Federal definition deals with cash sales
45 between the rural residents. Barter is trading food
46 with whatever, not with cash. So the Council needs to
47 understand that, you know, when you talk about
48 regulatory changes like these.

49

50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
2 comments or questions for Mr. Jenkins or Mr. Buklis.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
7 and Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

8
9 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

11
12 Our comments are located on Page 171.
13 I'll be summarizing them and they'll be adopted into
14 the transcripts as they appear.

15
16 This proposal requests establishment of
17 reporting requirements and limits for customary trade
18 of Chinook salmon harvested in the Federal subsistence
19 fishery on the Yukon River area. The proposal requests
20 a Federal customary record be established to define
21 reporting records, presentation to Federal agency Staff
22 upon request, sale limitations, prohibits resale of
23 sold fish, prohibits sale of fish to a fishery
24 business, and restricts sales and delivery of fish only
25 within the Yukon fisheries management area. This
26 proposal is modeled directly after regulations
27 pertaining to State customary fin fish trade in Norton
28 Sound.

29
30 Now, I have those regulations here, the
31 State regulations. Would you like me to touch on them?

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you, please.

34
35 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir. 5 AAC 01.188
36 discusses customary trade in the Norton Sound/Port
37 Clarence area, and I'll summarize this. It requires to
38 obtain a customary record keeping form from the
39 Department before the person does trade, and record the
40 cash sales on the form within 24 hours after the sale.
41 It goes on to what's on the form: date of sale, buyer's
42 name and address, species and amounts sold, location
43 where the fish were harvested, dollar amount of the
44 sale, form of processing used, any other information
45 required for management purposes. It also requires
46 return the form to Fish and Game as it says on the
47 back. It's probably end of the season. I don't have
48 the form with me, but when you have to turn it back in.
49 And you're supposed to display the trade record upon
50 request from a representative of the Department or a

1 peace officer. It also limits the sale to no more than
2 \$200 per household per calendar year, and a person who
3 receives the subsistence fish in exchange for cash
4 cannot resell the fish. And it also limits the sale
5 and purchase of fin fish to just the area, only within
6 Norton Sound/Port Clarence area.

7
8 When I spoke with the area manager in
9 Norton Sound/Port Clarence area and he has a few people
10 do it, but not a whole bunch of folks as I understand
11 it in that region actually do sell the fish for cash.
12 And if I remember correctly, at least one person, you
13 know, sells like seven or eight fish per year
14 consistently. I don't think there's other consistence
15 between folks that want to do it. I'm not sure if
16 that's the traditional method there, what have you.

17
18 Going back to my analysis here, the
19 impacts to subsistence users if this proposal is
20 adopted, Federal subsistence users would be required to
21 get a Federal customary trade record keeping form, as
22 the example provided in the book there, and keep
23 accurate records. And we discussed some of the
24 reporting requirements. And Federal fishermen will be
25 required to return that permit as prescribed on the
26 form and show it upon request for enforcement folks.
27 And it would restrict to 200 pounds of whole,
28 unprocessed fish.

29
30 Additionally the proposal would clarify
31 that a person who receives the fish for customary trade
32 couldn't resell the fish, and it would have to -- or
33 the fish could not be sold to a fisheries business.

34
35 This proposal may reduce the
36 subsistence harvest of Chinook salmon intended for cash
37 sale of whole, unprocessed Chinook salmon. It is not
38 possible, however, to accurately predict how this
39 proposal will affect changes in subsistence harvest
40 patterns, because as earlier noted, the Federal
41 agencies lack information and data regarding the
42 existing levels of trade.

43
44 Adoption of limitations on cash sales
45 from subsistence harvest and that defines significant
46 commercial enterprise, which was yesterday's proposal
47 that you modified and adopted, would specify -- if
48 adopted as proposed in this proposal, would have a
49 weight or number of fish instead of a dollar amount.
50 And it would also clarify where subsistence harvest may

1 be sold under Federal regulation, and establish
2 reporting requirements for the cash sales.

3
4 And on the State side, currently there
5 are only two exceptions listed, and that allows for up
6 to \$200 in Norton Sound/Port Clarence area and also the
7 Sitka Sound herring roe on kelp in Southeast Alaska.

8
9 For jurisdiction issue, while standing
10 on State or private lands, including State-owned
11 submerged lands and shore lands, a person must comply
12 with State laws and regulations and cannot sell
13 subsistence-harvested fish with the two exceptions
14 stated earlier in regulation -- that I said earlier in
15 State regulation. Federal subsistence regulations,
16 particularly customary trade regulations pertain only
17 to fishing on and the use of fish caught on Federal
18 public lands and those waters where Federal subsistence
19 jurisdiction is claimed.

20
21 Sale of subsistence fish harvested from
22 all lands and waters, Federal, State or private, is
23 limited by State regulations except to the extent
24 superseded by Federal law on Federal lands.

25
26 The State of Alaska maintains
27 jurisdiction on food safety and food processing
28 regulations regardless of where the fish are harvested.

29
30 Adoption of this proposal may provide
31 enforceable customary trade regulations, including
32 limits and reporting requirements. Adoption of
33 enforceable Federal customary trade regulations that
34 specify limits on cash sales and establish reporting
35 requirements is needed, because violation of existing
36 State and Federal customary trade and fish processing
37 regulations is an enforcement problem that has
38 significant implications for subsistence users and the
39 public. This issue should be addressed during a joint
40 meeting of the Regional Councils within the Yukon
41 drainage area, because the issue potentially affects
42 subsistence users for the entire Yukon area.

43
44 Now, I have another -- yesterday and
45 just now you clarified about adopting the Bristol Bay
46 regulations into the Yukon area. There's one point
47 that we haven't discussed, or maybe I missed, and Larry
48 can help me here. I believe the regulations for
49 Bristol Bay are two-fold. One, selling from rural-
50 qualified folks to non-rural-qualified folks, and, two,

1 from rural to rural. Now, as I understand, the Federal
2 regulations require permitting and reporting for the
3 trade between rural and non-rural, but as adopted, that
4 you're proposing to adopt, it would not require
5 permitting or reporting for rural to rural. You might
6 want to clarify that on the regulation if you want to
7 cover all customary trade reporting and permitting, or
8 just from rural to non-rural.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

Fisheries Proposal FP11-09:

Establish reporting requirements and
limits for customary trade of Chinook salmon harvested
in Yukon River federal subsistence fisheries.

Introduction:

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional
Advisory Council proposal requests establishment of
reporting requirements and limits for customary trade#
of Chinook salmon harvested in federal subsistence
fisheries in the Yukon River Management Area. The
proposal requests that a federal customary trade record
be established with defined report requirements,
presentation to federal agency staff upon request,
sales limitations, prohibits resale of fish sold,
prohibits sale of fish to a fishery business, and
restricts sales and delivery of fish only within the
Yukon River Fisheries Management Area. This proposal
is modeled directly after state regulations pertaining
to customary trade in finfish in Norton Sound (5 AAC
01.188). State regulations generally prohibit sale of
subsistence harvested fish# while federal regulations
allow cash sales. Furthermore, under current state
regulations at 18 AAC 34.005, all fish processed for
commerce must be processed at a facility approved by
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.#

Sale of subsistence harvested fish,
processed and whole, is occurring in urban and rural
communities in Alaska contrary to existing state and

1 federal regulations. Discrepancies in state and
2 federal regulations and state requirements regarding
3 processing of fish to protect public health and safety
4 may leave some people vulnerable to citation under
5 state and federal regulations. This is a significant
6 issue for state resource managers, law enforcement
7 agencies, and federal agencies that provide a
8 subsistence priority on federal lands and those waters
9 where a federal subsistence jurisdiction is claimed.
10 FP11-05, FP11-08, and FP11-09 provide an opportunity
11 for the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt enforceable
12 customary trade regulations for the Yukon region that
13 are based on the history and patterns of this use.

14

15 Impact on Subsistence Users:

16

17 If this proposal is adopted, federal
18 subsistence users would be required to obtain a federal
19 customary trade record-keeping form and keep accurate
20 records of Chinook salmon sold, including the date of
21 each sale, buyer's name and address, amount of #Chinook
22 salmon sold, specific location where the Chinook salmon
23 were harvested, dollar amount of each sale, type of
24 processing used, and any other information the federal
25 agency requires for management or enforcement purposes.
26 Federal subsistence fishermen will be required to
27 return the customary trade record keeping form as
28 prescribed on the form, as well as display the form
29 upon request by a federal agency or law enforcement
30 official. It would restrict federal subsistence
31 fishermen's customary trade activities to 200 pounds of
32 unprocessed, whole, or an amount in pounds to be
33 determined of Chinook salmon fillets, strips, or an
34 amount to be determined in jars of
35 subsistence-harvested Chinook salmon per household in a
36 calendar year. Additionally, this proposal would
37 clarify that a person who receives
38 subsistence-harvested Chinook salmon in exchange for
39 cash in a customary trade is not allowed to resell the
40 fish and that a person is not allowed to sell
41 subsistence-harvested fish to a fishery business.
42 Finally, if adopted, it would limit the sale or
43 purchase of Chinook salmon under customary trade
44 regulations, including delivery of fish to a purchaser,
45 to only occur within the Yukon River Fisheries
46 Management Area.

47

48 This proposal may reduce subsistence
49 harvest of Chinook salmon intended for cash sale of
50 whole (unprocessed) and processed Chinook salmon. It

1 is not possible, however, to accurately predict how
2 this proposal will affect changes in subsistence
3 harvest patterns because federal and state agencies
4 lack information and data regarding existing levels of
5 harvest and actual sales of subsistence-harvested
6 Chinook salmon. However, the proposal would result in
7 monitoring the customary trade of subsistence-harvested
8 Chinook salmon in the Yukon River area such that the
9 actual effects of customary trade can begin to be
10 measured.

11
12 Because state and federal regulations
13 differ, subsistence fishermen are vulnerable to
14 prosecution when selling subsistence harvested salmon
15 on lands and waters outside of boundaries where federal
16 jurisdiction is claimed. Adoption of limitations on
17 cash sale of subsistence harvested salmon that define
18 significant commercial enterprise, specify fish weight
19 or number limits, clarify where subsistence harvested
20 fish may be sold under federal regulations, and
21 establish reporting requirements for cash sales of
22 subsistence harvested salmon would remove the risk of
23 citation for subsistence fishermen in the Yukon River
24 drainage.

25
26 Opportunity Provided by State:
27

28 The department supports subsistence
29 harvest and uses of salmon consistent with existing
30 state laws and regulations, including customary trade
31 of this resource. However, 5 AAC 01.010 prohibits sale
32 of subsistence harvested fish, their parts, or their
33 eggs unless otherwise specified in state regulation.
34 Currently, there are only two exceptions listed in
35 Chapter 5 of state regulations: Norton Sound-Port
36 Clarence Area for salmon and Sitka Sound herring roe on
37 kelp in Southeast Alaska#.

38
39 Conservation Issues:
40

41 The Yukon River Chinook salmon stock is
42 currently classified as a stock of yield concern.
43 Since 2001, subsistence fishing time in the Yukon Area
44 has been limited by a windows schedule, which was
45 further restricted in 2008 and 2009 because of
46 conservation concerns for Chinook salmon. Subsistence
47 harvest levels for Chinook salmon have fallen within
48 the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS)
49 ranges since 2001, except for 2002, 2008, and 2009. A
50 majority of the Yukon River drainage escapement goals

1 have been met or exceeded since 2000, including the
2 Chena and Salcha rivers, which are the largest
3 producers of Chinook salmon in the United States
4 portion of the drainage. The escapement objective for
5 the Canadian mainstem was met every year from 2001
6 through 2006, with 2001, 2003, and 2005 being the three
7 highest spawning escapement estimates on record. The
8 escapement objective for the Canadian mainstem was not
9 met in 2007 and 2008. Exploitation rate on the
10 Canadian-origin stock by Alaskan fishermen declined
11 from an average of about 55% (1989 1998) to an average
12 of about 44% from 2004 through 2008 (Howard et al.
13 2009). Although subsistence harvest continues to
14 remain stable at nearly 50,000 Chinook salmon annually,
15 commercial harvests have decreased over 60%, from an
16 average of 100,000 annually (1989 1998) to the recent
17 five-year average (20052009) of nearly 23,000 fish.
18 Considering all salmon species together, the overall
19 total subsistence salmon harvest in the Yukon Area has
20 declined by approximately 30% since 1990 (Fall et al.
21 2009:39). Specifically, fall chum salmon harvests have
22 fallen within ANS ranges only three times since 2001
23 (Fall et al. 2009:43).

24

25 Jurisdiction Issues:

26

27 While standing on state and private
28 lands (including state-owned submerged lands and
29 shorelands), persons must comply with state laws and
30 regulations and cannot sell subsistence harvested fish
31 with two exceptions as specified above. Federal
32 subsistence regulations, particularly customary trade
33 regulations, pertain only to fishing on and use of fish
34 caught on federal public lands and those waters where
35 federal subsistence jurisdiction is claimed. Sale of
36 subsistence fish harvested from all lands and waters
37 (federal, state, or private) is limited by state
38 regulations except to the extent superseded by federal
39 law on federal lands. The State of Alaska maintains
40 jurisdiction of food safety and food processing
41 regulations regardless of location of harvest.

42

43 Other Issues:

44

45 Adoption of this proposal may provide
46 enforceable customary trade regulations, including
47 limits and reporting requirements. Adoption of
48 enforceable federal customary trade regulations that
49 specify limits on cash sales and establish reporting
50 requirements is needed because violation of existing

1 state and federal customary trade and fish processing
2 regulations is an enforcement problem that has
3 significant implications for subsistence users and the
4 public. More education on state and federal
5 regulations and an enforceable definition of
6 significant commercial enterprise are needed. This
7 issue should be addressed during a joint meeting of the
8 Regional Councils within the Yukon drainage because
9 this issue potentially affects subsistence users in the
10 entire Yukon River drainage.

11
12 Recommendation:

13
14 Support.

15
16 Cited References:

17
18 Fall, J.A., C. Brown, M.F. Turek, N.
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20 L. Hutchinson-Scarborough, T. Lemons, V. Ciccone, T.M.
21 Krieg, and D. Koster. 2009. Alaska subsistence salmon
22 fisheries 2007 annual report. Alaska Department of
23 Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper
24 No. 346, Anchorage.

25
26 Howard K.G., S.J. Hayes, and D.F.
27 Evenson. 2009. Yukon River Chinook salmon stock status
28 and action plan 2010; a report to the Alaska Board of
29 Fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special
30 Publication No. 09-26, Anchorage.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
33 Pappas. Any questions for Mr. Pappas.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
38 Mr. Pappas.

39
40 Tribal agency comments. Mr. Naneng, do
41 you have any comments on 11-09. AVCP.

42
43 MR. NANENG: Let me put my phone on
44 quiet first so it wouldn't ring during any of my
45 comments.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the
48 customary trade that is being talked about by both the
49 State of Alaska and the Federal Fish and Wildlife
50 Service representatives, this summer we saw two

1 advertisements on Craig's List of Yukon Chinook salmon
2 strips being advertised for sale. We reported the two
3 advertisements to Fish and Wildlife law enforcement.
4 We got a response back recently saying that they're not
5 going to be talking about their on-going investigation
6 as to where and how many fish were being advertised for
7 sale. And there were two of them this summer. And in
8 light of the fact that many of our people on the Lower
9 Yukon are being restricted and given windows for
10 subsistence fishing opportunity, I think this is an
11 issue that the Council will have to address.

12
13 We at AVCP, we're trying to work with
14 law enforcement to try and have them investigate those
15 ads that they're making regarding the sale of dried,
16 smoked salmon strip, of Chinook salmon. And a couple
17 of the -- I think one of the addresses was in Middle
18 Yukon. So I think that the Council needs to find a way
19 to address this, because if you're imposing windows for
20 subsistence on Lower Yukon, why are they allowing
21 people to advertise on Craig's List for sale of smoked
22 salmon strips worldwide? And Craig's List goes
23 worldwide.

24
25 So we're concerned about this, and I
26 hope that there can be a way to resolve this for the
27 benefit of the people that utilize the salmon, and
28 especially Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

29
30 With that, thank you very much, Mr.
31 Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
34 Myron Naneng. Any questions for Mr. Naneng.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Fish
39 and game advisory committee comments.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
44 Summary of written public comments.

45
46 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We received six
47 comments, one in support of the proposal and five in
48 opposition. Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Did you

1 have additional comments, Mr. Pappas.

2

3 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir. Sorry for
4 speaking out of turn here.

5

6 Fortunately in my job I get to travel
7 to -- I actually I travel to more RAC meetings than
8 anybody involved in this process. And I was in Hoonah
9 at the Southeast RAC meeting the other day, and I
10 talked to the Chair of the RAC and a few members there.
11 And I asked them why don't they -- are they interested
12 in adopting a dollar limit or a pound limit for
13 customary trade, and the Chair said, well, we don't do
14 that for cash here. A few folks do; the majority of
15 the folks in Southeast, in that region, trade food for
16 food.

17

18 That relates to my comments in Bristol
19 Bay -- or, excuse me, Norton Sound/Port Clarence.
20 Maybe the traditions there are trade food for food and
21 less cash were involved. So each region is different.

22

23 I just wanted to pass along what I
24 heard from the RAC Chair two days ago.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
29 Pappas.

30

31 Public testimony. Mr. Sandone.

32

33 MR. SANDONE: My name is Gene Sandone.
34 I represent Kwik'pak Fisheries.

35

36 As I said yesterday, I think the Yukon
37 is a unique situation. It provides a unique product.
38 The smoked salmon strips from the Yukon are a delicacy,
39 and more and more people are finding out about them.
40 And unlike Bristol Bay and unlike Copper River, there's
41 a huge subsistence fishery on the Yukon. And I believe
42 that customary trade, or rather sale of subsistence-
43 caught fish in any form is a major problem and it's
44 becoming more and more of a problem.

45

46 And I also believe that there is no law
47 enforcement, period. I don't think the State or the
48 Federal Government wants to enforce customary trade
49 regulations, because there's no definition of
50 significant commercial enterprise. So where's the line

1 as I mentioned yesterday.

2

3 In testimony -- well, personally I saw
4 the two Craig's List advertisements this year, and I
5 happened to see one last year, and I reported them to
6 law enforcement agencies also.

7

8 I also heard, and this is hearsay, but
9 I've also heard that the North Slope is a big buyer of
10 Yukon strips, and for quite a dollar amount.

11

12 At the Western RAC meeting last year.
13 The Western and Eastern Interior RAC meeting last year,
14 members of those RACs stated that they buy -- or not
15 they, but there is Yukon strips being sold on the
16 Kuskokwim River. There's also one person on the
17 Eastern Interior RAC heard from knowledgeable sources
18 that one person bought a \$40,000 truck from these
19 sales.

20

21 So I think if there's that much rumors
22 or that much hearsay about something, there's got to be
23 something there. Okay. And I really believe that
24 because the Yukon is such a delicacy, Yukon strips
25 delicacy, that there is a problem.

26

27 I'd like to reference all my remarks
28 that I made yesterday. And I want to say something,
29 Larry Buklis brought this to my attention when I said
30 this paragraph, sales of subsistence -- and I was
31 quoting from the 1-08 Federal Staff analysis, and it
32 says, sales of subsistence-caught fish that rise to the
33 level of commercial or market transactions, however,
34 are not considered to be customary trade and are
35 prohibited. Enforcement of the prohibition is a
36 central issue, not further restrictions on customary
37 trade. However, the threshold for significant
38 commercial enterprise has not been determined.
39 Enforcement of the prohibition remains problematic
40 without a threshold determination.

41

42 And it seemed when I was reading 1-08,
43 it seemed to me that, you know, it was saying one thing
44 and not really meaning it. But Larry pointed out that
45 there's a sentence on Page 121 that may clear it up.
46 It says -- it's on the -- it's one -- it's under the
47 second paragraph in the effects of the proposal, about
48 six lines down. It says, further regulations limiting
49 customary trade which is recognized as a legitimate
50 subsistence activity may not be the appropriate avenue

1 for curtailing sales that do not fall under the
2 definition of customary trade. So the Federal analysis
3 makes a little more sense with that sentence in there.
4 Well, a lot more sense with that sentence in there. So
5 I just wanted to bring that to your attention.
6

7 Also, on FP11-09 I think you need
8 specifically to -- the Subsistence Regional Council
9 needs to modify the proposal to include both rural and
10 non-rural like the Federal Government talked about.
11 And we support it.
12

13 And one thing I'd like to say is that
14 the regulations in that proposal are crafted after
15 Norton Sound. And that went through the Board of Fish
16 process and it was critiqued very well. And I would
17 caution you to take a look at those stipulations, those
18 regulations and compare it to the Federal subsistence
19 reporting form to make sure that everything is covered,
20 that's all, if you're going to adopt the Federal
21 subsistence reporting form.
22

23 Mr Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
26 Sandone. Any questions for Mr. Sandone.
27

28 Myron, did you have a question?
29

30 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, I have
31 additional comments.
32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll get to
34 you later.
35

36 Any questions for Mr. Sandone.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
41 Sandone. Mr. Naneng.
42

43 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Myron Naneng with the Association of Village Council
45 Presidents.
46

47 I think that one of the other things,
48 too, is that within the ANILCA legislation there's
49 language of rural subsistence users versus the urban,
50 so-called urban subsistence users. If you look back on

1 the records that were put on by Alaska Dispatch as a
2 video of urban subsistence users saying that they are
3 no longer getting free money with the sale of
4 subsistence -- what they call the subsistence-caught
5 salmon. Bud Faith who used to also be one of the
6 officials I believe on the Alaska Board of Game at one
7 time, in that recording stated that they're no longer
8 getting free money. They have fishwheel operations or
9 some type of operations up in the Upper Yukon, and the
10 free money that they said ranges between 4,000 to
11 \$40,000 that they're no longer getting. And this is
12 with the sale of what they call the subsistence-caught
13 Chinook salmon.

14

15 And I just wanted to share that with
16 the Council so that as you address this proposal that
17 -- I think that there needs to be stronger teeth and I
18 think that if law enforcement is going to be enforcing
19 urban versus rural subsistence users, and ANILCA
20 requires that rural Alaska is given the priority, then
21 I think that they should live up to that language.

22

23 With that, thank you very, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
27 Naneng. Any questions for Mr. Naneng.

28

(No comments)

29

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
32 other testimony from the public. Any other public
33 testimony on 11-09.

34

(No comments)

35

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, we'll go
38 down to Regional Advisory Council deliberation,
39 recommendation, justification. Mr. Roczicka.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 Move to adopt Proposal 11-09.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka moved
45 to adopt Proposal 11-09. Do I hear a second.

46

MR. ONEY: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
49 Oney.

50

1 Any further discussion. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 After the discussion/deliberation that we had on 11-08
5 yesterday, I'd like to offer an amendment or
6 modification at this time. And getting the response
7 that we did from Staff on the earlier question
8 regarding the specifics that were laid out in our
9 proposal, that we can achieve the same end by adopting
10 the simplified language that we have and following the
11 same action from our recommendation on Proposal 11-08,
12 to just simply adopt the language that is in
13 27(c)(12)(i) for the Bristol Bay fishery management
14 area, replace it with the Yukon River fisheries
15 management area, and insert that \$750 maximum annually.
16 And that speaks to as I understand it the whole list of
17 concerns that were laid out.

18

19 One of the things which was mentioned
20 earlier about the concern of limiting customary trade
21 when our target is the commercial activity. I find it
22 very difficult that that did not come up and it was
23 fairly self-evident in discussions that it is because
24 the customary trade is being abused and becoming a
25 commercial activity that we need to address it in this
26 form.

27

28 So anyway that's my proposed amendment,
29 that we replace the language that we have in the bold
30 down under (3)(a) right now with the same action we
31 took yesterday on 11-08 to insert the Yukon fisheries
32 and the \$750 as the maximum.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And is that in the
35 form of a motion, Mr. Roczicka.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes. And that is a
38 motion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
41 to change the language on Section (3) and insert the
42 language that was taken as -- as discussed yesterday.
43 A motion's been made by Greg. Do I hear a second to
44 that motion to modify our proposal. Mr. Charles.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's
50 seconded. Any further discussion. Any further

1 discussion on our Proposal No. -- to replace that with
2 a new proposal. It would be keeping number (1), to
3 obtain customary record keeping form from the US Fish
4 and Wildlife before the person conducts a customary
5 trade and accurately record the cash sale on the form
6 immediately after the sale occurs. The form requires
7 the recording of (a) the date of each sale; (b) the
8 buyer's name and address; (c) the species and amount of
9 salmon sold; (d) the specific location of where the
10 salmon were harvested; (e) the dollar amount of each
11 sale; (f) the form and processing used; and (g) any
12 other information the Federal agency requires for
13 management of or enforcement purposes.

14

15 Number (2), the customary trade record
16 keeping form -- oh, what?

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: That's been replaced.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That would take
21 that all out.

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
26 Gregory [sic].

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Hopefully I wasn't clear
29 enough. I know it's difficult, but this is to replace
30 all the language that you just read through with a
31 single paragraph so that our modified proposal would
32 read as Section (3), in the Yukon River fisheries
33 management area, the total cash value per household of
34 salmon taken within Federal jurisdiction in the Yukon
35 River fisheries management area and exchanged in
36 customary trade between rural residents and individuals
37 other than rural residents may not exceed \$750
38 annually. These customary trade sales must be
39 immediately recorded on a customary trade record
40 keeping form. The recording requirement and the
41 responsibility to ensure the household limit is not
42 exceeded rests with the seller. That single paragraph
43 would replace all of the bold subsection (a), items (1)
44 through (3).

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. I
47 misunderstood that then.

48

49 Any further discussion on this proposed
50 changed. Go ahead, James.

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. How about
2 that amendment that was requested to change the wording
3 on salmon and fin fish. Would that be included in
4 there, too, in the amendment?

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 James, that is covered. The concern about saying
10 salmon versus Chinook salmon or fin fish, it is stated
11 specifically in here that we're talking about salmon
12 only. And some of the other points raised about
13 clarify whether we want to have this rural to rural
14 reporting versus the rural to non-rural, and some of
15 the other points.

16
17 As far as folks are concerned about
18 getting more in here, I guess I've come to the
19 conclusion myself at this time that we'd like to at
20 least get something on the table. You try to put too
21 much of everything in here, and those guys are going to
22 choke on it.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: We can certainly come
27 back and refine later if we discover that the
28 interpretation perhaps of the administrative Staff when
29 they actually put this into function doesn't meet with
30 all the criteria that we had laid down in our initial
31 proposal, but it gets to that point of establishing
32 that at least some kind of a threshold level for the
33 significant commercial enterprise, and making the abuse
34 enforceable that we see escalating in many cases within
35 the subsistence fishery on the Yukon.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
38 Roczicka. Any comments on the proposed proposal. Mr.
39 Buklis.

40
41 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 We are clear on what the intent is, and we can act on
43 this if you vote that way.

44
45 Just to have the record clear,
46 everything we've heard is in this Section 12 which
47 deals with transactions between rural residents and
48 others, and none of this language about customary trade
49 record keeping forms would apply to what you did
50 yesterday unless you acted on that also. Just to be

1 clear. Everything about this proposal is rural to
2 others.
3
4 MR. ROCZICKA: That's correct. That is
5 my intent.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's understood,
8 Mr. Buklis.
9
10 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok, do you
13 have a comment?
14
15 MR. UNOK: What's going to happen now
16 if we pass this customary trade to other people that
17 don't know what's customary trade in Yukon, they're
18 going to start fishing out there for \$750. There will
19 be more subsistence users that never subsist before.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Have you got an
22 answer to that, Mr. Greg Roczicka.
23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: It's not -- it's putting
25 a limit on what's there now. It's not encouraging any
26 more. If folks would choose to do that, they have the
27 full ability to do that right now if they wanted to.
28 It's just for those that have done it, it's being
29 reported and being seen in other areas of the Yukon
30 fishery that people are starting to abuse it and are
31 jumping on it, and there's no limit right now. They
32 can -- it's always -- we've heard, you know, up to
33 whatever it may be, you know, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000.
34 There's no limit, and people are saying that -- are
35 using subsistence for commercial gain, for specific
36 monetary gain. So if people become aware of it from
37 the Lower Yukon area, it's what, you know, your home
38 country, there's nothing to stop them from doing it
39 right now, or if this goes through, it would put a cap
40 on the amount that they could do it.
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other questions
43 on the proposed amendment to our proposal. Modified
44 portion of our proposal. Any further discussion. Any
45 further discussion.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MR. MANUMIK: Call the question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
2 called for. Mr. Nick, please call the roll.
3
4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Vote on the
5 amendment.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The modified
8 proposal as modified.
9
10 MR. NICK: There's two motions made by
11 Greg Roczicka.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What two motions
14 were those? I must have missed them.
15
16 MR. CHARLES: The main motion.
17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: One was to adopt, the
19 main motion to adopt the proposal, and then the other
20 motion was to amend.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, okay. The main
23 motion. We're voting on the modified.
24
25 MR. NICK: Okay. Modified.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The modified
28 proposal.
29
30 MR. MANUMIK: On the motion.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, the modified
33 that we were just discussing.
34
35 MR. MANUMIK: Okay. Thanks.
36
37 MR. NICK: Okay. Ready to vote?
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
40
41 MR. NICK: Mr. Brown.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are we ready to
44 vote.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I believe we were.
49
50 MR. NICK: One more time. Mr. Brown.

1 MR. BROWN: Yes.
2
3 MR. NICK: Okay. Mr. Charles.
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Oney.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Yes.
10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Manumik.
12
13 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
14
15 MR. NICK: Mr. Harry Wilde.
16
17 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
18
19 MR. NICK: Ms. Gregory's not in. Mr.
20 Kelly.
21
22 MR. KELLY: No.
23
24 MR. NICK: Mr. Lester Wilde.
25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
27
28 MR. NICK: Mr. Unok.
29
30 MR. UNOK: Yes.
31
32 MR. NICK: Mr. Roczicka.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
35
36 MR. NICK: Robert is excused. Mr.
37 Andrew.
38
39 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
40
41 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I've got, excuse
42 me, 9 in support of the modified motion.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The modified
45 proposal.
46
47 MR. NICK: Excuse me. One in
48 opposition, one excused, one absent.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. The

1 proposal passed.

2

3 Now the main motion, the main proposal.

4 Any discussion on the main proposal, Proposal 11-09.

5 Or are we -- the modified proposal is the one that we

6 wanted to put in, right?

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: That's correct, Mr.

9 Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do we need to vote

12 on the main proposal then?

13

14 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. We'll proceed

15 with that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. So therefore

18 any discussion on the main motion. On the main

19 proposal, I'm sorry. Any further discussion.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's

26 called for. Mr. Nick, please call the roll.

27

28 MR. NICK: Mr. Brown.

29

30 MR. BROWN: No.

31

32 MR. NICK: Mr. Charles.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

35

36 MR. NICK: Mr. Oney.

37

38 MR. ONEY: Yes.

39

40 MR. NICK: Mr. Manumik.

41

42 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

43

44 MR. NICK: Mr. Harry Wilde.

45

46 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

47

48 MR. NICK: Mr. Kelly.

49

50 MR. KELLY: Yes.

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Lester Wilde.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Unok.
6
7 MR. UNOK: Yes.
8
9 MR. NICK: Mr. Roczicka.
10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
12
13 MR. NICK: Mr. Andrew.
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
16
17 MR. NICK: Excuse me. Mr. Chair. For
18 main motion I have 8 support, one in opposition, one
19 absent, one excused.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. The
22 proposal passed at modified. Thank you.
23
24 Thank you, Mr. Jenkins, for all the
25 work that you put into this.
26
27 We are now down to Item 13, Fisheries
28 Resource Monitoring Program.
29
30 Before we get into that, if you watched
31 the news last night, we have a big front coming in
32 that's going to be affecting this area, so we're going
33 to try and move this meeting as fast as we can to see
34 if we can get out today. But if we're going to be
35 leaving today, make sure -- if you're leaving today,
36 make sure you get ahold of Alex Nick and let him know
37 that you're leaving so he can take care of all the
38 paperwork that's necessary for our stay here.
39
40 Go ahead, Alex.
41
42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, I stand
43 corrected. There's 9 in favor, one in opposition of
44 the motion. Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
47 Does that show in the record? Thank you.
48
49 Okay. We're down to item 13, Resource
50 Monitoring Program. Mr. Buklis, or is it Mr. Cannon?

1 MR. CANNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Mr. Jenkins I think will join me for this part of it.
3 I work with the fisheries biology portion of the
4 monitoring program, and Dr. Jenkins works with the
5 social science part of it. So we're going to both be
6 up here to answer any questions you might have. Thank
7 you.

8
9 And I'll just provide a quick overview
10 of the monitoring program, and the call for proposals
11 that will occur in November.

12
13 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
14 Program briefing for the Council is found on Pages 176
15 through 181. The monitoring program, as you know, was
16 initiated in 2000. To date the Office of Subsistence
17 Management has funded statewide 322 fisheries
18 monitoring projects statewide. Fifteen of those are
19 ongoing in 2010. 91 projects have been funded to
20 monitor and support management of Yukon River
21 subsistence fisheries, and 75 have been funded for the
22 Kuskokwim River.

23
24 Currently the monitoring program
25 releases a call for proposals every two years. The
26 call for new or continuation of projects beginning 2012
27 will be given in November, this November, following
28 review and comment by the Regional Councils of the
29 information needs presented to you today.

30
31 Projects to through an extensive
32 evaluation process which includes review by and
33 recommendations from an InterAgency Technical Review
34 Committee and the affected Regional Advisory Councils,
35 and following policy and funding guidelines. Proposals
36 and later investigation plans, which are the details
37 are reviewed and a draft final -- or proposed final
38 monitoring plan will be compiled for review by all of
39 the 10 Councils in the fall of 2011. The Federal
40 Subsistence Board will make final funding decisions in
41 January 2012. And then projects that are funded
42 through that call will begin in April of 2012.

43
44 Taking into account commitments for on-
45 going projects and assuming stable Congressional
46 funding, we anticipate approximately \$2.7 available for
47 new projects statewide in 2012.

48
49 The proposed information needs for the
50 Yukon River fisheries are presented on Pages 178 and

1 179, and for the Kuskokwim River on Pages 179 and 180.
2 This draft was developed by the Office of Subsistence
3 Management and the Forest Service Staff, drawing on
4 existing strategic plans and previously identified
5 priorities.

6
7 Nine proposed information needs for the
8 Yukon River subsistence fisheries have been identified.
9 And this is what we will want the Councils to look at
10 the specific recommendations, so they're for your
11 consideration and recommendation. So we would like for
12 you to take an action on them as far as making
13 additional recommendations or agreeing or disagreeing
14 with any of these recommendations by your Council.

15
16 These for the Yukon include the
17 following, and I'll just go through these quickly with
18 you. Number 1, we're looking at a need for reliable
19 estimates of Chinook and chum salmon escapements
20 through weir and sonar projects. That's an on-going
21 need.

22
23 The second one is the effects on salmon
24 stocks and users of fishery management practices
25 implemented to conserve Chinook salmon. For example,
26 gillnet mesh size, gillnet depth and windowed openings.
27 So what are the effects of these management actions as
28 far as do they work as far as conserving Chinook
29 salmon.

30
31 Another is methods for including
32 quality of escapement measures in establishing Chinook
33 salmon spawning goals and determining the reproductive
34 potential of spawning escapements. How can we do a
35 better job of establishing goals, that's what that
36 one's about.

37
38 Another is trends in Yukon River
39 Chinook salmon production relative to other stocks in
40 the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. And this would be
41 looking at not just Yukon, but looking at these changes
42 that we're seeing in our Chinook stocks relative to
43 other stocks in the Bering Sea and other areas of
44 Alaska.

45
46 Another is contemporary economic
47 strategies and practices in the context of our
48 diminished salmon runs on the Yukon. Topics might
49 include an evaluation of barter, sharing and exchange
50 of salmon for cash, as well as other economic

1 strategies and practices that augment and support
2 subsistence activities. Of particular interest are
3 distribution networks, decisionmaking and social and
4 cultural aspects of salmon harvested and used.

5
6 Now, this one is a fairly -- it's a
7 broad topic. David's here to talk to you more about
8 that if you have questions about it, but again I think
9 this is getting at a lot of the same questions that
10 you've been addressing with the customary trade
11 discussions that you've had at this meeting.

12
13 Do you have any more you want to say
14 about that one, David?

15
16 MR. JENKINS: Nothing really to add
17 except to emphasize that these questions here that we
18 see as a priority need, because we don't know the
19 levels of customary trade, we don't know the numbers of
20 fish that are involved are important issues and we
21 would like to see some further research done on these
22 particular topics, and that would then inform your own
23 decisionmaking with some real information rather than
24 the kinds of speculation and rumors that we hear as
25 part of the discourse on this particular issue.

26
27 MR. CANNON: Another is the description
28 and use of gillnets to harvest salmon species by
29 residents of the Yukon River drainage. Just more
30 information about people's use of different gear.

31
32 Another would be location and timing of
33 the Bering cisco spawning populations in the Yukon
34 River drainage. It's an emerging fishery and more
35 information is simply needed about the stocks as well
36 as the fishery itself.

37
38 Another is complete genetic baseline
39 sampling and population marker development for the
40 sheefish spawning populations in the Yukon River
41 drainage.

42
43 And then finally then harvest, use and
44 associated information for whitefish by species in the
45 Lower Yukon River drainage communities.

46
47 Now a number of these last ones have to
48 do with whitefish species, and these specific needs
49 have come out of a strategic plan that's being
50 completed that was done by -- Council members were

1 involved as well as various stakeholders, users and
2 biologists, managers, and social scientists. And that
3 study was being done by the State of Alaska and US Fish
4 and Wildlife Service, and the results have been
5 provided to us as far as some specific needs for the
6 Yukon and Kuskokwim, and they're included in here.

7

8 So that's my brief overview, and I'm
9 going to then open it up for questions for the Council
10 and then your comments.

11

12 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mister?

15

16 MR. CANNON: Cannon.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Cannon. It just
19 slipped my mind.

20

21 MR. CANNON: I understand.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It just went blank.
24 Any questions for Mr. Cannon. Mr. Roczicka.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Rich, you
27 mentioned as far as the RFP opening in November, what's
28 the deadline going to be on that? Do you know yet or
29 has that been determined?

30

31 MR. CANNON: January 12th. Mr.
32 Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. November.

35

36 MR. ROCZICKA: January 12 he said.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: January 12.

39

40 MR. ROCZICKA: And on the subject, I
41 also would to recommend moving -- or including an
42 additional item under the Kuskokwim region priority
43 information needs.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: When we get to it.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: Oh, you're just talking
48 on the Yukon right now?

49

50 MR. CANNON: I want to let you talk

1 about the Yukon first. That was my intent, Mr.
2 Chairman, and then move on to the Kuskokwim. I'm
3 sorry, I should have mentioned that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
6 Cannon. That was my understanding.

7

8 Any further suggestions on the needs
9 for monitoring on the Yukon besides what was suggested.
10 Go ahead, Mr. Elias Kelly.

11

12 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Mr. Cannon, on the Yukon the size of the salmon in
14 general has always been an issue, especially the last
15 several years here. Is there any other indicator
16 species, like, for example, whitefish or cisco or
17 smaller other species that may be used to monitor to
18 help like verify whether nets size has anything to do
19 with the results we are seeing regarding the salmon
20 size, or the other fish size.

21

22 MR. CANNON: Through the Chair to Mr.
23 Kelly. I understand your question. Are you talking
24 about the effects of environment versus genetics that
25 people believe are affecting, are both affecting salmon
26 size, so we'd use like as an experimental species
27 another type of fish to see how that relationship
28 works? Is that what you're asking, Mr. Kelly?

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kelly, go
31 ahead.

32

33 MR. KELLY: Yes. You know, like for
34 example in some environmental areas we do have the
35 indicator species that we monitor all the time. And,
36 you know, it seemed like what we've been seeing on the
37 Lower Yukon is that the size of the whitefish is
38 actually -- like this past summer, I saw some really
39 huge white fish that was kind of unusual for the Yukon.
40 And, you know, I don't know if this is environmental or
41 whether -- you know, as it is, we do not have any net
42 size restrictions for the whitefish, and, you know, do
43 you guys have any plans to look into this or -- I mean,
44 is this.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Cannon.

47

48 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Kelly
49 through the Chair. That has not been discussed
50 specifically. I think that it's a reasonable thing to

1 look at, I mean, because you might learn more about,
2 you know, the effect of environment versus genetics in
3 total by looking at more than just, you know, certainly
4 more than one species of salmon, and you may learn a
5 great deal more by looking at other species as well.
6 So I think that certainly is a -- from a research
7 standpoint, that's a valid question. At some point the
8 specific genetics associated with a species though have
9 to be looked at, you know, for each, because they all
10 are unique. But, yeah, I think that's a reasonable
11 research question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
14 discussion. Questions. Or additions to the Yukon
15 portion of the monitoring program. Ms. Alissa.

16

17 MS. JOSEPH: Hi. I'm Alissa Joseph.
18 And I'm with the Youth for the Yukon-Kuskokwim.

19

20 And there is three of them that had
21 came up. Canadian spawning grounds, co-op with Canada
22 waters to see what is happening on their end, work
23 together with shared information to create a better
24 understanding about the escapements and returning.

25

26 And that was all. Did you get it?

27

28 MR. CANNON: Uh-huh. Thank you.

29

30 MS. JOSEPH: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

33 Mr. Sandone.

34

35 MR. SANDONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Mr. Chair, there's been an interest in harvesting
37 lamprey on the Yukon, and I know that some people do
38 use lamprey as subsistence food, and also being fed to
39 dogs. And we know very little about lamprey on the
40 Yukon. And I suggest that it might become one of the
41 lower priorities on the monitoring system.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

46 Sandone.

47

48 Do you have any remarks on that, Mr.

49 Cannon.

50

1 MR. CANNON: If there's an interest in,
2 a commercial interest in lamprey, then I'm not sure
3 about whether it would be an appropriate type of
4 proposal for our program. If there's an interest with
5 regard to the existing subsistence fisheries as a
6 subsistence stock, then it may be. But again our
7 program focuses basically on subsistence fisheries and
8 species that have a high subsistence use.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Do you
11 have additional comments on that Mr. Sandone?

12

13 MR. SANDONE: Yeah. I brought up the
14 fact that there is a commercial interest, but we don't
15 know a lot about lamprey as a subsistence species, so
16 the baseline information for the lamprey as a
17 subsistence species would be valuable to know. That's
18 what my comment was directed at.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. I
21 notice on the Yukon that that has been a big
22 subsistence type of food at the time that they're
23 coming in, so there's a lot of activity around lampreys
24 still on the Yukon River, and that would be a good
25 suggested research for the monitoring program.

26

27 Anything else. Mr. Nick.

28

29 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
30 the record.

31

32 I thought maybe it would be an
33 appropriate time to provide some information on use of
34 lampreys. Since I was a kid I remember, and there used
35 to be a lot of talk about use of numreyauk (ph) they
36 call it, lampreys, in Yukon River. Ray Oney knows and
37 people from like Pilot Station and Mountain Village on
38 up, they used to use that species to supplement
39 subsistence for the winter. They used the oil for, you
40 know, dipping really dried, dried fish, because, you
41 know, when they don't have any seal oil, they use that
42 for, you know, dipping really dry dried fish, you know.
43 And they also use it for, you know, like dog team. Not
44 only for dog team, they store some of that away for the
45 winter. And it's one of the species that hardly
46 spoils. It remains rather stable throughout a winter,
47 even though it's frozen outdoors, for human
48 consumption.

49

50 I thought that it might be helpful for

1 the Council and for audience and for your folks so
2 that, you know, it will be known that it has been used
3 as a subsistence resource when there are some lampreys
4 in the river from as long as I can remember.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Nick. Any further discussion on monitoring program for
10 the Yukon. Mr. Cannon.

11
12 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I will
13 be bringing this up at a later part of our discussion
14 here about the information needs, but on Page 181 there
15 multi-regional priority information needs. And, Mr.
16 Kelly, if you'd refer to the first bulleted item on
17 Page 181 under the multi-regional priority list,
18 there's one there that deals with changes in
19 subsistence fishery resources in the context of
20 changing climate. And I was wondering, does that get
21 at some of the questions or the concerns that you had
22 raised with your comments?

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kelly.

25
26 MR. KELLY: Mr. Chairman. Actually I
27 was referring to whether any gear changes may be.

28
29 MR. CANNON: Mainly gear?

30
31 MR. KELLY: Yes.

32
33 MR. CANNON: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You got that, Mr.
36 Cannon?

37
38 MR. CANNON: Yes.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Any further
41 requests or suggestions for the monitoring program for
42 the Yukon.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none,
47 let's head to the Kuskokwim.

48
49 MR. CANNON: Thank you for your
50 comments and recommendations regarding the Yukon.

1 And now I'm going to address our
2 conversation to the Kuskokwim. That's found on Page
3 179 and 180, and I'll go through those information
4 needs as I did for the Yukon.

5
6 The first one is providing reliable
7 estimates of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon escapement.
8 This is mainly continuation of the work that you're
9 already doing on the Kuskokwim with the weir projects
10 and some of the other efforts to assess and reconstruct
11 the runs there, the different salmon runs.

12
13 The second one is harvest use and
14 associated contextual information for whitefish species
15 in the Upper Kuskokwim River drainage communities.
16 Particular interest including McGrath, Telida, Nikolai,
17 Takotna, and Lime Village. And that's where there's a
18 particular need for that kind of information based on
19 the strategic plan that was done.

20
21 The next is the traditional ecological
22 knowledge of whitefish by species in the Central
23 Kuskokwim River drainage communities. And these
24 include Upper Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Aniak,
25 Chuathbaluk, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River, and
26 Crooked Creek. The findings from this research would
27 supplement harvest and use information from previous
28 research. And again this came from that strategic plan
29 that was done.

30
31 Harvest use and associated contextual
32 information for whitefish species again for the Lower
33 Kuskokwim River drainage communities. And again some
34 specific communities include Kwethluk, Akiachak,
35 Napaskiak, Tuluksak, Cheforak, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, and
36 Kwigillingok.

37
38 The next is the broad whitefish
39 population assessment, including distribution and age
40 structure. So we need to know a lot more about broad
41 whitefish on the Kuskokwim.

42
43 Location and timing of Bering cisco
44 spawning populations in the Kuskokwim River.

45
46 Complete genetic baseline sampling and
47 population marker development for sheefish spawning in
48 the Kuskokwim River drainage.

49
50 And then, finally, the status of

1 sheefish spawning population in Highpower Creek in the
2 Upper Kuskokwim. And this is to contribute to the
3 genetic baseline.

4

5 So you see a lot of these projects or
6 these needs in the Kuskokwim are being provided by the
7 strategic plan that has recently been completed.

8

9 That concludes the list that the Staff
10 has put together for the Kuskokwim. And now I'll give
11 it back to you, Mr. Chairman, and you can ask some
12 additional questions and make your recommendations.
13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Council. Mr.
16 Roczicka.

17

18 MR. GILLIKIN: Mr. Chair. Rich, I'd
19 like to see what you have as item 2 under the Yukon on
20 the effects on salmon stocks and users of fishery
21 management practices, and you have implemented, but I'd
22 like to see that incorporated on the Kuskokwim. Not
23 necessarily implemented, but just the effects on stocks
24 and users on management practices to conserve Chinook
25 salmon. It's been brought up several times in an on-
26 going topic, you know, at the working group and other
27 places on the possible future that we may be looking at
28 based on what happened on the Yukon for mesh
29 restrictions on the Kuskokwim for some that have
30 similar concerns, you know, or continuing. So I'd like
31 to leave that window open for people to address, and it
32 has been discussed already, and I know of one proposal
33 actually that has been submitted to another source on
34 doing some test fishing with different gillnet sizes
35 and so forth. So just to have that, leave that option
36 there. It's ongoing. Especially in the last couple
37 years where, you know, our -- the Kuskokwim has been
38 pretty good as far as its returns and fairly stable,
39 but the last couple years it's starting to look a
40 little wobbly now. I mean, we're just barely over the
41 threshold this year.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
46 suggestions. Mr. Charles.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 What's contextual information?

50

1 MR. JENKINS: The contextual
2 information that we're looking at really is cultural
3 information. We're trying to understand local cultural
4 concerns and how people think about and interact with
5 different species. So the context really is the
6 context of the local folks and their relationships to
7 the environments and the species and their resources.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did that answer
10 your question, Mr. Charles?

11
12 MR. CHARLES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank
13 you. In that case, these villages listed on there as
14 specific groups, so those people are the users for the
15 whitefish or like Charlie and I were talking about when
16 we go home, we're going to go fish for whitefish. Like
17 me, he wanted to go get some humpbacks, and I want to
18 go get some ciscos, and these people here have to
19 travel to go get their whitefish, like Kongiganak and
20 Kwig, you know, Kipnuk, they come up all the way to go
21 get their -- come get their whitefish. So that means
22 where these people are users, how come they skip us in
23 the middle here?

24
25 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. James, we can
26 certainly add whomever the Council would like to add to
27 this list and not skip anybody.

28
29 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further, other
32 suggestions for the monitoring program for the
33 Kuskokwim.

34
35 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

38
39 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
40 I will give a little bit of information of my own
41 observation on our river, on our local fish.

42
43 Like I know years ago we used to have
44 early freeze-up in the early part of October. They
45 used to harvest lamprey going up in the early part of
46 August -- no, early part of October, like the first,
47 second week. But starting around 1950, there's hardly
48 any harvest of lampreys maybe except further up around
49 Kalskag and further. Kalskag, Aniak, and a little bit
50 around Chuathbaluk. I don't know about Stony. But in

1 the early years they used to harvest them, but lately
2 none.

3
4 And then on the other fresh water fish,
5 were there ever studies done on burbot? But I know
6 they do some on rockhead and humpback whitefish,
7 because we have them all along the bay, and we even
8 have cisco whitefish that goes all the way up to our
9 area up around Kwethluk and some of them spawn up in
10 near the foothills back there on the gravel bars.

11
12 And now the Bering cisco whitefish, I
13 always notice there's about three different subspecies.
14 It's very hard to describe, but the older people can
15 tell the difference.

16
17 When we go after cisco whitefish, in
18 the early years when they used to go after them, they
19 said they use river white traps catching them. Good
20 sized river white traps and they used to catch quite a
21 bit, and they'd share with their whole families and the
22 neighbors. That was way before they were outlawed,
23 that river white traps were outlawed starting around
24 somewhere around 60s or 70s. That's the information I
25 got, because they don't use white traps on our river
26 now, on Kwethluk River.

27
28 But when we do go after those small
29 cisco whitefish, we use herring gear, 3-inch or 3-1/2-
30 inch. And they're very plentiful.

31
32 When I use to go commercial fish for
33 salmon, right about the middle of July, I always notice
34 all kinds of fish on the bottom of the river, but I
35 can't catch them with those 5-inch or 5-1/2 or 5-1/4
36 net. Then one day I tried a small short herring net,
37 set it out. As soon as I set it out, they start
38 hitting like herring. That's how I found it, we all
39 saw the real heavy runs of cisco whitefish. And you
40 cannot keep your net out no more than three, four
41 hours. It will sink. You have to set a very short net
42 and you have to clean it out in the morning, noon,
43 evening, and you have to do that a fourth time.
44 Otherwise you pull it out and they are so small, and
45 then after they hit our area at the time when the
46 water's warm, and they spoil real easy. If you don't
47 process right away, they'll spoil.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Point of order.
50 We're discussing monitoring programs.

1 MR. ANDREW: It's fisheries.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, monitoring
4 programs on the Kuskokwim.

5

6 MR. ANDREW: That's the point I was
7 trying to come to. We need some kind of monitoring
8 program or studies done on these freshwater fish.
9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
12 Any other suggestions for the monitoring programs for
13 the Kuskokwim. Mr. Brown.

14

15 MR. BROWN: Is the monitor survey this
16 year different from previous years, because we have a
17 lot of water this year, this fall. What's the
18 difference from low water to high water? Peak water.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did you understand
21 that, Mr. Cannon?

22

23 MR. CANNON: I'll try to answer the
24 question, Mr Chairman.

25

26 Mr. Brown, the monitoring program does
27 change over time as priorities change. But
28 particularly for the Kuskokwim, there's been a lot of
29 work on building a set of projects that can be used in
30 the long term, so they don't change too much year to
31 year. But we reassess every year to see if what's --
32 every time that there's a call, to see if what is being
33 done seems to be working. And that's the kind of
34 information and the kind of discussion we want to have
35 with the Councils about the monitoring program. Are we
36 really focusing on the really important needs and is
37 what we're doing now seem to be giving us the
38 information that we need to manage the fishery. And we
39 try to balance those things. So it changes a little
40 bit over time, but there's also -- you know, if what's
41 working, if what we're doing is working, then we try to
42 keep with that. We don't try to make too many changes.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown.

47

48 MR. BROWN: Because I have experience
49 up on cisco, that we have a bit tidal water. After the
50 storm, we have more cisco coming in after the storm.

1 That's why we have plenty of cisco. They just go in
2 incoming tide in our fishing ground. And then when the
3 water's going out, they're caught. And then when we
4 want to go for next fishing, we had to wait for another
5 incoming tide.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
8 suggestions on the monitoring program for Kuskokwim.
9 I'm sorry, fish information needs. On Fish and
10 Wildlife, Mr. Dan Gillikin.

11

12 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
13 Council members. I would like to ask the Council to
14 consider recommending bullet item number 3 under the
15 Yukon, looking at quality of escapement to also be
16 included in the Kuskokwim information needs. The
17 reason behind that is that we have going a seven-year
18 data set on the Kwethluk River through our SRON
19 project, looking at exactly the environmental variables
20 that do influence quality of juvenile rearing habitat
21 in these salmon streams, and so that is probably our
22 best and strongest data set to start that kind of an
23 evaluation, and we could also apply that to the salmon
24 tributaries of the Yukon.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. You got
29 that, Mr. Cannon.

30

31 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. I did
32 understand Dan's recommendation, and I simply need to
33 hear from the Council about what you would recommend
34 given his suggestion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Council. Mr.
37 Roczicka.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman. Yeah, I'd certainly endorse making that
41 recommendation for including in the needs.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

44

45 Any other information needs that we
46 need on the Kuskokwim for the monitoring program.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have

1 anything else, Mr. Cannon.

2

3 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
4 final set of information needs, again I'll refer back
5 to Page 181. And on that, the final type of need are
6 those that affect more than one region. They're multi-
7 regional. And if you look on the bottom of Page 181,
8 you'll see three additional needs that we've
9 identified. And so I'm going to go through those three
10 with you and ask for your recommendation and discussion
11 on those as well.

12

13 The first is the changes in subsistence
14 fishery resources and uses in the context of climate
15 change where relevant, including, but not limited to,
16 fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing locations,
17 harvest methods and means and methods of preservation.
18 And including management implications.

19

20 The second is an indexing method for
21 estimating species-specific whitefish harvest on an
22 annual basis for the Kuskokwim and Yukon drainages.
23 Researchers should explore and evaluate an approach
24 where subregional clusters of community harvest can be
25 evaluated for regular surveying with results being
26 extrapolated to the rest of the cluster, contributing
27 to drainagewide harvest estimates. And that's trying
28 to get at a way of sampling to give us accurate,
29 reliable estimates of harvest for whitefish species in
30 these two drainages.

31

32 And the last information need is an
33 evaluation of conversion factors used to estimate
34 edible pounds from individual fish and from other units
35 such as tubs, sacks or buckets when making subsistence
36 harvest -- putting together subsistence harvest data.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
41 Cannon. Is everybody in agreement that these needs as
42 mentioned by Mr. -- are we in agreement with Mr. Cannon
43 on the needs of the Yukon and Kuskokwim. Can we get
44 that in the form of a motion to adopt the priority
45 needs for study on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim as read
46 or as suggested. Mr. Roczicka.

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. And I would
49 move and ask unanimous consent to endorse the
50 recommendation for the priority information needs as

1 we've discussed during this recent presentation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Motion's
4 been made. Do I hear a second to the motion.

5

6 MR. ONEY: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
9 Oney. Any objections. Any objection.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none,
14 so ordered. Unanimous consent for those.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Cannon.

17

18 At this time we're going to take a
19 break to have the next presenter set up. We haven't
20 taken a 15-minute break for a while. Let's take a 15-
21 minute break.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to item
28 14, other fisheries presentation, survival of Kuskokwim
29 River Chinook salmon. Kay Larson Blair. And the other
30 presentation, Alaska Native Science and Engineering
31 Program will be presented by Alissa Joseph.

32

33 So, Ms. Blair, you have the floor.

34

35 MS. BLAIR: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 Council members for allowing me to present my graduate
37 research project from the University of Alaska
38 Fairbanks. My project was investigating the survival of
39 Kuskokwim River Chinook salmon by incorporating
40 environmental variables, predators and competitors.

41

42 So first I'd like to tell you a little
43 bit about me and where I'm from. My name is Kay Larson
44 Blair and I'm from Dillingham, Alaska. And I grew up
45 subsistence fishing, hunting, and berry picking with my
46 family. I have worked with the US Fish and Wildlife
47 Service since 2005, and I'm earning my master's in
48 fisheries right now. And as a hobby I do traditional
49 mask carving, and I hope to learn how to speak Yup'ik
50 so I can work with my people a lot easier.

1 So from 1997 to 2002 there were low
2 adult returns of Kuskokwim Chinook salmon. Because
3 parent year abundance was not low, it is not believed
4 to be a factor in the decline. The purpose of this
5 study was to investigate the spawner/recruit
6 relationship or survival of Kuskokwim River Chinook
7 salmon with the incorporation of environmental
8 variables, predators and competitors.

9
10 In this system Chinook salmon are
11 harvested primarily for subsistence purposes and
12 account for an average harvest of 78,000 fish. In the
13 late 1800s a commercial fishery was opened and remained
14 operational until 1987 when it was closed due to low
15 returns. In 2007 the Alaska Department of Fish and
16 Game changed regulations to allow for a directed
17 harvest of up to 50,000 Chinook salmon.

18
19 Management of Chinook salmon in the
20 Kuskokwim River is difficult because of their
21 complicated life history, differences in return by age
22 class and the vast size of the drainage. An annual
23 escapement is monitored through a series of weirs,
24 aerial surveys and a drift gillnet fishery.

25
26 The data we used for this study came
27 from the Kuskokwim River run reconstruction developed
28 by Brian Bue and Doug Mulleneaux at the Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game. The data set extends a
30 total of 26 years from 1976 to 2002 with an average
31 annual run of 200 to 300,000 Chinook salmon. The
32 annual run is dominated by age classes 4, 5 and 6-year
33 olds Chinook salmon.

34
35 The variables that I selected reflect
36 conditions during those life history stages that
37 potentially affect survival of Chinook salmon. We
38 examined both fresh water and marine variables. Fresh
39 water variables that were selected include McGrath
40 winter air temperature and McGrath summer air
41 temperature, because they affect the growth of Chinook
42 salmon and food availability. Kuskokwim River District
43 was selected and was measured at Crooked Creek to help
44 determine the out-migration of smolts into the Bering
45 Sea.

46
47 There were a total of seven variables
48 that were selected to represent conditions in the
49 Bering Sea. During their first year at sea, there is a
50 high mortality rate, so variables were selected during

1 the first year. The variables measured for marine
2 environment include Siberian/Alaskan index, winter wind
3 stress, summer wind stress, Arctic oscillation which
4 represented conditions in the Bering Sea.

5
6 Other variables included Bristol Bay
7 sockeye, Asian chum and Asian pink salmon, because they
8 are in such a high abundance that they are direct
9 competitors and both indirect competitors with
10 Kuskokwim Chinook salmon food availability.

11
12 For the univariable (ph) analysis,
13 there were a total of 11 variables that came back that
14 were investigated. Only four of the variables came
15 back statistically significant, meaning that they
16 affect survival of Chinook salmon. These included
17 Asian pink salmon, Bristol Bay sockeye, winter wind
18 stress, and Siberian/Alaskan index. There were no
19 freshwater variables that came back and shown to affect
20 survival during the freshwater life stage.

21
22 There were a total of 16 models that I
23 had examined. The model that included Asian pink
24 salmon was found to be the best fit model. And of the
25 other 15 candidate models, only five models shown
26 substantial support and fit the data nearly as well.
27 These models had the variables Asian pink salmon,
28 Bristol Bay sockeye, winter wind stress and
29 Siberian/Alaskan index. All other models were
30 considered less possible and discarded. All six of the
31 final models that I examined explained about roughly 72
32 to 73 percent of the variability seen in the recruits
33 per spawner, or the survival of Kuskokwim River Chinook
34 salmon.

35
36 With the inclusion of environmental
37 variables and competitors, we were able to increase the
38 predictive capability and accuracy of our model. One
39 of the largest limiting factors in this study was the
40 small amount of freshwater variables that had complete
41 data sets or which actually existed.

42
43 Some future research needs that have
44 been identified include gathering local indigenous
45 knowledge which has been passed on through many
46 generations. It would be helpful to gather this
47 information for future reference because you have
48 knowledge on how salmon interact with their environment
49 and the animals around them, and it has been passed on
50 for hundreds of years.

1 And another one was to examine Western
2 Alaskan salmon stocks similarities. I had talked with
3 other statisticians and biologists and it appears that
4 Nushagak River Chinook may have similar patterns in
5 survival to Kuskokwim River Chinook, which may indicate
6 that there's something occurring in the Bering Sea
7 that's affecting all these salmon stocks.

8
9 Quyana. And if there are any questions
10 or suggestions for future research.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ms.
13 Blair. Questions. Mr. Roczicka.

14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: I had a couple. Thanks
16 for your presentation here and for a little more in
17 depth. I'm curious, in your discussion there you
18 mentioned on the freshwater variables that you have two
19 years of data missing. What does that pertain to?

20
21 MS. BLAIR: Well, after salmon spawn
22 they spend their first year as eggs in the gravel, and
23 then the next year they grow to become smolt. So
24 there's two years when they're actually in fresh water.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: And the other was you
27 mentioned the winter wind stress. I've been around for
28 quite a while, that's the first time I've heard that
29 term. Explain what winter wind stress is to me.

30
31 MS. BLAIR: Winter wind stress measures
32 the winds in the Bering Sea, which help with upwelling
33 and nutrient mixing and help with primary productivity
34 in the Bering Sea. So if there's a lot of nutrient
35 upwelling, then the phytoplankton blooms can be
36 continuous and help support the food abundance for the
37 salmon in there.

38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Uh-huh. Yeah, I'm
40 familiar with the upwelling, and I didn't -- that is
41 more related to the water temperatures, and, of course,
42 brings in the whole climate change/global warming
43 aspect. But I hadn't seen the winter wind aspect of it
44 before.

45
46 I guess just one other comment I've got
47 to make, being as I'm a word jockey by trade, and
48 something to make you aware in the future, but also
49 under your history you mention about the commercial
50 fishery being re-opened in 2007 on the Kuskokwim. It's

1 never been opened. It was re-authorized, but the
2 Department has never re-opened it, actually had an open
3 directed king opening, and we don't anticipate one as
4 the Kuskokwim is pretty much considered to totally
5 utilize the harvestable surplus for subsistence on the
6 Kuskokwim. It's an incidental take.

7

8 MS. BLAIR: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other
11 questions. Mr. Charles.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 How about king salmon when they come
16 back? There has been -- when we meet at working group
17 meetings, they tell us that the first runs are getting
18 smaller on Kuskokwim. Is that because of the food? Or
19 I thought the global warming would make them -- when
20 they're warmer out there in the ocean, I thought they'd
21 get bigger, but now they're smaller. And people are,
22 like I said yesterday, using smaller gear to catch more
23 kings than they used to a long time ago. Why is that
24 to your knowledge? What makes them smaller?

25

26 MS. BLAIR: Well, I can't say
27 definitively what would make them smaller, but just
28 from the research that I had done, if you have warmer
29 weather in the Bering Sea, there's less ice production,
30 and when you have a lot of ice in the Bering Sea and it
31 starts melting, you have this influx of fresh water,
32 and so it causes a stratification in the water between
33 the really salty water and the fresh water and it helps
34 with the upwelling, and the nutrient input.

35

36 There's been studies that have been
37 done that show when there's not much ice in the Bering
38 Sea that most of the food ends up going and supporting
39 the lower bottom benthic habitat. And when you have
40 more ice production, then it helps the pelagic.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sandone, you
45 have a question?

46

47 MR. SANDONE: Yes, I believe previous
48 research indicated the relationship between Bristol Bay
49 sockeye and Asian pinks. Did you take that.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sandone, could
2 you come to the mic, please.

3
4 MR. SANDONE: Yeah. Gene Sandone,
5 Kwik'pak fisheries.

6
7 I believe there's been previous
8 research connecting Bristol Bay salmon with Asian
9 pinks. Did you take that into consideration in your
10 thesis?

11
12 MS. BLAIR: Yes, I did. One of my
13 major -- not my major person, one of my committee
14 members was Bill Lotkinson (ph), and he worked a lot
15 with that. And that's why I ended up pulling those
16 variables is because in Russia and Japan they do a lot
17 of the, oh, what's it called? Where they grow the fish
18 and then release them. And they have such high numbers
19 that a lot of people are worried about them out
20 competing the natural fish populations. So that's why
21 I looked into it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sandone, go
24 ahead.

25
26 MR. SANDONE: Yeah, one more question.
27 What about Asian chums?

28
29 MS. BLAIR: I looked at that also, but
30 it did not come back significant.

31
32 MR. SANDONE: Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
35 questions. Mr. Brown.

36
37 MR. BROWN: Did you guys research on
38 the hatchery mix salmon with the wild?

39
40 MS. BLAIR: I didn't do a lot of data
41 collection with any of that. Most of my data was
42 already been done, and I went through and looked for
43 all the pieces. But the Asian chum and pink salmon,
44 most of them are actually hatchery fish, so I
45 incorporated that part with it. Just their numbers.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
48 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: To follow up a little

1 bit on that, are we still looking at a billion,
2 approximately a billion fry being released by the Asian
3 hatcheries for all their stocks running out there
4 annually?

5
6 MS. BLAIR: Yeah, they have an
7 extremely, extremely large number. A lot of the
8 Japanese and Russian and part of the US are looking at
9 possibly putting a number into how much the Bering --
10 how much fish the Bering Sea can support, because the
11 Japanese are releasing so many fish. It's pretty --
12 extremely high. I couldn't believe the numbers when I
13 saw them. It's up there.

14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: Do you have a total off
16 hand?

17
18 MS. BLAIR: Sorry. In the handout I
19 gave you I have a list of the variables. And because
20 the numbers were so large, I went through and I divided
21 them by a million fish, depending on which stock it
22 was, whether it was pink salmon or Bristol Bay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Greg?

25
26 Any further questions. Mr. Kelly.

27
28 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Kay. That was a
29 very good presentation. You know, as part of your
30 research in the Bering Seas, it is a huge cesspool of
31 species of salmon. Do you have any information of the
32 probability of Asian stocks entering any Alaskan waters
33 or do you have anything on that?

34
35 MS. BLAIR: No, don't have anything on
36 that, but salmon do occasionally stray. I'm not sure
37 if the Asian salmon would come over here, but I know
38 they're straying within local areas. But I can look to
39 see some of the research sites and see if there's
40 anything on that and try to pass it to you if I find
41 anything.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that it, Mr.
44 Kelly?

45
46 Any further questions.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ms.

1 Blair.

2

3 MS. BLAIR: Mr. Chair. I would like to
4 introduce Alissa Joseph, because I work with the Alaska
5 Native Science and Engineering Program. And I gave you
6 guys a handout on the Alaska Native Science and
7 Engineering Program in case you guys have any local
8 interest with the students. And if I could just talk
9 for two seconds about the program?

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.

12

13 MS. BLAIR: The Alaska Native Science
14 and Engineering Program works with sixth graders all
15 the way through college in a degree in a stem area,
16 which includes science, technology, engineering and
17 mathematics. And I'm there to help recruit and retain
18 students in the biology field, whether it's fisheries,
19 medical, or wildlife. So if you guys have any
20 questions or if you know of anybody interested, any
21 young kids in your area, you can have them contact us
22 and we can try to work with them to help them through
23 college and high school.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you give us
26 an address or a number or something to -- or is it on
27 the information that you've given us?

28

29 MS. BLAIR: It might be on the back of
30 there. And I can give you guys my phone number.
31 They're actually putting me up on the website this
32 week. I haven't bene up there, yet, so my contact
33 information will be on that. But it -- I think it's
34 www.ansep.net.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Everybody got that
37 that's interested?

38

39 Anything else?

40

41 MS. BLAIR: That was all.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Alissa.
44 Ms. Joseph.

45

46 MS. JOSEPH: Can you turn the lights
47 off? Can everyone see okay?

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you able to
50 focus that a little bit, Alissa?

1 MS. JOSEPH: Yeah, I could.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's good.

4 Thanks.

5

6 MS. JOSEPH: Okey-dokey. Okay. So my
7 name is Alissa Joseph. I work with ONC for the in-
8 season subsistence program surveying also, and I'm a
9 fisheries college intern with ONC. And what I'm about
10 to present to you today is the things that I have done,
11 what I have learned, and my studies that I have done
12 while I was out working in the field in all these
13 fisheries projects.

14

15 Here is -- all the places that are
16 spotted red are all the places that I have lived, and
17 all the yellow places with the yellow dots are places
18 that I have been for staying of three months. One to
19 three months, or places that I have been numerously
20 growing up throughout the years. And all the yellow-
21 shaded spots are all the places I have been within
22 Alaska doing different studies about fisheries, or
23 gaining information from the people based on fisheries
24 of my own interests.

25

26 And the places I consider home are
27 Alakanuk, Hooper Bay and Bethel, because my
28 grandparents are originally from Alakanuk on my mom's
29 side, Hooper Bay on my dad's side, and I went to school
30 here in Bethel. But my own places or home are out
31 there. And I grew up all around the villages.

32

33 So I'm very into my subsistence as you
34 can see. I went from fishing to hunting, growing up as
35 a little girl learning all the things I know about
36 fishing and subsistence.

37

38 Those are my parents, Marty and Allen,
39 Marty Hanson and Allen Joseph. And we've gone through
40 all kinds of subsistence needs and trials and
41 tribulations that everyone has focused on trying to
42 make better with communication of upper and lower
43 villages along with getting to understand that science
44 and tribal communications so that everyone can
45 understand what everyone is going through.

46

47 I am getting my degree in civil
48 engineering, mastering on to environmental engineering
49 with minors in fisheries management and environmental
50 science.

1 These are the places that I have worked
2 so far within the Kuskokwim River for the co-op
3 projects. All the place in yellow are all the places
4 I've been to this year. And the one in the green is
5 the place that I went to last years. If you look down
6 at the bottom of the lower left side, again those are
7 all the places that I have lived, so you can see a
8 pretty -- yeah.

9
10 And my first place we're going to talk
11 about is starting from 2009 when I started with ONC's
12 fisheries college as an intern. So this is our camp
13 site over at the Kalskag fishwheel, and this is the
14 main office that we worked at. Here we did mark and
15 recapture where we took ASL, length, sex, and we also
16 tagged them as you can see up on the top right corner.

17
18 We also did radio telemetry on coho
19 fish where this radio tag is inserted into the fish
20 through the mouth as you can see on the left side. And
21 either/or, female and male, we both tagged them
22 depending on certain sizes, length, and they had to
23 meet certain criteria to be radio tagged.

24
25 For this year, 2010, the in-season
26 subsistence survey is what I did. And from the star
27 all the way to the top of where Gweek all the way to
28 the middle where Bethel was considered within a day's
29 worth of work. And all the way down from middle, that
30 red line, all the way down to Napaskiak was another
31 day's. But there's sometimes we went all the way from
32 -- all the way down to the bottom all the way up
33 surveying fish camps all along across these. We had
34 Gweek, Steamboat, Church Slough, Straight Slough,
35 Napaskiak, through Oscarville, and all the fish camps
36 along the main river, going all the way up to Gweek.
37 And it was all brought to you by Justin and me this
38 year, where we interviewed and got about 30 -- was it
39 36? I can't -- 36, 38 new fish camps this year,
40 because everyone has been moving their fish camps this
41 year.

42
43 And this is a form that we use when
44 we're interviewing our fish camps. We have the name,
45 first name, last name, community, fish camp location,
46 how many people are supported by this fish camp, when
47 they started fishing, where their main primary fishing
48 areas are, and what their harvest goals are for king,
49 chum and sockeye. Usually they don't really know what
50 their main goals are for king, chum, and sockeye. They

1 usually just run off a rough number. Like my family,
2 where they say, you know, we're only going to catch 75
3 fish total of all species this year, or 50 to meet a
4 five-gallon bucket to make a snack (ph).

5
6 And so we also get the net gear, if
7 they're drifting or setnet, if it's six or more mesh,
8 if it's both, if they're rod and reeling for fish.

9
10 Or also if we have -- we ask them
11 questions if this year was any better. Was it an okay
12 run, poor run, good run. And usually people have -- if
13 you talk to them nicely and you approach them very
14 appropriately with respect, they will tell you some
15 things. But sometimes they're a little -- not really
16 wanting to talk at all, so we try to meet them around
17 times when they're not so busy with their fish or
18 they're really busy cutting fish at the time.

19
20 And all comments that we have that we
21 talked to, we all jot them down, write them, and
22 initial who said who, where, when.

23
24 And some of the people that we were
25 able to talk to, we were able to get their permission
26 to take pictures of them and their fish. So that was
27 pretty neat.

28
29 So we're moving on to Kisaralik. This
30 is a synoptic float trip that I took from the Kisaralik
31 Lake all the way down to about two and a half hours of
32 a boat ride up into the Kisaralik River. And as you
33 can see, it's right there, that stream, so you have it.

34
35
36 Okay. And on this synoptic float trip
37 we had many adventures, and this is more of the fun
38 part. It was probably one of the funnest ones I've
39 ever been on.

40
41 And first we're going to talk about
42 juvenile salmon habitat and ecology, which was the main
43 focus and study that I figured that was more important
44 of it. First we com to hydrology, which is important
45 about knowing, because if you have salmon that are in
46 the streams and they're juveniles, growing from the
47 rocks, if you have a small snowfall like we did last
48 year, a lot of the salmon juvenile are going to be
49 popping out really late within the year. And mainly
50 when they pop out late, then they're not going to go

1 directly into the ocean and come back. They're going
2 to be staying within the region or going to a
3 population where the habitat is more viable for them to
4 be released into the ocean next year.

5
6 Here we did some flow track data. We
7 did water metrics, velocity, chemistry, temperature,
8 conductivity, pH levels, and oxygen levels.

9
10 And then we move on to ecology. Here's
11 one of my favorite ones where we did benthos. It's
12 where we have -- it's called who's going to be the tiny
13 dancer. So you put on these long gloves that are the
14 gloves that you can see right there. They go all the
15 way to your arms. When I first put them on, I didn't
16 know what I was doing. I thought I was going to be
17 operating surgery or something.

18
19 So the process goes you go into that
20 little box and then you shift through there, get all
21 the bugs into a bucket and then you start to pick. And
22 then by this time we're singing Peter Piper Picked a
23 Peck of Pickled Peppers to see who could pick the
24 fastest within 20 minutes. And we collect macro
25 invertebrate, which some of you may commonly more know
26 as stone flies, may flies, and caddis flies. Those are
27 the main ones that most populate the Kisaralik.

28
29 And for stone flies, Zack was doing his
30 research on stone flies since there isn't very much
31 information about it.

32
33 Then we go on to electrofishing. I've
34 never really done electrofishing until this year. I'd
35 heard about it at the American Fisheries Society
36 meeting and I was interested until we actually got to
37 do it when I go there.

38
39 So if you can sort of kind of see in
40 this picture, there's a whole bunch of juvenile salmon
41 in the water right now. It's kind of blurry. I tried
42 to focus it as much as possible. And so what happens
43 for electrofishing is you would have the electrofisher,
44 which is that round piece. And you would have two
45 people on nets. So two people would be fishing. And
46 what the electrofisher does, you put the electrofisher
47 in the water. It shocks within a certain amount of
48 range of probably about this far within the range, and
49 whatever fish are within that range would get stunned
50 for about a couple seconds, and you try to fish them up

1 with the dipnets and you'd come out just finding these,
2 like how much we have here.

3
4 Mainly on the Kisaralik we had Dolly
5 Vardens, some coho, maybe one, two Chinook we came
6 across, and a lot of sculpin. And we put them into
7 these buckets here where we had -- you could see how
8 some of them are -- the really big ones are Dolly
9 Varden. We take the length, weight, and would also
10 dissect the fish according to what Zack preferred, so
11 like five Dolly Varden, five sculpin were the main ones
12 that we did.

13
14 And vegetation was very important to
15 knowing exactly what was being put into these stream
16 books. We did stream books, which was -- we did stream
17 books, peripheral ponds, the main river and also the
18 borders of the lake where we had first camp at the
19 Kisaralik Lake itself. We took vegetation length and
20 samples of all the species that were around that area.
21 And I chased little birds.

22
23 Being on this trip kind of made you a
24 little crazy and forget your shoes. And this trip was
25 brought to you by Zack who took us out there, and
26 Jessie, Dara, and Dustin who was the one who had one
27 shoe on and one shoe off. And his name suited him very
28 well, too.

29
30 And this was my house. By the end of
31 our trip, everything smelled like mold, and there was
32 actually a forest growing on the bottom of my tent by
33 the time we came back.

34
35 Then we go on to the Kwethluk Science
36 Camp, which was a lot of fun, where we have a whole
37 bunch of kids that are within the YK Delta. Some of
38 your kids may have gone to it or not, but I really
39 encourage a lot of kids who are interested in being in
40 the outdoors, especially ones who are raised out in the
41 Yuthluk (ph) and being around their families and
42 stuff, to really go into this, because it's a really
43 eye-opener to see why science is important, why these
44 research projects are important, and why it's very,
45 very knowledgeable for them to know exactly what's
46 going on with their subsistence food, and how things
47 are being taken care of

48
49 So there in the blue line you could see
50 where the Kwethluk River is. They're a bunch of cool

1 kids, too.

2

3 First they got to learn about was the
4 impact of beaver ponds. Beaver ponds is very important
5 when it comes to juvenile salmon habitat.

6

7 They got to build their own, where they
8 weirs? Minnow traps. The minnow traps. And as you
9 see on the bottom left corner -- or right corner, I
10 apologize, the bottom right corner is where they got to
11 build their own traps, and they got to release them,
12 bring them back within an hour of time. They got to
13 take the length measurements, do all the scientific
14 things, but not into detail, just right off the top of
15 the brush where they got to be able to learn about
16 these things.

17

18 They watched Rachel do elastimer (ph)
19 tagging, radio tagging, tagging of the tails and taking
20 genetics and all that stuff.

21

22 Then they did their own little
23 electrofishing, which this one was really lots of fun
24 for a lot of the kids who like to go like black fishing
25 and getting fish for bait. So that's what they
26 referred this one to.

27

28 And then they also got to go fly
29 fishing and honky tossing, which was also lessons that
30 we did. Honky toss is rod and reeling. That's another
31 word I learned out there.

32

33 We had some pretty good champions up
34 here. If you can see, right in the middle, that's the
35 grayling that we had that measured out to be the
36 biggest one caught there, and long with the one where
37 my sister's holding one, a rainbow, is a pretty big
38 one.

39

40 And then we got to learn hydrology
41 where they also got to be able to do snorkel surveys,
42 which a lot of the kids had a lot of fun with that. It
43 was like a big interest in that. They got to see fish
44 at their natural habitat and survey them and be able to
45 identify which ones they were, floating down.

46

47 And then they also did water metrics,
48 learned velocity, and got to learn velocity of swimming
49 in really cold water. They said it was warm, but I
50 didn't believe them.

1 And they also got to learn about macro
2 invertebrates. They were able to do benthos all by
3 themselves. Take three different water levels from the
4 surface, the middle and the bottom, to take all the
5 different types of insects that are inside that
6 juvenile salmon eat. And they got to take them and
7 look into them underneath a microscope and be able to
8 identify them, so when they're out on their own, they
9 are able to identify these bugs and remember exactly
10 like the specifics of them.

11
12 Then on our last day we got to Elbow
13 Mountain climbing, which was pretty cool. It took us
14 like all day to get -- or not all day, but a couple
15 hours to get up and half that time to get down. Some
16 of these kids were -- it was the first time they ever
17 got to be able to climb a mountain, so it was a really
18 good experience for them.

19
20 Moose telemetry. Having beaver habitat
21 and moose telemetry is very interesting, because when
22 you have beaver ponds and beavers that reside within
23 the area, there's a type of food that moose eat are on
24 brushes. And what beavers do is they take that kind of
25 a toxin out of the type of trees that moose are mostly
26 likely to eat, and so they are able to continue eating
27 that as they progress along. And by radio tagging,
28 they were able to learn specifically where these -- the
29 moose is in different areas. And so these are the --
30 this is one side of the mountain, and here's the other
31 side. It's kind of like a panoramic portion.

32
33 And then after that I got to go to the
34 George River weir, which I call the fish heaven gates,
35 because there's no going in, no going out without
36 opening the gates. And here as you can see, there's
37 the two columns are where boats go in and out, and what
38 -- that little box right there is where the gates are
39 opening for a fish to go in and out.

40
41 One hour you sit there and count fish
42 in this little box. And here's my office. That was
43 where a total hour sitting, you've got to make sure
44 you've got the junk food and the water and the bug
45 spray and gloves. And that little gray thing with the
46 red buttons has names and stuff, and for every fish
47 that passes through, as you can see right here, here's
48 a sockeye coming through, you'd go to the sockeye
49 button, push sockeye, and then if you see a coho coming
50 through, and this is what a coho looks like, you push

1 coho. And you just do that for a whole hour.

2

3 And then we also do record and release
4 where we took the length, age, and took scale samples
5 and released them back on the other side of the box.
6 So we'd get about 80 fish into this tiny little box,
7 dip them up with a net, put them in the net. Take one
8 out, put it into the length, where it has like a little
9 cradle. And you take the length of the fish, take him
10 out, take the scale samples, give him to Tracy, and
11 Tracy would examine them, make sure they're good enough
12 for reading and processing for taking the age of the
13 fish.

14

15 And then for the other hour, we would
16 clean weir, which I thought was really scary, because I
17 thought those things right there were like sticks, like
18 bamboo sticks, those brown things that stick out like
19 that, but they're actually plastic tubes, so they won't
20 break if you step on them.

21

22 And then I was weathered in into
23 Crooked Creek and I was supposed to be flying into
24 Anchorage the next day, and I didn't have a
25 presentation ready or anything ready for the OSM
26 meeting. And I got stuck in Crooked Creek, so a pilot
27 was able to come get me there, and then I got to Aniak,
28 and they said I was going to be stuck in Aniak and I
29 was supposed to fly out that next morning to Anchorage.
30 So it was pretty cool that they had one of Hageland's,
31 Brett, flew all the way to Aniak to pick me up and
32 bring me back here, so I thought that was pretty neat.
33 Thanks, Hageland.

34

35 And also this summer I got to do
36 commercial ASL, where we took the length, the age for
37 the scales -- or scales for the age, and we also did
38 genetic samples and verification of sex. I was at two
39 of these this year, and it was lots of fun. It's
40 something I wanted to do, because I've heard so much
41 about it, and I finally was able to do it and
42 experience it first hand. And then also the commercial
43 standings at that time were chum, sockeye and kings.

44

45 So what, where and how does all this
46 information get processed? Well, down at the bottom
47 they start off as projects out in the field where you
48 gather the raw data. Then you put it into a data base
49 system which becomes information, and then it's
50 reported to you guys for discussion and other people

1 such as the Kuskokwim Salmon Subsistence Management
2 meeting that we had, and I try to attend to most of
3 them or all of them if I could if I was in town. And
4 then also the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council
5 meetings where -- and then it gets processed also down
6 to the Federal Subsistence Board, Board of Fisheries,
7 Board of Game, and also to the community and public for
8 their information.

9

10 And I want to thank Dan and Sharon for
11 the Kwethluk Science Camp and Kisaralik synoptic float,
12 and to Zack and the Kalskag fishwheel team, Zack and
13 Kevin, George weir for Tracy and Glenn. And I want to
14 thank all the people that I couldn't get pictures of,
15 which are all of the following.

16

17 Any questions, comments, concerns. Did
18 I make anybody fall asleep?

19

20 (Applause)

21

22 MS. JOSEPH: Oh, yeah, and a big, big
23 thanks to Eva Patton, Greg Roczicka, and my grandpa who
24 opened the big doors for me to come into knowing my
25 subsistence and allowing me to know that my college, my
26 education, my people, my subsistence are very, very
27 important, along with communication between everyone
28 and that everyone doesn't fight for anything regarding
29 if it's food or personal issues. And that's why I'm
30 here is because he helped me understand a lot of things
31 about my subsistence and my background and being on the
32 board of learning the boards and RAC meetings.

33

34 And thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Can I have the
37 lights back on. Excuse me. Thank you, Alissa.

38

39 Any questions for Alissa. Alissa,
40 you've got a question here. James. Mr. Charles.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Alissa, how does sculpin get up to Kisaralik?

44

45 MS. JOSEPH: They live there year
46 around. Sculpin are like those little -- you know what
47 those are? They look like little devil fish, and I was
48 asking Zack, I was like, are these baby devil fish?
49 And he goes, no, they're actually their own little
50 species. Devil fish live up there year round and they

1 go into the ground during wintertime. Well, as I know,
2 they go into the ground, into the mud and they stay
3 around in that area and then they just reappear during
4 spring time.

5
6 MR. CHARLES: So they're not from the
7 ocean, they grew up up there?

8
9 MS. JOSEPH: No. Yeah, they grow up
10 there and they stay up there. Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other
13 questions. Mr. Manumik.

14
15 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 Alissa, in the Kisaralik River you have
18 sockeyes spawning up in there and juveniles?

19
20 MS. JOSEPH: Oh, yes. Yeah, we have --
21 on our way down, I counted -- I was doing my own little
22 side project where I was counting the different types
23 of species of fish that I came across, and along with
24 how many I caught -- or not caught, but seen doing
25 down, like we'd pass over them, they go underneath us
26 or when we went to stream, brooks or when we went
27 alongside a certain bank, and there would be like a
28 pool of them there. I'd count how many. And it's
29 pretty easy to figure out which fish is which, because
30 they're all colored and they're easy to pinpoint which
31 ones are which.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Manumik,
34 does that answer your question?

35
36 Any further questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you two young
41 ladies for your presentation, and we hope to see you as
42 one of our Staff in the future.

43
44 (Applause)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are now down to
47 item 15, subsistence wildlife issues. Item A,
48 Kuskokwim moose hunt update, State/Federal Staff.

49
50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I believe

1 there's one more presenter from Fish and Game.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, I didn't know
4 that.
5
6 MR. NICK: It's Seth and -- are you
7 going to give your presentation? Up to you, Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What reporting is
10 that for, Mr. Nick.
11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Subsistence Division
13 guy.
14
15 MR. NICK: Subsistence Division from
16 Fairbanks.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. I
19 apologize. We've got the Subsistence Division from
20 Fairbanks. Go ahead, Mister?
21
22 MR. WILSON: Wilson.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Somebody. Go
25 ahead.
26
27 MR. WILSON: I'll refer to the Council
28 to our handout we passed. And we're going to have a
29 presentation up on the wall for the crowd.
30
31 Thanks, Mr. Chair and Council, for
32 adding us to the agenda at the last minute. Right now
33 I'd like to refer the Council members to our handout.
34
35 My name is Seth Wilson. I work for the
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
37 Subsistence in Fairbanks. And I'll let my company
38 introduce herself.
39
40 MS. RINGER: And my name is Danielle
41 Ringer, and I work with Seth doing subsistence research
42 out of Fairbanks.
43
44 MR. WILSON: And we just have a brief
45 presentation today, some 10 slides, giving the Council
46 kind of an overview on the projects we've been working
47 on that are within the regions that the Council
48 represents here in the AYK Delta.
49
50 Myself and Ms. Ringer have been

1 personally involved in some of the research, but we
2 can't answer every question on every slide, so if
3 there's any questions at the end that we can't ask
4 [sic], we'll refer them to Caroline Brown, our
5 supervisor in Fairbanks. In addition, if anybody would
6 like a copy of this presentation afterwards, just
7 approach myself or Ms. Ringer with your email, and
8 we'll send it right away. And could we get the lights?
9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Get the
11 lights.

12
13 MS. RINGER: Thank you.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Okay. The first project
16 I'd like to bring to your attention is the indexing
17 community baseline. This project is funded through a
18 legislative increment to meet the mission of the
19 Subsistence Division, which is to fill gaps in
20 available data about subsistence harvest in various
21 areas of the State, beginning, of course, with the
22 Lower Yukon River. And those are the first communities
23 we're going to start with soon: Emmonak, Marshall,
24 Mountain Village, Nunam Iqua, and St. Mary's.

25
26 Basically because of the expense and
27 time involved in surveying multiple communities through
28 time, we're kind of evaluating the possibilities of
29 using an index community approach for estimating
30 subsistence harvests. We would potentially start by
31 collecting harvest data from the same year in a cluster
32 of communities, again this being one cluster up on the
33 board. And we would then statistically evaluate the
34 relationship between harvest levels based on certain
35 demographic variables like age component in the
36 community, perhaps percent Native community and others.
37 And we'd like to see if this method can be an accurate
38 predictor of harvest levels in the region by regularly
39 surveying a subset and then extrapolating out that
40 recorded information into other communities in the
41 cluster.

42
43 Since this is an exploratory approach,
44 we do have many questions about the possibilities and
45 limitations. However, we are pretty excited that a
46 minimal effort could be used to produce some data in an
47 area we currently have very little information on
48 regarding subsistence practices and patterns.

49
50 And I didn't include a timeline on this

1 slide, but we're hoping to get community approvals for
2 this project in November through December of this year
3 and proceed with the data collection in early 2001,
4 followed by a community review process and hopefully
5 have a draft final report available in June 2012.

6
7 MS. RINGER: And, Mr. Chair and Council
8 members, now I'd like to talk about another one of the
9 large projects we've been working on. It's the Donlin
10 Creek mine research project. And this is actually a
11 multi-year project which is documenting subsistence
12 harvest of all resources, and ideally it's going to
13 give us a snapshot of subsistence patterns and harvests
14 all along the middle, the lower and the upper regions
15 of the Kuskokwim River. This research has been funded
16 by Nova Gold and is going to be used as part of the
17 National Environmental Protection Agency review of the
18 whole entire Donlin Creek mine project. And the
19 findings will also, of course, be available to local
20 tribal councils and any other governmental agencies for
21 their planning purposes.

22
23 And we're actually -- especially on its
24 own this is an exciting project, because it's filling a
25 20-gap of data for this whole entire subsistence use in
26 the Kuskokwim River.

27
28 So right now we are still in phase 1 of
29 the project, and it's focusing on eight communities on
30 the Central Kuskokwim: Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Crooked
31 Creek, Lower Kalskag, Sleetemute, Stony River, Red
32 Devil and Upper Kalskag. And the research was
33 conducted with the participation and consent of local
34 tribal councils and also local research assistants
35 helping out. The data collection component for phase 1
36 is complete now, and we're just starting with the
37 beginning analysis of all of the data that we've
38 received.

39
40 We received a high participation rate.
41 We had an average of about 81 percent across the
42 region. And although surveys are conducted within
43 individual households, the research is presented at a
44 community level, and also participation is in the
45 surveys, of course, voluntary, and individual household
46 information is also confidential.

47
48 And also in our analysis for this phase
49 we're being very careful to try to contextualize all
50 the information within the harvest data during this

1 time of resource scarcity, especially paying attention
2 to the regards of moose and caribou and also
3 considering concerns about salmon stocks along the
4 Kuskokwim.

5
6 And here we just had the individual
7 participation rates for each community.

8
9 So again, still talking about phase 1,
10 in each community we try to survey every single
11 household, which is commonly referred to as a census
12 survey. And we generally achieve somewhere in the 80
13 percentile, which is pretty good, because the higher
14 our sample, of course, the better our harvest
15 estimates. The questions of amounts harvested and
16 harvest locations are combined to the previous calendar
17 year each time, so our study year for phase 1 was 2009.

18
19 Some of the questions we asked are,
20 however, like what if the wildlife harvest for this
21 year were depressed, do we then inadvertently set a
22 very low bar for future monitoring? So we try to do a
23 few things to contextualize this information. And one
24 way that we put our study year in context of the others
25 is doing longer ethnographic interviews with a handful
26 of really knowledgeable elders, and also active users
27 of subsistence.

28
29 Lastly, we also do mapping with each
30 household that we contact in order to document harvest
31 areas that are critical to the community and those use
32 areas.

33
34 And here again we kind of show some of
35 the current status and the process that Seth also
36 talked about from collection to the final report.

37
38 And this slide is showing phase 2,
39 which has not begun yet officially, but these are the
40 anticipated participating communities that we would
41 like to work with during phase 2. And it also -- all
42 of these still depend on community approval from the
43 tribal councils. And Georgetown and the Paimuit are
44 not technically lower river communities, but we've
45 listed them here, because one of the things that we did
46 during phase 1 was to work with the tribal councils
47 from those communities to figure out the best ways to
48 document the harvest of those tribal members who
49 traditionally use the area even though in these two
50 villages there's not a significant year-round

1 population. But we'd like to work with them.

2

3 And to date we have put together a
4 schedule for research for these communities, and as you
5 see here on this slide. And to this point, all that
6 has been funded. But the anticipated timeline
7 illustrates again the steps that we follow in each
8 community, starting with the funding and then the data
9 collection and then finally the final report that we
10 are able to share with everyone showing what we
11 researched. All right.

12

13 MR. WILSON: One of our current
14 projects, and one that's been of pretty big interest so
15 far is the Yukon salmon disaster project. Fishermen
16 and communities along the Yukon are really struggling
17 with declines in salmon runs and other issues as we all
18 well know. And because of the salmon disaster
19 declaration in 2009, the legislature asked for research
20 pertaining to Yukon salmon issues. In response, we're
21 working with fishermen to explore sort of the socio-
22 economic impacts of declining salmon runs on fishing
23 communities in the Yukon, and how have these influenced
24 fishing patterns and priorities.

25

26 Participating communities so far are
27 Emmonak and Marshall, and pending community approval,
28 we also hope to conduct our research in Tanana, Fort
29 Yukon and Eagle. The methods we're including in this
30 study are ethnographic interviews regarding fishing
31 histories and effects of declining salmon runs, and
32 also we're doing a short survey, door-to-door survey on
33 customary trade.

34

35 Our survey on customary trade, it's
36 really an exploratory approach for collecting this
37 data. It's very sensitive data, of course, and we're
38 basing it on a similar survey that we've used before in
39 the Seward Peninsula that was pretty successful, but
40 again because we're conducting this on the Yukon River
41 on such a sensitive topic, we do have our doubts and
42 questions about the validity of the data we'll collect.
43 However, it does represent sort of the first attempt to
44 quantify customary trade levels on the Yukon.

45

46 And our timeline for that as shown on
47 the board, data collection started in Emmonak in the
48 beginning of September, and we hope to complete all
49 five communities by November of this year. Data
50 analysis will be through November to March. That's

1 where the data is sent to our information management
2 office in Anchorage, entered and then we review the
3 tables, do our write-up and then we'll bring this data
4 to the community for community review to make sure that
5 the participating tribal councils are okay with the
6 results. Finally we hope to have a draft final report
7 available by June of next year.

8
9 Continuing on, is the strategic
10 planning for whitefish research in the Yukon and
11 Kuskokwim drainage. And this is one of the projects
12 that I have not been involved with personally, so if
13 you have any questions, I can certainly direct them to
14 my supervisor.

15
16 But this is an OSM-funded project to
17 develop a strategic plan for research on whitefish
18 species in the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages. The plan
19 covers all six species found in these two drainages,
20 sheefish, broad whitefish, humpback whitefish, least
21 cisco, Bering cisco and roundfish.

22
23 Our approach to developing a strategic
24 plan has included scoping meetings in the central
25 Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon. Those are two areas where
26 we have real gaps in information about whitefish
27 biology and harvest use.

28
29 We've also done two expert working
30 group meetings of local experts, biologists,
31 anthropologists, managers, archival research and we've
32 included literature review as well. This group, which
33 was approximately 30 people that either live or work on
34 the two drainages, met in November of 2008 and then
35 again they met in April 2009 to discuss and prioritize
36 research needs.

37
38 Since then, Randy Brown and Caroline
39 Brown have been compiling all of this information into
40 a kind of comprehensive report on whitefish research
41 that will act as a resource for researchers and others
42 interested in whitefish studies. And hopefully this
43 report will also provide a detailed list of prioritized
44 research needs for whitefish species in both drainages.

45
46 Again, if there's any questions, please
47 contact Randy Brown or Caroline Brown and I can provide
48 their phone numbers later. Alternatively, if you have
49 any questions on the program itself, I think you could
50 probably direct those to Larry Buklis and Rich Cannon

1 in the crowd.

2

3 Alright. Second to the last is the
4 Bering Sea integrated ecological research project.
5 This was funded by the National Science Foundation and
6 North Pacific Research Board kind of to look at Bering
7 Sea ecosystems and communities that use the resources.

8

9

10 Emmonak is again one of the five
11 participating communities. We're also conducting
12 research in Akutan, Savoonga, St. Paul and Togiak.

13

14 And these projects focus on documenting
15 subsistence harvest data and traditional knowledge
16 about ecological systems of the Bering Sea. It focuses
17 also on climate change and it's potential effects on
18 subsistence users. Data collection in these five
19 aforementioned communities are complete and review and
20 analysis is underway. We hope to have a really
21 complete report ready for community review this spring.

22

23 Lastly I'd like to present to you the
24 chum salmon by-catch EIS or environmental impact
25 statement. The North Pacific Fisheries Management
26 Council is considering new measures to limit non-
27 Chinook by-catch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery,
28 because of the potential negative impacts on salmon
29 stocks in general and on western salmon stocks in
30 particular. Four species of salmon, that's sockeye,
31 coho, pink and chum, are aggregated into a non-Chinook
32 salmon species category for catch accounting and
33 prohibited species catch limits. Chum salmon comprises
34 about 99.6 of the total catch in this category.

35

36 NEPA mandates environmental impact
37 statements because the proposed chum salmon by-catch
38 measures would be a significant action, and because
39 they are likely to be controversial, and also likely to
40 have substantial environmental, social, and economic
41 impacts.

42

43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
44 helping to draft a regulatory impact report written by
45 the Department's extended jurisdiction staff with
46 support from the Division of Subsistence. The Division
47 of Subsistence is providing subsistence data and review
48 by summarizing chum salmon subsistence harvest data,
49 delivering an annotated bibliography of subsistence
50 literature, and reviewing the draft report.

1 Areas of interest include Bristol Bay,
2 the Kuskokwim, Yukon, Norton Sound, Kotzebue and Alaska
3 Peninsula, and there are nine division staff working on
4 this effort. And questions on this project would
5 probably best be direct to Jim Fall, our lead
6 researcher in Anchorage, or Jim Magdanz in Kotzebue.

7
8 And there are just two more projects
9 I'd like to bring to your attention before we get to
10 questions. And we didn't make slides on these, because
11 we're kind of in the tail end of reporting on them.

12
13 The first is a traditional knowledge
14 study on non-salmon fish species in the Lower Kuskokwim
15 villages of Nunam Iqua, Eek, and Tuntutuliak. This was
16 an OSM-funded project in cooperation with AVCP, and the
17 participating village councils. Currently OSM is
18 reviewing the final report of this project, so it
19 should be available soon.

20
21 Secondly, and my favorite project so
22 far, is a report describing continuity and change in
23 the Kuskokwim salmon fishery. This work was funded by
24 a legislature increment to sort of really provide a
25 context for a lot of the post-season harvest numbers
26 that are generated by Com Fish. And hopefully, you
27 know, our report will indicate sort of critical social,
28 cultural and economic effects of changes in the fishery
29 through time. And this would really be one of those
30 examples of a project that gives contextual
31 information. It's basically a story about a people to
32 support the numbers that we generate. And we're
33 currently working on drafting a final report which will
34 be available by December.

35
36 Are there any questions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
39 the two presenters. Have you got one, Mr. Roczicka.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: Always at least one.
42 Actually I'm just wondering why in that study that you
43 got from Donlin Creek on your phase 2, I was going to
44 ask about Georgetown and the Paimiut in there, but I
45 understand now why that's there, but actually the one
46 that comes out at me is Oscarville. I was wondering
47 why you would have chose that. It seems to me the more
48 logical village to hit in that area if you didn't want
49 to chose Bethel, of course, would be Napaskiak or
50 Napakiak, Oscarville being quite small. Has that been

1 -- how was that determined? Is it put in stone? If
2 not, I'd like to recommend that you probably try to get
3 Napaskiak rather than Oscarville as far as just getting
4 a broader, more in-depth numberwise.

5
6 MR. WILSON: Well, a lot of the
7 participation is, as I mentioned before, contingent on
8 tribal council approval, and they had some worries
9 about us coming in and conducting this research, which
10 is their prerogative. Did that answer your question?

11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: It does.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other
15 questions. Mr. Manumik.

16
17 MR. MANUMIK: Yes. On your chum by-
18 catch, where exactly is it happening out in the
19 catching of salmon?

20
21 MR. WILSON: That's where exactly the
22 by-catch is happening?

23
24 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

25
26 MR. WILSON: Well, as discussed this is
27 an environmental impact statement on the by-catch
28 that's non-salmon by-catch currently occurring in off-
29 shore fisheries. That would the pollock fisheries
30 that's been much discussed. I'm not.....

31
32 MS. RINGER: In the Bering Sea.

33
34 MR. WILSON: In the Bering Sea.

35
36 MR. MANUMIK: Is it also happening down
37 in the Bristol Bay area where they're targeting sockeye
38 salmon?

39
40 MR. WILSON: Quite possibly. I
41 probably wouldn't be the person to answer that
42 question. I could address your question to my
43 supervisor, of course, but I think pending more studies
44 by Commercial Fisheries Division, they could
45 potentially have an answer for that.

46
47 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
50 questions. Mr. Kelly.

1 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 You know, on your collecting your baseline data for the
3 Yukon River, and then further on down the set of
4 slides, you've also got you're also collecting
5 information on the disaster impact for several
6 communities on the Yukon River. But for your baseline
7 data you only included the data that is for the Lower
8 Yukon River. Are you guys including other communities
9 further upriver, too?

10
11 MR. WILSON: Well, you know, this is
12 just sort of an exploratory approach. If we on the
13 indexing communities project, if we do find satisfying
14 results, that is, if we can find statistical links
15 between harvest levels and demographic groups, then,
16 yeah, we would love to expand this project to other
17 clustered communities throughout the entire state. But
18 first, you know, I kind of presented the first stage of
19 potentially a really need project which will be the
20 Lower Yukon communities.

21
22 Does that answer your question? Go
23 ahead.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. KELLY: Yes. It seemed like
28 because a lot of the State regulations, a lot of
29 fishery regulations for the Yukon River apply to all
30 the communities on the Yukon River, and just using the
31 data for the Lower Yukon River to make these
32 regulations, it seems only fitting that the baseline
33 should apply for communities further upriver. And, you
34 know, that is my concern. And just focusing on the
35 Lower Yukon River can be misleading for the other
36 communities further upriver.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
39 Kelly.

40
41 Any other questions. Any other
42 suggestions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, then go
47 ahead, young lady.

48
49 MS. RINGER: Also I do believe there
50 are several other suggested clusters for research, but

1 these were the ones that we are presenting here,
2 because they are affecting this area. But I believe
3 that they would plan on doing other areas so we would
4 have a real picture of that definitely.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Manumik, you
9 had a question. Did you have a question?

10
11 MR. MANUMIK: No.

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Any other
14 questions.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
19 for your report.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

22
23 MS. RINGER: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: WE are down to item
26 15, subsistence wildlife issues. First on the agenda
27 is the 2010 Kuskokwim moose hunt update, State and
28 Federal Staff.

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Yukon
31 Delta National Wildlife Refuge, supervisory biologist.

32
33 I guess I'll do the Federal side, and
34 the last time I was here in front of the Council
35 essentially I was right in the middle of initiating the
36 promised helicopter survey due to the poor snow
37 conditions that we had last year, and the line
38 transect. And what I provided you is with an abstract
39 of the results of that particular survey. And, of
40 course, the main focus was to get some idea of the
41 moose population on Federal land so we could set a
42 harvest quota for the following fall season. And I was
43 glad to say that that happened, that we were able to do
44 that.

45
46 If you look on the second page, you'll
47 see that abstract, and essentially the estimate was for
48 340 moose on the tributaries that we served, including
49 the Tuluksak, the Kisaralik, the Kwethluk and the Eek
50 Rivers. We're fully aware that that's not all the

1 Federal land, but it was the majority of it. Using the
2 helicopter did provide a benefit as far as considering
3 the poor snow conditions, and the survey method along
4 with the western ecosystem group in Wyoming, we put
5 together to me what was a very good statistical program
6 on estimating that population of moose.

7
8 We also prior to that in cooperation
9 with Fish and Game essentially did a moose composition
10 -- a moose composition count looking at the bull/cow
11 ratio, calf to cow ratios, and that's on the third page
12 of your handout. And as you can see from the
13 comparison of the two years, we had a one-to-one on a
14 non-harvested hunt and then we had a one-to-two, you
15 know, one bull to two cows for the -- by 2009. And so
16 there was a decline in the number of bulls, but
17 obviously quite adequate to breed in that population.

18
19 We set a harvest quota of essentially
20 using this comp data and our moose population total.
21 If you had a one to two for bull/cow ratio and 340
22 moose, that would have been 85 moose that would have
23 been bulls. And we look at between 10 and 15 percent
24 of that as a safe harvest limit, so that would have
25 been 8.5 moose, so we added a few more in there for the
26 non-Federal lands and thus came up with a quota of 12.
27 And of that quota of 12, we shot 12 on Federal lands
28 and with the possibility of a pending case, there may
29 be 14 moose shot on Federal land.

30
31 And that's where we're at, and that's
32 the report on the Kuskokwim moose harvest from the
33 Federal side.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
36 questions for our presenter. Mr. Charles.

37
38 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 So the count area is the same as the State count area?

40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, Councilman. The
42 count area was a new count area that was on each of the
43 tributaries, not on the main stem of the Kuskokwim,
44 because really for our purposes to open the Federal
45 season, we needed to have a population estimate that
46 included a majority of Federal lands. Therefore we
47 wanted to assess the tributaries, so it's a separate
48 count area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further

1 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 Tom, the one that jumps at me, of
6 course, is the twinning rate that's there. I mean,
7 you've only got the two reports so far, but as I'm
8 recalling that the twinning rate was substantially
9 higher on the private lands or the State-administered
10 lands.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, in this
13 particular moose composition count, it included
14 tributaries and the main stem, so that's a combined
15 survey. Yes.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
18 questions. Do you have a question.

19

20 MR. UNOK: Could we have a map next
21 time showing where the Federal land is in Kuskokwim?

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Absolutely.

24

25 MR. UNOK: I'm from the Yukon.

26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Sure.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
30 questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Go
35 ahead on the State side, ADF&G.

36

37 MR. PERRY: Yeah. My name is Philip
38 Perry. I'm the area wildlife biologist for Fish and
39 Game here in Bethel.

40

41 So the season on the Kuskokwim this
42 year was a combined State and Federal permit so that a
43 hunter just had to get one permit. Seasons were close
44 to the same. They ended up closing the same date, on
45 the 7th. You know, we had a published season of
46 September 1 to September 10, and the Federal season was
47 September 1 to 5 unless they didn't get to the quota,
48 then they would be able to extend it up to an
49 additional five days, so that even if on the books it
50 didn't look quite the same, it was functionally managed

1 the same, managed as both a separate quota and an over-
2 all quota. The over-all quota was 75, 12 of which were
3 moose that could be harvested on Federal lands.

4
5 We had a few more hunters this year get
6 permits. Permits were distributed very similarly to
7 the way they were the year before. Most of the
8 villages and their license vendors had permits
9 available. In Bethel they were available at the Fish
10 and Game office, Swansons, and at the Fish and Wildlife
11 office.

12
13 We had 1487 hunters get permits. Of
14 those so far 210 have reported that they did not hunt.
15 About 100 moose were harvested. There's those two
16 pending that are -- if they were in the hunt area or if
17 they were out, but that's -- so 98 or 100, that's
18 overall what was harvested. The hunt did close the 7th
19 both on State and Federal-managed lands.

20
21 We have as of this morning, 366 permit
22 holders have not reported. Next week we plan to send
23 out reminder letters to all those hunters. They get a
24 strongly worded reminder letter from us, and a couple
25 weeks left to report after that fact. And, you know,
26 the second letter we send out does put them on the
27 failure to report list, and that means that that hunter
28 cannot get a permit next year. They're not prohibited
29 from hunting totally; it's just they can't get either a
30 registration or tier II or drawing permit hunt or
31 permit.

32
33 So we did harvest again more than we
34 would like to have, and we would have been a lot
35 happier being closer to 75. As Tom pointed out, you
36 know, the bull/cow ratio is going down, which is
37 expected. You know, a normal hunted population in the
38 State is 35, 40 bulls per 100 cows. We start having
39 concerns when it's below 20. So, you know, that's
40 pretty normal on the Yukon. We've been in the 30s and
41 40s with a hunted population.

42
43 I think the question Greg had about
44 twinning rates, I think when -- that sheet in front of
45 you, the twinning rate there is showing the percent of
46 the calves that were twins in the fall. A lot of times
47 when we talk about twinning rates, we're talking about
48 the rates of actually ones that were born. So that's
49 probably the difference in those number you're
50 remembering, because obviously the ones in the -- when

1 we talk about twinning rates in the spring, in a spring
2 survey, those numbers are higher than they would be in
3 a fall survey, so just a point of clarification there.

4

5

6 And still, you know, encouraging
7 hunters to turn in their harvest reports, their permits
8 reports. Yeah, if they get them in here pretty soon,
9 they don't get a penalty, but wait a couple more weeks,
10 and there's a possibility to lose their privilege to
11 hunt certain hunts next year.

12

13 Are there any questions or comments at
14 this point.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. I'd like to
17 make one suggestion, that James get on KCUK, KYUK often
18 in Yup'ik. It would be a good idea for James to make
19 that announcement in Yup'ik to our people in our area
20 so they could understand the possibility of losing
21 their moose hunting privileges. So it would be a good
22 idea for James to get on the radio when and if it's
23 possible to make that announcement. Thank you, James.

24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, Council, I think
26 it's also important to understand there's two separate
27 quotas. Mine was 63 on State land and the other one
28 was 12 on Federal land for the total of 25 [sic],
29 because we manage through two different entities.

30

31 Also our priority with the declining
32 rate and the bull to cow ratio is really a November
33 survey of a composition count that will be coming up
34 with Fish and Game and our office to see if we're still
35 having this larger rate of take on bulls, to make sure
36 that we're remaining, you know, above that 30 to 35,
37 you know, bulls per 100 cows. So that's a priority, so
38 you should know that that's the next survey coming up.

39

40 The other priority survey is on the
41 Middle Yukon since that's a good valid statistical
42 survey that hasn't been done on the middle reaches of
43 the Yukon since 2002.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other
46 questions. Mr. Charles.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 It's just a comment. This year Federal opened
50 moratorium area for, what is it, eight days or

1 something like that.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, seven.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Yeah. Seven or eight
6 days. Anyway, last year Federal didn't open the land
7 around here, so State opened it, but there's no State
8 land on this area where the moratorium is and there's
9 private lands. And people were hunting on private
10 lands or corporation lands. And that was pretty -- I
11 mean, they were watched close from the protection
12 officers, and they were hunting kind of nervously I
13 guess, and they were relaxed this year. And that's
14 better for the hunters. If I was hunting and somebody
15 watching me to step off the land, or closed land, they
16 would come in and cite me or give me citations. That's
17 not really good feeling, I mean, when you're hunting
18 like that, when somebody's watching you. But this year
19 people relaxed better than last year. So we'd like to
20 see that happen again, State and Federal both open the
21 area again when they open it next year.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
26 questions for the two gentlemen.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
31 very much for your presentation.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: You're very welcome.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And we're going to
36 keep going until 1:00 o'clock when the public cleared
37 out from the restaurants. It will give us a faster
38 time to be able to go in and get served faster so we
39 can come back faster. So we're going to go ahead and
40 keep going until 1. We'll have -- we'll be dismissed
41 for lunch at 1:00 o'clock until 2:00.

42

43 The next item, Alaska Native Science
44 and -- oh, I'm sorry. Let me get through this here.
45 Andreafsky had something, an issue with wildlife
46 subsistence.

47

48 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
49 members of the Board. For the record my name is Bill
50 Alstrom. I serve on the Yupit of Andreafsky Tribal

1 Council. And I've just been appointed on that seat
2 last spring, so I'm serving out a term for one of our
3 tribal council members that resigned.

4
5 So anyway, I'm bringing up an issue
6 that was brought before our tribal council meeting
7 which was held a couple weeks ago, the Yupit of
8 Andreafsky. And the issue was the influx of big game
9 sports hunters on the Andreafsky River drainage this
10 summer.

11
12 First of all, for those of you that are
13 not familiar with the Andreafsky River drainage, I'll
14 give a little Andreafsky 101. The Andreafsky River is
15 a clear water river on the Yukon. It runs a tributary
16 of the Yukon. It's situated on the Lower Yukon River,
17 and it's about I'd say a couple miles above the
18 residents of the Village of Pitka's Point, and the
19 Village of Andreafsky sits on the north bank of the
20 Andreafsky River.

21
22 And it flows up from the mouth of the
23 river to -- and forks off, known as the North Fork and
24 the East Fork. And the North Fork goes quite a ways up
25 the -- oh, behind the headwaters or I'd say behind St.
26 Michael and Stebbins, in that territory. And the East
27 Fork, it's a little longer fork. It goes behind
28 communities on the Yukon like Anvik and so forth.

29
30 Anyway, getting back to the issue, the
31 tribal council, we met like I said week, and they're
32 very concerned about the influx of big game sports
33 hunters coming into that drainage and competing with
34 the subsistence users of that river.

35
36 And also I had -- I had this thought.
37 They had written letters, my tribe, the Pitka's Point
38 Native Corporation, and the Algaaciq Tribal Council,
39 which is located at St. Mary's. First of all, the City
40 of St. Mary's is a first class city. I also serve as
41 its mayor. And they are two native corporations and
42 two tribal councils under the municipal umbrella. So
43 we've got St. Mary's Native Corporation, Nukuqmuit (ph)
44 Native Corporation, which I am the president and
45 manager of, and we've got the Algaaciq Tribal Council
46 and the Yupit of Andreafsky Tribal Council.

47
48 And they were very concerned when we
49 seen all these people from the outside coming in and
50 hunting moose or other big game for sports hunting.

1 What the main concern was why wasn't the tribal
2 councils or the people, the residents in that area
3 contacted or consulted by the Fish and Wildlife
4 Service.

5
6 And before I get into that, the two
7 native corporations there, we've got private lands,
8 corporation lands on both of the forks, which goes down
9 from the mouth of Andraefsky River up the North and
10 East Fork of the Andraefsky, which are owned by both
11 the Nukluqmuit (ph) and St. Mary's Native Corporation.
12 And above that to my belief is Federal lands. And the
13 Andraefsky river is considered to the best of my
14 knowledge as a wild and scenic river.

15
16 And prior to that, we always maintained
17 that river for the communities surrounding the
18 Andraefsky drainage, the priority subsistence use for
19 the residents surrounding that, and the villages around
20 there.

21
22 And last summer -- well, prior, maybe a
23 couple summers earlier we started getting, you know, a
24 trickling of outsiders coming in and hunting on that
25 river, which we considered, which we were very -- I
26 don't want to use the word stingy, but, you know that's
27 what we use for our subsistence needs for our villages.
28 You've got the residents of St. Mary's, Pitka's Point,
29 and then we get the people from maybe Lower Yukon on
30 the delta that come up once in a while to hunt that
31 area for their subsistence needs. And the people of
32 St. Mary's, residents there, local residents, really
33 depend on the river for their -- for especially the
34 moose. And with the price of gasoline, at St. Mary's
35 now it's 6.25 a gallon, you know, we can't be heading
36 up the Yukon miles and miles away to get our
37 subsistence needs done. A lot of the local people use
38 the Andraefsky, we go from, anywhere from a few miles
39 up the village all the way up to the headwaters.

40
41 And then we got word that the Federal
42 managers had opened up the North Fork of the Andraefsky
43 above a creek called Allen Creek, which is I believe
44 about 65 miles up the Andraefsky River, for big game
45 sports hunting. And somehow somebody or some residents
46 or some people had put the word out that there's no
47 subsistence hunting above that creek, which was totally
48 false. The residents use the whole river, both forks,
49 all the way up to the timber, what we call the
50 timberline, which is anywhere from about 100 miles up

1 the river on the North Fork. And every year people,
2 you know, go up there and we are moose hunting that
3 opens to try to -- for our subsistence needs.

4
5 And, of course, we all know, those that
6 live on the Yukon Delta, there is a big increase of the
7 moose population. And there again, like I said, the
8 price of gas and stuff like that are getting, you know,
9 higher and higher. Usually when we go out for a boat
10 ride or something, we make sure we go out, you know,
11 there for a purpose. It's not just a boat ride. We
12 carry our chain saw with us, you know, load up with
13 wood or something at least, try to come back with
14 something just to make that trip worth something.

15
16 But we did get a response from the
17 Refuge manager, our tribe did, and I was faxed -- I
18 just got aware of it last night. They faxed it over to
19 me, and it was a good response from Gene Peltola. I
20 believe he's here. And we -- I had discussed that last
21 night and this morning with some of our tribal members.
22 And we're hoping that, you know, he can come out there
23 and talk to the residents of St. Mary's and the
24 surrounding villages. So that, you know, a lot of --
25 there's a lot of -- I think there's just a lack of
26 communication.

27
28 But the refuge manager had addressed
29 these concerns, which are in his letter, and I'm pretty
30 sure hopefully he can come out there and let the rest
31 of the residents know, try to be -- really causing an
32 uproar.

33
34 And that's the main reason I'm over
35 here to, you know, make the Council aware of, you know,
36 what's going on.

37
38 And if I've missed anything, I think
39 I've got two or three people on teleconference standing
40 by. I don't know if they'll be able to communicate
41 with them, but they might have any questions. And for
42 the best of my knowledge, that's all I've got. I might
43 be missing out some things, and if I am, maybe I'll set
44 some questions.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
49 Mr. Alstrom. Mr. Roczicka.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 That was going to be my -- you kind of
4 touched on it there at the last, if you had received a
5 response, and it sounds like you have. And you do see
6 it getting addressed to your satisfaction, and if not,
7 I was going to say that Mr. Peltola is here, and I
8 actually, at the pleasure of the Board, ask him if he
9 could come forward and ask what the plans are to
10 address your concerns here.

11

12 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, Greg. I talked to
13 Mr. Peltola earlier and he's -- if there's any
14 questions, he'll be in a second.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Gene.

17

18 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Gene Peltola, Jr., Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National
20 Wildlife Refuge.

21

22 I did receive last week letters from
23 Pitka's and St. Mary's and different organizations, and
24 I responded, talked to individuals on the phone a
25 couple days after that, and sent a formal written
26 response yesterday.

27

28 And a couple of points I addressed in
29 my letter. I think, Alex, you gave a copy of the
30 letters? Did you pass them out?

31

32 A couple points I would like to address
33 is that one of complaints, that we did not consult or
34 speak with tribal members. I spent a lot of time and
35 activity going through the files. I was born and
36 raised here in Bethel, started my career here at the
37 Refuge, but I've been gone for quite a while, returned
38 back in 2008 as the manager. So going through
39 extensive research through the files and having some
40 institutional knowledge lost with managers leaving,
41 deputy managers leaving and such, as far as I could
42 tell, back as early as 1983, working with then
43 Nunamkotsi (ph) which eventually became the AVCP
44 Natural Resources Division, the Refuge held meetings on
45 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim asking residents about the
46 potential impact of commercial big game services on
47 refuge lands.

48

49 Then further on in the files we go back
50 to, oh, let's see, in 1992 when the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service established big game commercial services areas,
2 at that time the Refuge utilized the refuge information
3 technician program to solicit input from local village
4 residents on the potential impact to subsistence users.
5 At that time one of the use areas created was the
6 Andraefsky unit, which is in the Nulato Hills north of
7 Mountain, Pitka's and now St. Mary's. So actually
8 commercial big game services has been authorized in
9 that area since 1992. It's nothing recent.

10

11 And a little bit more history, the
12 Refuge first received a request to provide transporter
13 services, that is, drop-off services, for a hunter, not
14 guided, in '93/'94. At that time the Refuge also
15 utilized the refuge information technicians programs to
16 solicit input from potentially affected villages. I
17 could not find documentation of exactly which villages
18 and who attended, but there are entries about meetings
19 with RITs presenting occurring.

20

21 And the request for transport services
22 in '93/'94 resulted in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
23 growing and coming out towards more closely to the
24 delta. So initially transport services were provided
25 for caribou hunters.

26

27 Then with the Federal Subsistence Board
28 in 2007 lifting the non-local resident moose hunting
29 prohibitions in GMU 18 remainder, which encompasses the
30 Andraefsky and the Middle and Lower Yukon, the Refuge
31 received requests to provide transport services to drop
32 off moose hunters. And that was in 2007. At that time
33 the refuge also utilized the refuge information program
34 to meet with individuals concerned about potential
35 adverse impacts on subsistence use.

36

37 Now, since my arrival as manager in
38 2008, one of the first things I did was review the
39 transporter permits. I felt that they may be a little
40 bit lacking, and so one of the first things we did
41 administratively with regard to those permits is we
42 added a few more conditions to them, which I'd like to
43 share with you now.

44

45 We didn't authorize any drop-off
46 activity in high density use areas, which was indicated
47 by Native allotment presence. The reason being in our
48 minds that someone claimed a Native allotment because
49 they utilized that area for subsistence use, one of
50 those particular areas being the Lower Yukon mainstem

1 from Mountain Village on downstream. Now, people who
2 partake in the industry have a great desire to drop off
3 people on that section of the river. We have said, no,
4 because of the high presence of Native allotments.

5
6 Another stipulation was we do not
7 authorize drop-off activity within one mile of an
8 existing Native allotment. We do not authorize drop-
9 off activity on boat-accessible waters with the
10 exception of about an average of two hunting parties
11 who float the river. That's on average two a year.
12 That occurs either on the Andreafsky and Nageethluk or
13 Atchuelinguk Rivers. And no drop-off activity resulted
14 in any camps there closure to a mile and a half to each
15 other. And the last on being is that you can't drop
16 anybody off on a lake which already occupied by a
17 hunting party.

18
19 And the Refuge and our Staff probably
20 limit transporters more than any other refuge in the
21 State of Alaska. Now there are a lot of places that
22 the transporters may want to go, but we don't
23 authorize. The majority of these locations are say
24 from Devil's Elbow down to the Kashunuk below St.
25 Mary's, and over the years we've had a low of 8 moose
26 per year taken by these transported hunters, and a high
27 of 24, an average use of 17 moose a year. But the
28 interesting fact is that a majority of these
29 transported hunters aren't non-local non-residents to
30 the State of Alaska. A lot of them are Alaska
31 residents. Not only that, but they're also Federally-
32 qualified users.

33
34 Now, the example with Andreafsky this
35 past fall. At the end of year we require our
36 transporters, which we have four this year, three
37 utilize aircraft and one is a boat transporter. The
38 boat transporter has held a permit for the last three
39 years, but has never run anybody on the refuge. Of the
40 other remaining, the aircraft transporters, they drop
41 people off via floatplane, of which of those has not
42 been active. So it leaves us with two permittees who
43 actually drop off people in the field, anywhere from 40
44 to 50 percent of those people dropped off in that field
45 aren't non-residents to the State of Alaska. They're
46 Federally-qualified users. And part of their report at
47 the end of the year is they tell us exactly where they
48 drop someone off, who it was and what animals they
49 pursued and then they harvested. Like I said, we've
50 averaged about 17 moose a year.

1 On the Andreafsky this fall we had a
2 total of four people dropped off on the North Fork of
3 the Andreafsky. That was two hunting parties. One
4 hunting party was a Federally-qualified user
5 accompanied by a non-local resident of the State of
6 Alaska which that party harvested two moose. The other
7 party was a Federally-qualified use accompanied by his
8 non-resident brother.

9
10 And when we issue permits, my job as a
11 refuge manager is not to make subjective decisions. I
12 have policies and guidelines I have to follow. One of
13 those being is that we minimize the potential for
14 overlap with the local subsistence user versus the non-
15 local user. But we have to provide an opportunity for
16 both of the user groups to partake in that activity,
17 because it is Federal public lands.

18
19 With regard to Andreafsky itself,
20 there's been interest in dropping off people up on the
21 Andreafsky since it was first opened up. The majority
22 of the people determined that it was not economically
23 feasible for their business to engage in dropping
24 someone off on the Andreafsky. That changed this year.
25 So one of the transporters came to me, said, I want to
26 drop somebody off on the Andreafsky. I said, okay,
27 your permit authorized you to do that, but you have to
28 pull them out, if they're floating, by Allen Creek.
29 The reason we chose Allen Creek is it was a definable
30 location which could be identified if you went down
31 the river. And by pulling someone out at that location
32 if they floated down, they'd be provided a hunting
33 opportunity on the upper portion of the river, by
34 minimizing the potential of overlap between the local
35 and non-local user, which of the four people that were
36 dropped off on the Andreafsky this fall, one was
37 dropped off on a ridge top 8 miles west of the river,
38 and that happened to be where the two moose were taken.
39 And they didn't have any overlap with any local users.
40 The people that floated down the river from as far as I
41 could tell, reported as early as last Monday, were not
42 successful at taking a moose.

43
44 And the Fish and Wildlife Service, the
45 Refuge and myself take seriously our responsibilities
46 under ANILCA to maintain subsistence use and also one
47 of the things we look at when we look at when we
48 authorize an activity, which was done in 2007 by the
49 Refuge is we do a Section .810 determination, which
50 means that there's no significant impact on local

1 subsistence users.

2

3 Now, with the size of the moose
4 population on the Yukon, and the low number of people
5 dropped off on the Andraefsky, there's not a biological
6 nor administrative justification to preclude that type
7 of harvest on refuge lands. We monitor the activity
8 very closely. If you talked to the transporters,
9 they'd probably say too much. We restrict the
10 transporters. If you asked them, they'd probably say
11 too much. If you talk to local people, you'd probably
12 say that we don't limit them or restrict them enough.
13 So it's a balancing act. And we at the Refuge, myself
14 as the manager, have guidelines and policies that we
15 have to adhere to.

16

17 And at the current levels we have, like
18 I said, there isn't an administrative nor biological
19 justification not to allow that type of activity. But
20 I can guarantee you this, is that by monitoring the
21 activity, if it we were to see that there becoming a
22 significant impact on the local or the subsistence
23 user, we'd further restrict or limit the activity.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions of
26 Mr. Peltola. Mr. Oney.

27

28 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chairman. Gene, is there any areas other than the
30 Andraefsky River where sport hunters have been -- are
31 hunting moose in the Lower Yukon?

32

33 MR. PELTOLA: I'd say 99 percent of the
34 transport activity occurs between Devil's Elbow,
35 Ohogamuit, going down towards Pilot. There's a few,
36 probably 10 to 15 percent there over on the south side
37 of the river going down from Kashunuk over towards the
38 hill by Kuzi on the south side over there. There is
39 some sport guide activity occurring in behind Marshall
40 on BLM lands, and actually the transporter that went
41 through St. Mary's this fall with the four hunters who
42 were dropped on the Andraefsky, he had two non-resident
43 hunters that were dropped over there and shuttled over
44 the hills. It's upper Billihok -- I think it's Upper
45 Billihok Creek on the back side of the hills behind
46 Marshall.

47

48 So right now we have a vacant guide use
49 area on the Andraefsky River drainage which used to
50 utilized by Jerry Austin. We don't have a guide in

1 there since he passed away this past spring. And there
2 is some transport activity. But other than that
3 Ohogamuit to Kashunuk area down south on top of the
4 bluff, we don't have very much commercial big game
5 services occurring on the Yukon.

6
7 Now as early as two years ago I was
8 being contacted by some of the villages asking if they
9 could provide transport services on their lands. Our
10 permits we issue are only good for Federal lands. They
11 don't apply to village corporation or regional
12 corporation, nor selected lands. We don't authorize
13 the lands -- transport activity on lands that are
14 selected, but not yet conveyed. That's how restricted
15 we are. And there has been interest in some of the
16 villages on the Yukon to provide services by the
17 village themselves on their own lands.

18
19 MR. ONEY: Follow up?

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. Gene. The reason why I asked is because I
25 seen two people down on the Lower Yukon when I was out
26 moose hunting earlier this month, and there were, you
27 know, the first time I've seen those people, and I was
28 -- they were located near a fish camp. And I was
29 looking for a boat, you know, to see how they got
30 there, but, you know, I couldn't see a boat in that
31 area, so I figured that they might have been sport
32 hunters, because I didn't see any way that they could
33 have gotten there other than in an airplane.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah. There is a growing
36 number of local individuals that own their own aircraft
37 and go hunting. I own my own Super Cub and I go
38 hunting with my family in the Super Cub, and friends.
39 But I decided to choose locations where I know I won't
40 come across someone that's locally hunting, because I
41 know there's a stigma by local residents about airplane
42 hunting.

43
44 I've heard reports of more residents
45 coming out, meaning residents of the State of Alaska
46 coming out here and hunting with aircraft. We had one
47 report early on in September about three camps with the
48 same color rafts, same color of tents being dropped off
49 on the Atchuelinguk. We went up and we couldn't find
50 those camps. Before we went to go look for them, I

1 called every one of our transporters and asked if they
2 dropped off these three camps with gray rafts, with,
3 you know, blue tents, and they said, no. We take very
4 seriously key individuals who come and provide the
5 commercial service for big game hunting, whether it be
6 sport or guided if they're permitted. It's a severe
7 penalty. And we try to minimize to activity to only
8 those that are authorized by the Refuge to provide the
9 service.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Oney.

12
13 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Maybe for Bill. Those people that wanted to be on
15 teleconference, is there any new information that they
16 could mention other than what you talked to us about.

17
18 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, Mr. Oney, I was just
19 to ask Alex if these people that are on teleconference
20 are they able to communicate with us?

21
22 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Alstrom, if
23 that green button's on, right next to you, that
24 conference equipment, people should be able to call in.
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Is there anybody
28 on over there? Richard?

29
30 MR. WEINGARTH: Yeah. Hi, Bill, this
31 is Erik. (Indiscernible, mic not on)

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you turn
34 the.....

35
36 MR. WEINGARTH: And Richard also. Can
37 you guys hear me?

38
39 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I can hear you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you put that
42 mic closer so we all can hear? Thank you. Go ahead,
43 Mr. Alstrom.

44
45 MR. ALSTROM: Oh, this is -- can you
46 state your name?

47
48 MR. WEINGARTH: Yeah, this is Erik
49 Weingarth in St. Mary's. I sit on the RAC for UP
50 Andreafsky.

1 I'd like to bring to light some of the
2 information that was just spoken about by yourself and
3 also by Mr. Peltola.

4
5 I'm a subsistence fisherman and hunter
6 of the Andreafsky River. The past several weeks I've
7 witnessed several things that really disturbed me as a
8 subsistence hunters on the wild and scenic river, that
9 being drop-off hunters and quite a bit of aircraft that
10 have interfered with my subsistence activity by flying
11 sometimes as low as 30, 40 feet off the water. I hunt
12 all the way up and down to the headwaters of both the
13 East and West Fork Andreafsky. I've witnessed -- this
14 past several weeks I've witnessed people being dropped
15 off and left with rafts and hunting in our areas, right
16 next to our Native allotments, next to places where we
17 traditionally hunt.

18
19 And today I had to call Fish and
20 Wildlife to have those individuals that Gene just spoke
21 about where they have caught moose and they hadn't
22 transported all the meat out of the area. So Fish and
23 Wildlife Protection is on that right now at this
24 moment. They were well below the Allen Creek area.

25
26 This month and a half I've been hunting
27 right above Allen Creek, and I've had several Super Cub
28 and Husky aircraft landing on the tundra not even a
29 quarter mile from the river and making camps and
30 interfering with my hunting. It was my understanding
31 they were not supposed to have motorized vehicles on
32 the tundra. I guess that kind of goes out the door
33 now.

34
35 I find it disturbing that, you know,
36 that the tribe and the people of St. Mary's, Pitka's
37 Point, Pilot Station, Mountain Village, Marshall, we're
38 not consulted about it being okay now to have drop-off
39 hunters. You know, we've had a hard enough time. We
40 spent years trying to build up our moose population,
41 and it feels like we've been slapped in the face here.

42
43 You know, I think there's been a lot of
44 misinformation about, and I sure hope that Fish and
45 Wildlife, Federal agencies, and also the Refuge
46 manager, maybe want to relook at doing another survey
47 of our Lower Yukon area to see where we do harvest our
48 food.

49
50 It's really disappointing to see people

1 come from outside with airplanes and basically they're
2 hunting for the horns. And when they do catch -- the
3 ones that do pack out the meat are asking us if we want
4 meat. They're out here just to, you know, get the
5 horns, and that's totally against our culture and, you
6 know, now I've got to compete with, you know, airplanes
7 and people floating down the river, that I'm trying to
8 get -- there's still many people from our community
9 that were trying to get their moose. Yesterday was the
10 last day, and there's a lot of people that did not get
11 their moose. You know, it's just been really, really
12 hard on us. I can't see why -- you know, we've got a
13 controlled use area up by Russian Mission, no aircraft
14 below, you know, a certain point and no dropping off
15 people. I would really, really hope that this Board
16 and other agencies would consider having a no-fly zone
17 for the Andraefsky river. It is a very fragile
18 waterway here, and it's used by the subsistence people
19 here. I'd really hope that you guys would consider no
20 flying below 1,000 feet first of all, that I would
21 hope, and no more drop-off hunters.

22

23 And, you know, the moose population 30
24 years ago, we couldn't catch moose on this river. Now
25 we're fortunate enough, it's just barely enough to keep
26 our subsistence needs. Now we're adding onto it just
27 because there's an influx on the Lower Yukon. And, you
28 know, eventually these moose are going to disappear and
29 we're going to be left with conservative measures
30 again.

31

32 If you guys have any questions, please
33 feel free to ask me. I spend, you know, most of my
34 time up this river with my wife and my kids, and it's
35 just -- it's unbearable to see, I mean, some of these
36 things that were put in place, you know, no drop-off
37 hunts within a mile of an existing Native allotment.
38 Well, that's been violated this year. No drop-off
39 activity, camps within one and a half miles of another.
40 Well, that's been violated this year.

41

42 You know, there's people that, you know
43 -- construction contractors. They had aircraft and
44 they were landing, they took several moose.

45

46 You know, there's been more than two
47 moose taken, I can tell you that, and, you know, it
48 just made me sick today to hear one of my relatives up
49 there find those float hunters. They had two moose on
50 board, but not all the meat. That's sad, you know.

1 That's just a waste and I just wish you guys would come
2 out here and sit down with our tribes and discuss it
3 rather than opening up the borders. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: An answer to that,
6 Gene.

7
8 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, there's several
9 points I'd like to address.

10
11 First off is the aircraft. And prior
12 to receiving the letter from St. Mary's, about a week
13 earlier, I received a phone call on my cell phone. And
14 the individual was complaining about the aircraft,
15 which I was told was a private aircraft flying over
16 individuals on the river. Now, the Fish and Wildlife
17 Service does not regulate airspace above Federal lands.
18 What we do is we have a recommendation to maintain
19 2,000 foot AGL above, you know, the lands. Because we
20 don't regulate the airspace above, that's left up to
21 the FAA, I told the individual on the phone, and said,
22 as the Refuge manager, I could not do anything about a
23 personal aircraft flying low. But I did also offer up,
24 and I gave him my email address, if they wanted to give
25 me specific information about the occurrence, about
26 people being disturbed while they were hunting, I'd
27 forward it on to the appropriate individuals which may
28 be able to help assist them, which was mainly the FAA,
29 because there's certain restrictions that you have and
30 the responsibility as a pilot to maintain 500 foot
31 vertical, 1,000-foot horizontal, and 2,000 feet
32 diagonal above and hear structures or individuals. And
33 I'm not saying it didn't occur, but if that did occur,
34 that was a violation of Federal Aviation regulations.
35 And I hadn't received anything from St. Mary's yet on
36 those aircraft disturbances.

37
38 Now, I'd like to point out that it
39 wasn't this fall when I opened up the Andrafsky to
40 transporter activity. The activity has been authorized
41 there for commercial services back to the early 90s,
42 and transporting as early as you know, 2007. It's just
43 been more of a visible occurrence.

44
45 Another key point that I'd like to
46 address is that the side bars I have as a refuge
47 manager don't mean that I can prohibit activity because
48 one or two or three or four families hunt a certain
49 area. The side bar, the legal side bar is that there's
50 no significant impact on subsistence use. And that's

1 -- some people may think that that is an easy standard
2 to get, but in the administrative and legal reality is
3 it could be challenging. And I have no problem with
4 getting to that point if I need to.

5
6 One interesting point is that we have
7 so much moose in abundance, we're getting a lot of
8 reports of waste. And like the reports of the people
9 coming down with not enough meat, this is the first
10 fall since I've been back in 2008 where we had villages
11 on the Yukon calling to our office complaining about
12 moose being thrown away in the dump. And that could be
13 because we had warm weather. And I never thought that
14 would occur, but it might because we have moose in
15 abundance where, you know, it may become a common
16 occurrence not only with the local, but the non-local
17 user alike.

18
19 As far as the specific aircraft use in
20 the Andreafsky drainage, not only do we have the wild
21 and scenic designation, but we also have a wilderness
22 designation up there. But the Wilderness Act itself
23 and ANILCA protects the utilization of aircraft in
24 wilderness areas. It's specifically mentioned. And
25 for the most part commercial activity is not authorized
26 within a wilderness area with our exception in Alaska
27 being as that the Fish and Wildlife Service considers
28 sport hunting and subsistence hunting as a whole, and
29 they refer to it as hunting. And it's held in such
30 regard that it's considered one of the big six priority
31 uses of refuge lands. And hunting is promoted on
32 refuges in the Lower 48 just as it is in Alaska.

33
34 And if there was, and I'm not saying
35 there was not, but if there was people dropped off
36 within a mile and a half of one another, all the
37 conditions I mentioned earlier are specific to our
38 permitted transporters. If this did occur by a
39 commercial operation which did not permit, I'd be more
40 than interested in getting that information from people
41 in St. Mary's or Pitka's. If it did occur from one of
42 our permittees, I would be even more so interested in
43 that because it then violates one of the conditions we
44 established for these transporters, and we could deal
45 with that one of two way. One would be a civil
46 penalty, i.e. a ticket; or (2) revocation of the
47 privileges they've been granted to drop off people in
48 the area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further

1 questions to either of the -- Mr. Wilde.

2

3

4 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
5 Down below Mountain Village there's subsistence hunters
6 from Mountain Village. They were asking sport hunters,
7 they talked to one of the boys from there and they ask
8 him -- they had a plane and I don't know how many
9 people was with him. And people ask him what you're
10 doing here. This is our land allotment. Our land
11 allotments. People find the land where they could
12 subsistence fishing and hunting and everything. But
13 that must be drop off. They told him that we are
14 looking for big horns moose. I don't think it's very
15 good idea that we will work hard and all that and below
16 Mountain Village. No one respect of nobody. People --
17 I am a member of a village corporation and I
18 represented it. I would like to see us respect our
19 land for ourself and for our people, and they would
20 appreciate you talk with them.

21

22 I'd like to say people who are coming
23 in, and let us know where they're going to hunt and all
24 that, because it's from Mountain Village it's all the
25 way, those people, the hunters and fishermens, they
26 have got land, corporation land, half way down to the
27 mouth of the Yukon. So we would like to be respected
28 for our people's sake instead of come in and land and
29 do whatever supposed to do. And the State's supposed
30 to take care of corporation lands. I hope that we
31 could even start to know what's going on in our land.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Gene, go ahead.

36

37 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, to respond.
38 One of the things that I did not mention, but is sort
39 of an unofficial condition of our transport permits
40 since 2008 when I've been here as the manager, the
41 transporters have to come in and give us a list of
42 latitude and longitudes on lakes where they want to
43 drop people off at. We then send those lat/longs into
44 our realty office who plots them out on a map for us.
45 Then we tell the individual, example, the transporter,
46 your point number 34 is not authorized because it's on
47 corporation land. We tell them where they can't go,
48 because it was private land or, you know, corp land.
49 So over the years our office looked at, and mainly
50 myself looked at hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds
of locations where transporters want to drop off

1 individuals. And I look at the criteria we have
2 established as their hard conditions, and tell them yes
3 or no, you can drop someone off here. And for the most
4 part, you know, 95 percent of our harvest, probably
5 even more, occurs in areas where there's literally no
6 overlap of the local and non-local user, the exception
7 being someone like myself who takes a Super Cub and
8 lands up on the bluff between the Johnson and the
9 Yukon. I might be four or five miles from a camp with
10 someone else from Bethel or such. But we work very
11 hard to minimize the potential for overlap between the
12 local and non-local user.

13

14 What the refuge has no control over is
15 the private hunter whose utilizes their own aircraft
16 and goes hunting with friends. That is not an activity
17 that -- it's not a commercial activity, so therefore we
18 do not control it, permit it, nor restrict it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Gene.
21 Any other questions. Mr. Kelly.

22

23 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 Gene, you know, being from Pilot
26 Station, several years ago we had the similar incident
27 up in the Atchuelinguk River where a lot of residents
28 from Pilot Station go up and hunt for moose for their
29 subsistence use. And we've had lots of residents go
30 way above the headwaters. In fact, once they reach the
31 headwaters, you know, I've gone as far as six hours up
32 further upriver. And I've seen other hunters, sport
33 hunters who are transported in to hunt.

34

35 And, you know, this past month during
36 the moose hunting season, and confirming what Erik
37 Weingarth just mentioned about the amount of effort of
38 local subsistence hunters going out to hunt, you know,
39 I know some residents from Pilot Station who have been
40 going out and who have been going out pretty much all
41 month. And, you know, being a State regulation and
42 Federal regulation that, you know, the only harvest is
43 for bull moose, and, you know, if the tribes, Pilot
44 Station Traditional Council, Algaaciq, Yupit of
45 Andraefsky should request, or any of the Lower Yukon
46 tribes should request from Fish and Wildlife Service to
47 be able to go and harvest moose.

48

49 You know, according to the State and
50 Federal regulations, yesterday was the last day of

1 hunting. Today it's closed. You know, if the tribes
2 know of local tribal members who have not gotten their
3 meat yet, would you be willing to consider that for the
4 next month or so?

5
6 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, to address
7 that. We look upon the season that on Federal lands
8 that opens up August 10th and ends September 30th.
9 Anybody can make a request in to the Refuge and also
10 OSM to extend the season for a particular reason. Then
11 we'd have to look at the guidance which authorizes that
12 extension, and that would be basically through a
13 special action request. There are certain criteria
14 which have to be met to establish and accept and
15 proceed with a special action request. And if a
16 request came through and met that, the Refuge would be
17 more than happy to forward it on.

18
19 Another that since we have had more
20 moose on the Yukon, and a growing population on the
21 Kuskokwim, something that we've been exposed to since
22 I've been the manager here in 2008, which I hadn't been
23 exposed to prior to, is that we have been getting a lot
24 more funerary and moratorium requests, and we have
25 worked in conjunction with Fish and Game to address
26 those. We've had them from Marshall, we've had them
27 from Aniak and Kalskag and such, and that's never
28 anything I thought I'd be facing as a Federal
29 Government employee or a refuge manager on the
30 Kuskokwim.

31
32 I spent 17 years of my 27-year career
33 away from Bethel so I could come back here. And when I
34 left, we didn't have moose on the Yukon, we didn't have
35 moose on the Kuskokwim, nor did we have caribou. And
36 it's a pleasant surprise to see the population we have
37 on the Yukon and the growing population that we have on
38 the Kuskokwim.

39
40 But in short I say if a request came
41 through and met the criteria which we're bound by, I'd
42 be more than happy to forward on the request and
43 support it.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Gene.

46
47 Go ahead, Mr. Alstrom.

48
49 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. Thanks, Gene, for
50 all that information. I think what we'd like to see in

1 the future, you know, because this already water under
2 the bridge, and in any kind of, you know, out of sports
3 hunting or anything that goes on in our area, we'd like
4 the Department or the US Fish and Wildlife Service to
5 come out to our communities and meet with the tribal
6 councils or the members of the community and at least
7 let them be aware of what's going on. I think what
8 causes this uproar this summer was the lack of
9 communication or information regarding this matter.
10 So, you know, in the future we would like to at least
11 have the tribal councils notified.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 (Mary Gregory arrives)

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. I think
18 we can't tell Gene what to do, but we could ask him to
19 please go out there and meet with the people in
20 Andrafsky and get this settled so that -- to the
21 satisfaction of both parties, if that's okay with you,
22 Gene.

23

24 MR. PELTOLA: Yep. And in my response
25 to Pitka's and to St. Mary's was that I'd be more than
26 happy to go out and discuss with them and further
27 consult with them concerning our permit conditions or
28 the issuance of permits.

29

30 One thing, I'd like to thank you, Mr.
31 Chair, and the Council members and those on line in
32 teleconference for your time.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. I think
35 at this time if there are no other questions.....

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: One final, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One final from Mr.
40 Sandone and one from Mr. Roczicka before we go to
41 lunch.

42

43 MR. SANDONE: I'm scheduled to leave on
44 the 2:00 o'clock flight. I was wondering if you'd want
45 me to just real briefly, two minutes, give you an
46 update on the disaster that came to the Yukon.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, I think that's
49 information that we would like to get. And if you
50 could give us a couple minutes of that, that will be

1 good.

2

3 MR. SANDONE: Yes, I can. TCC, AVCP
4 and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
5 petitioned Congress for disaster aid for the Yukon
6 River for 1998/1999 Chinook salmon commercial fisheries
7 disaster. We got \$5 million, and most of that is going
8 to be distributed as direct payments to the fishermen
9 in the Lower and Upper Yukon River. The amount to each
10 permit holder in the lower river would be about \$4600,
11 one-time payment, and in the upper river it's about
12 \$1500. In addition every permit holder, valid permit
13 holder in 2009 and every subsistence fishing household
14 will receive a new 7-1/2-inch mesh gillnet, and that's
15 throughout the whole river.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for your
18 information, Mr. Sandone.

19

20 MR. SANDONE: You're welcome. Thank
21 you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: At this time we're
24 going to break for lunch. We'll be back at 5 after 2.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (On record)

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to item
31 15.C. Mr. Roczicka.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I put in a request for this agenda item. I'd like to
35 address the Unimak caribou environmental assessment.
36 And after doing a little bit of research on the
37 applicability and our ability to timely respond to
38 that, it's not really doable under the constraints that
39 we have with our correspondence policy, so I'd withdraw
40 it at this time.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Item C has
43 been withdrawn.

44

45 Item D, Tuntutuliak letter. Mr.
46 Charles.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 I have a resolution No. 10-09-05 for requesting
50 emergency order to open moose hunting for five days in

1 winter. I'll have Alex Nick read the whole thing.
2 It's for the RAC.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

5

6 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
7 Council. And the audience. This letter is from
8 Tuntutuliak Traditional Council, P.O. Box 8086,
9 Tuntutuliak, Alaska 99680. Their phone number is 907-
10 256-2128. Their fax number is 907-256-2080.

11

12 Resolution No. 10-09-05.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Excuse me, Alex.
15 Was there copies made for all the Council members on
16 that?

17

18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We haven't. No,
19 we never make copies yet.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. NICK: Okay. Requesting emergency
24 order to open moose hunting for five days this winter.

25

26

27 Whereas the Native Village of
28 Tuntutuliak is a Federally-recognized tribe; and

29

30 Whereas Tuntutuliak Traditional Council
31 is the Federally-recognized governing body of the
32 Native Village of Tuntutuliak; and

33

34 Whereas the Tuntutuliak Traditional
35 Council wants Lower Kuskokwim Village residents to
36 obtain subsistence foods to supplement expensive store-
37 bought food and groceries; and

38

39 Whereas the moose population is
40 continually flourishing and the Tribal Council believes
41 there's enough moose for Fish and Game to call for an
42 emergency opening this winter; and

43

44 Whereas the Yupit traditional way of
45 life includes use of marine and land resource such as
46 salmon, shellfish, marine mammals, geese, moose,
47 caribou, reindeer, et cetera, to supplement expensive
48 store-bought food; and

49

50 Now therefore be it resolved that the

1 Tuntutuliak Traditional Council requests the Alaska
2 Subsistence Board's support this resolution on behalf
3 of the Lower Kuskokwim residents; and

4

5 Be it further resolved that there be an
6 emergency moose hunting opening this winter and would
7 like Subsistence Board to supplement this resolution.

8

9 Certification, adopted and approved by
10 a constituted quorum of the Tuntutuliak Traditional
11 Council on this 27th day of September 2010 by a vote of
12 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining. And it was
13 signed by Nick Frank, President. And Martina Chris,
14 Secretary.

15

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
19 Nick. Any comments on this by the Council.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I can make
22 copies of that for the Council. (In Yup'ik)

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. I think that
25 will be forwarded to the Staff of OSM, OSM Staff; is
26 that correct, Alex?

27

28 MR. NICK: Pardon me?

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That would be
31 forwarded to the Staff of OSM for consideration at our
32 next meeting?

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: Federal Subsistence
35 Board.

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: To the Federal
38 Subsistence Board.

39

40 MR. NICK: Excuse me a moment. Mr.
41 Chair. We will take a copy and give a copy to the OSM
42 Staff. I'll keep a copy and Council will have a copy.
43 It depends on what action you take. Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any action
46 required on this, Staff? If so, what type of action is
47 needed.

48

49 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry
50 Buklis, OSM.

1 I haven't actually seen the document.
2 I was listening along with you, but if this is a
3 special action request, you don't have to take an
4 action on it. We would administer the process in the
5 Office of Subsistence Management. You can express a
6 recommendation or perspective on it, but that's not
7 required of you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
10 discussion on this. Mr. Manumik.

11
12 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman,
13 members of the Council, and Dick -- I mean, Larry, I'm
14 sorry. Do the other affected villages in the Kuskokwim
15 River need to be sent a copy of this resolution,
16 because they're affected by this special request.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. It's not
21 required that other communities receive it, as long as
22 -- you know, anyone can submit a request to OSM and
23 then the Office of Subsistence Management administers
24 that, and if it's delegated to our authority, we can
25 administer it. If it's something that remains with the
26 Federal Subsistence Board, then we conduct an analysis
27 and bring it to the Board's attention. But we can
28 administer this either way without it going to
29 additional communities for input.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

32
33 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I
34 was going to mention the same thing what Paul just did
35 about the fact that one community, and the Lower Kusko
36 moose population just getting over it's moratorium and
37 just starting. It's a lot of pain for what we're
38 seeing is a substantial gain. And we have discussed
39 this regarding other proposals and similar requests
40 about having extended seasons, or extending the season
41 that we have right now. And the consensus has been
42 from all of those communities is that we want to go
43 slow, we want to be careful. We don't want to lose
44 what we've had. We've got the five years of sacrifice,
45 that, you know, before even when we had our 30-day
46 season, we were catching a maximum of 15 to 20 moose a
47 year. Now even with the 10-day season that we have,
48 we're getting 75 to 100 moose. If we open a winter
49 hunt on this, which is being requested here as far as
50 what I heard him say, although no dates were mentioned,

1 that we open a winter hunt on the Lower Kusko then
2 we're going to lose it right now.

3
4 So what their asking for is our support
5 of this through the regulatory process. And I'd be
6 very uncomfortable doing anything like that right now
7 again without having the full weigh-in of all the
8 villages, and from what I've heard in the past, I don't
9 think they're going to like it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

12
13 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 I'm same way with Greg, because we had the AC meeting
15 last November, November '09, and there was some --
16 there was a proposal or a resolution similar to this
17 one, and we are trying to save the moose for future,
18 for longer seasons in fall time or when there are more
19 moose in the area. So we didn't -- we were against
20 that proposal, or I think it was resolution from
21 Marshall. So we didn't take that, because we are still
22 in trying to save the moose for future hunting.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

25
26 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 What is not clear is whether this community resolution
28 is meant to be a submission to OSM as a special action
29 request. If it is, then I said we would
30 administratively process it and analyze it, or raise it
31 to the Board if it's at that level. That doesn't mean
32 our recommendation would be to support. It means we
33 would process the request and analyze it. What we're
34 hearing from you is information that would go into that
35 analysis.

36
37 If this is being raised to your
38 attention and they're asking you to make it a request
39 to us or not, then that's another matter. We need to
40 leave here understanding whether this is a submission
41 to OSM or not. And the community has the authority to
42 submit to us directly, or if they're raising it to you
43 and they're deferring to you as to whether you want it
44 to advance or not, that's another matter. But in the
45 end we need to know whether it's brought to our
46 attention to get a number and be processed or not. And
47 the course of the process doesn't mean the conclusion
48 will be to support. It could go either way.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Comments. Mr.

1 Manumik.

2

3 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Mr.
4 Buklis. And your decision will be included in the
5 response to this resolution, right, as to whether
6 they're to -- if it's approved, it will only have to be
7 bulls only, right? Thank you.

8

9 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'm not in
10 a position to get into the content of it. I haven't
11 see it yet, but my main point is if this resolution,
12 and, Mr. Charles, I think you carried -- did you carry
13 this forward to us?

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Yeah.

16

17 MR. BUKLIS: Okay. We need to
18 understand whether this resolution is meant to be
19 delivered to OSM, and I'm to carry it back, in which
20 case it's legitimate to request this. We would assign
21 it a number, assign it for analysis, and there would be
22 a process for that. And I won't prejudge what the
23 outcome would be. What we're hearing today is part of
24 the information gathering, and it would factor in, but
25 I won't speculate how the outcome would go.

26

27 If you're bringing it to the Council's
28 attention as an information item, and you're asking the
29 Council to advance it to us or not, then that's up to
30 the Council. We need to leave understanding whether
31 it's to be administered by OSM or not. But I'm not
32 going to speculate what the outcome is if we process
33 it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more comment.
36 Mr. Roczicka.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 I have it in front of me. It helps a lot. Yeah, it's
40 asking for a five-day hunt this winter, and it's asking
41 for our support on the behalf of Lower Kuskokwim
42 residents. I mean, looking at the therefore be it
43 resolved. And supporting this resolution would not be
44 on behalf of Lower Kuskokwim residents regarding the
45 moose population. We've got the two-month hunt just
46 across the way that's accessible by folks with the
47 Yukon population which hopefully we might catch up to
48 on the Kuskokwim one of these years and we won't have
49 to even make that trip across.

50

1 As far as the Subsistence Board, it's
2 not clear about whether it's an actual request for the
3 special action. It's asking for our support, and I
4 could not support this resolution, because it would be
5 against the interest of the Lower Kuskokwim moose and
6 the subsistence residents, the community residents
7 throughout the Lower Kuskokwim that depend on the
8 population. It's not on their behalf and it's not in
9 the interest of either the moose or for subsistence.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 I hand-carried this resolution to this group because it
15 was given to me. The group, the village administrator
16 was supposed to be here with this resolution, but since
17 he couldn't make it, he hand it to me and let me hand-
18 carry it over. And so that's what I did.

19

20 And listening to the reports earlier,
21 that 7-day moose hunt just the first part of this
22 month, what is it today? Oh, last month now. Just
23 last month the moose hunt, people catch a lot of moose.
24 And the wintertime would be easier than summertime I
25 think. To me that would be easier. And I don't want
26 the moose to be wiped out before they grow.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And this therefore
31 be it resolved request that the Alaska Subsistence
32 Board support this resolution. That's the only support
33 I see that is being requested here.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: It's in the second, be it
36 further that it asks for our support. Subsistence
37 Board.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are not the
40 Board. We are not. We are just an advisory council.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: Okay. Also Mr. -- excuse
43 me. (In Yup'ik)

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles, you
46 got an answer?

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So as far as I can

1 understand, I think this is addressed to the
2 Subsistence Board, so therefore we'll just go ahead and
3 forward it to the Board, if that's all right with the
4 Council.

5
6 MR. CHARLES: That's the way I
7 understand it, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr.
10 Roczicka.

11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 If they want to have it clarified, perhaps Staff could
14 contact the traditional council, and if they want to
15 pursue it as a special action request. But again I
16 would argue and strongly recommend against this Council
17 supporting that effort. It would be without the
18 support of this Council, if the rest of the members
19 would concur.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

22
23 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I think that's good direction. When we return to the
25 office, we will contact the submitter, the traditional
26 council, and we will inform them that we've received
27 this through the Council meeting, that the Council was
28 not supportive, but it's brought to the attention of
29 the Federal Subsistence Board. If they want us to
30 carry it from there and address it, we will. If they
31 want to withdraw it, they can. But we'll leave it in
32 their hands.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If that's all right
35 with the Council, that's the direction we'll go. Any
36 objections.

37
38 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
39 make a comment, because when we go hunting, those of us
40 who don't hunt any more, my husband is like almost 80
41 years old, and our traditional social services are
42 unlike anything in the world, because when we catch
43 something, we give to the elders, the widows and the
44 orphans. And we don't ask anything in return. And
45 this is what's going to happen, they're going to
46 support those other people who otherwise will hungry or
47 not have any healthy type of food for the winter,
48 because I am reaping that now. I took care of little
49 children when they were small and they've grown up and
50 they're hunting and they support me with moose from

1 Yukon and other places. It's not just going to be the
2 families there, but they're going to share it with
3 their relatives and their people who are in need.

4

5 And if you would suggest, if you would
6 kindly mention this to the Subsistence Board, Mr.
7 Buklis, I would appreciate it if you speak for me.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Have you got a
10 reply to that, Mr. Buklis?

11

12 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. This may be
13 a request that doesn't need to advance to the Board
14 level, because it may have been delegated to
15 Subsistence Management Office, so I don't know that
16 this will actually go before the Board, because some
17 actions are under the authority of field managers and
18 OSM.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. If that is
21 the case, then you should be in constant contact with
22 the Tuntutuliak Traditional Council and Mr. Charles as
23 a contact person so they'll not be in the dark.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

26

27 MR. BUKLIS: Correct. Yes, we have
28 committed to contacting the proponent and confirming
29 whether they want this to go forward or not given the
30 feedback from this Council. And if they want it to go
31 forward, we will administer it.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
36 Buklis.

37

38 MR. BUKLIS: You're welcome.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more discussion
41 on this particular item.

42

43 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

46

47 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
48 You know in our area, Lower Yukon, you and I, we have
49 been collecting fish all those years and we never see
50 no moose. Now we have over thousands. I think that

1 these people, what they want is therefore the benefit
2 for their family and for their people. I think it's
3 not hard to deal with this kind of a thing, unless you
4 don't trust no one.

5
6 Mr. Chairman. That I support this
7 resolution, because I know that the people able to use
8 the food and subsistence in the wintertime.

9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let that go on the
11 record, Mr. Buklis. Okay.

12
13 MR. BUKLIS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. We
14 are hearing a range of views and we will take that into
15 account if this goes forward.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that okay with
18 you, Mr. Wilde? Harry, is that okay with you? Is that
19 all right with you, what Mr. Buklis just said, that
20 they're going to take care of this for us?

21
22 MR. H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll go to
25 item D, a letter from Eek on the boundaries. Now,
26 there was a copy that was passed out just a minute ago
27 from the Native Village of Eek. Mr. Brown.

28
29 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. The reason they brought this out was it's
31 like management to me. Before I come we were having a
32 special meeting about this one, because in the
33 regulation booklet, it includes when the moose season
34 is open, it says in regulation Unit 18, Eek River, it's
35 included South Fork. It opens until yesterday, 30th of
36 last month.

37
38 The reason why they brought this out
39 was because when that -- it says in the booklet, in the
40 regulation booklets out there. There is no
41 transportation to go up toward South Fork. That's the
42 purpose that they wanted to bring this out.

43
44 Thank you. I prefer our coordinator to
45 read it out for me. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

48
49 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. This letter is
50 addressed to this Council. And they also list the YK

1 team.

2

3 It says, Dear Sirs and Ma'am, on my
4 fist day on the job as the city clerk in 1975, I did
5 not fill out an application, there were five elders who
6 each gave me an account, where they have been, what
7 they have seen, headwaters of Togiak, Goodnews Bay,
8 Quinhagak, Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak, Aniak,
9 Holitna River and Stony River. With each account
10 given, to respect the people of the area, water, land
11 and animal. They were not confined by time. There
12 were not confined by space. They were by definition
13 the stewards of the land. I am a generation confined
14 by both.

15

16 To this day I still find the accounts
17 to be true. If anything, they want us to leave the
18 land as they know it -- rather, as they knew it, a land
19 which nourishes a people through time of plenty and
20 time of great need. With that, I submit my support for
21 the Unit 18 Eek River moose general hunt proposal,
22 enclosed.

23

24 Respectfully, Nick Carter, Tribal
25 Administrator.

26

27 Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. And the
30 resolution on the third page. It states:

31

32 Now therefore be it resolved that we
33 request Unit 18, Eek River moose hunt be opened from
34 August 25 to September 20; and

35

36 Be it further resolved that the
37 boundary encompass all tributaries of the Eek River
38 from the vicinity of Unit 17A Togiak and Unit 18
39 Quinhagak, northern boundaries meet at Eek Lake north
40 of the Saw Tooth Mountains to Kialik Slough, following
41 the Kuskokwim downriver, then following the northern
42 boundary line to the Unit 18 Quinhagak.

43

44 Any suggestions, questions or anything
45 concerning this resolution.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think this needs
50 to be forwarded to the Office of Subsistence Management

1 for review and be put in as a proposal, and maybe a
2 proposal should be requested from the Eek, because this
3 is just a resolution. We'll leave that up to you. Mr.
4 Buklis.

5
6 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We will
7 review this as you've asked. And in your reading of
8 it, do you understand this to be a special action
9 request or a proposal for the future?

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: This was put in as
12 a proposal, general hunt.

13
14 MR. BUKLIS: Okay. Mr. Chairman. The
15 cycle for wildlife proposals will be coming up again.
16 We're in the fisheries cycle now, but I believe at our
17 next round of meetings will be the call for wildlife.
18 And so this is the kind of proposal that we could take
19 into consideration at that time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So if it's all
22 right with the Council. Go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

23
24 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman and members
25 of the Council. I'm in favor, but I'm not comfortable
26 with the way it's written. The regulatory proposal is
27 supposed to be in the right format, in a format the way
28 subsistence management take up the regulatory
29 proposals. They need to draw up a map of where exactly
30 the boundary lines will be. And where they say be it
31 further resolved, and the boundary line encompassing
32 all tributaries of Eek River in vicinity of 17A, 18
33 Quinhagak northern boundaries to meet at Eek Lake north
34 of Saw Tooth Mountains. But we always know that as
35 Sawback Mountains, because I used to live up there and
36 hunt and trap in that area.

37
38 And the last few years, we've been
39 dealing with moose proposals all over this area,
40 because last year we were in favor of having the tundra
41 villages included to the Yukon drainage moose hunt, so
42 with the Lower Yukon. Now our neighbor village of Eek
43 want their own seasons, too, whereas as on the main
44 Kuskokwim mainstream, right in 18, we're already given
45 10 days, and the tundra villages was given a whole
46 month to hunt. They're not even or fair to the rest of
47 the hunters in our area. And like Mr. Buklis said, the
48 wildlife cycle will come up in 2011 if it's submitted
49 as a proposal. But if they make a special request,
50 their Staff can handle it the way their special

1 requests. (In Yup'ik)

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for that
6 explanation.

7

8 And, Mr. Buklis, could Staff help Eek,
9 supply Eek with all the information that's needed to
10 write up a proposal to this effect.

11

12 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's
13 part of our role, to assist proponents to have their
14 proposal in as good a condition as it can be. So we
15 can work with them on that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you,
18 Mr. Buklis.

19

20 Mr. Greg Roczicka.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. Also included in this is that it is timely as
24 far as getting a proposal in, that they include the
25 State as well. Because I remember when this came
26 around last time, because of the private lands versus
27 the Federal lands within this area that there was that
28 complication. So they'll need to also along with the
29 proposal to the Federal, our region, AYK, will be
30 coming up under the call also next year under the State
31 as well. The cycle this year deals with Southeast and
32 next fall and winter will deal with AYK region or game
33 proposals. So they'll be running along the time frames
34 there as well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sure Staff is
37 aware of those, and I'm sure we'll.....

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Clarify, you know, about
40 these dates, how they correspond with the ones that are
41 there.

42

43 Just a little bit for what John was
44 mentioning, although these guys have a 30-day hunt,
45 they're also limited to only 10 moose. Those permits
46 are registration permits only available in those
47 villages down there. And you also talked about the
48 tundra village that was expanded to be included under
49 the Yukon. That is not limited just to the tundra
50 villages. That's to all Unit 18 hunters, and there

1 were a lot of people from the villages on mainstem
2 Kuskokwim that went up Johnson and got a moose this
3 year. Got two moose this year. It was essentially the
4 first year open from a six-year moratorium since all
5 Federal lands were closed up there, and the first year
6 of our opening.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
9 discussion on this. Mr. Nick.

10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I just asked Sam
12 Alexie, who is also representing Eek, I believe he's
13 representing traditional council. I think that the
14 proposal that we saw in the packet might be intended
15 for special action request.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: But there was no
18 indication on the letter that it was such.

19
20 MR. NICK: And the reason why I thought
21 that might be the case is because he said that they
22 would like to see this happen this coming winter.

23
24 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Can we ask Mr. Alexie to
29 speak to this.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you like to
32 speak to his, Mr. Alexie.

33
34 MR. ALEXIE: Am I on?

35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're on.

37
38 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. My name is Sam Alexie. I'm from Eek. And
40 I'm one of the Eek Traditional Council members.

41
42 We had discussed mainly on this one
43 concerning the hunts in the fall time, and we were
44 discussing with the other people there, not too many
45 people, just enough to arouse that most of them have
46 not catch any moose this year. And I'm the one that
47 never catch anything. I didn't even buy a permit this
48 year or that slip that you send to the Fish and Game,
49 Wildlife, because there was too many people down there
50 that came into Eek. And that the river, usually on the

1 back side of this one here, the map, let me look at the
2 map here. This is the one that we got from I think it
3 was Fish and Wildlife for wildlife area copy that we
4 got this fall. And the way they discussed it, this
5 area here, Unit 18 including Quinhagak, Eek and this is
6 kind of different one here that they was open last
7 year, when that State was open last year, we had -- if
8 you've got a copy here, it was including Eek, on the
9 edges of Eek along up to the last camp that was along,
10 a little below -- this is a fork here, that you copy
11 here. It's a fork that -- and it was open below the
12 forks when the State was open last year. It was narrow
13 and most of the people couldn't hunt the way it was.
14 Like the Upper Kuskokwim area, like Aniak and
15 Tuntutuliak area, because it was too narrow where it
16 was open on State side.

17

18 And then this year it's open on south
19 of Eek here on the map. And we couldn't -- most of the
20 people there couldn't get into hunting area, because
21 this side is towards coastal area, and we cannot hunt
22 on that swamp area. There's no river there, main
23 river. It's just a tributary, most of it, it's too
24 narrow for the boats to go in, or you cannot even walk
25 on that swamp area. You can't even walk. It's this
26 year mostly, it's too swampy. And you can't even -- if
27 you catch a moose, you can't go over to it. It's very
28 hard for us to, even myself, you know. I'm over 70
29 years old now, and I can't even backpack the moose now,
30 because it's too heavy.

31

32 You've got to have access with a boat
33 close to the main river.

34

35 And the Eek people there were
36 complaining that there was Eek fork here on the wrong
37 place, too. You see this Eek here, they made the --
38 some white people or somebody made wrong kind of fork
39 to Eek River. The main fork is up here, way up here
40 from about this area where somebody made that fork
41 here, which is not even -- you can't just walk, it's
42 about one foot deep, the fork that they made. But the
43 main fork, you can't even cross over it with your -- go
44 over it with yourself, but with a boat. So they were
45 concerned about that. Besides the swampy area that's
46 opened on the wrong side of Eek, people, or eight
47 village, and they were concerned about it.

48

49 And they were concerned about people
50 that came over from different villages like Tunt, some

1 of them, and from Quinhagak, and from some Bethel area.
2 Those were related people to Eek people. And so we
3 were crammed up there, so I was kind of scared that if
4 I try to hunt some moose myself, they might think that
5 I'm a moose, too. So they were concerned about that,
6 too. They were very concerned.

7
8 So Mr. Alex Nick here asked me about
9 that, excuse me, that opening dates that they want.
10 They were concerned about, because this year we had
11 Federal opening for us this year. And it's not -- only
12 five days is not enough of an opening, because in five
13 days you can go up to where you hunt, try to hunt
14 moose, and you never see any moose. You just watch the
15 rain all day, all night and go down when -- for their
16 subsistence -- I mean, Federal/State opening's over.
17 They don't get any more days to hunt. So it's kind of
18 suffering time on those days that I didn't even go ,
19 because I know myself, I don't want to starve to death
20 while I'm moose hunting up there, because it's just
21 five days.

22
23 So I hope you can understand. So is
24 there any questions somewhere on this that I can
25 answer?

26
27 Mr. Chairman. We were discussing a lot
28 about this, and, Mr. Chairman, they were kind of
29 concerned about this line, Federal opening line that
30 they -- see, Eek is right way about 10, 15 miles out
31 from the line. And they want it the next time opens,
32 they want it closer to Eek River so they can try to
33 catch a moose that area where that opening area is.

34
35 I hope I'm understandable. I hope.
36 Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So this request is
39 for a boundary change? Boundary line change request.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Yes. So you can, with
42 your outboard motor you can kind of come closer to the
43 open area next time. Because like last year, the State
44 was open, you can just walk up to the area and kind of
45 stay on the main river, not on the tributary. Some of
46 the tributaries are small -- shallow ones, really
47 shallow. You can't even drag your boat in.

48
49 So also, Mr. Chairman, they talked
50 about that fork they were talking about. The main fork

1 is north and south forks. This one's very shallow where
2 somebody made the wrong fork here on Eek River. If you
3 want to have some more input on this, you can contact
4 Eek administrator down there, or we're going to have
5 our meeting this month, regular meeting, ATC regular
6 meeting, so if somebody want to send us a map or
7 somebody want to come down from Fish and Game, can help
8 us out on this area, if there's any possibilities on
9 that. Mr. Chair.

10

Thank you.

11

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Quyana. Greg and
14 then Ms. Gregory.

15

16

MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Quyana. Sounds
17 familiar, and I think that I'm starting to get what you
18 guys are after here, but tell me if I'm wrong. Are you
19 looking to include the Eek drainage into that
20 Quinhagak, Kanektok, Goodnews hunt, or are you looking
21 to create your own registration hunt within the Eek
22 drainage? It sounded to me like you were looking to be
23 included, to move this boundary for this Quinhagak and
24 Goodnews River to include the Eek River in that one
25 rather than being in the short season of the remainder
26 of the Lower Kuskokwim.

27

MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. This
28 area is kind of far off from the main Kuskokwim River,
29 and Quinhagak would come closer, the line, Federal line
30 would come closer to Eek and Quinhagak. Right now it's
31 mostly Quinhagak and Platinum and Goodnews side. No,
32 it's not even Platinum here. It's just Goodnews and
33 Quinhagak here on this one here, and it's lots of
34 ground here to hunt, but Eek and Platinum are on the
35 outside here. If it's closer to here, maybe closer to
36 -- if there's any moose down at Platinum area, it would
37 be nice, but I know Goodnews and Quinhagak have lots
38 of moose. I mean, not many, but good enough to hunt on
39 from the residents of those. But for us it's -- you
40 get lots of -- use lots of gas going down to Quinhagak
41 and hunt upriver. And we cannot even go down to
42 Goodnews to hunt, because it's too far, and the ocean
43 is close by to the coast here. When it's windy, you
44 cannot drive through there.

45

46

So if this line is closer to Eek area,
47 it would be better. Maybe you can ask Mr. William
48 Brown about that, too, more as people have questions.

49

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary, you have a
4 question.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
7
8 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Right.
9
10 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
11
12 MR. ALEXIE: yeah.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: I just told him that they
15 have no place to go when they try.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Your light. Mary.
18
19 MS. GREGORY: When they try to go
20 hunting, they have no place to go. The river's are too
21 shallow, and as he said, the swampy area where nobody
22 can survive.
23
24 I was wondering if our local Fish and
25 Wildlife Service, Mr. Peltola's outfit, can go down and
26 help them make those boundaries and consult with the
27 traditional councils. If we are really, truly trying
28 to help our Native people to live to the fullest of
29 their life, because when you eat your own food, you are
30 spiritually nourished and physically, and everything
31 that is good happens to you when you eat your own food
32 and speak your own language. And this is for the well
33 being of all the Native people in this area.
34
35 And my request would be to Mr. Peltola
36 to get some of his people down there to work with those
37 villages when we have an opening for moose, so they can
38 get the most, best opportunity they can go out and
39 provide for themselves.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mary.
42 Mr. Charles.
43
44 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 If they want a boundary change and put the line on it,
46 it would have been faster I think and easier, if we see
47 the line, proposed line. That would help and make
48 things quicker that way.
49
50 But, Sam, (In Yup'ik). For your

1 information, we don't make the regulations, but if you
2 take it to the Subsistence Board people, they will take
3 up your proposal. Or if you make a line, it would be
4 easier for them, too, just like us, what do they call
5 it. (In Yup'ik) Yeah, like State says, agenda change
6 request and these guys are emergency -- what's the
7 language?

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Special action.

10

11 MR. CHARLES: Special action. (In
12 Yup'ik)

13

14 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you get ahold
17 of Larry, the man sitting right next to you is the guy
18 to talk to about getting your proposal in. If you were
19 able to get all the information that he would request,
20 he'll be working directly, or the Office of Subsistence
21 Management will be working with Eek to get a proposal
22 through. Is that correct, Mr. Buklis?

23

24 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We
25 will work with this gentleman to have the proposal
26 developed for the regular cycle, and if they want to
27 submit it for special action consideration for 2011,
28 which would get ahead of the cycle, we can do that as
29 well. I can't prejudge the outcome, but we can work
30 with him to get it under consideration.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Is that
33 understood, Mr. Alexie?

34

35 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, that will help us,
36 Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank everyone of you
37 that has been working on this area, because before you
38 guys were on, there's no -- when the Yup'iks were not
39 on, everybody, the other -- these people that came out
40 from Lower 48 came around and, you know, I call it
41 bossing around us, you know. Nowadays you guys are
42 regulating some of it, and these higher people from
43 Lower 48 from Federal, they help you guys and help us
44 out, too, lots.

45

46 So, Mrs. Gregory, I thank you for
47 helping me. If somebody comes down to Eek for our
48 regular meeting or any time they can come down to Eek
49 and help us out on this area, and make it up for higher
50 offices to accept the resolutions or proposals would be

1 very good.

2

3 I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're welcome, and

6 thank you.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

9

10 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney, you have

13 a comment.

14

15 MR. ONEY: Yes, I do. The way I read
16 this resolution, they're asking for two things. One
17 for a boundary extension and also an extension on the
18 moose hunt in that area.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think that our
21 Staff will take care of that.

22

23 We are down to item 16, agency reports.

24 Item A. That's what I say, too, Mr. Roczicka, whew.

25 Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group update. Mr.

26 Buklis.

27

28 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29 On your agenda you have three briefings from us, from

30 the Office of Subsistence Management, and I'm prepared

31 to cover all three of those. The first is the Brown

32 Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group update. The second

33 is update on salmon by-catch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian

34 Islands pollock fishery. And the third is the briefing

35 on the new Federal subsistence permit system. All

36 three of these are written briefings in your book on

37 Pages 182, 186 and 187.

38

39 In the interest of time, if you want to

40 leave them as written briefings, that's fine. I can go

41 over them verbally if you want. I would defer to your

42 judgment on that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What is the wish of

45 the Council. Any suggestions from the Council.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I was put on

48 that Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group. We only

49 had one meeting that I know of, and the rest of it,

50 they never get back at me. So when I read this, I was

1 glad that they were doing something about it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis, why
4 don't you just give us a brief report on these three
5 items.

6

7 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 The first is the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Work Group.
9 It's on Page 182. And I'll highlight a few points.

10

11 First, in the question and answer
12 section on 183 I would highlight two of the questions
13 that I think are key, and I'll highlight the responses.

14

15 The first is, why was this working
16 group formed. At the May 2008 Federal Subsistence
17 Board meeting, the idea of a working group was
18 suggested by the State as a way to address some of
19 their concerns with Federal regulations that allow the
20 sale of handicrafts that include brown bear claws. So
21 this grew out of the 2008 regulatory cycle and a
22 proposal, and they thought that the best way to resolve
23 the issue was to have a work group to address it. So
24 that's why the work group was formed.

25

26 And then the question on the top of
27 page 184 I thought was an important one to bring to
28 your attention. Who was in the working group and how
29 often has met. This work group includes
30 representatives of Fish and Game, wildlife troopers,
31 Office of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife
32 Service, Forest Service, and 9 of the 10 Regional
33 Advisory Councils. The Western Interior Regional
34 Advisory Council declined to participate due to their
35 concerns about how we address bear issues in terms of
36 cultural approaches.

37

38 The Federal and State agency Staff met
39 five times between January and August of 2009, but
40 Council representatives were only able to attend one of
41 these meetings by teleconference in June of 2009. Then
42 the working group met again in July of 2010. So that's
43 who they are and when they've met.

44

45 And then in the main body of the
46 briefing I would point out that the working group has
47 reached a consensus that that proposal from 2008 that
48 was deferred be rejected or put aside, and that a new
49 proposal be submitted. And the new proposal would
50 require sealing the brown bear if the subsistence user

1 intends to sell a handicraft incorporating the claws.
2 So if there's an intent to use the claws for
3 handicraft, the bear be sealed.

4
5 And that there would be a tag number,
6 which is a CITES tag number. And that's noted up
7 above, that's the Convention on International Trade in
8 Endangered Species of Wildlife, Animals and Plants. So
9 it's called CITES.

10
11 And a CITES tag number would be
12 applied, which is provided when the hide is sealed, so
13 there would be a way to track this process.

14
15 So the recommendation of the work group
16 is to put aside the former proposal and generate a new
17 one that would emphasize sealing and a tag number.

18
19 And then finally, this analysis, this
20 proposal, would be analyzed in the next regular
21 wildlife cycle. So it's nothing for you to address
22 now. This is the direction the work group would like
23 to go, and we would be coming back to you in the next
24 wildlife cycle with a proposal along these lines, and
25 then an analysis to follow. And that would be the new
26 course for this issue.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
29 questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, continue.

34
35 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. The second of
36 the three briefings is on Page 186. It has to do with
37 the salmon by-catch issue. I think that came up a
38 little earlier today.

39
40 To remind you, the Chinook salmon by-
41 catch issue has been addressed over the last several
42 years.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: What page are you?

45
46 MR. BUKLIS: 186.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: 186. Thank you.

49
50 MR. BUKLIS: The Chinook Salmon by-

1 catch issue has been addressed over the last several
2 years, and a rulemaking process was just concluded this
3 spring. And the North Pacific Fishery Management
4 Council and Department of Commerce, which is a separate
5 process from this one, they did establish salmon by-
6 catch for Chinook in that fishery. It's set at 60,000
7 if incentive plans are agreed to, and 47,591 if there
8 is no incentive plan. So a couple of different levels
9 for Chinook by-catch. And that's been finalized in the
10 rulemaking.

11
12 So that's not a new development. We're
13 just reporting back to you on that process.

14
15 The newest direction is the chum by-
16 catch which came up in a presentation earlier today.
17 And the timeline for that process is laid out. In the
18 period we're in now, June to December, so we're in this
19 period now, the North Pacific Counsel Staff is
20 preparing an analysis for preliminary review. So
21 that's where they're at now. Early in the new year
22 that should be made available for comment. And then in
23 February of the new year, February 2011, the Council
24 will be meeting in Seattle to review the preliminary
25 data and analysis.

26
27 And I think most relevant to you, a
28 little later in the spring, in February and March,
29 coming up, the North Pacific Council members and staff
30 intend to come to five of the ANILCA Subsistence
31 Councils to present information on the chum by-catch
32 issue. And the YK Council is one of those five. It's
33 going to be the YK, the Western Interior, Eastern
34 Interior, Seward Peninsula and Bristol Bay. So they're
35 going to go to those five Councils and you'll have a
36 chance to ask questions and discuss the process on
37 chum.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
42 Buklis. Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You must be doing a
47 good job.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: I just want to make sure
50 that when you make the agenda for our March meeting,

1 you put that in that for these guys who are coming.
2 North Pacific Fishery Management group.

3
4 Quyana.

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other
7 questions. If not -- Mr. Oney.

8
9 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

10
11
12 Larry, I know there's observers on
13 those high seas fishermen on the United States side. I
14 don't know if this is international where we have
15 observers on those boats other than those from the
16 United States. Is that the case?

17
18 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. This is
19 entirely a US fishery. And the people who come to
20 speak to you next time will know much better than I,
21 but I think an outcome of this process on the Chinook
22 concern is 100 percent coverage. So I think they're up
23 to 100 percent coverage, but they can speak to that
24 better than I.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.

27
28 MR. ONEY: Yeah. The reason why I ask
29 is because, you know, I'm interested in knowing what
30 the by-catch is of, you know, the other fishermen in
31 that area, in the high-seas fishing. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
34 questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, Mr. Buklis,
39 next item.

40
41 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. The third and
42 final of the OSM briefings is on Page 187. It has to
43 do with the Federal subsistence permit system.

44
45 As you know, permits are issued for
46 Federal subsistence hunts and fisheries. And not all
47 areas have Federal fishing permits, but where they are,
48 we manage that process. And we've made improvements in
49 how we issue and track the data from those permits.
50 And this briefing brings that to your attention.

1 We've developed a new system that is
2 better able to print and produce permits, and we're
3 better able to track the harvest numbers in the system.
4 And it's a significant improvement.

5
6 Some of the points I'll highlight is
7 that it's a streamlined process for issuing permits to
8 Federally-qualified users and tracking the returns.
9 We've just done it this past year, 2010, and we
10 produced more than 3,200 permits have been issued so
11 far on this new system. And feedback has been very
12 positive both from the public users, the hunters, and
13 from agency staff who manage the issuing of these.

14
15 We're moving into the fisheries realm
16 now and adapting this system for fisheries. And
17 fishing permits in 2011 that are required would be
18 issued through this system. But we emphasize the
19 hunting cycle in 2010.

20
21 So that's a piece of good news about
22 administering the hunts and fisheries with permits.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
25 Buklis.

26
27 Any questions. Mary.

28
29 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Buklis, I don't
30 understand what you're talking about. Permits to do
31 what? Go fishing or go hunting? I didn't understand.

32
33 MR. BUKLIS: Many of the hunts and some
34 of the fisheries in Federal subsistence require a
35 Federal permit. And what I'm speaking to is this
36 doesn't change the requirements. All I'm saying is
37 that we've developed a new system for producing the
38 permits and tracking the data.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: I don't know what you
41 mean by permit?

42
43 MR. BUKLIS: A permit is a paper
44 document that is required for most hunts and some
45 fisheries. The paper document is called a hunting
46 permit or a fishing permit. And when the regulations
47 require such a permit, the hunter or fisherman has to
48 carry it with them.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: I understand that, but

1 where are they happening? What part of the State?

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Most of the Federal hunts
4 in the State of Alaska and some of the fisheries
5 require these permits.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: Do they happen on the YK
8 Delta?

9

10 MR. BUKLIS: None of fisheries in the
11 YK Delta, none of the salmon fisheries require a
12 permit, no. In terms of the hunts, yes, I believe a
13 number of the hunts in the YK require a permit. Yes.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions
18 concerning the briefing on the new Federal subsistence
19 permit system.

20

21 MR. UNOK: I don't understand what's
22 this all about. What kind of permit they're talking
23 about.

24

25 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. All this is
26 about, it doesn't change any requirements. All I'm
27 reporting to you about is the system for producing
28 permits and monitoring the data from permits has been
29 improved. So where there's a hunt that requires a
30 permit, and in some places the fisheries require
31 permits, not in the YK, but in some places they do.
32 And where, for example, the upper Copper River requires
33 a Federal permit. In a case like that, this system
34 will do a better job of allowing us to issue the
35 permits to the fishermen and collect the data back.
36 It's an administrative improvement.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What he's trying to
39 tell you, Mr. Unok, is that in some areas of the State
40 there is a permit system that is given to people to go
41 out and hunt where there's a tier III situation, where
42 there's scarcity of the resource, of the subsistence
43 resource, that's when permits are issued usually for
44 those, either for fishing or for gathering certain
45 subsistence resources like -- what permits are we
46 talking about, just for.....

47

48 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. For YK
49 Council, for example, in fisheries, we don't have
50 Federal subsistence fishing permits required, so it may

1 not be familiar to you. But in some other areas of the
2 State a Federal permit is required to subsistence fish.
3 For example, the Copper River and in Southeast Alaska.
4 So in those places a Federal permit is required to fish
5 for subsistence. And this system is doing a better job
6 of getting those permits produced and issued to people
7 and collected back.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Where required.

10

11 MR. BUKLIS: Where required. This
12 doesn't change any requirements. It's just a better
13 way of delivering the service.

14

15 Secondly, many of the Federal
16 subsistence hunts require that a State permit is used,
17 or in some cases a Federal units. Where the rules
18 require a Federal hunt permit, this system is producing
19 those permits. A large example is the Nelchina caribou
20 hunt in Unit 13. We issue many, many Federal permits
21 in that area. And this system is doing a better job of
22 that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Is that
25 understood?

26

27 MR. UNOK: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. It's just
30 not -- the reason why you're not really familiar with
31 this is because you're lucky. You're lucky in a way
32 that you don't have to get these permits to get your
33 subsistence food, but in the area where people are not
34 as lucky as the people in the AYK area, where the
35 resource is limited, that's when permits are issued.
36 Okay.

37

38 Mr. Kelly.

39

40 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41

42 Larry, you know, while looking at the
43 agenda, I had no -- well, I did not see a place for
44 this, but I had a question to the Office of Subsistence
45 Management regarding another issue.

46

47 Several years ago OSM was soliciting
48 information regarding Council membership for Alaska
49 Regional Advisory Councils. Has there been a report
50 submitted about this council membership?

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
2 Buklis.

3
4 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. My
5 understanding is the Council membership nominations are
6 still in review and have not been announced. And as
7 far as new applications, I think that begins in the
8 new. I'm not remembering exactly the time frame for
9 the new open period, but I think it's in January.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kelly.

12
13 MR. KELLY: Actually let me rephrase
14 the question. The OSM was looking for recommendations
15 on membership guidelines and who is applicable to be on
16 the -- or what qualifies as a subsistence users on the
17 Regional Advisory Councils, and this was like in '07 or
18 so. And I don't remember seeing any results of these
19 information. So do you have anything on that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

22
23 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I think you're speaking to Council composition and sort
25 of the subsistence representation and commercial/sport
26 representation, is that the issue? And my
27 understanding is that where we can, we are using a
28 guidance that representation should be diverse and
29 represent all interests so the decisionmaking can take
30 into account all perspectives. And that Council
31 composition, it's not a strict requirement, but we
32 strive to achieve a balance of 70 percent subsistence
33 representation and 30 percent commercial/sport
34 representation. And that's sort of a guide. And that
35 was the outcome of that process.

36
37 MR. KELLY: Just a follow up then. So
38 the composition has not changed since its original
39 conception?

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Buklis.

42
43 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That was
44 the initial guidance we were working under at the time
45 that we brought this to people's attention, and that
46 hasn't changed through that review process.

47
48 Earlier in the program, before that
49 period in the late 2000s, there wasn't any specific
50 emphasis on subsistence versus commercial/sport, no.

1 So if you're talking about when the program started in
2 1990, it was simply Subsistence Regional Advisory
3 Councils, and there wasn't this emphasis on
4 representation. But in more recent years with the
5 focus on balance and representation, the initial
6 guidance was 70/30, and that's where we landed, 70/30.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
9 questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If now, thank you,
14 Mr. Buklis.

15
16 We are down to item B, US Fish and
17 Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta Refuge.

18
19 MR. GILLIKIN: Mr. Chair, Counsel
20 members. My name is Dan Gillikin. I'm the fisheries
21 biologist with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
22 here in Bethel.

23
24 I handed out a packet before lunch at
25 each of your desks there, and it's got three documents.
26 One was the need for Chinook salmon conservation
27 actions. One was a summary of the aquatic resources
28 program. And then one is a brief summary from the
29 Kenai Fisheries Field Office related to their
30 monitoring work on the Tuluksak and Kwethluk Rivers
31 this summer.

32
33 I'd like to start with the need for the
34 Chinook salmon conservation action that the Refuge and
35 ADF&G had to take this summer on the Tuluksak and
36 Kwethluk Rivers. Since many of you are working group
37 members, you're well aware of the situation we were
38 faced with here this summer, and that was primarily a
39 much lower return of Chinook salmon than were
40 originally forecasted. In fact, what we saw on the
41 Kwethluk and Tuluksak Rivers this summer were the
42 lowest documented returns of Chinook salmon that we've
43 got on those systems.

44
45 If you look in the document on Page 4
46 and 5 of that document, you'll see some graphs and
47 charts there. And those charts and graphs, that's the
48 same data set that the working group and the area
49 managers had to look at. That was the available data
50 at the time that we had to take some sort of action for

1 conservation of Chinook salmon.

2

3 I think it's very important that this
4 group understands that, you know, in-season management
5 is certainly not an absolute thing, and that a lot of
6 times that we're looking at data as it's changing
7 daily, weekly, as it comes in and we're having to often
8 times make our best professional guess at, you know,
9 what kind of action we need to take.

10

11 But it was pretty clear about the 8th
12 of July at that working group meeting, that we were not
13 going to meet escapements in those two systems this
14 season. And if you look at the charts, the last two
15 bar charts on that, you'll see that on the Tuluksak
16 that would mean that this would have been the fourth
17 year that we did not make the escapement objectives in
18 that system. And for the Kwethluk, it would be the
19 third year. So that prompted the Refuge Staff and
20 myself to start asking some questions with Fish and
21 Game and bringing it up to the managers as to what
22 actions should we be taking to try to achieve at least
23 the bottom ends of those escapement goals.

24

25 This all happened very quickly and it
26 would have been nice if it could have been a much
27 smoother operation, but it's kind of like making
28 sausage. You know, at the time you have to take action
29 immediately.

30

31 So what I've provided in the rest of
32 the document there is kind of a synopsis of our thought
33 processes and the things that we evaluated in making
34 the determination to issue a special action closure
35 that closed subsistence fishing specifically in the
36 Kwethluk and Tuluksak Rivers, including all gear types,
37 only for Chinook salmon.

38

39 One of the large issues that were at
40 hand was, is we only wanted to target Chinook salmon,
41 and we only wanted to impact as few users, subsistence
42 users as possible. That was the emphasis on just
43 targeting the Tuluksak and Kwethluk Rivers, and not
44 having a larger area closure in place. At this time
45 most Chinook subsistence fishers had already concluded
46 their subsistence fishing activities in the main river
47 and in those tributary systems as well.

48

49 So the real concern, the real target,
50 the focus of the closure was at the -- on the rod and

1 reel subsistence harvest that occurs on those systems,
2 the Kwethluk in particular. As you folks are probably
3 well aware, you know, the Kwethluk and the Lower
4 Kwethluk is not that far from Bethel, and so you see a
5 large component of the population in Bethel every
6 evening existing out of Bethel, going rod and reel
7 fishing under subsistence and sport fish regulations
8 both in the Kwethluk and Kasigluk and Lower Kisaralik.

9
10

11 So that was really the true focus of
12 the special action that was taken, was to try to
13 minimize that interception and get more fish up onto
14 the spawning ground, as many large Chinook as we could
15 up onto the spawning grounds at that time.

16
17

18 So rather than go through every point
19 here, but I think it's important that we share this
20 with you so that you can see that, you know, it was not
21 an action that was taken lightly. It was very well
22 thought out, and we addressed several specific points,
23 some of which are required before the area manager,
24 Gene Peltola, Jr., can take a special action. And so I
25 laid that out for you.

26
27

28 One other point I wanted to make
29 related to this is I haven't seen the data yet for this
30 year's ASL, age/sex/length data from the monitoring
31 projects, but I have been in communication with Doug
32 Mulleneaux, the ADF&G area research biologist who's
33 been out here as you all know for years and years, and
34 he indicated that the four-year-old component of the
35 return this year was not as strong as they had hoped it
36 would be. What that means is we may again be looking
37 at a weak run of Chinook salmon for this coming year.
38 And so with that, we would probably anticipate again
39 the need for taking some type of conservation action to
40 try to get more fish spawning up on those systems.

41
42

43 And with that, I'll let the Refuge
44 manager, Gene Peltola expand on that a little bit.

45
46

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Gene.

47
48

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Gene Peltola,
49 Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta.

50
51

52 You know, in the last several years,
53 we've paid a lot of attention to the Yukon, and
54 rightfully so. But here on the Kuskokwim things have

1 been slowly creeping up on us, and at times when you
2 look information collected by Fish and Wildlife Service
3 and Fish and Game, independently and together, is that
4 things may not be as rosy as we hoped they would be on
5 the Kuskokwim. And that is evidenced by this year by
6 us closing down two specific tributaries, which wasn't
7 something we took very lightly, but we thought we had
8 to do.

9

10 By looking at preliminary reports of
11 the four-year-old cohorts this year, we might be
12 anticipating reduced runs next year. If that's the
13 case, we might have to consider restric -- limitations
14 or restrictions.

15

16 If the trend continues between Fish and
17 Game and ourselves, I think we need to start educating
18 people to the point that we may have to take further
19 limitations with regard to our subsistence activity in
20 addition to the commercial activity. Example, if we
21 were to totally limit commercial harvest of Chinook on
22 the Kuskokwim today, Fish and Game projects that to be
23 between 5 and 7,000 fish. WE observed this year
24 roughly 2700 fish incidentally caught in the mixed
25 stock fishery that occurred on the Kuskokwim. Just by
26 removing the commercial harvest alone would not address
27 our problem with low returns, which means that we'd
28 have to seriously consider, whether it be voluntary or
29 specific limitations on trying to curtail some of our
30 subsistence harvest, because that's estimated between
31 60 and 80,000 fish a year. Am I saying we have to do
32 that now? No. But it's something we may have to
33 seriously consider in the future and we should keep in
34 the back of our minds.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
39 questions for either of the two gentlemen.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Do you have
44 any preliminary numbers yet on what resulted in
45 escapement. I think both those weirs were probably
46 well part of the whole washout that occurred there
47 through most of August.

48

49 MR. GILLIKIN: Well, Steve Miller would
50 probably be a better person to address that, but I

1 believe, you know, we have pretty good numbers for the
2 Chinook. Most of the washout occurred during the coho,
3 when the coho were passing through. And if it did
4 affect it, it would have been just the tail end of the
5 run.

6

7 I do know in speaking with Ken Harper
8 and Steve, you know, that they were going to try and
9 look, because that's an important part of our
10 management, is did the action we take actually achieve
11 what we wanted it to achieve? That may be a very
12 difficult question to answer. But they were going to
13 look at the data to see if there was some type of, you
14 know, change in the passage of Chinook salmon at the
15 weir after we implemented the closure.

16

17 I can tell you from anecdotal evidence
18 that -- I was making several trips up and down the
19 river at that time to support my camp that's up there,
20 and it was very, very quiet. There was nobody on that
21 river fishing either rod and reeling or, you know, with
22 nets, because we left it open for 4-inch gear to fish
23 for chum and sockeye still, and people just were not
24 fishing. I don't know if there was a misunderstanding
25 in the order, the closure order, and people thought it
26 was closed completely to fishing or not, but there were
27 a few rainbow fishermen, but there was very little
28 activity on the river.

29

30 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. One thing
31 I'd like to point out. Before the Refuge took the
32 action of limiting and pretty much closing those
33 drainages to (1) Federally-qualified users only, then
34 closing it down totally to harvest up until the end of
35 July, is that we met with Kwethluk and Tuluksak prior
36 to that and Robertson Down, the natural resource
37 specialist from our office, and Doug Mulleneaux from
38 the State of Alaska went up to those two villages and
39 talked to people, and they were wholeheartedly behind
40 it. At least what we were told at the meetings which
41 we held.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
44 questions concerning the report from the Refuge.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

49

50 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 How about on Tuluksak Chinook, the bars on this one
2 here, how come there's no data there from '95 to 2000,
3 and it's blank there. Where are the fish?

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: My recollection, that
6 period is when I was not present here, but I used to
7 discuss, you know, certain issues with the Refuge.
8 During that period of time the weir was not
9 operational. I don't recall whether it's totally due
10 to placement of the weir in land status negotiations
11 with individuals or the community itself.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
14 questions.

15

16 MR. GILLIKIN: Steve's going to speak
17 here in a minute, maybe he can address that for Mr.
18 Charles.

19

20 MR. PELTOLA: And, Mr. Chair, under the
21 Refuge reports section, I have two other topics I could
22 address. I'll go through it briefly.

23

24 One I touched upon earlier when I was
25 up here speaking with Mr. Alstrom from St. Mary's, and
26 that's our transporter permits. As I mentioned, the
27 Refuge issues four transporter permits throughout the
28 year, three of which are aircraft, one boat operated.
29 One of the aircraft and the boat operated did not
30 engage in dropping anybody off. This year we had just
31 under 40 total clients dropped off on Refuge lands, not
32 regional or village corporation lands, of which they
33 took a total of 18 moose, two black bear, and one wolf.
34 And a significant portion of those 40 clients were
35 Federally-qualified users from the area, mainly Bethel.

36

37 And then I'd like to quickly go through
38 one other topic here, and then I'd be open to any other
39 questions that any of the council members may have.

40

41 But one thing I wanted to touch upon is
42 about a little over -- well, a little over or under two
43 years ago the Refuge received a request to initiate
44 Arctic fox population manipulation, i.e. predator
45 control on the coast on the five colonies of brant on
46 the YK Delta. Those colonies occur from Nelson Island
47 up to the Askinuks, of which we have, like I just
48 mentioned, five colonies. And that initial request
49 came through just about the time I came in as manager.

50

1 And the Refuge had addressed predator
2 control with regard to Brant and Arctic fox in
3 following, you know, the NEPA process, and we came up
4 with an EA. And if you have any questions about the
5 EA, Tom could probably read it off the back of his
6 eyelids.

7
8 But we went through that process
9 itself. The original request was to remove Arctic
10 foxes on all the colonies on the YK Delta for a period
11 of 10 to 15 years. I as manager met with the
12 biological staff and said that for us to even consider
13 it, it had to be (1) biologically justifiable and
14 defensible, and (2) legally justifiable and defensible.

15
16
17 Going through that process of the five
18 colonies in question, we came to the conclusion that
19 Arctic population manipulation may be warranted on one
20 colony on Refuge lands, that being Tutakoke just south
21 of Hooper Bay on the south side of the Bay. Another
22 location which is on corporation land or private land
23 was Kokechik Bay on the south side, which happened to
24 be on Sealion Corporation lands.

25
26 Because we had two colonies of
27 potential concern, we talked with our Migratory Bird
28 office in Anchorage. They took the lead with respect
29 to Kokechik and we took the lead with regard to
30 Tutakoke.

31
32 Migratory Birds has got a contract
33 with, what do they call it, Wildlife Services, which is
34 old Animal Damage Control, and had two people camped
35 out on the south side of Kokechik Bay, and they removed
36 either one or three foxes. We utilized for the first I
37 think two and half to three week period local
38 individuals from our Staff went out, and then another
39 10-day period where we used the same crew from
40 Kokechik, and they went down Tutakoke River and they
41 removed about 30 animals.

42
43 Now there are other factors which may
44 be influencing the productivity of brant. Now, we
45 didn't go in and just willy nilly kill foxes when we
46 saw them or when we needed to. We built upon our EA
47 and we came up with a management plan. So we had
48 specific triggers which would initiate when we'd do
49 control, when we'd do some control work two years
50 following these triggers. The most concern that the

1 scientific community or the brant experts in our staff
2 could agree upon was that there seems to be a very high
3 concern for especially brant, because they're colonial
4 nesters and they nest close together, one to two years
5 following a lemming high. And when you get high
6 abundance of prey, the Arctic fox follow. And then the
7 lemming crash off and you have a high population of
8 Arctic fox remain for a while. And so we completed the
9 first year of that project, and most likely will be out
10 for a second year based on our management plan.

11

Thank you.

12

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CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
questions.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you,
gentlemen.

MR. GILLIKIN: With that, if I could
just briefly go over my aquatic resources project with
you.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.

MR. GILLIKIN: That's another handout
that you have. Excuse me. Very briefly, we continued
our SRON work up on the Kwethluk River this summer, and
again we're in our seventh year of data collection on
that system where we're collecting very detailed
ecological information and how that relates to salmonid
productivity, juvenile salmon productivity. And it's
proving to be a wealth of knowledge for us.

Just some of the early preliminary
results from that are that as far as a trend that this
group may be interested in, is we are overall seeing a
decline in the amount of biomass that's going into the
Kwethluk River as a function of the total number of
salmon that are going into the Kwethluk River itself.
And possibly corresponding to that we're seeing lower
and lower juvenile salmonid densities in the system, so
we're not seeing the densities of juvenile Chinook and
coho in the system as we had in the past. And whether
that's a function of that biomass, that nitrogen,
phosphorus, carbon loading into the system or not is
still -- we're analyzing that.

1 One of the other project areas that
2 we've been trying to focus on is inventory work of
3 tundra lakes and pounds out in the middle delta along
4 the coastline. We supported or conducted about a dozen
5 limnological surveys of ponds and lakes out on the
6 delta and conducted a more intensive fisheries survey
7 of a lake that's out by Hazen Bay looking primarily at
8 Bering cisco rearing habitat that's occurring out
9 there. We got some very interesting results.

10
11 Alissa showed you some pictures from
12 our science camp project this summer, which is -- again
13 this is our sixth year of that. We had 17 kids from
14 all over the villages on the Delta here and it was a
15 great experience as usual. It was -- the camp was at
16 one station this summer as opposed to floating down the
17 river like we've done in the past, and I think it
18 actually provided us an opportunity to present a much
19 better program of, you know, educational information to
20 the kids. And it was a great cooperative project with
21 the State, ONC, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and
22 many, many others.

23
24 The final thing I wanted to mention is
25 that with support from management at the Refuge we
26 again hired four ANSEP students to work in aquatic
27 resources and in wildlife areas. And we had one Bridge
28 student this summer. And some of them you still see
29 around here, the ANSEP students. Again they're
30 excellent resources for the work that we're doing out
31 there, and they're really wonderful to work with.

32
33 And I'd like to especially thank some
34 of the crews that Steve loaned me that I was able to
35 hire this summer from the villages of Tuluksak and
36 Kwethluk, because as many of you are aware, our camp up
37 on the Kwethluk last fall burnt to the ground
38 essentially and we had to clean that mess up and then
39 reconstruct it. And we could have never accomplished
40 that without hiring some local crews to go out there
41 and help us do that, and they did a job that was way
42 beyond my expectations.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: Can you explain biomass
49 and then what makes it not exist any more?

50

1 MR. GILLIKIN: When I'm talking about
2 biomass it's really the number of salmon that are
3 getting up into the system, that are returning to
4 spawn, you know, their flesh basically, that meat that
5 they're bringing back to the system from the ocean, and
6 that carbon and nitrogen and phosphorus that's in their
7 flesh actually is the fuel for the ecosystem, right. I
8 mean it's what feeds it and keeps that ecosystem
9 healthy and alive. And as our escapements, total
10 escapements have declined since about 2005, that's
11 looking at chum and sockeye, coho, Chinook salmon
12 total, you can calculate the amount of biomass that
13 contributes to the ecosystem. And what I'm saying is
14 that's been declining since about 2005, and we're
15 seeing a corresponding decline in juvenile salmon
16 density in the habitats that we look at in the river.

17
18 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. What do you
19 think that the beaver, beavers are all over the place.
20 They're plugging up little sloughs and stuff like that.
21 Do you think they have a part in that mess?

22
23 MR. GILLIKIN: Absolutely. They have a
24 very integral role in riverine habitat, in the river
25 ecosystem, and salmon productivity. In fact, we have a
26 lady who's up there right now and has been for the last
27 two years working on a Ph.D. studying the role that
28 beavers play and how they alter the habitat, and how
29 they alter the habitat and how that influences juvenile
30 salmon productivity, the numbers and condition of the
31 salmon. And it's typically -- for the most part,
32 beavers benefit juvenile salmon productivity. There's
33 really no question about that. There are cases,
34 instances when it can be detrimental, but it's kind of
35 a balancing act in these habitats now.

36
37 Now, this is a study that's specific to
38 the Kwethluk River and similar rivers, you know, gravel
39 bedded, clear stream, salmon streams. How that would
40 play out for beaver complexes out here on the Delta in
41 these tundra bonds may be a totally different outcome.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. When beavers plug
44 up little sloughs and stuff like that, there's no more
45 fresh water going anywhere and they stop that, and then
46 without oxygen, you know, when the water is flowing,
47 there's a lot oxygen, fish die. And you need to maybe
48 have a better program of predator control in those
49 areas. Don't just watch them, do something about it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
2 questions. Any further questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there anything
7 else from the Refuge. Mr. Doolittle.

8
9 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Steve
10 Miller with the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office.

11
12 I just have a quick summary on -- it's
13 the very last page of that packet on three monitoring
14 projects that we're involved in on the Kuskokwim. I
15 won't spend a lot of time, but I can address a few
16 questions that were raised by Mr. Charles and Mr.
17 Roczicka.

18
19 One thing I'd like to bring out is the
20 Chinook passage at both projects in the Kwethluk this
21 year was 1639 fish. And I think Greg brought up the
22 question about high water and did we miss fish, things
23 of that nature. The majority of the flooding came
24 after our Chinook run passed the weir, so we feel
25 pretty confident in the number of Chinook that we
26 counted through the escapement for both systems.

27
28 One of the things on the Tuluksak
29 system, and I guess one thing to think about is, is
30 this is the third year that the escapement for Chinook
31 in the Kwethluk River was lower than the escapement set
32 at 6 to 11,000 fish. So it does start to concern
33 managers on these lower systems. And that is -- if you
34 think about the average over 10 years, it was 11,300
35 Chinook that we passed through that weir, and in the
36 last three years the highest we've passed is 5,000
37 something. So it's definitely different.

38
39 On the Tuluksak, Mr. Charles asked why
40 is there years with missing data. At one point in
41 time, the Village of Tuluksak and the Organized Village
42 of Kwethluk didn't want weirs in those systems, period.
43 So they were done for a short period of time. I think
44 there was a lot of discussion. We had discussion again
45 at the Village of Tuluksak this year on that weir and
46 people's perception that the weir blocks off the fish
47 in the system.

48
49 Something I learned was that in the
50 Yup'ik terms, a weir is a fence, and fence in Yup'ik

1 would block off a system. And I don't think there was
2 the understanding that fish actually were able to pass
3 through the trap, and there was openings, and how we
4 counted.

5
6 So a lot of discussion has gone into
7 that. And that's why there are years with missing
8 data.

9
10 We've since turned a lot of that
11 around, and the Village of Tuluksak and the Organized
12 Village of Kwethluk have been very supportive of
13 projects with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Very
14 supportive.

15
16 So it's a process of understanding and
17 getting the information and discussing what goes on

18
19 One of the things the Village of
20 Tuluksak asked for was we brought up videography, and
21 can we leave the weir open and not shut the gates and
22 leave it open 24 hours a day. So to address some of
23 their concerns, this was the first year that we
24 utilized videography there at that weir. And during
25 the high water events when we normally couldn't be out
26 on the trap counting fish, we actually could count
27 through our video system with the cameras in the water
28 at the trap, gates open, and the fish passing through.
29 Because we knew the numbers were down. We wanted to
30 have the least impediment we could on the fish going up
31 that river, because there was concern about we're
32 stopping fish, blocking fish, all the things. So we
33 did everything -- we can do everything that we can
34 within our means to address people's concern. And
35 that's something we've done.

36
37 The last project there is the -- I
38 brought up the characterization of the Tuluksak Chinook
39 salmon subsistence harvest at the Village of Tuluksak
40 in 2008 and 2009, and that is the -- this year --
41 there's actually a report now that was done by Harris
42 and Harper, where we addressed the harvest, the
43 subsistence harvest at the Village of Tuluksak. We
44 looked at mesh size. We looked at mesh size. We
45 looked at the number of fish camps. We looked at the
46 number of fishers. And they were very open, and
47 without their participation in that project, we
48 couldn't have done it. And the data we got from that I
49 think is very good. And you can read about that.

50

1 And so one thing I guess I would like
2 to say is that we do since the years of problems, we do
3 have a very good working relationship with OVK and TNC.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: What is OVK and TNC?

6
7 MR. MILLER: Organized Village of
8 Kwethluk and Tuluksak Native Community.

9
10 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
13 questions.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Are your
16 weirs stationary year after year? Do you ever move
17 them? Because.....

18
19 MR. MILLER: We take them out.....

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Because the river is
22 always changing, the channels are always changing,
23 because it's a constant moving.

24
25 MR. MILLER: Yeah, Mary. We have had
26 to move the Tuluksak weir twice and we've had to move
27 the Kwethluk weir three times. So they do. With the
28 channel morphology, as it changes, there are times that
29 we have to moved the weir. And the Kwethluk weir was
30 moved last year to a new site about three miles below
31 the old site. So it's an on-going process.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions
34 for Staff. Mr. Brown.

35
36 MR. BROWN: I have a concern about the
37 Bristol Bay area. At my beginning when I used to work
38 on a project, there used to be some counting tower. Is
39 there some substitution to replace those weirs? Like
40 to me they're blocking their pathway. What's your
41 response to that?

42
43 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Brown. I
44 believe -- are you just talking about the difference
45 between the counting towers and the weirs themselves?

46
47 MR. BROWN: Yes, because in that area,
48 Bristol Bay area, we used to work on counting towers on
49 both sides of the river. We used to count them by
50 calculating instead of blocking the river.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What exactly --
2 where are you going, for Mr. Brown, I couldn't
3 understand what you were.....

4
5 MR. BROWN: Well, what kind of count --
6 I mean, conducting the numbers, and by the end of the
7 day, a day's work, they calculate our numbers in the
8 office, so we was to inform the -- just the numbers
9 that -- the fish that going up in a day, like if you're
10 given 10 hours to count in a day. We count them like
11 every hour, 10 minutes, and then they calculate them by
12 the end of the day's work. That's what I'm trying to
13 prove. I hope you guys understand me.

14
15 MR. MILLER: Yeah, I think I
16 understand. A couple of things is, Rich was just --
17 refreshed my mind, too, is counting towers work a lot
18 better in clear, small systems, whereas the Kwethluk
19 and the Tuluksak, you can't always look in there to
20 see. That's one reason we use weirs. The other thing
21 is the weir counts, yes, there are hourly counts.
22 There's people -- when we use the -- prior to the
23 videography, but even with the videography, to verify
24 those counts, there's people that sit on top of the
25 trap and they count species just like you saw the one
26 student had the picture of sitting on the trap with the
27 tallywacker counting. So they're counting hourly. We
28 count from 8:00 o'clock in the morning until 11:00
29 o'clock at night, every hour at the weirs.

30
31 With the videography, we count every
32 hour, 24 hours a day. So we see the fish at night. We
33 actually have lights in the water and the fish go
34 through there, it doesn't bother them. And we get
35 images. We can speciate, sex. We can even tell how
36 long they are by grids on the back of the panel.

37
38 Does that answer your.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Does that take care
41 of you, Mr. Brown.

42
43 Mr. Unok.

44
45 MR. UNOK: You guys use a video camera
46 or anything like that?

47
48 MR. MILLER: Yeah. That's one of
49 things we've just started to utilize on some of these
50 systems with our weirs is the videography. It's a

1 camera in a box at the head of the trap. It's in
2 water, it's submersed. And the crew is very fond of
3 that, because they don't have to sit out in the
4 mosquitoes on top of the trap. They can sit in the
5 tent, listen to the radio and watch the fish go by on
6 the screen. And all these kids have figured out one
7 thing, is they like to watch a monitor with something
8 moving on it. So if that keeps them happy, I'm happy.

9
10

11 But, yeah, we are incorporating
12 videography. But there are limits. I mean, we have to
13 remember that there's limits with all the different
14 technologies and methodologies, and we're trying to
15 conform what we can within the systems.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
18 questions. Mr. Brown.

19

20 MR. BROWN: On the sonar system, are
21 those sonars modified now than back in 70s, because on
22 the identifying the fish that pass by, it would be just
23 -- you couldn't tell what kind of species it is,
24 because several things like optic that pass by. Do you
25 guys have modern sonars nowadays, not like 70s?

26

27 MR. MILLER: Mr. Brown. Mr. Chair.
28 There are sonars, the State uses those, and there are
29 some on the Yukon and in other systems. To my
30 knowledge there has been work down as far as
31 speciation, but they still work best in single species
32 system, whereas here on the Kuskokwim where you have --
33 or like on the Kwethluk where we have multiple species
34 at the same time, and you have the same sizes, and I
35 don't think they would be that useful on some of the
36 stuff we deal with.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did that answer
39 your question, Mr. Brown.

40

41 Any further questions.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: A comment.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Greg Roczicka.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: Not a question, just
48 more of a comment, you know, having watched some of the
49 difficulties between getting these escapement projects
50 specifically on Kwethluk and Tuluksak Rivers, and on

1 your report you mentioned thanking other people, but I
2 just want to make sure that the comments for you guys
3 is damn good job. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further --
6 Mary.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: I just want to thank you
9 guys for giving us a good report that we can identify
10 with. Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
13 questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there anything
18 else from the YK Refuge.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If there isn't,
23 thank you very much.

24
25 MS. GREGORY: We need a break.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Since I
28 missed my plane, we might as well stay. Let's take a
29 10-minute break.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Come back to order.
36 We are down to item B, number 2, Togiak Refuge. Is
37 there anybody here from the Togiak Refuge. Mr. Nick.

38
39 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Togiak Refuge provided an information bulletin just a
41 little bit too late to be included to your workbook.
42 But Andy Aderman, who is with Togiak Refuge, wanted me
43 to go ahead and make sure that we hand this to you,
44 because there's a couple of reports that affects our
45 region. And one of them is Mulchatna Caribou Herd
46 information.

47
48 And if you or anyone in the audience
49 have any questions, then you call Togiak Refuge. I
50 believe their -- yeah, they have their contact numbers

1 on their document. Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
4 Item C, Bureau of Land Management told me that they had
5 no reports, so we are down to Item D, Department of
6 Fish and Game. Number 1, wildlife conservation.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: We moved that one.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was that moved in
11 any way? I didn't see it anywhere.

12

13 Department of Fish and Game wildlife
14 conservation. Phillip Perry.

15

16 MR. PERRY: Mr. Chair. This is Phillip
17 Perry.

18

19 I don't have anything additional
20 prepared from what I presented earlier.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
23 Item 2, Kuskokwim salmon season summary, ADF&G Staff.

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: That's the one that was
26 moved over to item 14.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. That's
29 already done. Thank you. I forgot to erase that off
30 my agenda.

31

32 AVCP. Anyone from here, AVCP.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No one from AVCP.
37 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bill Alstrom was
42 going to give a briefing, but he's not here.

43

44 So we're down to item G, Yukon
45 Intertribal Watershed Council.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No one here.

50

1 Tribal representatives. Pilot Station
2 Traditional Council, salmon size and net size.
3 Anybody.

4
5 MR. KELLY: It will take a minute to
6 set this up, if I can get it working. I've got a slide
7 show presentation, is that okay. Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let's take a short
10 break while he sets up. Will 10 minutes suffice, Mr.
11 Kelly.

12
13 MR. KELLY: I'm told the projector's
14 not working but I can try tech here.

15
16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I can't hear you.

19
20 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah.

23
24 (Setting up PowerPoint)

25
26 MR. KELLY: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kelly.

29
30 MR. KELLY: Yes. My name is Elias
31 Kelly. I'm from Pilot Station. I'm representing Pilot
32 Station Traditional Council.

33
34 Initially this Regional Advisory
35 Council meeting was supposed to be scheduled -- or was
36 scheduled for St. Mary's, and we had some Staff from
37 Pilot Station Traditional Council that was planning to
38 attend the meeting and provide this presentation. But
39 since I am here, I will be giving. And at the end it
40 will require a special action from the Regional
41 Advisory Council. And the issue is the Lower Yukon
42 salmon fisheries.

43
44 For the traditional council, I am a
45 council member, and every year we have an annual
46 meeting and I give a slide show presentation to our
47 tribal members regarding salmon fisheries, regarding
48 wildlife issues. And this is a -- a couple of these
49 earlier slides are a presentation that my council gave
50 to our tribal members regarding 2009 Board of Fishery

1 proposal. A couple of these slides, like I said, were
2 from last years, just a quick recap of 2009.

3
4 Initially what happened was -- well, I
5 will go over most of these real quickly.

6
7 Well, in 2009, not 2010, 2009 we had a
8 fisheries disaster declared for the Lower Yukon River.
9 And this year the Department and the Federal Government
10 has issued disaster assistance to all the fishermen.

11
12 This was also the same time that
13 Marshall subsistence fishermen fished for kings to pass
14 out to the community. And they fished during the
15 closed season for the Yukon River kings. And this is
16 from last year's presentation.

17
18 Anyway, before the Department of Fish
19 and Game Board of Fisheries, there were certain
20 proposals that were submitted, you know, and Proposal
21 89 was to restrict subsistence and commercial 6-inch
22 mesh to 35 meshes deep.

23
24 And in 2009 there was no proposals to
25 ADF&G Board of Fisheries to change or to restrict
26 salmon net size from 8-1/2-inch to 7-1/2-inch mesh.
27 What happened was the Board of Fish created the new
28 proposal -- or actually modified a proposal and adopted
29 without public comment to reduce net size to 7-1/2-inch
30 mesh. And, you know, for the Yukon River, including
31 the Kuskokwim and many rivers in Alaska, the salmon
32 size and net size is not a new issue.

33
34 Here I've got -- this is a little
35 foldout that was given to the Board of Fisheries last
36 year during the Board of Fisheries meeting in Fairbanks
37 from the Pilot Station Traditional Council. And inside
38 the inlet is this diagram regarding the history of
39 Yukon River salmon fishing and what has happened in the
40 last 30 years.

41
42 And to start at the top, during the mid
43 1970s, 1979, you know, we had the heightened concerns
44 of Yukon River salmon size and age. This was like over
45 30 years ago.

46
47 And in 1980 Lower Yukon fishermen
48 voluntarily agreed to reduce net size no larger than 8-
49 1/2-inch mesh. And there's many fishermen in Pilot
50 Station that still have 9-inch mesh, 9-1/2-inch mesh.

1 And they haven't been used since 1980.

2

3 In 1982, the State Board of Fisheries
4 passes proposal to restrict net size, no larger than 8-
5 1/2-inch mesh for Yukon River salmon. This was 1982.
6 As a result of that, for 30 years Lower Yukon fishermen
7 required by State law to use net size no larger than 8-
8 1/2-inch mesh.

9

10 The result of this fishing for 30
11 years, the result has been smaller Yukon River salmon
12 size and few king salmon age 6 years or older.

13

14 In 2009 sportsmen's groups, including
15 the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council,
16 submitted proposals to further reduce net size for the
17 Lower Yukon Alaska Native fishermen. So what happened
18 was the Board of Fish created this new regulation
19 regarding 7-1/2-inch mesh.

20

21 Now, what is going to happen with this
22 30 years from now? You know, are they going to submit
23 more proposals restricting net size down to 7-inch? 6-
24 1/2-inch?

25

26 The other thing about our fisheries is
27 that incidental by-catch of Yukon River salmon. It's
28 not a new issue. For the Lower Yukon we've always had
29 issues with False Pass fisheries since the 70s. We've
30 also had issues with Bering Sea pollock fisheries, the
31 high seas by-catch, including Lower Yukon River versus
32 upper Yukon River fisheries of by-catch.

33

34 In July 3, 2009 the State of Alaska
35 issued an emergency regulation that made it illegal for
36 fish buyers on the Yukon River districts from Y-1 to Y-
37 5, but did not included District Y-6. They made it
38 illegal for fish buyers to buy Yukon River kings. And
39 this was during the commercial fishing season for
40 summer chum salmon. For many commercial fishermen on
41 the Lower Yukon River, the king salmon is our money
42 fish. Chum salmon usually sells for about a dollar to
43 less than a dollar a pound. Yukon River king salmon on
44 the other hand sells for about \$5 a pound, depending on
45 the years.

46

47 But just keep in mind this emergency
48 regulation that was issued by the Governor of Alaska,
49 the Governor's Office of Alaska, and I will get back to
50 it later.

1 Regarding the State of Alaska, the
2 Board of Fisheries has no regulations managing the
3 Yukon River salmon fisheries for diversity. This
4 includes diversity for genetic, tributary, or stock/run
5 timing between all the tributaries of the Yukon River,
6 especially in the Lower Yukon River.

7
8 And many of the Staff and employees of
9 the State, even the Staff and employees of this Office
10 of Subsistence Management, the Federal Board, or the
11 Federal side, are often influenced by how they grew up.
12 You know, many of us on this Council, in this room, we
13 grew up subsistence fishing, subsistence hunting. We
14 know what it's like to hunt to feed families, to hunt
15 and fish to feed families. Many non-Natives have
16 strong influences of sports hunting, sports fishing.
17 And this makes up their way of thinking, talking and
18 providing information.

19
20 You know, we as Natives, we have a hard
21 time talking about hunting or fishing, subsistence,
22 because it's our way of life. It's -- we talk about it
23 all the time, but it's really hard to get that message
24 across to non-Natives, especially to people who grew up
25 with sport hunting, sport fishing mentality.

26
27 You know, examples is for many years
28 many State employees, Federal employees talk about
29 large net mesh size will catch large salmon size. You
30 know, there's been many presentations by Fish and Game
31 employees to Board of Fisheries Staff talking about
32 large nets. Okay. And this historic net size. So
33 this, you know, to be unbiased, they should say that
34 any net mesh size will catch larger fish, whether it be
35 8-1/2 mesh or 6-1/2 or 5-inch.

36
37 And, you know, many of us in this room
38 are fishermen. We know what it's like to fish with
39 nets, you know. And we all know that it is easier for
40 small nets to catch larger fish than for larger nets to
41 catch smaller fish. I mean, this is something we grew
42 up with. Okay.

43
44 And, you know, at home I own a
45 business. My business is a commercial fisherman. I
46 run it as a business, and I do pretty well.

47
48 You know, I grew up commercial fishing
49 on the Lower Yukon River. Pilot Station is in District
50 Y-2. I'm very confident of how I fish with drift net

1 fishing or set net fishing, and pound for pound,
2 commercial fishermen get paid for how much fish they
3 deliver. You know, large fish or small fish. Does one
4 tote of large king salmon weigh as much as one tote of
5 small king salmon? You know, those of us who are
6 fishermen, we know what a tote is. To those who are
7 not fishermen and may impose the regulations, make all
8 the regulations, you know, they're restricting our way
9 of life.

10
11 You know, when we talk about smaller
12 net size, restricting our net size, you know, what is
13 the State or the Federal Government going to do if we
14 end up catching more fish with the 7-1/2-inch mesh?
15 Okay. What are they going to do if we catch more king
16 salmon.

17
18 You know, I talk about subsistence.
19 The Lower Yukon River salmon fisheries. You know,
20 there's no fisheries in Alaska like the Yukon River.
21 Especially like the Lower Yukon River.

22
23 In 2009 the State of Alaska celebrate
24 50 years of statehood. During those 50 years the State
25 has no offices, no buildings, no infrastructures in any
26 of the Lower Yukon River communities. Anything the
27 State does there is seasonal. Okay.

28
29 The Federal Government, on the other
30 hand, the only thing the Federal Government has there
31 is the post offices and the schools, if they pretty
32 much try to help run with all the funding sources that
33 they get.

34
35 But our subsistence way of life, you
36 know, has strong cultural, traditional, and economic
37 ties to our commercial fisheries. And we all know that
38 salmon is our main bulkfo (ph) choice, you know, dried
39 fish. Almost every meal, dried fish is lunch and
40 dinner along with the moose soup or fish soup.

41
42 You know, starting in 2011, the 7-1/2-
43 inch mesh is going to now be required for all
44 fisherman. You know, this is now a State law.

45
46 To be honest, the 8-1/2-inch is the
47 preferred net size for all subsistence fishermen to go
48 and catch their Yukon River kings. And out of all the
49 salmon species, the king salmon is our main salmon for
50 subsistence. It is -- I mean, salmon strips, dried

1 fish, it's preferred. There's nothing like it.

2

3 And the thing about subsistence and
4 commercial fishermen on the Lower Yukon, similar to the
5 Kuskokwim, are one and the same. We use the same
6 gears, the same boat and motors. You know, sometimes
7 we use the same gas we buy for our commercial fishing
8 to go and subsistence fish with. But between
9 commercial fishermen and subsistence fishermen, like,
10 for example, for me, I've got different nets that I use
11 between the two.

12

13 On my side of the family I've got five
14 brothers. Three of my brothers are avid subsistence
15 fishermen. And we go out and fish, driftnet fish every
16 season for Yukon River kings. Two of my brothers, we
17 share this one net. It's only about 29 meshes deep,
18 it's an 8-1/2-inch mesh, 29 meshes deep. But it's only
19 25 fathoms long. You know, to give you an idea, the
20 requirement for commercial fishing net size is 150
21 fathoms long and 45 meshes deep for the 8-1/2-inch
22 mesh. That's a commercial net.

23

24 And, you know, I've got two boys that
25 go and help me subsistence fish. And these two same
26 boys go out and commercial fish with me. And they know
27 what it's like to pull in a short subsistence net. But
28 you should hear them complain when we pull in the long
29 commercial net, you know.

30

31 But in terms of subsistence harvest,
32 the number of subsistence king salmon harvest varies by
33 household. Between two of my brothers, his family and
34 my family, we both harvest about 40 to 50 king salmon
35 to put away.

36

37 My older brother, he has a larger
38 extended family. He harvests between maybe 60 to 70
39 kings. Maybe more. Okay.

40

41 Me and my other brother that harvest 40
42 to 50 kings salmon, you know, we've got about three
43 extended families that we serve this fish with. You
44 know, this is similar to many families in the
45 Kuskokwim, similar to many families on the Yukon. And
46 every season I go out and harvest 40 to 50 king salmon
47 with my 8-1/2-inch mesh. Okay.

48

49 To break it down, those 40 to 60 king
50 salmon, especially early in the season, 5 to 8 kings I

1 will share, you know. Maybe with my first drift, if I
2 get 5 to 8 or more, I will bring back to the community
3 and share with community members, you know. The first
4 king salmon of the season is, you know, after eating
5 meat from the freezer all year, after eating birds or
6 fish, you know, whitefish, the first king salmon is a
7 delicacy. Its taste is nothing like. So many families
8 really look forward to it. And I will share those 5 to
9 8 kings.

10
11 About 10 to 15 king salmons we will
12 freeze, salt or jalunuk (ph) and save for winter use,
13 including jarring king salmon. About 20 to 30 kings,
14 this is the main bulk. This is the one we will dry and
15 smoke in our smokehouses as dried fish, salmon strips,
16 kunkachuk (ph) and gamagluk (ph). You know, the half
17 dried and half smoked, including the heads and tails.

18
19 When I go out and fish for these 40 to
20 50 kings with my 8-1/2-inch mesh, I will catch about 20
21 to 25 summer chum salmon. This is the incidental catch
22 or the by-catch. You know, 20 to 25 chum salmon is
23 enough to share with community, dry, smoke or freeze,
24 you know, and it all depends on how much room I've got
25 on my fish racks with all my salmon strips and -- king
26 salmon strips and king salmon dried fish.

27
28 Now that the State law, including the
29 Federal Subsistence Board followed suit with the State,
30 now that the State requires a 7-1/2-inch mesh, next
31 year I am going to go out and get my 40 to 50 king
32 salmon. You know, this is not going to change for me.
33 But with the 7-1/2-inch mesh, to catch those 40 to 50
34 king salmon, I'm going to catch over 70 to 90 chum
35 salmon as by-catch. You know, 20 to 30 chums I can
36 deal with. 70 to 90 chum salmon, what am I going to do
37 with all that? You know, there's only so many chums I
38 could share with community members. The same with many
39 of the other subsistence fishermen. You know, these
40 summer chum salmons are going to be saturated in the
41 communities quick, especially when subsistence
42 fishermen prefer king salmon.

43
44 And it's not only in the communities.
45 It's in the fish camps, remote fish camps. You know
46 their summer chums are going to go up with the 7-1/2-
47 inch mesh.

48
49 Now, this is where the Pilot Station
50 Traditional Council is going to request a special

1 action from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
2 Council and the Federal OSM, Office of Subsistence
3 Management. You know, and that special action is in
4 regards to the question, what is the recommendation for
5 the Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC to all the subsistence
6 fishermen. And this is -- remember all subsistence
7 fishermen are not Fish and Game technicians or Fish and
8 Wildlife technicians, and they are not sports
9 fishermen. And we are asking what is your
10 recommendation for chum salmon incidental catch and use
11 of net size.

12
13 You know, the Board of Fish now
14 requires -- I mean, the State and the Federal
15 Subsistence Board now requires 7-1/2-inch mesh. To
16 date, what has happened already in 2010, this summer,
17 you heard Gene Sandone mention earlier that the
18 Kwik'pak Fisheries has already distributed and
19 exchanged the 8-1/2-inch mesh for 7-1/2-mesh for 2011.

20
21 But here's the thing. Before the
22 regulations take effect, the Board of Fisheries, the
23 State side, and the Federal Subsistence Board have this
24 winter to make new regulations and recommendations
25 regarding incidental catch of chum salmon to all Lower
26 Yukon subsistence fishermen and their families. And
27 the question is, what are all subsistence fishermen to
28 do with all the incidental-caught chum salmon.

29
30 Pilot Station Traditional Council
31 recommendation. Our tribal government recommends that
32 until Board of Fisheries and Federal Subsistence Board
33 regulations are adopted to address subsistence-caught
34 incidental Yukon River chum salmon with the 7-1/2-inch
35 mesh nets, Pilot Station Traditional Council recommends
36 to all tribal members to continue using 8-1/2-inch mesh
37 in the future to provide king salmon needs for their
38 families and extended families.

39
40 And then to continue on to I guess my
41 second of this presentation, and it is in regards to
42 the Regional Advisory Council. We all know that you
43 guys are just the Council members. You guys don't make
44 the rules and regulations. But we do follow Robert's
45 Rules of Orders. You know, many of us are from
46 villages where we've attended council meetings where
47 we've attended tribal members meetings that can go on
48 and on, especially we know what meeting with elders is
49 like. And you know, growing up Yup'ik, growing up our
50 way of life, we respect our elders.

1 You know, this is our second day of our
2 meeting for the Regional Advisory Council. Our first
3 day we had a crowd larger than this. In terms of the
4 agenda, you know, I want to recommend to this Council
5 to see if you could readjust the agenda so that the
6 tribal councils, tribal governments can be able to
7 provide their presentations before we here
8 deliberations or before we hear from agency staff or
9 management staff.

10

11 And earlier when Mr. Buklis was giving
12 a presentation here, I asked him about the OSM's
13 members and meeting -- or actually Regional Advisory
14 Council memberships and members. You know, yesterday
15 morning I told you guys that this is probably my last
16 meeting with this Council. I did not reapply. But I
17 will say something of that later on.

18

19 But in the last 10 years, here is a
20 list of the Alaska Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory
21 Council's meeting sites. In the last 10 years, the
22 last 22 meetings. Pretty much the last six meetings
23 have been in the Kuskokwim.

24

25 This meeting was supposed to take place
26 in St. Mary's. Several years ago there was supposed to
27 be another meeting in St. Mary's. Or actually in
28 Marshall. I don't remember. You know, because of CRC
29 requirements or needs that were not met for those
30 meetings to take place.

31

32 You know, every time I come to Bethel
33 to this Regional Advisory Council's meeting, I feel
34 like I'm attending a Kuskokwim meeting.

35

36 You know, in the last 22 meetings we've
37 only had 5 meeting sites on the Yukon. The last one
38 was in September of 2007 in Marshall.

39

40 This meeting, all the proposals that we
41 talked about were all Yukon River proposals. Fishing
42 proposals. Customary trade proposals. You know, right
43 now we've got five Council members from the Yukon, one
44 vacancy, you know, out of the 13.

45

46 When we talk proposals of the Yukon,
47 you know, I want more people from the Yukon to be able
48 to give their stories, their insight, you know, what
49 they have to say.

50

1 So we know what the Code of Federal
2 Regulations or the Department of the Interior's
3 requirements for meeting sites for our Regional
4 Advisory Councils. You know, it seems like we've
5 always had meetings in Bethel.

6
7 Last year's proposals regarding the
8 Board of Fisheries, these are very serious proposals
9 regarding the net size, yet I know this Regional
10 Advisory Council opposed those proposals. But hearing
11 the Lower Yukon side of the story, because all the
12 proposals were directed at the Lower Yukon. You know,
13 it has been misrepresented.

14
15 So, you know, I told you I'm not
16 running for the Regional Advisory Council any more.
17 But what I am going to do is fill out an application
18 and the member is going to be the Pilot Station
19 Traditional Council. The Pilot Station Traditional
20 Council is going to apply to be a member of this
21 Regional Advisory Council. We are going to apply and
22 see what happens. Okay.

23
24 You know, it is easy for me to sit here
25 and talk to you guys about my family, my way of life,
26 you know, who I represent. But if I am here
27 representing Pilot Station Traditional Council, and you
28 are here representing your traditional councils.

29
30 The role of tribal governments in
31 Alaska has been changing, especially in the last 10, 15
32 years. The State of Alaska has issued a millennium
33 agreement in 2001 or so. The Department of the
34 Interior has a similar agreement, a memorandum of
35 agreement to work cooperatively with Federally-
36 recognized tribes of Alaska. Okay.

37
38 So that is the end of my presentation.

39
40 But, Mr. Chairman, I do have one
41 presentation from another Board of Fisheries
42 presentation that includes my versions of it. So it
43 shouldn't take too long, if you can.....

44
45 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 MR. KELLY: I don't have copies, hard
48 copies of it.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Before you go to another

1 item, I'd like to commend you on your really nice
2 presentation. And I am sorry to know that you are
3 jumping the ship as a RAC member. But I'm glad you are
4 here to get the experience, and I know if you are like
5 me, who doesn't give up easy and go for other avenues
6 to get the thing I need most to obtain, I would advise
7 you to apply for the RAC member in the meantime, until
8 such time we can start having tribal board members on
9 the RAC.

10

11 A lot of times I am proud to be in
12 here. I'm going to go for my third term just because
13 I'm a Yup'ik and a subsistence users, and I want my
14 elders to live as long as they are in the life they
15 know how to live, and not have to give them
16 hypertension and diabetes because they're not eating
17 their own food. And that's my goal, is to speak for my
18 elders, my peers and my future people who are growing
19 up. (In Yup'ik)

20

21 We don't know how the Regional Advisory
22 Council is selected, and if in such a time that there
23 will come a time when if the Lord decides to take me,
24 and only tribal members could be on here.

25

26 I like the way this thing runs, because
27 it involves a lot of people from all walks of life.
28 (In Yup'ik) We speak for our other people who we are
29 concerned of. (In Yup'ik)

30

31 You're a smart young man and we need
32 smart young men in order to work with the Federal
33 Government. It's always an uphill battle, but with
34 everybody pitching in, we can obtain what we are
35 sitting here for.

36

37 Quyana.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mary.

40

41 What was that other -- was there
42 another presentation that you wanted to make?

43

44 MR. KELLY: Yeah, it was just a quick
45 presentation that was given by someone else, a Fish and
46 Game employee that I think was instrumental in what
47 eventually happened to our Yukon River mesh size. So
48 this presentation was created in 2006, given out in
49 2007, and then what happened in -- or what eventually
50 led to 2009's or 2010's Board of Fisheries actions.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How much time will
2 you require.

3
4 MR. KELLY: I can give it in five
5 minutes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do it.

8
9 MR. KELLY: Okay. And the title of
10 this presentation was what we know about changing fish
11 size. It, like I said, was created in 2006. Initially
12 it has a slide show of about 48 slides, and this slide
13 show was presented to various agencies, including the
14 Board of Fisheries and the Federal Subsistence Board.
15 And to me it has been -- it was instrumental in what
16 happened to management decisions in regard to the Lower
17 Yukon mesh size.

18
19 And this is the slide show. Up on the
20 yellow are the slide numbers, and any changes I made
21 are in yellow. Okay. And most of these changes are
22 actually just the slide numbers.

23
24 And this presentation was given out by
25 a subcommittee in 2007. Many of you probably saw it if
26 you attended any of the Board of Fisheries meetings or
27 Federal Subsistence Board meetings.

28
29 But there's just a couple of things I
30 would like to go over, including the harvest district.
31 Remember I was talking about in this one, in the
32 pamphlet for Pilot Station Traditional Council was this
33 diagram of the history of the Yukon River fisheries
34 since 1982.

35
36 If you look at our over-all catches,
37 you know, pretty much before 1982 we had mesh sizes
38 great than 8-1/2-inch mesh. After 1982, especially
39 during the 1980s, we had some catches on the Lower
40 Yukon River, our king salmon catches were like nothing
41 before. All right. And this data seems to prove it
42 right here. And these are the US harvest and the
43 Canadian harvest, the total number of king salmon.
44 Here's the number of king salmon that are utilized by
45 subsistence, commercial and sport. You know, after
46 1982, we're seeing the same results. 1980s. You know,
47 we had some really good years.

48
49 Now that we're required to use the 7-
50 1/2-inch mesh, you know, our king salmon catch is going

1 to go up.

2

3 And then similarly here is commercial
4 weight analysis of king salmon catches. After 1982
5 when we started using the 8-1/2-inch mesh, the our
6 commercial catches, the over-all weight has been going
7 down. And this data suggests that our king salmon
8 sizes are going down, too. So especially after 1982.

9

10 And then going to net selectivity.
11 Just to read the first bullet, you know, intuitively
12 large mesh nets catch large fish. I mean, especially
13 if you are a Board of Fisheries board member. Growing
14 up as a subsistence fisherman is not like sport hunting
15 or sport fishing. If you're on the Board of Fishery
16 and you are a sports fishermen, you know, large nets,
17 you know. So, you know, to be impartial, it should
18 really be any net mesh size catch large fish.

19

20 And you know, the Yukon River is very
21 unique. And what they did was, many of you have seen
22 this diagram to this graph regarding the net mesh size
23 and the relative selectivity and the length of the king
24 salmon. You know, we've got the 5-inch mesh, the 5-
25 1/2-inch all the way up to 8-1/2-inch mesh. And these
26 are the relative selectivity of the net size.

27

28 And, you know, if we take the 7-1/2-
29 inch mesh, you know, to me, commercial fishermen,
30 especially Native commercial fishermen are very
31 innovative, are very -- you know, commercial fishermen,
32 kings are the cash money. They're cash fish. You
33 know, I know many commercial fishermen who are fishing
34 with chum nets, you know. We know when we catch a
35 king. As soon as that king hit, we're going to go out
36 in the boat, go over there and get that king out of the
37 net and put it in the tote. You know, let all the
38 chums go. To the commercial fisherman, king salmon are
39 the cash money. You know, if we incorporate the 7-1/2-
40 inch mesh as is required, you know, the 7-1/2-inch mesh
41 is not selective. It will catch fish up to 700
42 millimeters in length all the way up to 1200. The same
43 with the 5-1/2-inch mesh or the 6-inch mesh. You know,
44 this is something like if we include the 5-1/2-inch
45 mesh, this is what it will catch. We know that. We
46 know that small fish swim through big nets. So it is
47 not selective.

48

49 At to go on to things to note, you
50 know, any size mesh can catch a fish of nearly any

1 size. You know, when they brought this slide up, how
2 many Board of Fisheries board members was listening.

3
4 And you know, this is true for the
5 abundance of cash regarding the net-mesh size. You
6 know, the 7-1/2-inch mesh is the middle graph. You
7 know, to me the 7-1/2-inch mesh will catch that
8 portion, plus the 8-1/2-inch graph.

9
10 And the Department of Fish and Game and
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service uses catch per unit
12 effort as a way of monitoring our catches. Catch per
13 unit effort is to speak in layman's terms. To talk
14 Native, catch per unit effort means that we are
15 fishermen, we are all the same fisherman. You know,
16 I'm not better than you, you're not better than me. A
17 new Fish and Game technician from Fairbanks going to
18 work at the Pilot Station sonar site is the same
19 fisherman as I am. Okay. That's what catch per unit
20 effort is.

21
22 But when we talk commercial fisherman,
23 catch per unit effort is 7-1/2-inch mesh plus the 8-
24 1/2-inch mesh. And then, you know, compounded over
25 time. Extrapolate this number over time, requiring all
26 of us to use 7-1/2-inch mesh, all the fishermen, all
27 the commercial fishermen, all the subsistence
28 fishermen, you know, we're going to catch more fish,
29 and we're going to catch larger fish, too. Okay.

30
31 When we make it a regulation that we're
32 requiring everyone to use 7-1/2-inch mesh, we're not
33 trying to diversify the gear. We're trying to restrict
34 the gear.

35
36 And then to go on to summary, you know,
37 they conclude that the cause of change is difficult to
38 prove. The Yukon River fisheries is huge. You know,
39 there's really no one cause that can say that this is
40 what caused this salmon size to smaller, this is what
41 caused our salmon to decrease in numbers.

42
43 So that was the end of that
44 presentation. Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
47 Mr. Kelly. Mr. Charles.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 It's not a question, but it's referring to gear change

1 from 8-1/2 to 7-inch. And we've gone through that on
2 Kuskokwim a couple of times already. Back in 80s we
3 changed to 6-inch or smaller for commercial fishing on
4 Kuskokwim River. And we're still fishing that now.
5 And again at Quinhagak, the same way, the same thing.
6 But we catch whatever comes through the net, big or
7 small. So I see your point there. So people are
8 getting used to that now. They were complaining when
9 they started, but you guys are very lucky, you guys are
10 going to get 7-1/2-inch net, and us, we didn't. We
11 were not offered to get new gear when we changed.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.

16

17 MR. KELLY: Yeah, because I'm curious
18 about that, too, is the Kuskokwim River you mentioned
19 earlier, too, earlier today or yesterday is that first
20 pulse of king salmon for the Kuskokwim River are
21 usually smaller. You know, does that correlate with
22 the use of your net size from -- does it correlate to
23 your required use of using the 6-1/2-inch mesh? You
24 know, I don't have that data, so I don't know.

25

26 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

29

30 MR. CHARLES: Thank you. Like I said
31 yesterday, people voluntarily changed to smaller gear
32 at home, at my village, because they're not catching
33 kings, that first run of king salmon in big gear, so
34 they used their smaller gear and like 6-inch or
35 smaller. Me, I use 8-inch and not catching much, so I
36 changed to 7-1/2. That's better. That's what people
37 are doing now voluntarily. Nobody tell them to use
38 smaller gear, but they themselves learned and changing
39 to smaller gear themselves.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
44 question. Mr. Manumik.

45

46 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman and Mr. Charles and Elias. I thank you for
48 your presentation.

49

50 I fished here in the Kuskokwim with a

1 friend of mine one spring just when the first pulse of
2 king salmon were hitting the Kuskokwim River. We
3 drifted three times with no fish, 8-1/2-inch mesh gear.
4 And he -- we pulled in the net, and then he asked me if
5 I wanted to go home. I said, no. We came out here to
6 catch your fish. We'll catch fish. I asked him if he
7 had a small mesh gear. He said he had it in his fish
8 camp.

9

10 So we went back and picked up his six-
11 inch mesh gear. We drifted 10 minutes and we got 27
12 kings. No chums.

13

14 What Mr. Charles is saying is
15 absolutely true. The first pulse are smaller in the
16 Kuskokwim River.

17

18 And I'm going to say something about
19 the Yukon now. Yukon River fishermen this spring have
20 been contacting me over the phone, and I'm not going to
21 mention any names. But those people that have called
22 me have said we are going to change to smaller mesh
23 gear in the Yukon. You know what they're concern was?
24 Their concern is that they are going to wipe out the
25 king salmon on the Yukon River that spawn.

26

27 Back in the 70s, early 70s, I used to
28 use 8-1/2-inch mesh gear for my family. Subsistence.
29 We caught kings, big kings, but they didn't have fish
30 eggs in them. We changed to six-inch mesh gear,
31 because I couldn't handle 25 fathom net any more. We
32 changed to six-inch mesh gear, 60 feet long. And those
33 smaller fish, smaller king salmon that I caught for my
34 family, most of them had fish eggs in them. With
35 smaller mesh gear, six-inch mesh gear.

36

37 What they're afraid of is if they
38 change to 7-1/2-inch mesh gear they're going to catch
39 all the spawners that are migrating up the Yukon.
40 That's what they're afraid of.

41

42 And I thank you for your presentation,
43 Elias, very much.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
48 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

49

50 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, not a question,

1 but a comment as well. And thanks for putting it out
2 as you did.

3
4 But I'd like to echo a little bit of
5 what Mary mentioned to you, that we're sad to see you
6 leaving. I think you've got really good insights that
7 you're able to give to us, and I appreciated at the
8 time that you've been here.

9
10 Having the frustration that you say you
11 mentioned, I've never felt more like quitting and
12 walking away than what happened in June when we had the
13 Fish and Wildlife Service from Washington, D.C. with a
14 policy, essentially slapped the Native community. Not
15 slapped them, they punched us right smack dead in the
16 face by the decision that they made to put subsistence
17 as a secondary consideration and exempt themselves from
18 Title VIII of ANILCA and essentially say that it's just
19 a couple villages that don't matter, we have more
20 important consideration. I've never felt -- in 25
21 years of dealing with regulations, I've never felt more
22 like just walking away. But you do that, and they win.
23 These folks that have these kind of attitudes that are
24 ingrained within them, they don't have any common basic
25 perception, no familiarity with subsistence. They're
26 never going to learn otherwise unless we keep after
27 them. And don't let them win. They can put me in the
28 ground first or I'll get taken by the wind, the weather
29 and the water, so I hope you can reconsider in the
30 future on that.

31
32 And actually find as many ways as we
33 can to put it back in their laps on these decisions.

34
35 And what you pointed out with these
36 meetings now that are all forced to be in Bethel. That
37 is again a policy decision that was put down on OSM by
38 their folks from above, saying, you will do this. They
39 don't have to do it. I mean, the Staff does. But they
40 came up with this policy decision that they're going to
41 impose on their staff requiring us to have to meet only
42 in Bethel to live up to their requirements. and I had
43 thought of it before, and I'm going to lay it out right
44 now, that maybe this Council, and we should tell the
45 rest of the Councils, too, to tell OSM and to give to
46 their superiors that we are not going to meet until
47 they allow us to have our full regional representation.
48 This is ridiculous, the last six minutes being in
49 Bethel. You know, it's -- I'm almost to the point of
50 saying that we should do that to them. If we're not

1 going to have a meeting until we get our full
2 geographic representation. If that's -- they're not
3 going to -- if their leadership will not recognize the
4 geographic diversity that we have in our small little
5 region of the State that's the size of Oregon, then
6 they're not living up to their responsibilities either,
7 and we should refuse to meet until they give that to
8 us.

9

10 Anyway, I hope you could -- maybe next
11 time and maybe they can appoint you without you
12 applying.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
15 questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not. Mr. Nick.

20

21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, members of the
22 Council. Mr. Kelly. I want to make a couple of
23 comments about some of the points that you made during
24 your presentation.

25

26 First of all, I want to thank you for
27 your moving presentation that, you know, we all live
28 the points you make, you know, whether we are a member
29 of the RAC or whether we're a part of the -- rather one
30 of your Staff.

31

32 One thing that I want make, try to make
33 a point, is as your Staff, one of your Staff, is that
34 RAC meetings, when we set up the RAC meetings, we have
35 to go by the policies that we have. And we all know
36 that, you know, as a government-managed committee, we
37 have to follow policies and rules.

38

39 And for that reason, you know, that the
40 list that you gave in your presentation, the number of
41 the meetings that we held in the YK communities were
42 successful meetings that we arranged. But then there
43 were some snafus along with that that cost the
44 Government some money to resolve. And in every meeting
45 that we hold, like this meeting for example, if
46 Moravian Church is not registered under CCR, you know,
47 if it did not meet CCR requirement, we would not be
48 meeting here at the Moravian Church. And if one of the
49 biggest hotels here in town don't meeting CCR
50 requirement, we will not meet there either. We will

1 hold our meeting as a RAC, you will hold your meeting
2 as a RAC wherever -- rather at the place where those
3 requirements are met.

4

5 And for that reason I do apologize,
6 even though we really want to honor what the RAC wanted
7 us to do to meet in a village like St. Mary's, the
8 arrangements have failed a couple of times. And we are
9 hoping that, you know, in the future they will meet
10 those requirements so that we could meet there.

11

12 Another thing that I want to touch in
13 the area and the Staff from OSM could assist me in
14 this, is that we do have Regional Advisory Council
15 nomination process. And we have to follow that process
16 in order to have you nominate or have you apply for the
17 membership. If any given individual or nominee don't
18 meet those requirements, then maybe that person may not
19 be appointed membership. We don't have any control
20 over that. The Board does. The Subsistence Board does
21 through authorization by the Secretary of Interior and
22 Agriculture.

23

24 Another area I wanted to touch on is
25 Mary's comment about you getting out of line. Any RAC
26 member could make a presentation with the permission
27 from the Council.

28

29 But there are some things that we
30 should keep in mind. We do have a conduct policy in
31 your manual, operations manual that you have. Those
32 types of rules you have to follow as a member. I know
33 that frustrates a lot of members, because, you know, it
34 limits some of the comments that you want to make or
35 what they want to do. But as a RAC, as a Government
36 committee, you have to abide by the Government policy
37 and rules.

38

39 And there's also correspondence policy,
40 but I won't touch in that area.

41

42 But one thing that I wanted to mention
43 also, and I could be corrected by one of the OSM staff
44 members here present, is that the RAC membership is
45 individual nor organization. They don't represent
46 organizations like tribal councils and the villages.
47 So if Pilot Station Traditional Council, for example,
48 if they want their member to become a RAC member, they
49 may nominate that person.

50

1 And if you have any questions on some
2 of these things, you could all Ann Wilkinson, and we
3 could provide you with her contact information on that.

4

5

6 Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

9 Nick.

10

11 Any other comments or questions. We're
12 going to be here until we finish the agenda since this
13 is our last day. So if you want to keep on meeting all
14 night, it's up to you.

15

16 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.

19 Wilde.

20

21 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Looking at your
22 work there you have done, it's a wonderful work. Once
23 I was young as you. Now today I'm 81 years old. I
24 work and facing the people in Canada for seven years,
25 US member Harry Wilde. Me and other guy is John
26 Hanson, and those other guys, we were facing those
27 people up in Canada. Those fish -- a lot fish king
28 salmon. Large king salmon. Sometime that when I was
29 fish collector, I almost pick a sea of king salmon here
30 in the Yukon. All that fish, big fish, goes all the
31 way up to Canada and lay eggs. And all that eggs
32 coming down. That's problem we have been facing all
33 the time. We work with those people upriver, because
34 that's where the king salmon female goes up there and
35 lay eggs. And all the little eggs down to Yukon and
36 we're first one get the taste of it when they come in.
37 Over 45,000 king salmon. We make negotiation with
38 them. We please ourself, that think about our family.

39

40

41 There's the time that I, when I was
42 small, living on fish eggs for about a month. That's
43 the hardship I get.

44

45 I learn a lot of things in my time of
46 negotiating and all that. I think about not my own
47 self. I think about children, some of them that have
48 been living like me, hungry. I give the opportunity
49 and give them chance. Fish come down, when they get
50 into the Yukon River, we're the first ones to catch

1 them.

2

3 That's the one thing I'm proud of as
4 you and young people hopefully that they could be able
5 to wake up and get up, and doing the things that we
6 didn't done when we have time.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
11 Wilde. Mr. Andrew.

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Council members.

15

16 Mr. Kelly, you gave an excellent
17 PowerPoint presentation. I really enjoyed it. It's
18 something I've been asking for the last few years. And
19 a few of us over here, actually four of us over here,
20 Greg, Charlie, James and myself, we lived through gear
21 changes in the early years. Prior to our gear
22 restrictions, when we'd go out with 8-1/4 to 8-1/2-
23 inch, we used to catch very large kings reaching from
24 the minimum of 18 pounds to a little over 60 pounds or
25 a little bit -- up to even 70. But starting right
26 about the time we started -- we got restricted down to
27 6-inch gear, any gear, even during our first pulse, if
28 we've gone for our own subsistence use, we start
29 catching smaller kings. But on the other hand, if you
30 go out to the bay, like in front of Quinhagak, fish on
31 shallow water with the smaller gear, with the 6-inch
32 gear, they're deadly. 5-5/8 or 6-inch gear. Because
33 there's no way they can go under the net or over it,
34 unless they jump it. And we only use 50 fathom nets,
35 not 150. And if you have a good fast picker for a
36 partner, you can load up your boat in a short time, if
37 the fish are there. The trick is to keep cleaning your
38 fish net out as fast as possible. If you let your fish
39 stay in there, they'll die off or shake themselves out,
40 because they're not fully tangled in there. So when
41 you can hang your net, they can catch way more than the
42 other nets.

43

44 The point I want to bring out is if you
45 use a large mesh gear, a lot of the other smaller fish
46 go right through and you're going only selected
47 fishing, fishing only big fish, whereas if you go with
48 5-1/2 to 7-1/2 you're catching practically a majority
49 of all the fish that hit your net. That's the
50 experience we have gone through when we went through

1 gear change.

2

3 Quyana. Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

6 Andrew. Anybody else.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

11 Kelly.

12

13 MR. KELLY: Well, I did request a
14 special action request for this Regional Advisory
15 Council, and do you guys deliberate that or does the
16 Office of Subsistence Management take care of it?

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Special action

19 request?

20

21 MR. KELLY: Yeah, regarding the use of
22 7-1/2-inch mesh and the incidental catch of chum salmon
23 on the Lower Yukon River. It was given during the
24 presentation. I guess it must be at the end of the day
25 here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I didn't quite
28 understand. What is.....

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: I guess what if I could
31 ask, get a clarification on that. I mean, you're not
32 asking for a regulatory change of anything in that,
33 it's more of just an abstract question, so I don't know
34 how it falls under the special action. And the only
35 thing I could see in there that would be a special
36 action as far as the Federal Board of what you had was
37 to rescind their action of the 7-1/2-inch gear. That's
38 what I hear your special action being. I don't know if
39 I'm getting it all.

40

41 MR. KELLY: Yeah, I guess that was what
42 I meant. I guess, because the regulation for 7-1/2
43 inches takes place next year. So the Pilot Station
44 Traditional Council recommends to our tribal members to
45 continue using the 8-1/2-inch mesh.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: Just to clarify then.
48 You're request on the special action would be to delay
49 or for the Board to reconsider and rescind their
50 action. Because it has to deal with a regulations. I

1 don't know, maybe I'm getting lost here.

2 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's what I
3 understand. Mr. Buklis, could you help.

4
5 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I did
6 listen to the presentation as you did, and I saw the
7 points he was making. I saw his concern, the concern
8 of the traditional council expressed through his
9 PowerPoint presentation.

10
11 But if you want the Federal Subsistence
12 Board to take up your concern, you would need to submit
13 a special action request. We can help you with that,
14 but it has to be more than a PowerPoint presentation.
15 I don't mean more than, but you've made your points
16 here to the Council, but the traditional council or the
17 Regional Advisory Council or you as an individual, any
18 number of people can submit a special action request.
19 And we can help you with that, if that's what you want.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kelly.

22
23 MR. KELLY: Yeah. Thank you, Larry. I
24 guess I was going to -- I wanted to ask the Regional
25 Advisory Council to submit this special action request,
26 because the traditional council, going through the
27 State, you know, earlier in the presentation I gave the
28 Governor's use of emergency regulations regarding the
29 incidental catch of Yukon River kings and the sale of
30 kings restricted to the fish buyers. The Pilot Station
31 Traditional Council is not going to go through the
32 Board of Fisheries. The Pilot Station Traditional
33 Council is going to go directly to the Governor,
34 request -- if the State Governor can issue an emergency
35 regulation making it illegal for fish buyers to buy
36 Yukon River kings, then perhaps the Governor can issue
37 a similar regulation rescinding the Board of Fisheries
38 actions regarding requirement for the 7-1/2-inch mesh
39 on the Yukon River.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have
42 anything on that, Mr. Buklis, that you would like
43 to.....

44
45 MR. BUKLIS: We as Staff, Mr. Chairman,
46 can assist Mr. Kelly and the council he works with to
47 develop a special action request to the Federal
48 Subsistence Board, and whatever initiative they want to
49 take with the State regulatory system would be in their
50 own hands.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would that suffice?
2
3 MR. KELLY: Yes, we understand that.
4
5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, ma'am.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to accommodate
10 Mr. Kelly by suggesting that we go on record for
11 supporting his request as a RAC.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that in the form
14 of a motion.
15
16 MS. GREGORY: I so move.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
19 to support Mr. Kelly and the Pilot Station Tribal
20 Council on their request.
21
22 MR. MANUMIK: I'll second it.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
25 Manumik. For discussion.
26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. Just to
28 clarify on that, did your special action request to the
29 Board is to rescind the 7-1/2-inch gear restriction
30 that is now in place for subsistence on the Yukon?
31 That's what it will be?
32
33 MR. KELLY: Yes, that is correct.
34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: Or their
36 reconsideration, however it -- yeah.
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Are we okay
39 on that now?
40
41 MR. KELLY: Yes.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
44 Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Buklis.
45
46 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 And the motion that was made, is that a statement of
48 support for the traditional council's submission?
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I forgot there was

1 a motion on the floor.

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I'm just
4 asking, is the motion a statement of support for the
5 traditional council's work, or is it a motion for this
6 Council to submit it?

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In support of that.

9

10 MS. GREGORY: It's in support.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In support.

13

14 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more discussion
17 on the motion.

18

19 MR. ANDREW: Question.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Question on the
24 motion. Let's have a roll call vote. Mr. Nick, please
25 call the roll.

26

27 MR. NICK: Mr. Brown.

28

29 MR. BROWN: Yes.

30

31 MR. NICK: Mr. Oney.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Yes.

34

35 MR. NICK: Mr. Manumik.

36

37 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.

38

39 MR. NICK: Mr. Harry Wilde.

40

41 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

42

43 MR. NICK: Mary Gregory.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

46

47 MR. NICK: Mr. Kelly.

48

49 MR. KELLY: Abstain.

50

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Lester Wilde.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Unok.
6
7 MR. UNOK: Yes.
8
9 MR. NICK: Mr. Roczicka.
10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
12
13 MR. NICK: Mr. Andrew.
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
16
17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. 9 supporting, 1
18 abstention.
19
20 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)
21
22 MR. NICK: I'm sorry. One more. Mr.
23 Charles.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It's getting that
26 time. We understand. It's getting that time of the
27 day.
28
29 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
30
31 MR. NICK: Sorry about that. Mr.
32 Chair. 10 supporting, 1 abstention.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
35
36 Thank you, Mr. Kelly.
37
38 MR. KELLY: Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to item
41 2 on our tribal representatives. Orutsararmiut Native
42 Council. Is there a presentation.
43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Nothing formal actually
45 as far as our fisheries program. Just brief on a
46 couple of things we want to bring up. Alissa covered
47 our fisheries program pretty well with her ANSEP report
48 and all of those.
49
50 Starting next week we will start

1 conducting the post-season subsistence surveys for the
2 community of Bethel, which we've contracted for the
3 last 10 years to do in partnership with the Division of
4 Subsistence for the State.

5
6 We also have our partnership fisheries
7 biologist program with OSM that is ongoing. There's
8 winter meetings and reports going forward with that.

9
10 One other thing I did want to make you
11 aware of, and we've been talking about the mesh size
12 and so forth, is that we have put in proposal under the
13 Tribal Wildlife Grant to address a mesh selectivity
14 study on the Kuskokwim, and to do it through our
15 council, not to be done by Fish and Game or US Fish and
16 Wildlife Service, but done by our own subsistence
17 fishermen starting next year, because of the concerns
18 that we have heard being raised, and watching what
19 happened on the Yukon. So if we do get it, we'll have
20 15 fishermen, five using 6-1/2, five using 7-inch, and
21 five using 7-1/2-inch gear to do some, in the course of
22 their subsistence fishing next year, and through the
23 course -- hopefully we can get it through the course of
24 a full cycle, but at least for two years, and hopefully
25 up to four to get a speciation of what those nets are
26 going to be catching on the Kuskokwim. And the part
27 behind that would be to follow up what James' has said
28 that we don't want to see a regulation come down
29 requiring us to use smaller gear, but to make it if
30 people want to change, that they can do it as a
31 voluntary effort and leave our fishery, our king salmon
32 subsistence fisheries the last one in the State that's
33 totally unregulated as far as use other than counting.

34
35 And just the other thing I wanted to
36 toss out, I wanted to thank the Tribal Council of
37 Emmonak and Grant Aviation. For the last three years
38 they've worked a partnership with us through ONC. ONC
39 runs the senior center here which takes care of elders
40 from all over the YK Delta, and they've appointed
41 hunters from their village to go out and proxy hunt for
42 those folks, and get moose meat over to us, because of
43 the abundance in the Lower Yukon, below Mountain
44 Village, and it really, really helps out in saving our
45 food. They consider it up to 20,000 that they get as
46 an in-kind from the subsistence foods that are brought
47 up to that. So I just wanted to mention that one for
48 the record.

49
50 And we're actually looking at possibly

1 expanding that through our social service and Healthy
2 Families Program, again with the Natural Resource
3 Department to maybe do for specific families within
4 this area, to go over and proxy hunt. Not for the
5 senior center itself, but for individual elders and
6 their families and their households.

7

8 And there's a couple of other things
9 that we're working on. We're doing lots of other
10 stuff, too, with our EPA program and others.

11

12 That's pretty for the fish and wildlife
13 part of it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
16 Greg. Mr. Charles.

17

18 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I just want to thank ONC for doing good job on the
20 Kuskokwim. They provide us a lot of information
21 throughout the summer. As I mentioned I'm with the
22 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, and at those
23 meetings, they give us a lot of good information. How
24 people are doing subsistence fishing throughout the
25 summer, and those information give us how the runs are
26 doing throughout the whole summer for Chinook fishing,
27 chums, reds and other species like cohos. So I just
28 want to thank ONC for doing a good job.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
33 comments or questions concerning the ONC report?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, is anybody
38 here from the Kuskokwim Native Association. I'm a
39 little surprised.

40

41 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
42 name is Melissa Smith from Kuskokwim Native Association
43 in Aniak. I have been a fisheries biologist with KNA
44 for a year and a half now, so I guess that's one of the
45 biggest position changes that we've had since you guys
46 have heard from KNA I think in 2008.

47

48 I have a PowerPoint, however, I'm going
49 to jump through a lot of the details. I do appreciate
50 you guys all still being awake and alert during my

1 presentation.

2

3 The other big staff thing that we had
4 during the last couple years was that our full-time
5 educator, Cary Haggett, who does our K through 12
6 education program, graduated from APU University with
7 her master's degree in a program which specifically
8 involved our Kuskokwim Native Association high school
9 -- or K through 12 in-class education program. And her
10 thesis dealt with developing ways to evaluate that
11 program, so we're definitely really proud of that. It
12 was a pretty big achievement for our fisheries
13 department.

14

15 Kind of the heart of our fisheries
16 department is the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
17 Program. And that funds one full-time position in our
18 department. It also funds Cary Haggett's education
19 position and about 10 to 20 high school internships
20 every summer. So it's -- and it also funds a lot of
21 our cooperative projects which I'm going to very
22 briefly go through.

23

24 We have about seven or eight
25 cooperative projects that we're working on right now.
26 Our two most time consuming ones during the summer
27 inevitably are the George and the Tatlawiksuk River
28 weirs. The George is about 116 miles upstream from
29 Aniak and the Tatlawiksuk's about 300 miles upstream.

30

31 This year the weir operation was pretty
32 good except for about two months solid rain. So
33 overall our biologists and technicians were pretty
34 unhappy and kind of gloomy about the weather. And it
35 also resulted in a water level increase of 300 to 400
36 percent, so that's the reason why our weirs were under
37 water for part of the season. It wasn't very
38 substantial on the George and Tatlawiksuk though. I
39 think maybe other projects got hit harder.

40

41 Sheefish radio telemetry. This project
42 is being wrapped up right now as far as the field work
43 this summer. And next summer we'll be maintaining the
44 stationary tracking stations and also doing a little
45 bit more aerial tracking.

46

47 The Aniak River rainbow trout project,
48 that is all wrapped up for field work. We finished our
49 last flights in May, so that now is in the analysis and
50 report writing process.

1 One of the biggest conclusions from
2 this study though was that the subsistence fishery in
3 the Lower Aniak river was not actually being influenced
4 by the sport fishery in the Upper Aniak River. Many of
5 you know that the upper river tributaries of the Aniak
6 are very popular sport fishing areas, and specifically
7 for rainbows. And none of the tagged rainbows in the
8 upper tributaries went anywhere near the lower river,
9 so they are a very boring migratory species. They only
10 went basically to the mouths of the tributaries to
11 overwinter.

12
13 This Bering cisco genetic stock
14 assessment project is a new one that Randy Brown is
15 doing with US Fish and Wildlife. It's looking at
16 trying to identify genetic differences between the
17 three major breeding stocks of Bering cisco in the
18 Susitna River, Kuskokwim River and the Yukon. And so
19 KNA's job this summer was to go up to the South Fork
20 and catch 200 Bering ciscos and take genetic samples
21 for them. And Mike Talhauser, the director, just got
22 done with that project like a day before I came out
23 here. So he was successful in that. So hopefully in a
24 year or so we'll have some results from that, and be
25 able to see which stocks are being harvested more in
26 the YK Delta.

27
28 I apologize for this not being
29 readable. This is the Kuskokwim River sockeye salmon
30 project. We were tagging sockeye salmon at the Kalskag
31 fishwheels this summer as well as chum salmon. The
32 sockeye salmon were just getting T tags. They were
33 just visual markers to be recaptured at our weir
34 projects including the Telaquana, however you want to
35 say it, River weir, which is our newest fish weir.

36
37 And the chum salmon -- this is just a
38 pilot study that we did this year at the Kalskag
39 fishwheels. It's just looking at holding time in
40 relation to the length of chum migration. So is
41 holding chum in the live box for several hours
42 influencing their spawning. And in years past we've
43 suspected that it is, and there's been kind of a higher
44 drop-out rate in chum salmon that are spawning in the
45 really high tributaries like Takotna versus the ones
46 that are spawning in George River aren't really
47 influenced very much. So that will be real interesting
48 to see the results of that study as well. So we're all
49 waiting on that.

50

1 And the Aniak post-season subsistence
2 salmon surveys. These are done yearly since 2002, and
3 currently we're hiring our technicians. And hopefully
4 we'll be getting all of our surveys done between
5 October and December. We do 100 percent of Aniak, so
6 sometimes it's difficult to get the stragglers, but in
7 the past we've been very successful in getting almost
8 100 percent of Aniak. Last year we had a very
9 successful year with a very low refusal rate. And we
10 also updated the household map for Aniak, so that's a
11 huge step in knowing who is where and increasing the
12 efficiency of this project.

13
14 And under our education programs, our
15 education department at KNA is growing exponentially
16 every year. Every year we hire three to four college
17 interns. This year we have four college interns, one
18 from Chuathbaluk, and one from Kalskag, and Kwethluk,
19 and Emmonak. And they were all amazing. They stayed
20 on for about two months and just cycled between all of
21 our different cooperative projects. And they had an
22 opportunity to gain hands-on experience with all these
23 different agencies that we work with. So it was really
24 an invaluable program. And then at the end of the
25 season they give PowerPoint presentations to our
26 funding agency, OSM, and then they are also eligible
27 for scholarships.

28
29 Our high school internship program
30 takes place at the George and the Tatlawiksuk River
31 weirs. I showed a map of them earlier. This is a
32 shorter program, one to two weeks, and it sees a lot of
33 students every year, between 10 and 20. So I think
34 this year we had something like 14 or 15. Cary Hackett
35 runs this program as well. And again it's focused on
36 fisheries science, watershed ecology, impacts on
37 watersheds. They learn everything there is about
38 escapement monitoring, using weirs. So they really
39 have a great time, and it's turned out kind of dark
40 there, but they really like playing in the dry suits.

41
42 Our fisheries science in the schools
43 program is the one that I was talking about earlier
44 that Cary Hackett wrote her M.S. thesis on. This
45 classroom-based program started in 2008. And right now
46 Cary has already taught in Aniak for a week at both the
47 elementary school and the high school, and right now
48 she's in Stony River, and she still has Kalskag and
49 Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek and Sleetmute to do.
50

1 All right. We work on tons of outreach
2 and education programs besides this. One of the things
3 I was most impressed about this summer was our college
4 interns taking the lead on subsistence surveys for the
5 working group meeting. And I know a lot of you guys
6 are involved in the working group meetings, so when you
7 hear us give updates from Middle River Kuskokwim, it's
8 all because of our college interns. So I'm very proud
9 of that.

10
11 And with that, does anybody have any
12 questions for me.

13
14 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I thought I
15 heard you say that you helped the fish to spawn while
16 they're in the box?

17
18 MS. SMITH: Are you thinking of the
19 chum tagging studies?

20
21 MS. GREGORY: You were just telling us
22 about it.

23
24 MS. SMITH: Okay. I think you're
25 referring to the chum tagging effects study. And this
26 study is looking at two different methods of handling
27 fish in the fishwheels. One method is looking at not
28 -- is basically they never enter the live box. They
29 come out of the river, somebody catches them, they get
30 a tag inserted into their stomach and then they're let
31 go. So basically it's very extremely minimal handling
32 time. The second treatment is where they are left in
33 the live box for up to an hour. And then they're
34 tagged and released. So all of these salmon presumably
35 would all be spawning, you know, indiscriminantly.
36 They could be spawning in Takotna, George River,
37 Tatlawiksuk, we don't know.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Okay. So for an hour
40 when you leave, what do you do, just leave them there?

41
42 MS. SMITH: Yeah. They would just be
43 swimming freely in the live box.

44
45 MS. GREGORY: What's the purpose?

46
47 MS. SMITH: Of the live box?

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Leaving there, letting
50 them swim?

1 MS. SMITH: The is that longer
2 retention and handling times with chum salmon in
3 particular, I'm not talking about any other species,
4 but just with chum salmon, there may be -- longer
5 handling times may reduce their potential to migrate
6 upstream and spawn in some of the upper river
7 tributaries like the Takotna River weir.

8
9 MS. GREGORY: The second question is
10 your classroom, what type of classroom presentations or
11 what type of program do you have, K through 12.

12
13 MS. SMITH: Okay. Yeah. I think I
14 skipped over the curriculum slide. But basically Cary
15 Hackett works with the teachers to set up times to meet
16 with the science classes, and she basically takes over
17 the entire science class and presents on these
18 different fisheries science concepts. In the earlier
19 age levels they're doing a lot of identification and
20 looking at videos of salmon passage and just talking
21 about spawning colors and stuff like that.

22
23 MS. GREGORY: And what duration are
24 they talking with the students?

25
26 MS. SMITH: I believe her individual
27 class lengths vary from maybe a half hour to an hour.
28 And then she's at every school for one week per year.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: One week only?

31
32 MS. SMITH: Yeah. There's been some
33 requests to do it longer though.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done.

36
37 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43
44 Is the internship program for KNA
45 villages only or is it for anybody who applies for that
46 program?

47
48 MS. SMITH: Well, our internships are
49 primarily aimed at students from our member villages,
50 but every year we recruit students from non-member

1 villages. We've had a lot of students from Bethel,
2 Kwethluk. We have a technician who's been with us for
3 four years from St. Mary's. We had a college intern
4 from Emmonak. So it's definitely pretty extensive.

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions.

7
8 MS. GREGORY: I think Mr. Charles'
9 question is (In Yup'ik).

10
11 MR. CHARLES: No, (In Yup'ik). She
12 answered my question, from any village.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 Thanks, Melissa. You made an
19 interesting comment that rainbow trout are a pretty
20 boring species for migratory studies. I guess I was
21 under the impression that rainbows are pretty much a
22 resident species.

23
24 MS. SMITH: Right.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Although, I mean, I
27 remember catching one off the seawall in Bethel here,
28 about a 2-pounder in an 8-inch gear back in '85. I
29 think he was pretty lost.

30
31 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Well, I wish had
32 some maps with me, but particularly in the Aniak
33 drainage, and I'm definitely not claiming to be a
34 rainbow trout expert, but what I mean by boring is that
35 they are not migrating from the headwaters of the Aniak
36 into the mainstem of the Kuskokwim, for instance.
37 They're primarily feeding and spawning say in the
38 Salmon River or the Kipchuk River, and then over-
39 wintering at the mouths of those rivers or at one big
40 over-wintering site about 10 or 20 miles downstream.

41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: In other words, they're
43 not an anadromous as Dollies are and so forth?

44
45 MS. SMITH: Right. Right.

46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: But anyway it's good to
48 know, boring or not.

49
50 MS. SMITH: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you.

7
8 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Oh, actually I
9 do have one more thing, if I may.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You may.

12
13 MS. SMITH: Thank you. I was also sent
14 here with the mission to request a letter of support
15 from your Council in regards to an education grant that
16 we are currently applying for. It's building -- the
17 grant is building off of our current in-class K through
18 12 program, which is currently a seasonal program, and
19 we'd like to make it a year-round program. And so this
20 grant would give us the ability to hire Cary to make it
21 a year-round program with the intent of being able
22 expand the program to more villages and just really
23 build up our material.

24
25 And I'm not sure if this is the
26 appropriate time for me to make that a formal request
27 or if you would like more information, I'd be more than
28 happy to provide that to you. But KNA would like to
29 request that letter of support.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

32
33 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I did see
34 that, and an original request did come from Mike
35 Talhauser back I believe it was in late August that it
36 first came. The deadline and so forth. But it
37 wouldn't be in in time, but he said that after talking
38 with the grant administrators that it could come in
39 later.

40
41 MS. SMITH: Exactly.

42
43 MR. ROCZICKA: And I was under the
44 impression that we were going to have a draft in front
45 of us that would be ready to go and we could sign off
46 on it. But as far as a motion at this time, if you can
47 get us a letter like that, I'd make the motion to
48 recommend that we do support their effort in this on-
49 going education effort.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
2 made to support for KNA on their request for support on
3 the grant for the education project that they're in.
4 Do I hear a second.
5
6 MS. GREGORY: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Ms.
9 Gregory.
10
11 Any further discussion. Mr. Gregory --
12 Mr. Roczicka.
13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: And I'd ask Mr.
15 Talhauser to forward that letter to our coordinator so
16 that he can get it on the appropriate letterhead and so
17 forth and we can have our Chair sign that.
18
19 MS. SMITH: Yeah. Absolutely. Thank
20 you. I appreciate it.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All in favor of the
23 motion -- oh, further discussion.
24
25 MR. CHARLES: Question.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
28 called for. All in favor say aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.
33
34 (No opposing votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
37 We'll get a letter of support from Staff. Mr. Nick.
38 Okay. Drafted for my signature. Thank you.
39
40 Anything else on the KNA report?
41
42 MS. SMITH: That's it for me. Thank
43 you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Another
46 surprise. Municipal government reps.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any ANCSA

1 village corporation reps here.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I guess they all
6 left. Other organizations. Bering Sea Fishermen's
7 Association. Another surprise. Yes, ma'am.

8

9 MS. SWEETMAN: Hello, my name is Joni
10 Sweetman, and I'm representing Bering Sea Fishermen's
11 Association.

12

13 And I'll just be really quick and say
14 we have two projects we're currently working on. One
15 is we're publishing a book with quick synopses on all
16 55 projects that we have funded in the AYK region from
17 2002 to 2010. And we're going to be mailing those out
18 probably in the next week. And if you don't get one in
19 your mailbox and you wanted to see one, you can contact
20 perhaps Alex Nick and we can send one on to you.

21

22 And then the other thing that we're
23 busy doing is we sent out questionnaires to the senate
24 and governor candidates for the election. Basically we
25 wanted to ask them questions that we felt communities
26 in Western Alaska would like to know. And we're going
27 to be publishing their comments in our Fair Advocate
28 newsletter which goes out in October.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that it?

31

32 MS. SWEETMAN: And that's all I have.
33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
36 Manumik.

37

38 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Ma'am, I'd
39 like to ask you if while you're doing these projects in
40 communities, and some villages may want a project, but
41 don't know which are more successful in these
42 communities that you have projects in. Would you
43 publish a list of projects that you have for the
44 communities to review so that they can be more informed
45 of what they need.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. SWEETMAN: Mr. Chairman. Yes, we
50 would like to work with anybody that wants to put a

1 proposal forward, especially any time we have an RFP.
2 We would like to work with anybody to develop the
3 proposal so that it meets the requirements and answers
4 the questions directly. Excuse me. And so I think
5 you're asking if I could get you a list of projects
6 that we have funded?

7

8 MR. MANUMIK: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. SWEETMAN: Yes, I can do that.

11

12 MR. MANUMIK: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other

15 questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you

20 for your presentation.

21

22 MS. SWEETMAN: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to item

25 17, review Federal Subsistence Board reply for 2009

26 annual report. Mr Nick.

27

28 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. This is for your

29 information. It's a reply from your 2009 annual

30 report. Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Nick.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

35

36 MR. NICK: Oh, item A under Regional

37 Advisory Council business. That's just a reply from

38 your annual report that you submitted to the Federal

39 Subsistence Board

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you going to go

42 ahead and review that?

43

44 MR. NICK: Do you want me to go ahead

45 and review it? It's just for your information. You

46 had a copy of that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Greg

49 Roczicka.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 read their replay to our report.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I did, too.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: And again regarding that
7 issue about management of our subsistence resource
8 populations to provide and maintain adequate
9 subsistence harvest, they did not -- again they avoided
10 addressing the issue. They gave us a stock response
11 and attachments that they had sent to Eastern Interior
12 from back in 2006, in which case they mention in there
13 that in these evaluations that they state that they're
14 required -- which by the way are a matter of
15 interpretation and a matter of choice by their policy
16 makers at the national level. It says, the Service
17 will work closely, coordinate and where possible
18 cooperate with the State of Alaska in its efforts to
19 provide sustainable harvestable surpluses for
20 subsistence use.

21

22 And in the case of the Unimak issue and
23 if we want to look at it as a response to the 911
24 resolution where we asked for similar efforts to be
25 made across the State where this has been raised as a
26 concern by 7 of the 10 Regional Subsistence Councils,
27 they actually went backwards and they directly
28 contradict that statement, that they in past have
29 avoided making it a major Federal action by allowing
30 State agents to go in and conduct these activities in
31 these areas. And all of a sudden with this
32 Administration that promised it was going to be more
33 aggressively addressing the Native concerns, Alaska
34 Natives and Native American concerns, they actually
35 went backwards on this and stopped it in its tracks.
36 So they are going back on their word. And I'll leave
37 it at that.

38

39 And for the next, additionally they've
40 got their lengthy diatribe on biological integrity,
41 diversity and environmental health. And as you read
42 through that, just in perusing through it, I find half
43 a dozen places right off the bat where there is plenty
44 of latitude for them to go forward with these actions
45 rather than continued delaying tactics. They say,
46 well, there are no other refuges in the nation and no
47 other Congressional action governing those refuges
48 where the priority use has been set in place. And in
49 Alaska, subsistence is a priority use for the
50 resources, and they are putting other interests over

1 that priority use. And specifically the main one they
2 always go back to is that natural diversity and the
3 natural processes and so forth. And they specifically
4 even in this statement that they have on wildlife and
5 habitat management, it says, some refuges may differ
6 from the frequency and timing of natural processes in
7 order to meet refuge purposes, and to addressing these
8 biological integrity, diversity.

9

10 As I mentioned in our opening
11 statements and concern, in talking with AFN, that this
12 Administration, the Secretary and Fish and Wildlife
13 Service has been essentially non-responsive to this
14 concern and they have not even dignified that
15 resolution with any kind of formal reply. So this is
16 totally inexcusable. They should be censured. And as
17 a result of that decision, the process was in motion to
18 pull those folks forward that made that decision at
19 Washington, D.C. for Congressional inquiry. However,
20 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit which at that time
21 gave them an excuse that we cannot speak of these
22 matters, because it is now a matter of litigation, so
23 they couldn't bring it forward. But we should look to
24 pursue those as well in the future.

25

26 It has to be faced up to, that if
27 they're going to live up to their subsistence priority,
28 and we can start through the other venues that are
29 available, that this is a breach of treaty if you will.
30 ANILCA came out of the promise to provide for
31 subsistence needs. It came out of the Alaska Native
32 Claims Settlement Act. And it can be pursued and
33 argued that ANCSA is null and void as far as doing away
34 with the hunting and fishing rights if they're not
35 going to stand up to what subsistence priority that
36 they state at the beginning of Title VIII of ANILCA,
37 that the purpose for that act is to fulfill the
38 promises left unfulfilled through the passage of ANCSA.
39 That's what Title VIII's all about, and they're not
40 doing it. And they're avoiding it, and we need to --
41 it should come up again in the 2010 report.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more comments
44 on the reply to the 2009 annual report. Any further
45 comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, we'll go
50 down to item B, 2010 annual report topics. Mr. Nick.

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Every year you
2 provide the Staff with topics that you want to be
3 included in the annual report and it's time now for you
4 to provide us with annual report topics for 2010. Mr.
5 Chair.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was your
10 statement, Mary?

11
12 MS. GREGORY: I'm going to suggest for
13 our 2010 report that the concerns that Mr. Roczicka
14 brought up be included in there. And just because they
15 didn't adhere to what we want doesn't mean we have to
16 give up. Like I said, I always fight until I get what
17 I want. And could you and Mr. Roczicka work on that,
18 please.

19
20 MR. NICK: I can work with Greg on
21 that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Is that okay
24 with the annual report topics.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And if any of the
29 other Council members have any topics that they would
30 like included, make sure you get ahold of Alex or Mr.
31 Roczicka so that your concerns can be put in the report
32 also.

33
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I would be a
35 little reluctant to be contacted by the Council
36 members, because that has gone on for maybe a couple of
37 years or more and no one contacted me for additional
38 annual report topics.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, just in the
41 event that the times have changed, you know, if anybody
42 would like to have topics that they think of during the
43 meeting, that you could -- or during the time that
44 you're home discussing the meeting with the people that
45 we are representing, please get ahold of Alex for those
46 topics, because, you know, we want to make sure that
47 all the concerns are put into that letter. Although as
48 stated by Mr. Roczicka we may not get the results, but
49 as Mary stated, we've got to keep going and keep going
50 until we get a semblance of what we need, or get what

1 we need. Okay.

2

3 That being put away, we need to confirm
4 the date and place for winter meeting for the Council
5 meeting.

6

7 You know, we've tried and tried and
8 tried to meet on the Yukon. I would like to suggest
9 that you try every means possible to see if it's
10 possible for one of the villages that are eligible for
11 us to meet in be contacted to see if any of the
12 villages have met the requirements needed for the
13 meeting to be held in their village, if that's
14 possible, Mr. Nick.

15

16 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 will do that. Your next meeting is going to be
18 February 23/24, and it says here in Bethel for your
19 winter meeting. You need to confirm that, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Manumik.

22

23 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Nick.
24 We took care of today Yukon proposals that were
25 addressing the Yukon River salmon proposals that affect
26 the Yukon fishermen and the residents of -- the
27 subsistence users. I would like to see the next
28 meeting be held in St. Mary's, because we need to
29 address these proposals and let the people that are
30 affected hear about them. Every meeting that we've had
31 has always been here, even though there are proposals
32 that affect the Yukon.

33

34 And I also would like to propose that
35 we meet six times in the Yukon. If there are any
36 Kuskokwim proposals that we need to address, we meet in
37 the Kuskokwim side.

38

39 And also I'd like to address Mr.
40 Kelly's request about him going into the tribal council
41 membership ask to be -- ask to fill out an application
42 to a seat on the Regional Advisory Council. The reason
43 why I'm saying this is because in the other boards
44 where I sit, more government agencies are addressing
45 village, Native, tribal councils, because it makes
46 their communication faster with communities that are
47 affected. In some communities that I've seen, I've
48 been to and have seen what's been happening, some
49 organizations are not accepted or not even heard from
50 in the communities. That's why I'm requesting that we

1 take further look into the tribal government in each
2 village, see if they can sit on the Regional Council as
3 Council members. Advisory Council members. And I
4 thank Mr. Kelly for bringing that up.

5
6 I wanted to bring it before, but I'm
7 always afraid of hurting my elders. I respect them.
8 I'm an elder of Mr. Kelly, but I have elders in the
9 tribal council here -- I mean Subsistence.....

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Regional Advisory
12 Council.

13
14 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. That's why I'm
15 suggesting that we do look into that tribal government
16 council members sit as the Subsistence Advisory
17 Council.

18
19 That is why I am asking that we have
20 our next meeting in St. Mary's, is because we have
21 proposals the Federal Board is going to look at, Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game is going to look at at the
23 Board of Fisheries, and we need to hear back on them
24 proposals in the Yukon, not here in Bethel.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.

29
30 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Mr.
31 Manumik. I think that would be a very good topic for
32 your annual report, because that's a way to communicate
33 with the Board. If you want to see, for example,
34 tribal members become a RAC member, you could ask
35 Federal Board if that's possible through your annual
36 report. And it could be added to the annual report.

37
38 I'll give you one example. Other
39 regions has asked government agencies like North
40 Pacific Fishery Management Council for tribal
41 membership, because they have to deal with their own
42 process, you know, nomination process or appointment
43 process. After, you know, maybe nearly a couple years
44 I heard the answer was no.

45
46 So, you know, I'm not saying that the
47 Board will say no to this, but they will tell you what
48 they think about your proposal. Rather, your idea of
49 having tribal members to sit on the RAC. I can't say
50 that, you know. We have no control over that.

1 Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Manumik.
4
5 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Mr.
6 Nick. The tribal councils are having more and more
7 voice in their communities, so that's why I asked to
8 bring up Mr. Kelly's request.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.
13
14 MR. NICK: I want to make one point,
15 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. This is not the
16 only region who's bringing this up. But there's some
17 confusion along with that. In other region, I was
18 contacted that somebody became a RAC member,
19 represented tribal council, and I told them that I did
20 not have any knowledge to that. I could not do their
21 travel, because we do have a nomination process for RAC
22 membership. And if this one gets too far, maybe we
23 might be contacted that somebody's appointed to become
24 a RAC member in a village. Be aware, you know, you've
25 all gone through a nomination process when you applied
26 for membership on this RAC, you know. And it's a long
27 process. We still have to follow that nomination
28 process for RAC membership.
29
30 Mr. Chair.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
33 Nick.
34
35 Any more questions. Mr. Oney.
36
37 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. Speaking of membership, we do have one
39 vacant seat that needs to be filled in, and it won't be
40 over until 2011. I'd like to see that position be
41 appointed before the next winter meeting.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.
46
47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Oney. I
48 think that position will be filled in early -- or
49 rather end of this year, because some of you and some
50 other people applied for RAC membership for 2010. 2010

1 membership will not be appointed until, like Larry
2 mentioned earlier, it was today, he mentioned that
3 there will be some appointments to RAC membership. And
4 those positions will be filled. Some of you most
5 likely will be reappointed to the membership, and maybe
6 some others will be appointed. We don't have any
7 control over that. Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
10 Nick.

11

12 Any more discussion on this. Mr.
13 Roczicka.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I'd just like to
16 second the recommendation that our next meeting be held
17 in St. Mary's. If there's indeed a motion or whatever
18 or ask for unanimous consent, whatever. I'd definitely
19 urge that we do that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that in the form
22 of a motion, Mr. Roczicka.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, I was seconding
25 Mr. Manumik. He was the one that recommended it first.

26

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Manumik,
29 would you put forward that motion to have the next
30 meeting in St. Mary's.

31

32 MR. MANUMIK: Yes. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And seconded by Mr.
35 Roczicka. Any more discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. GREGORY: Question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
42 yelled for. All in favor say aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.

1 Mr. Nick.

2

3 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'll work with
4 St. Mary's again one more time, but the preparations
5 for winter meeting is going to be a little bit tight,
6 because you're meeting is going to be in February
7 instead of March. So I'll go ahead and work with them.
8 It will depend on it though, Mr. Chair, what they do.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. We realize
11 that. Any further discussion on confirm date and place
12 of winter Council meeting.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, that's
17 already passed, taken care of.

18

19 We're going to go down to item D, set
20 date and place for fall 2011 Council meeting. Mr.
21 Nick.

22

23 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. These dates are
24 already taken for fall 2011.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there a calendar
27 somewhere?

28

29 MR. NICK: In the last page of your
30 workbook.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

33

34 MR. NICK: Okay. August 23 to 24 North
35 Slope will be meeting there. I believe we're allowed
36 to hold, Larry, we're allowed to hold two meetings a
37 week, so you may choose any of these. But I will let
38 you know -- I will tell you now that North Slope will
39 meet August 23 to 24; Kodiak/Aleutians will meet
40 September 7 and 8; Southeast will meet on September 27,
41 28; and Bristol Bay will meet on October 12, 13. Mr.
42 Chair. All the rest are open.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. On my
45 calendar for the Regional window for the fall meeting,
46 we only have August 23 and 24th.

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: September.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I was pointing to

1 the fact that there's -- Greg, what was your statement?

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 was going to recommend right around this time again,
5 September 29 and 30. They said you guys could schedule
6 two meetings a week, and you had someone else on the
7 27th/28th, was that Southeast I think is what you said.

8

9 MR. NICK: September 27th, 28th is
10 Southeast, yes.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: So we could have ours
13 then the 28, 29. I'm sorry, 29 and 30.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah.

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Fine with me.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any opposition to
20 September 29 and 30 for the fall meeting. Any
21 opposition to those dates.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: In Toksook Bay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If there are no
28 opposition, would somebody put that in the form of a
29 motion for the fall meeting.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: So moved.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
34 to have our fall meeting on the.....

35

36 MR. MANUMIK: I'll second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
39 Manumik. The motion was made by Mr. Roczicka.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: And we meet in Bethel.
42 Fall meeting.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Temporarily at
45 Bethel.

46

47 MR. MANUMIK: Toksook Bay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, you guys have
50 got to make up your mind. Bethel was suggested.

1 Toksook Bay is another one suggested. Mr. Manumik.

2

3 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Nick.
4 If we have proposals that are pertaining to the Yukon
5 are more, I would ask for Yukon. If there's any
6 Kuskokwim proposals that need to be taken care of, we
7 meet Bethel or Toksook Bay. Thank you.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
10 put Bethel down because a lot of the Bethel villages
11 are up and down the Kuskokwim and they come to address
12 us and bring their concerns to us. And I don't think
13 it would be fair to make all the meetings be in Yukon
14 for one year. Sorry, Mr. Manumik.

15

16 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. What I'm
17 saying is if there are proposals that are more for the
18 Yukon, we meet in the Yukon. That's what I'm saying.
19 I'm not saying we meet in Bethel to get away from the
20 Yukon people. I want the Yukoners to come to our
21 meeting, too.

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I thought
24 we're going to have our March meeting in St. Mary's,
25 and he's working on that. He's going to make sure that
26 St. Mary's qualify to be our meeting place.

27

28 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. The reason
29 why I suggested St. Mary's is because there are
30 proposals we took care of today, okay. The Federal
31 Board is going to work on those. And the results will
32 have to be known by the villages of Yukon River people.
33 That's why I asked to meet in the Yukon, giving them
34 the answers to the proposals that are going to be acted
35 upon by the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of
36 Fisheries. That's what I was suggesting the St. Mary's
37 meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka, and a
40 different view, please.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And on just what
43 Paul is mentioning is we don't know what the agenda is
44 really going to be shaping up to be yet as far as the
45 fall meeting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's correct.

48

49 MR. ROCZICKA: And we don't have to set
50 where we're going to have that fall meeting until our

1 winter meeting, wherever that is, that being hopefully
2 in St. Mary's. And we'll have an idea of what's going
3 to be on the fall agenda, and then we could try to pick
4 our village at that time to accommodate what the
5 agenda's going to be, and what proposals are there.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you understand
8 what he said?

9

10 MR. MANUMIK: No.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: That we don't have to
13 set the place for the fall meeting, for the fall 2011
14 meeting yet. We can do that at our winter 2011 meeting
15 to select a place once we -- as you mentioned,
16 depending on what the proposals, or what business is
17 going to be up there, we can select our site then to
18 fit that. If there's going to be more Yukon stuff, we
19 can try to have it in Emmo or somewhere like that, to
20 go back to the Yukon. I agree with you that we've had
21 -- for the last two years all the meetings have been in
22 Bethel, regardless of what was the content of the
23 agenda. And we've always tried to go after having our
24 meetings within the region that is most affected, or
25 the subregion that's most affected. So we could just
26 wait until our February meeting, hopefully in St.
27 Mary's to select our site for the fall meeting.

28

29 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman. I still
30 say if there are proposals that pertain to the Yukon
31 are more, then we meet in the Yukon. But if the
32 Kuskokwim proposals are more, we meet in the Kuskokwim
33 River side. That was my suggestion. But you need to
34 take that into consideration and decide on which side.
35 Only if Mr. Nick tells us there are more Kuskokwim side
36 proposals we need to take care of. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.

39

40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Manumik. In
41 that case then the location is to be announced.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Let's leave
44 it at that if that's okay with the rest of the Council.
45 Anaan, is that okay with you?

46

47 MS. GREGORY: I will let you know by my
48 vote.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Do we need a

1 motion to that effect.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: I thought we had a
4 motion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was there a motion?

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: The motion was for the
9 date.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. The motion
12 was for the date, but there is no motion on the place.
13 So we'll just leave it at that, if that's okay with our
14 coordinator. Is that the wish of the Council.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: It needs to be voted on,
17 Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. The dates
20 need to be voted on, 29th and 30th. There's a motion
21 on the floor that was seconded for the meeting to be
22 held on the 29th and 30th of September for the fall
23 meeting. Any further discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. CHARLES: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
30 called for. All in favor say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Nay.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One nay. Thank
39 you. And the place to be determined at the time.
40 Motion carries.

41

42 We're getting there. We're getting
43 there. Closing comments. Closing comments. Are there
44 any closing comments. Let's start with our lady.
45 Anaan, since you are the lady of the Council.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to thank
48 everybody for coming and having a meeting here in
49 Bethel. And I am reapplying for my third term on this
50 Council, because I still have a lot of fight in me

1 left. And I will continue to fight for my elders so
2 they can live their Yup'ik way of life to the fullest.
3 (In Yup'ik)

4
5 And I thank you for coming to Bethel,
6 and I thank these guys for sitting down and waiting for
7 us. All those people who come here to make
8 presentations, they just do their thing and leave.
9 They don't show me. They will see one thing. Saying
10 one thing is that you are for people, but if you don't
11 practice with your actions, you don't give out a good
12 message. So I want to thank you guys for sticking with
13 us. And instruct your Staff to do the same, even
14 though it's tedious sometimes. Living a Yup'ik life is
15 very tedious. There's a lot of hard work. And if you
16 want to work for us and be with us, you need to be one
17 of us so that we can start trusting you. And not
18 having to (In Yup'ik) you all the time.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
23 Charles, do you have any closing comments.

24
25 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. Mr.
28 Andrew, do you have any closing comments.

29
30 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Council.
31 Audience. Thank you very much.

32
33 Again Mr. Kelly (In Yup'ik) on his
34 presentation. (In Yup'ik).

35
36 And there's a couple of issues I'd like
37 to bring up right now. Last summer we had to restrict
38 our own king fisheries on the river. I'd like to see
39 more restrictions, because I don't -- the whole
40 Kuskokwim River system, every year our salmon stocks
41 are declining. And we see more and more of the users
42 all along the river from the mouth all the way up
43 through the river. How far up you can go, I don't
44 know. We have to be very cautious on how we make the
45 recommendations towards that.

46
47 And there's another issue. Our people
48 have major issue from my village area, Unit 4 area,
49 that is Donlin Creek. They're not too happy with it.
50 Is that if it becomes a reality, there's a real

1 potential danger of ruining the whole ecosystem on our
2 river. We need to have some kind of input towards
3 that. (In Yup'ik) If there's a way to make a
4 recommendation against the proposed Donlin Creek mine.
5 That's the issue I hear from my own people.

6
7 Those are the two major ones that I'm
8 concerned with right now.

9
10 Quayana. Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
13 Andrew. Mr. Harry Wilde, do you have any comments.

14
15 MR. H. WILDE: No comment. I'm ready
16 to go.

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown.

19
20 MR. BROWN: No comments.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: I'm tired. And I'm
25 going to continue to be tired and I'll be retired and
26 retired and retired. But I ain't going to quit.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Kelly.
29 Thank you, Mr. Roczicka.

30
31 MR. KELLY: No comments.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok.

34
35 MR. UNOK: I have only one suggestion
36 to Nick. If we could have labels so we could look
37 through the pages faster. Put label on, colored labels
38 or numbers on them.

39
40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'll suggest
41 that to the technical staff. They're the ones that
42 work on the book. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If that's not
45 possible, Alex, what might be possible is probably
46 supply the Council with tabs so that we might -- we
47 could do our own marking on each subject area. Okay.

48
49 Mr. Oney.

50

1 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. I'd like to thank each one of you board
3 members, Council members that are on this Board.
4 You've shown a lot of respect to each one of us here on
5 this Board, and you've been here on time, being sober,
6 and I thank you guys for doing that. And when people
7 see us from the outside, you know, when they come to
8 this meeting, and I have a lot of respect for all of
9 you. And I think you for that, and also the Staff that
10 are, you know, working really hard to put together the
11 recommendations that come from this Council. So I
12 thank them also.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
17 Manumik.

18
19 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman and
20 members of the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council. I
21 really truly thank you all for supporting the Yukon
22 River people for the proposals that they did not see
23 come before us. I wish we had met at St. Mary's to
24 cover the proposals so that they could understand what
25 they're going to be against this summer, this coming
26 summer.

27
28 And I thank Mr. Kelly for his
29 presentation and letting us see what -- the Yukoners
30 really needed to see was this Board meeting over in the
31 Yukon River, but it did not happen. That's why I want
32 to thank you for supporting the Yukon people and the
33 fishermen, subsistence fishermen on the proposals that
34 you voted against.

35
36 Thank you all and God bless you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
39 Manumik.

40
41 I personally would like to thank the
42 Staff, each and every one of you that's worked a lot to
43 make our decisionmaking on the Council. It's not
44 always easy. But thank you for making it easier than
45 what it would have been otherwise with all the
46 information that you supply us with in the book, and
47 all the pertinent information for each of the proposals
48 so the decisions can be made intelligently and to the
49 best of our abilities.

50

1 And I'd like to remind the Council,
2 please to clean up your area, because as my anaan
3 stated, there's going to be church tomorrow; is that
4 right?

5
6 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, there's a young
7 people's church tomorrow evening.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So please clean up
10 they styrofoams and stuff and throw them in the trash.

11
12 That's all I have at this time. Need a
13 motion for adjournment.

14
15 MR. MANUMIK: Move.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney.

18
19 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Before we adjourn, I think we should end it with a
21 prayer, because we started with a prayer as, you know,
22 our tradition that, you know, we started with a prayer,
23 we should end it with a prayer.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan, would you?

28
29 MS. GREGORY: I yield to my nephew, Mr.
30 Wilde. Can you pray for us.

31
32 MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 MS. GREGORY: Lord Jesus, I ask you to
35 give all the people who are going home your traveling
36 grace. In Jesus name, amen.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Amen. Thank you.
39 The meeting is adjourned at 6:40.

40
41 (Off record)

42
43 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 178 through 373 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by our firm on the 1st day of October 2010, in Bethel, 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 10th day of October 2010.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14