

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
10 Bethel, Alaska
11 March 5, 2014
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Greg Roczicka, Acting Chairman
18 David Bill
19 William Brown
20 James Charles
21 Raymond J. Oney
22 Anthony F. Ulak
23 Harry Wilde, Sr.

24
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

27
28 Interpreters: Pat Sampson
29 Charlie Charlie

30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

39 Recorded and transcribed by:
40
41 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
42 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
43 Anchorage, AK 99501
44 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 3/5/2014)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Good morning, everybody. We'll call this meeting to order for the YK Delta RAC at 9:16 a.m. I understand we had some phone problems, they've been resolved now.

And I'd ask Staff if they'd do the roll call, please, in the absence of our secretary.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Alex Nick for the record, Council coordinator for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

Before I do the roll call, I would like to welcome your new member, Mr. Anthony Frank Ulak from Scammon Bay.

Ready for the roll call.

William Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MR. NICK: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. NICK: Lester Wilde asked to be excused, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Excused.

MR. NICK: Paul Manumik also asked to be excused.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Excused.

MR. NICK: Anthony Ulak.

MR. ULAK: Here.

MR. NICK: Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: Here.

1 MR. NICK: Mary Gregory.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Mary is aware of
6 the meeting.
7
8 Raymond Oney.
9
10 MR. ONEY: Here.
11
12 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.
13
14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Here.
15
16 MR. NICK: Robert Aloysius.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Robert Aloysius
21 also asked to be excused.
22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: He's
24 excused.
25
26 MR. NICK: He has a meeting with his
27 corporation in Anchorage.
28
29 David Bill.
30
31 MR. BILL: Here.
32
33 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, you have a
34 quorum.
35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
37 And just for that, I'd just mention that we have a very
38 bare quorum. And I guess if we operate under Robert's
39 Rules, we're going to have to have unanimous decisions
40 to take any action throughout the course of this
41 meeting.
42
43 Again on behalf of the Orutsararmiut
44 Native Council, I'd also welcome everybody here.
45 Welcome, Tony.
46
47 MR. ULAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We look
50 forward to having your input and experience. I believe

1 you've been involved in these issues for many, many
2 years as well as everyone else here.

3

4 And although it's not here, I would
5 like to ask before proceeding any further for an
6 invocation. And, Harry Wilde, would you offer that for
7 us, please.

8

9 MR. H. WILDE: (Gives invocation)

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll
12 proceed then with introductions, and we'll start with
13 the Council members first from this end of the table.

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 My name is James Charles from Tuntutuliak. I'm a RAC
17 member from that area. Tuntutuliak is downriver from
18 Bethel. So that's where I'm from.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. ULAK: Anthony Ulak, Scammon Bay.
23 I'm brand new here. I was just appointed last month,
24 and my first day of learning.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Greg
27 Roczicka from Bethel. I'm vice Chair, and in lieu of
28 Lester here, I get to follow the agenda for folks.

29

30 MR. ONEY: Yes. Good morning,
31 everyone. Raymond Oney from Alakanuk. I'm glad to be
32 here.

33

34 MR. BILL: My name is David Bill, Sr.
35 I'm from Nelson Island, Toksook Bay. Thank you.

36

37 MR. BROWN: William Charlie Brown from
38 Eek.

39

40 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, my name is Harry
41 Wilde. I'm been with this meetings for how many years.
42 But I get to where after my wife pass away, I have to
43 take care of my grandchildren half of time.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And our
46 recorder.

47

48 REPORTER: Meredith Downing with
49 Computer Matrix Court Reporters in Anchorage.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Again
2 we'll just work our way down the audience here starting
3 with the front row and on around. The gentleman here.

4
5 MR. BARTLEY: Hello. My name is Kevin
6 Bartley, I'm with the University of Anchorage, Alaska.

7
8 MR. NICK: Alex -- excuse me. Alex
9 Nick, Council coordinator from Bethel.

10
11 MR. NEWLAND: Eric Newland, the Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Yukon area summer
13 season management biologist.

14
15 MS. KENNER: I'm Pippa Kenner with the
16 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage with the
17 Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the anthropologist
18 staff to the Council.

19
20 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli,
21 the subsistence anthropologist for the Bureau of Indian
22 Affairs, and I work out of Anchorage.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: For the
25 record, Pat Petrivelli with BIA. I can just repeat
26 people's names for the record. Go ahead and you can
27 just stand up if you don't want to walk all the way up.

28
29 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
30 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks,
31 and I'll be reporting on Yukon River salmon issues.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Gene Peltola, Jr.,
36 Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence
37 Management, in the Anchorage office of Fish and
38 Wildlife.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And for the
41 record, Gene Peltola with Fish and Wildlife, Office of
42 Subsistence Management, Assistant Director.

43
44 Next, Steve.

45
46 MR. MILLER: Steve Miller, Fish and
47 Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife field office.
48 And I'm here in Bethel.

49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Steve

1 Miller with Fish and Wildlife Service, Bethel office.
2
3 MR. LUPIE: Henry Lupie from
4 Tuntutuliak. I'm also a member of the Kuskokwim
5 Working Group.
6
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Welcome,
8 Henry.
9
10 MR. NICKELAS: (In Yup'ik) My name is
11 John Nickelas from Kasigluk (In Yup'ik).
12
13 INTERPRETER: He's part of the advisory
14 board.
15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: John
17 Nickelas from Kasigluk.
18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Jackson Williams, Akiak,
20 also advisory, and subsistence in the Kuskokwim.
21
22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Welcome,
23 Jackson.
24
25 MR. RILEY: John Riley, Sr. from
26 Pitka's Point, Lower Yukon Advisory Board member.
27 Thank you.
28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: For the
30 record, John Riley, Pitka's Point, Lower Yukon Fish and
31 Game Advisory Committee.
32
33 MR. RUNFOLA: Dave Runfola, Fish and
34 Game, Subsistence Division, Fairbanks.
35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And Dave
37 Runfola from Subsistence Division in the Fairbanks
38 office.
39
40 MR. ALEXIE: Nicholai Alexie, Kwethluk,
41 Inc.
42
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Nicholai
44 Alexie from Kwethluk, Incorporated.
45
46 MR. ASULUK: Joe Asuluk. I'm migratory
47 bird officer coordinator in Bethel.
48
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Joe Asuluk
50 with Migratory Birds, Fish and Wildlife, Bethel.

1 All the way in the back I believe we
2 have Pat Sampson representing who?
3
4 MR. SAMPSON: Translator, Pat Sampson.
5 Joe Lethic (ph) and he was speaking, so pick up your
6 translators if you don't do one or the other.
7
8 MR. CHARLIE: Charlie Charlie,
9 translator. For you guys that don't understand Yup'ik,
10 pick up your translator receivers.
11
12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I'm sorry, I
13 didn't catch your name? I'm sorry, can you repeat your
14 name?
15
16 MR. CHARLIE: Charlie, first and last
17 name.
18
19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Charlie
20 Charlie working with Pat Sampson for translation
21 services, and repeating that anyone who needs simul
22 trans either to English/Yup'ik or Yup'ik/English, there
23 the little headphones available for anyone here.
24
25 Thank you, folks. Oh, before I forget,
26 we'll start with any Federal Staff who are on line,
27 would you please introduce yourselves.
28
29 MR. RIVARD: This is Don Rivard, fish
30 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in
31 Anchorage. Good morning, everyone.
32
33 MS. INGLES: Good morning, this is
34 Palma Ingles with OSM in Anchorage.
35
36 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, this is
37 George Pappas, OSM, Anchorage.
38
39 MR. BUE: Yeah, good morning. This is
40 (indiscernible - cut out) Service in Fairbanks.
41
42 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Fairbanks,
43 would you repeat yourself? You cut out there.
44
45 MR. BUE: That's Fred Bue, Fish and
46 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Fred
49 Bue. Anyone else, Federal Staff or.....
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman with the
2 Togiak Refuge in Dillingham.
3
4 MR. JENKINS: I'm Wayne Jenkins with
5 YRDFA in Anchorage.
6
7 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence
9 Liaison Team in Anchorage.
10
11 MS. AP-GAR KURTZ: This is Breena Ap-
12 gar Kurtz, summer season assistant manager with the
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Are there
16 any other State.....
17
18 MR. SANDONE: This is Gene Sandone
19 representing Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
20 Association and Kwik'Pak Fisheries.
21
22 MR. OLSON: This is Charles Olson (ph)
23 with Fish and Game, Kuskokwim area, in Anchorage.
24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Is there
26 anyone else on line who has not introduced themselves
27 yet, either State/Federal Staff or organizational or
28 individual representatives.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
33 none, we can proceed then to the next item, number 4,
34 for review and adoption of agenda. A motion would be
35 appropriate here.
36
37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Before
40 recognizing you, we need a motion on the floor before
41 we can discuss any possible changes to the agenda.
42
43 James.
44
45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, I move to
46 adopt the proposal -- I mean agenda.
47
48 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney. Second the
49 motion.
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Moved
2 and seconded. Discussion. Alex.

3
4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
5 the record.

6
7 People who requested to be added on the
8 agenda is Gene Sandone, I believe he's going to be
9 presenting Board of Fish proposals; KNA, Dan Gilliken;
10 and Jacqueline Cleveland from Quinhagak, she's going to
11 be presenting Federal special action request. Those
12 are -- I believe those are the ones that I have in my
13 notes. And Mr. Runfola is present here; he indicated
14 he's going to be with the ADF presenters here.

15
16 Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
19 Alex. Is that acceptable to the Council members to
20 include those individuals on the agenda. Any
21 objection.

22
23 MR. ULAK: No objection.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing no
26 objection, we'll go ahead and include -- Mr. Sandone,
27 what is going to be the subject of your proposal, where
28 it might fit on the agenda. Yukon River fishing
29 outlook or possible proposals?

30
31 MR. SANDONE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman,
32 members of the Council. There are four out-of-cycle
33 Yukon area proposals that are going to be considered by
34 the Board of Fish starting March 17th in Anchorage.
35 Two of the proposals were by agenda change request.
36 One was by an emergency petition. There are two
37 proposals proposed by Yukon Delta Fisheries Development
38 Association to increase the efficiency of the
39 commercial fisheries while not harming Chinook salmon.
40 One is a dipnet proposal, unrestricted length of --
41 width of dipnets, and also the other proposal would be
42 to allow purse seines on the Yukon River for commercial
43 harvest of summer chum salmon with the life release of
44 Chinook salmon. And I will be addressing those two.

45
46 I also have a presentation which, if
47 you want, I can give it to you. It's a very short
48 presentation concerning the test fishing that was done
49 with purse seines on the Yukon River last year.

50

1 Mr. Chairman.
2
3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
4 We'll add you maybe under -- following item 2 in our
5 old business where we're talking about Yukon River
6 fishing for 2014.
7
8 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chairman. Could I
9 ask a question.
10
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.
12
13 MR. SANDONE: Yeah. My handouts are at
14 the airport, and I don't know when you're planning on
15 taking the presentation. Do you have any idea?
16
17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hopefully it
18 would be later this morning, I would think before noon,
19 depending on how fast we move along here.
20
21 MR. SANDONE: Okay. Well, I think the
22 handouts are important that we get them, and I don't
23 know whether I can get them from the airport, since I'm
24 not in Bethel right now. I have to depend upon either
25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff, or Fish and Game,
26 or someone else to pick them up from the airport and
27 bring them to the meeting hall.
28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: In that
30 event then, I'm going to move you down to the end of
31 agency reports.
32
33 MR. SANDONE: Thank you very much, Mr.
34 Chair. Appreciate it.
35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
37 Dan Gilliken, you're here for KNA?
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Or actually
42 I didn't hear him introduce himself on line. So we'll
43 continue. He is the executive director for Kuskokwim
44 Native Association, so he would fit in there.
45
46 Jackie Cleveland. Dave, and you'll be
47 under the State of Alaska, under 11.e.
48
49 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. KNA has a
50 placeholder on your agenda.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I saw that.
2 And I guess the only other trade I would like to
3 suggest is under item 9.a. 9.1.a. regarding the Unit
4 18/19/21 boundary change. It's put in as just a
5 summary of action. That action has not occurred yet,
6 and I would look at that to be an action item. And
7 there's been some information presented, or a handout
8 that is available here for us to look at when we get to
9 that point.

10

11 Go ahead.

12

13 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kevin
14 Bartley from the University of Alaska. I was hoping to
15 request permission to speak to you guys today about the
16 project that we conducted during the winter 2013. I'm
17 here and prepared today as promised to deliver those
18 results.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If you turn
21 in a blue card, you can do that under item 8, where it
22 says public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.

23

24 And for others who are here
25 representing their respective villages, if you do want
26 to address the Council on an item that's not on the
27 agenda, you will also have that opportunity under item
28 8. And if you did want to speak to a specific agenda
29 item, also please turn in the blue cards that are in
30 the back so that -- and note what item you want to talk
31 to us when we get to that point on the agenda so I can
32 call you up for your input there.

33

34 So with that, are there any other
35 changes, further discussion.

36

37 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair, can you hear
38 now?

39

40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
41 Gene.

42

43 MR. SANDONE: I've just got one
44 question. I suspect that you're going to be taking
45 action on the Board of Fish proposals, to approve or
46 not approve them. Or support them. And I was
47 wondering, my presentation will be coming before that
48 vote or what?

49

50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We don't

1 have action for Board of Fisheries on the agenda at
2 this time. When you bring it up on the agenda, if the
3 Council chooses to take a position on your
4 presentations, we can do so.

5
6 MR. SANDONE: Okay. Thank you very
7 much. And that will be later on today or possibly
8 tomorrow.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That's
11 correct since I have you down to the end of the agenda
12 now.

13
14 MR. SANDONE: Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any other
17 further discussion, changes, additions to the agenda.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If none,
22 we're ready for the question.

23
24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Alex.

27
28 MR. NICK: I overlooked a request from
29 YRDFA. Your Council is asked to -- or rather is
30 invited to attend a couple of meetings. I believe one
31 is on April 8.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll take
34 that up under reports, item 7. That is not relevant,
35 that is out of order right now. We're on the agenda if
36 it's just an invitation. We'll deal with it later.

37
38 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ready for
41 the question on adoption of the agenda as amended.

42
43 Henry, did you have anything you wanted
44 to request to be added to the agenda or changed to the
45 agenda.

46
47 MR. LUPIE: Could you repeat what you
48 said about item number 8?

49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That is the

1 agenda item that's to invite any public comment or
2 representatives who are here to address any issue
3 that's not on the agenda.

4
5 If no further discussion, then we're
6 ready for the questions.

7
8 MR. ONEY: Call for question.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All those in
11 favor say aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All those
16 opposed, same sign.

17
18 (No opposing votes)

19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
21 none. the agenda is adopted as amended.

22
23 Moving on to election of officers,
24 which I understand is not something that we can defer
25 at this point as we've done in the past. Staff, would
26 you address this for us, please.

27
28 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
29 the record. And Gene is here in the audience.

30
31 We'd prefer you take care of your
32 election at this Council meeting, because it's
33 scheduled to be held according to your charter during
34 your winter meeting. It has been already tabled from
35 fall to this meeting. Mr. Chair.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: With that,
38 the floor is open for nominations for Chair.

39
40 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David.

43
44 MR. BILL: The person that is to be
45 nominated, does it have to be in the building or can we
46 nominate them even though he is not here or what.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes, you
49 can.

50

1 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Our policy is
2 when you nominate a Chairman, your coordinator chairs
3 the meeting until your vote to nominate someone. Mr.
4 Chair.
5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: In
7 accordance with the policy, the Chair passes the gavel
8 to you.
9
10 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11
12 Are there any nominations for Chairman.
13
14 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I nominate
15 Lester Wilde.
16
17 MR. NICK: Lester Wilde has been
18 nominated. Are there any other nominations.
19
20 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chair. I nominate Greg
21 Roczicka.
22
23 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka has been
24 nominated.
25
26 Is there any other nominations.
27
28 MR. CHARLES: Close the nominations.
29
30 MR. NICK: Mr. James Charles made a
31 motion to close the nominations. Is there a second.
32
33 MR. ONEY: Second.
34
35 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by
36 Ray Oney.
37
38 Any discussion.
39
40 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
41
42 MR. NICK: You could go ahead and do
43 a.....
44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. You asked
46 for discussion.
47
48 MR. NICK: Yes.
49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I'd like to

1 endorse Lester. He does a very good job, and I would
2 strongly urge a vote for Lester for Chairman.

3

4 MR. NICK: Any other discussion.

5

6 Mr. Roczicka, are you requesting
7 support from other -- I mean, I don't know how you put
8 it, but unanimous consent? Are you requesting
9 unanimous consent to elect Mr. Wilde?

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: If in order, if it's in
12 order, yes, I would request and move for unanimous
13 consent for Lester Wilde as Chairman.

14

15 MR. NICK: There's a motion by Mr. Greg
16 Roczicka asking unanimous consent to elect Lester
17 Wilde as Chair. Is there a second.

18

19 MR. BILL: Second.

20

21 MR. NICK: Mr. David Bill seconded the
22 motion. Any other discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. BILL: Question.

27

28 MR. NICK: The question's been called
29 for. Secret ballot vote.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. As a
32 point of order, when it's requested and asked for
33 unanimous consent, and there is no objection, the
34 motion carries without the necessity of a vote.

35

36 MR. NICK: Mr. apologies, Mr. Roczicka.

37

38

39 Are there objections. Any objections.

40

41 (No objection)

42

43 MR. NICK: Hearing none, Mr. Lester
44 Wilde has been nominated as the Chair.

45

46 And the floor is turned over to --
47 rather, I'm sorry. Are there any nominations for Vice
48 Chair. (In Yup'ik) My mistake. Any nominations for
49 Vice Chair.

50

1 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. I nominate
2 Greg Roczicka.
3
4 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka's been
5 nominated. Are there any other nominations.
6
7 (In Yup'ik)
8
9 INTERPRETER: They nominated Greg for
10 Vice Chairman. Do you understand the process.
11
12 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
13
14 MR. NICK: Mr. Charles.
15
16 MR. CHARLES: I ask for unanimous
17 consent to have Greg as Vice Chair.
18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. James Charles asked
20 unanimous consent to elect Greg Roczicka as Vice Chair.
21 Are there any objections.
22
23 (No objection)
24
25 MR. NICK: Hearing none,
26 congratulations, Greg. The floor is turned over to
27 you. Quyana.
28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
30 And for the record, since is not actually passed until
31 the Chairman states it on the record, your statement
32 about Lester being nominated, you should have said
33 Lester was elected Chairman. So for the record, that's
34 there.
35
36 The floor would not be open for
37 Secretary nominations.
38
39 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
40
41 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair.
42
43 MR. CHARLES: i nominate Ray Oney for
44 secretary.
45
46 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ray Oney is
47 the first nomination. Ray, you were requesting the
48 floor?
49
50 MR. ONEY: No.

1 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. I ask for
2 unanimous consent.
3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It's been
5 moved and requested unanimous consent Ray Oney as
6 secretary. Are there any objections. Any objections.
7
8 (No objection)
9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
11 none, Ray, you're our secretary.
12
13 MR. ONEY: Thank you.
14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you
16 for agreeing to do that.
17
18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Alex.
21
22 MR. NICK: If you remember, during the
23 fall meeting Mr. Evan Polty and Paul Manumik was
24 appointed to Yukon River CFC. Mr. Manumik indicated
25 that he's not going to run again for his seat due to
26 personal reasons. And Mr. Polty was not
27 reappointed to the Council. It's up to your Council if
28 you want to go ahead and appoint CFC members for Yukon
29 River.
30
31 Mr. Chair.
32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And if I'm
34 recollecting, that is two members that were appointed.
35
36 MR. NICK: Yes.
37
38 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And we had
39 Evan Polty and.....
40
41 MR. NICK: And Paul Manumik.
42
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And Paul
44 Manumik.
45
46 Okay. Let's take care of that item
47 right now while we're under the elections and
48 appointments. I guess I would -- it would be my
49 recommendation. I know that I'd like to see Harry
50 there any more, but he's asked to not continue in a lot

1 of different assignments as in the past. So is there
2 any nominations or interest from Yukon River
3 representatives to be on this committee.

4
5 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Greg, I'll go ahead
6 and submit my name for the Yukon CFC.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We
9 have Ray. Is there any objections for Ray filling one
10 of those seats.

11
12 (No objection)

13
14 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So there are
15 two appointments for that. Is there anyone else who
16 would like to fill the other position.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
21 none, maybe we can leave that for now until the other
22 appointments come through and we have a more full
23 Council to deal with that other issue.

24
25 But Ray I believe served that in the
26 past and has done well as it. And appreciate your
27 willingness to do that again.

28
29 We'll move on then to review and
30 approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. A
31 motion will be in order. Is there a motion to approve
32 or perhaps waive approval of the minutes at this time.

33
34 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I move to
35 approve that last meeting minutes.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: A motion by
38 James Charles to approve the minutes of the last
39 meeting. Is there a second.

40
41 MR. BILL: Second.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Second by
44 David Bill. Discussion.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing no
49 further discussion, then the Chair will hear the
50 question. All those in favor say aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed
4 same sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The minutes
9 are approved.
10
11 Reports, Council member reports. Does
12 anyone have anything to offer.
13
14 James, go ahead.
15
16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17
18 I see that this one agenda item was the
19 boundary change. And for my report, I went to Kotzebue
20 Board of Game meeting there, and at that time there was
21 a vote to adopt those proposals. And at the last AC
22 meeting, Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting, we
23 adopted those proposals. And I made the report at the
24 Kotzebue Board of Game meeting there.
25
26 And I'll go pretty fast, I'll go as my
27 list from 1 to 12.
28
29 The Proposal 1, no action. And they
30 deferred that.....
31
32 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James,
33 that's actually an agenda item under old business, 9.1.
34 on the report on the Board of Game meeting.
35
36 MR. CHARLES: Okay. I will at that
37 time make a report of what happened at the Kotzebue
38 meeting. Thank you.
39
40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank
41 you.
42
43 Anyone else.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
48 none, under the Chair's report, I haven't been the
49 Chair and haven't taken any action on behalf of the
50 Council since the last meeting, so I have nothing to

1 report as the acting Chair at this point in time. And
2 perhaps Lester may have something further at our next
3 meeting.

4

5 That can move us on then to public and
6 tribal comments on non-agenda items. Is there anyone
7 here who wishes to address the Council on anything
8 that's not on the agenda.

9

10 Henry Lupie from Tuntutuliak.

11

12 MR. LUPIE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 It's Henry Lupie from Tuntutuliak.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Henry, turn
16 your microphone on, please, the right button.

17

18 MR. LUPIE: Okay. How's that. Yeah.
19 My name is Henry Lupie from Tuntutuliak. I'm a tribal
20 member up at Native Village of Tuntutuliak, and also a
21 shareholder in our village corporation, that's
22 Kanakmuit (ph) Corporation.

23

24 I want to express the importance of
25 subsistence. For me subsistence means survival, and I
26 thought there might be a large group of community
27 members from the Yukon and Kuskokwim area, but there's
28 just a handful of us, just very few from the outlying
29 villages of Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

30

31 In the past in different kinds of
32 subsistence issue meetings, our elders especially have
33 stated that our subsistence rights have been infringed,
34 which are our way of survival. And to restate it, the
35 State and Federal government are criminal license.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Excuse me a
38 minute, Henry. For people on line, if you're going to
39 be having side conversations or shuffling your papers
40 close to your microphone on your phone, would you
41 please mute your phone. I believe you press star-six
42 will mute it, and star-six will unmute it when it's
43 time to speak. But it's difficult to -- I couldn't
44 hear everything Henry was saying just now, and I know
45 it also creates quite a problem for the recorder.
46 Please mute you're going to be having other noise going
47 around you while you're listening into this meeting.
48 Thank you.

49

50 Go ahead, Henry. I'm sorry to

1 interrupt.

2

3 MR. LUPIE: Yeah. Personally I want to
4 restate that it is very important for our Yup'ik people
5 in the YK Delta, even for the State of Alaska, for all
6 the Alaskan Natives.

7

8 As I stated, the elders in the past had
9 stated that Federal and State regulations are
10 criminalizing for what to us had been a mean of
11 survival. I would like to strongly suggest co-
12 management by the State and Federal government to
13 include the tribes. An example of the co-management
14 that worked in our area is (1) the Migratory Bird
15 Treaty, and just recently the moose moratorium.

16

17 There for us Alaska Native, not just
18 Yup'ik people on the Yukon-Kuskokwim area, but in the
19 whole State of Alaska, the Alaska Natives have an
20 unwritten traditional management regulations. And some
21 of those regulations, the traditional regulations that
22 are passed down through the generations are contrary to
23 the State and Federal regulations.

24

25 For instance, during the summer there
26 are windows, the term windows is now being used at this
27 stage. But they didn't call it windows at that time,
28 but they stressed that during the summer when the fish
29 are there, we need to go out there and fish where we
30 need to meet our needs. We don't have dogteams now,
31 but we cut down on the number of fish that we used to
32 cash some 40, 50 years ago.

33

34 And I would strongly recommend that the
35 state and Fish and Wildlife management to include the
36 tribes to manage the fish and wildlife that are
37 concerned in this area.

38

39 And I think it's also to point out that
40 the tribes in Alaska do recognize their sovereign
41 status to an extent.

42

43 And lastly, up in the North Slope, they
44 formed the Whaling Commission up there, and it worked
45 for them. And I think a subsistence commission should
46 seriously be considered be considered be considered in
47 our area.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana. Any
2 others. We had a request from the gentleman from the
3 University I'm sorry, your name escaped me at the
4 moment.

5
6 MR. BARTLEY: Actually I've got some
7 things I want to hand out real quick.

8
9 Mr. Chair. Kevin Bartley from
10 University of Alaska.

11
12 Sorry. I'm trying to process what Mr.
13 Lupie just talked about from Tuntutuliak, because
14 that's directly related to what I'm about to talk to
15 you all about right now.

16
17 For the record, my name is Kevin
18 Bartley, and I'm with the University of Anchorage,
19 Alaska.

20
21 And I have returned here today as
22 promised to everyone to report on the results from the
23 research that I began in 2013 of last winter.

24
25 And first I'd like to talk to you guys
26 -- or to refresh everyone's memory what it was that the
27 three objectives of this project were, and they were
28 fairly simple. They were, number 1, we were trying to
29 identify what were the challenges to subsistence
30 harvested meaningful participation at these meetings,
31 these collaborative management meetings; and also what
32 has been helpful. And the second one was to define or
33 understand from subsistence harvesters how they
34 perceive this term in ANILCA, meaningful role in
35 section .801(5) of ANILCA. And, lastly, we wanted to
36 understand why the number of applications that are
37 being submitted to the Regional Advisory Councils, not
38 only in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, but in all 10
39 management regions according to the report published
40 recently in 2014, have been declining since 2006. So
41 those were the three things that we wanted to
42 understand.

43
44 But first I want to talk about some
45 terms that are going to be used, so everyone
46 understands who it is that I'm talking about. When I
47 say subsistence harvesters, I mean to refer to all
48 rural residents in Western Alaska. According to the
49 2010 census, 87 percent of those 24,500 people in
50 Western Alaska are of Alaska Native decent, and

1 primarily Yup'ik and Chup'ik speaking peoples.

2

3 The term managers will refer to both
4 Federal and State agencies managers.

5

6 And, lastly, stakeholders refers to
7 both subsistence harvesters in Western Alaska and
8 agency managers.

9

10 And real quickly, I don't want to focus
11 here today on the analysis of how this research was
12 analyzed, and that is very important, but right now
13 it's more important that we talk about the results,
14 understanding that there's not much time. So I'm going
15 to go right into that.

16

17 Following the completion of this
18 analysis, I became aware of several things that were
19 affecting subsistence harvesters' meaningful
20 participation. These start with language differences
21 between Yup'ik and Chup'ik speaking peoples and English
22 speaking Euro-Americans have presented challenges to
23 communications at meetings, especially when translators
24 are not present. And I'm very happy to see that we
25 have translators today.

26

27 The use of technical jargon by managers
28 and scientists at formal meetings has also presented
29 some difficulties for collaboration or working together
30 between Yup'ik peoples and agency managers. Elders and
31 other subsistence harvesters participating at these
32 meetings are very aware of and knowledgeable about the
33 fish and wildlife of Western Alaska, but the terms
34 which managers use in reference to the scientific tools
35 they use to manage fish and wildlife should be
36 explained more clearly in terms that hold meaning for
37 subsistence harvesters.

38

39 At times, how information is shared
40 between Yup'ik peoples and managers has limited Yup'ik
41 peoples' participation at meetings. For example, when
42 meeting materials do not reach subsistence harvesters
43 until the day before or the day of the meeting, as Mr.
44 Roczicka has said in the past, and numerous numbers, it
45 presents challenges for the Yup'ik peoples'
46 participating on this Regional Advisory Council to
47 discuss these important issues that are relevant.
48 There's not enough time to prepare.

49

50 And I apologize that I'm able to give

the end, but I want to briefly touch on that
3 right now. This is the meat and potatoes of the draft
4 report that I will be submitting within the week, 7 to
5 10 days, to the Federal government. It's in the final
6 stages of being approved by my mentor, and he will be
7 -- after that, it will be submitted. So this is a
8 draft report, but those are the implications and the
9 recommendations of what we learned from the Yup'ik
10 peoples and the managers that we interviewed.

11

12 But there is also evidence that some
13 Yup'ik peoples and other subsistence harvesters in
14 Western Alaska undergo unnecessary hardships when
15 trying to conduct subsistence activities due to a lack
16 of information reaching communities concerning the most
17 current regulations and policies related to subsistence
18 harvest. Many subsistence harvesters question the
19 legitimacy or the value managers place on their
20 knowledge. Also, managers question the value
21 subsistence harvesters placed on their knowledge.

22

23 When, where, and how collaboration or
24 working together occurs between Yup'ik peoples and
25 agency managers are factors which affect subsistence
26 harvesters meaningful participation. Some shared with
27 me that when they are left out of management planning
28 discussions, their ability to meaningfully participate
29 is limited. One State manager also expressed to me
30 that when they are left out of discussions with Federal
31 managers, their participation is also limited.

32

33 While teleconferences are an important
34 tool for bringing together many stakeholders from many
35 places, they also present some difficulties. Simply
36 hearing what is being said on the teleconferences for
37 anyone here that's done it on the Kuskokwim Working
38 Group from a village and you're on your cell phone, it
39 can be extremely tough. There are audio difficulties
40 with this equipment.

41

42 Let's see here. The practice of
43 holding formal meetings where people must come and
44 speak in front of microphones is, and it was shared, is
45 an intimidating experience for people. I have to admit
46 it is for me, too, you know.

47

48 It was often said to me that in the
49 past meetings occurred in the kasigies (ph) or men's
50 houses, and everyone was allowed the opportunity to

1 speak and no one was interrupted.

2

3 Two young men from Kwethluk stated,
4 walking in a conference room, sitting in the middle of
5 the room talking to a mic, that's intimidating. It's
6 not what we do around here. To those people living in
7 Anchorage, oh, we've got a meeting at 3:00 o'clock, you
8 know, Tuesday we've got a meeting at such-and-such a
9 time. That's their job. We don't ever do that.

10

11 Like this interview, we have not --
12 we're not used to this. I was a little intimidated,
13 because these mics are right in front of us. The same
14 thing with those people out here. They are
15 intimidating. They don't know what to do. They are
16 not used to it, and they don't know how to, you know.
17 They want to change, they want to help, but they don't
18 know how to do it.

19

20 In my travels and discussions with
21 Yup'ik peoples across Western Alaska, I began to
22 understand that interaction between Yup'ik peoples and
23 managers in Western Alaskan communities is rare or
24 seldom occurs. One subsistence harvester stated that
25 the lack of interaction between managers and
26 subsistence harvesters at this meeting in fact in
27 February of 2012 has resulted in subsistence harvesters
28 lack of exposure to the Federal Subsistence Management
29 Program. Indeed, many subsistence harvesters expressed
30 that the Federal Subsistence Management Program is
31 perceived by many as a foreign management system.

32

33 Furthermore, the lack of interaction
34 between subsistence harvesters and managers has
35 complicated the achievement of a cultural understanding
36 between Yup'ik peoples and agency managers. In
37 reference to Chinook salmon escapement goals on the
38 Kuskokwim River, one subsistence harvester stated, we
39 always tell them it's too low, but they always say they
40 are experts, and their experts don't live here. They
41 are elsewhere. And if you look at Board of Fish, their
42 Chair is out of Anchorage. I don't think he ever set a
43 foot anywhere on the Kuskokwim River or to fish camp or
44 to a village. They don't know how we live.

45

46 Beyond a doubt the lack of cultural
47 awareness and interaction between subsistence
48 harvesters and managers, and this is key, is both the
49 most fixable and the greatest challenge to both the
50 achievement of a meaningful role for subsistence

1 harvesters in Western Alaska and their ability to
2 meaningful participate. It was expressed by many
3 subsistence harvesters that informal meetings and
4 interactions between subsistence harvesters and
5 managers would promote two-way learning and
6 understanding.

7
8 Subsistence harvesters I've spoke with
9 define their meaningful role in the management of fish
10 and wildlife as two things above all: The capacity to
11 both work together with agency managers, and to possess
12 equal decisionmaking authority on issues related to the
13 management of fish and wildlife.

14
15 Recently in 2014 -- talking about the
16 decline that I was talking about, about the observation
17 that applications have been declining. To better
18 understand why the number of applications submitted by
19 Western Alaska subsistence harvesters and their
20 participation have been declining, we must look beyond
21 these more visible challenges that we can see in these
22 meetings.

23
24 Large differences between Euro-American
25 culture and Yup'ik culture exists. How our
26 relationships to the land and the other beings of our
27 world are understood are also very different. These
28 cultural differences and differences related to our
29 world views on land and animals also result in
30 differences between our approaches to the problem
31 solving or management of our world, like Mr. Lupie was
32 speaking about. In fact, these major and often ignored
33 differences between subsistence harvesters and managers
34 are connected to the more visible challenges that we
35 can see. Solving this challenge will require more
36 frequent interaction between subsistence harvesters and
37 managers focused not only on simply management issues,
38 but more importantly on promoting a cultural awareness
39 between stakeholders by discussing each other's
40 differences regarding their perceptions, their goals,
41 and their interests.

42
43 There is very -- it has been said many
44 times in here, and Mr. Lupie was talking about it just
45 now, there is very little agreement and understanding
46 between subsistence harvesters and managers on the very
47 meaning of the primary focus of these management
48 meetings and the importance of this should not be
49 overlooked. Subsistence is not simply a list of
50 activities Yup'ik peoples and other Alaska Native

1 peoples practice. It is their life. It is associated
2 with feelings, emotions, and relationships. Outsiders
3 to Western Alaska should understand that the word
4 subsistence for Yup'ik peoples most closely resembles,
5 for myself, the phrase how we live.

6
7 One subsistence harvester from Kwethluk
8 stated, I guess basically the word subsistence, you
9 know, to me that's just a word describing what we've
10 already been doing. Living off the land. Practicing
11 our culture. Doing what our ancestors have done for
12 thousands of years. It's kind of a hard thing for me
13 to describe personally, and I may do it all the time,
14 he says, but it's not something that I really think
15 about. It's my life, you know.

16
17 Working on this project has brought me
18 great joy. I am so very thankful for the opportunity
19 that I had to learn about -- learn from the many Yup'ik
20 peoples that I worked with on this project. And my
21 time spent with each of you has taught me the
22 importance of always being kind, caring for one
23 another, the world -- and that means, and that includes
24 your world and all of its beings, sharing with one
25 another, and not being stingy with your knowledge or
26 your possessions, listening, observing, being patient,
27 and always doing your best.

28
29 These implications and recommendations
30 that I have just provided to you are designed to serve
31 as tools for enhancing the meaningful role and
32 participation of subsistence harvesters in Western
33 Alaska. And it's important that this handout
34 represents only a small piece of the draft report that
35 I will be submitting soon to the Office of Subsistence
36 Management. Once the final report has been approved, I
37 will provide the Council with a copy for your review.

38
39 And at this time I would be happy to
40 answer any questions that you may have, and I left my
41 contact information up at the top, and everyone knows
42 that they're free to contact me at any time.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: You timed
45 that very well. You came in in exactly 15 minutes.

46
47 MR. BARTLEY: I'm sorry, I was trying
48 to quick.....

49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I was at

1 that point I was going to have to step in there and ask
2 you to wrap it up.

3

4 And speaking for myself, I appreciate
5 this here. Speaking to something that you have up
6 there as your number 1 recommendation, I sure would
7 have like to have seen this a little bit earlier and
8 absorb it a little bit more and perhaps provide you
9 some feedback, if you're looking for something from
10 this meeting.

11

12 When does your final report to in?

13

14 MR. BARTLEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.
15 That report, I'm waiting now for the approval from the
16 principle investigator at the university. And it will
17 be probably within the next 7 to 10 days once I return.

18

19 But these things are open for
20 discussion, and that review process will probably -- I
21 can't say exactly how long it will go on for, but it's
22 -- what you see in front of you now is a draft.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess
25 that's what my question is. I did see that it is a
26 draft at present. Is what you submit in the next 7 to
27 10 days going to be your final, or does it remain a
28 draft until a later date?

29

30 MR. BARTLEY: It will be the final that
31 the university submits to the OSM, and then we will
32 wait for their feedback. And then at that time -- I
33 have to be honest, this is the first project of this
34 nature that I have taken on, and I have learned many
35 things along this work. And I really don't know what's
36 going to happen, or what the feedback from the Federal
37 government will be, or how long that process will take,
38 but I hope that it's quicker rather -- or that it's
39 fairly speedy.

40

41 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Any
42 other comments, questions for Mr. Bartley. James.

43

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

45

46

47 That report reminds me of what Henry
48 was saying before. As managers, there's Yup'ik
49 managers from the beginning, before we even learn about
50 regulations. So Yup'ik management in your report, that

1 helps me understand better if that Yup'ik management
2 was in there, too, would help some. Thank you.

3

4 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Chair.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Kevin, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Charles. To put this
10 into 10 or 15 minutes was probably one of the hardest
11 things that I've had to do yet on this project. And I
12 worked until 1:00 a.m. last night just -- after I had
13 already written it, trying to decide how I was going to
14 address everything that I learned. And it's not
15 possible. It's not. It requires interaction, and it
16 requires learning, and doing, and listening, and
17 observing, and I can't teach you the things that I
18 learned. And others told me that, too. You know, you
19 have to see these things, and you have to do them. And
20 I'm still learning.

21

22 But to get to what you're just saying,
23 there are many interesting thing that are in the --
24 there was a report that we'll provide to the Office of
25 Subsistence Management right now with all the words of
26 the people, and the 43 pages. Together it's something
27 like 250 pages. And then there's a much bigger one.
28 The draft that goes to the University that they're
29 working on getting together right now that I've had
30 done for about a month now is about another 600 pages.
31 And inside of that is probably the best description of
32 some of these things that will help to clarify, and to
33 bring understanding, I hope, to some of these things
34 that.....

35

36 I'll never forget what I heard in the
37 Senate commission meeting in September. Mr. Jerry
38 Isaac was talking about what he saw from the Ahtna
39 region as the number 1 thing that has affected his
40 participation. And he said very clearly what we found,
41 and that was there has been no discussion on the
42 differences we have. And that is one -- instead of
43 focusing on our differences and understanding, we focus
44 too often on management actions.

45

46 And it's understandable, and I don't
47 think that anybody intentionally sets out to do that.
48 There are so many things that we have to talk about and
49 decide upon.

50

1 But this is also certainly -- it may be
2 even more important.

3
4 I don't know if that helps, but.....

5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
7 Is there anyone else. More, James.

8
9 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I learn good things from your report there that you
11 talk about Yup'ik, and Henry was talking about
12 traditional. That's what I was saying, referring to a
13 while ago, because Henry was saying that we used to
14 fish a lot years ago, now we don't fish that much any
15 more, because we don't have dogteams any more. And
16 management, it's in there, traditional management is
17 what Henry was saying, and you're saying Yup'ik. But
18 combining those things there would help me or the
19 others to understand better. But I see your point
20 there.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. BARTLEY: Quyana, Mr. Charles.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, and
27 I'd just add my appreciation of your effort here, and I
28 look forward to actually reading it and seeing if maybe
29 there's some spots that I might think you missed.

30
31 MR. BARTLEY: Sure.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And maybe
34 some of us that have spent 20 to 30 years dealing with
35 these exact issues that you have here in the actual
36 front lines in the grounds of regulatory and the social
37 processes that are involved. So I thank you for
38 bringing it forward. And like I say, I look forward to
39 reading it through in more detail.

40
41 MR. BARTLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
42 look forward to talking about that, too.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Next we have
45 Nicholai Alexie, followed by Mary Sattler.

46
47 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Quyana. My name is
48 Nicholai Alexie. I'm from Kwethluk.

49
50 And I have here a Board of Fisheries

1 proposal form for 2014/2015. And I'm just asking for
2 your support.

3

4 And my other question is where do I
5 submit this? Do I have to read it out?

6

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess just
8 clarification here. Are you talking about a Federal
9 proposal or a State proposal.

10

11 MR. ALEXIE: Statewide.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Because the
14 Federal proposal deadline for fisheries is coming up on
15 March 28th. The State Board of Fisheries affecting our
16 region does not open for a call for proposals until
17 April of 2015 right now.

18

19 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. So it's my mistake
20 then.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I'd be
23 interested in hearing what your proposal is if you want
24 to lay it on the table.

25

26 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. (In Yup'ik) Yeah,
27 that was my mistake. Yeah. So I'd have to withdraw my
28 comment form.

29

30 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Charles.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Can that go in as ACR?

35

36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It would
37 have to be submitted as an agenda change request that
38 the Board would -- no, ACRs as far as the Board
39 meeting, the State Board of Game meeting that's coming
40 up, ACRs are due 90 days before that meeting. The only
41 way it could be submitted right now would be as a
42 petition that the Board is required to respond to.
43 Again, this is on the State side. They're required to
44 respond within 30 days. So if you did want to put an
45 action in front of the State Board for this coming
46 season, you still could submit it, and they could take
47 it up at their -- and approve or deny it and take an
48 action on it at their Board meeting that's coming up
49 here shortly. That's for an out of cycle.

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: I can wait until 2015.
2 Yeah. Quyana.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary
5 Sattler.

6
7 MS. SATTLER: Is this on? Okay. Good
8 morning. My name is Mary Sattler. I'm from Bethel. I
9 do have a day job, but I'm not here as an employee of
10 any place. I'm just here as a person from Bethel.

11
12 And I'm here to talk about king salmon.
13 And it's hard not to talk about king salmon or Chinook
14 as it's referred to in these meetings without getting
15 emotional. And I think you all understand that. I
16 don't have to say that.

17
18 So I grew up here on this river. I'm
19 from here. Tuntutuliak was one of the places that I
20 was raised. But since I was 13, we've lived in Bethel.
21 And fishing has always been a part of my life. Even
22 when I went to school in the Lower 48 or worked in
23 other places, I laugh, I say I'm like a migratory bird.
24 When it gets warm, I have to go to the Kuskokwim. And
25 when it gets cold, I don't have to be here. This is
26 where I want to live, but I have to be here when it's
27 warm. There's something about fishing and being on the
28 water. When it's a warm, sunny day, there's nowhere
29 else I'd rather be than on the water.

30
31 And fishing means a lot to me. Raising
32 my kids at fish camp means a lot to me. I think being
33 a Yup'ik person, you can't really imagine being a
34 Yup'ik person without putting up fish. So it's hard
35 not to get emotional when I talk about salmon, and
36 especially kings.

37
38 But right now with king salmon, we're
39 not talking just about the luxury of putting them up
40 and putting them away and having them in our freezer.
41 Right now we're almost at the point of certain rivers
42 -- we should be talking about certain rivers being
43 threatened and endangered. And I know that nobody
44 wants to talk about that, because when one tributary
45 has the classification of threatened and endangered,
46 that has very big implications for the mainstem and
47 every other tributary.

48
49 But the Tuluksak River has extremely
50 low numbers. There is concern about king salmon on the

1 Tuluksak River spawning with siblings. There's concern
2 on the Takotna River. I heard Dan Esai in the last
3 working group meeting in January talk -- no, not Dan
4 Esai. I'm sorry. Yeah, Dan Esai. He talked about
5 their fish wheel last summer not catching one king. To
6 me, that's not necessarily an issue of State or Federal
7 management or tribal management. That's just simply a
8 matter of a run being threatened and endangered.

9
10 And I know that when you're talking
11 about game management or fish management, you're really
12 talking about people management, and how we're going to
13 allocate fish and game. We're not managing fish,
14 we're not managing game.
15 We're managing the way people harvest fish and game.

16
17 And we have a lot of cultures now in
18 our region. The dominant one is the Yup'ik culture.
19 But as far as the salmon are concerned, the few kings
20 that are in the river, it doesn't matter if I have
21 brown eyes or blue eyes or green eyes, or what my skin
22 color is, or what my hair color is, or what my beliefs
23 are. The more kings that are taken out of this river
24 now, the less we will have in the future.

25
26 And it does matter the way that our
27 meetings are conducted and the way the public process
28 goes forward for managing the harvest of fish and game.
29 But the number 1 thing is making sure that they come
30 back. If we don't have enough in the river to spawn,
31 we're not going to get enough back, it's just that
32 simple. This is a biological issue.

33
34 I wish that when I heard people talking
35 about tribal management, it was with the goal of having
36 higher conservation, higher standards for preserving
37 the kings that are in the river, because when I was
38 growing up, I never heard a Yup'ik person say a human
39 being's need is more important than making sure the
40 species can come back. I've never heard that. And we
41 do have a lot of serious -- there's energy insecurity
42 right now. The prices for gas are extremely high, and
43 stove oil. There's food insecurity issues that we
44 have. You look in freezers now, and compared to when
45 gas was \$3 a gallon, there's so much fewer variety of
46 things in our freezers. Now we're going after the
47 things we know we can get, and we get a lot of it.
48 There's not as much diversity in our freezers for what
49 we're able to harvest, plants, animals, birds, game,
50 fish.

1 But that doesn't mean that we can go
2 after a species until they're just entirely gone. And
3 that's what we're looking at right now. And we
4 shouldn't be so insecure that we're just going to kill
5 every king in the river. And, you know, when you're
6 talking about having I think it's 10,000 harvestable
7 surpluses -- 20,000 harvested surplus. We are experts
8 in fishing. We have huge motors, very successful nets.
9 We know exactly where to go. We know exactly where the
10 river has pinch points that we can make sure that we're
11 successful. Our hunters and fishermen are so good, and
12 I'm afraid that we're too good.

13
14 So my, you know -- and one of the
15 things that I've heard attributed actually to you, Greg
16 Roczicka, is perhaps this year if you're pro-
17 subsistence, you won't have any kings on your rack. If
18 you're really pro-subsistence. If you really want
19 kings to come back for our kids and grandkids. And I
20 thought that was actually -- and it may be wrong to
21 attribute that to you, but I think that is a good way
22 of phrasing things this summer. And I certainly hope
23 that our kings come back in great numbers.

24
25 And these meetings are tough, because
26 things get very divisive, but a couple years ago, back
27 in 2012 when we really had a tough year with kings,
28 Father Yuko Steven from Napaskiak said in church, God
29 will provide, if not with one species, with other
30 species. And we've certainly seen that to be true. We
31 have an abundance of chums and reds and silvers. We
32 will be able to taste salmon. It may not be king
33 salmon, but we will have -- we do have an abundance of
34 salmon.

35
36 This last summer my 15-year-old son and
37 I went out fishing in June, and we did all right. We
38 went downriver. And when we came back to the boat
39 harbor, I asked him to give Dana Kuponak and Gene
40 Peltola, Sr., some of our biggest kings. And I'm
41 really proud that I did that. I'm really proud that he
42 gave them the biggest ones. And I think that's
43 something that we should consider moving forward. Not
44 only individually, you know, leading by example, and
45 limiting what we take, but making sure that elders and
46 young people have kings. I am fine leading by example
47 and not fishing for kings. And if I accidentally catch a
48 king, and if I accidentally kill a king, giving that to
49 an elder, or a house with very young people, so they
50 know how to love that taste of king salmon like I do.

1 But I guess I just want to just
2 reiterate, I don't personally believe this is
3 necessarily at this point this year a cultural issue or
4 a food security or energy security issue. This is a
5 biological issue. I want my grandchildren, my future
6 grandchildren or great grandchildren hopefully to know
7 -- to be able to pull up a net full of kings. That's
8 my hope. But if we are out there this summer fighting
9 over them, and insisting that we have a right to catch
10 every last one, then I don't think that's going to
11 happen.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Questions.
16 Comments for Mary.

17
18 MR. BILL: Can I ask some.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
21 Dave.

22
23 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

24
25 INTERPRETER: I'm going to talk to you
26 in Yup'ik.

27
28 REPORTER: Microphone.

29
30 INTERPRETER: You need to turn your
31 microphone on.

32
33 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: When you're talking about
36 the salmon, the declining number of salmon, in your
37 experience or from your experiences that you have
38 heard, how did the villages in the mid river.....

39
40 MR. BILL:with water trawlers.
41 (In Yup'ik) that's Seattle or in California, all those
42 guys at the Olympic Fish were there all fishing with
43 the water, trawling.

44
45 (In Yup'ik)

46
47 INTERPRETER: There are these CDQ
48 groups, all the Olympic and the Pacific Northwest
49 companies are fishing out in the Bering Sea. Are those
50 affecting. What -- the closing of the tributaries, are

1 they doing the wrong thing here, because some of us
2 think that if we don't close the tributaries, but if we
3 concentrate on the purse seiners or the deep sea
4 trawlers, I'm thinking that if we reduce the number of
5 the bycatch or the opportunity for them to fish, will
6 that make a difference for the salmon coming to our
7 rivers.

8

9 MR. BILL: That's my question to you.

10

11 MS. SATTLER: And we've talked about
12 that a little bit before, and I'm glad you talked about
13 that. You know, and a lot of people have looked at
14 high seas fishing and trawling and the bycatch issues
15 in the ocean. And I think that that's something that
16 we should find out a lot more about.

17

18 My understanding is that numbers of
19 bycatch has significantly been reduced. And when you
20 look at the numbers that we harvest in the river, it's
21 so much more than what the bycatch is. And I know that
22 the other issues is, you know, disturbing the
23 environment, disturbing the ocean bottom. That's a
24 concern.

25

26 One of the things that I've thought
27 about is it's not just the Kuskokwim that has had the
28 lower returns in king salmon. It's almost every river
29 in the State. And I don't necessarily know if there's
30 a link to high seas fishing for every river in the
31 State. I mean, the Sitok River in Southeast,
32 Matanuska, Susitna, rivers in Bristol Bay, the Yukon.
33 You know. And I'm not sure what the reason is. I'm
34 sure there are a lot of reasons. I think the number 1
35 thing that people are looking at is a temperature
36 change, even -- you know, king salmon are very
37 sensitive. Even a one or two degree temperature
38 change.

39

40 And I really do think it's something in
41 the ocean, because our setnet, when we were able to put
42 out a whitefish net, we pulled in tiny kings. The
43 kings, I've never seen them so small. If you're
44 catching them in a -- and, you know, sure, we get the
45 big ones with their teeth, but these whitefish-- or
46 these king salmon were as small or smaller than
47 whitefish. And, you know, the person that I was
48 fishing with, Buzzy, has a biology degree, and he said,
49 these are one-year kings. So this to him meant that
50 the kings were going out to the ocean, not liking the

1 environment, so they were turning around and coming
2 back.

3

4 So, you know certainly I do think there
5 is something wrong in the ocean, but I'm not
6 necessarily sure that we can blaming it all on high
7 seas fishing or the factory trawlers. And that is a
8 concern.

9

10 I wish that they would come to our
11 villages and tell us how many they're catching, and the
12 techniques that they're using, now far down on the
13 ocean they're trawling, if they are disturbing plant
14 life, or if they're fishing in sandy areas or, you
15 know, some of those questions.

16

17 But if you look at the numbers of how
18 many fish our fishermen can kill in one day versus how
19 many are being caught with bycatch, it's, you know, 1
20 to 1,000 or 1 to 5,000. I mean it's -- for every one
21 that they catch out there, we're catching thousands
22 more on our river. And I know they don't know exactly
23 where those kings are going that they're catching. And
24 we know that what we're catching is for our
25 tributaries. But I cannot blame all of our, you know,
26 diminished stocks on high seas fishing, but I know that
27 for conservation to work, every single person every
28 single user group has to be involved, including them.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Do you have
31 one follow up, David? Go ahead.

32

33 MR. BILL: It's been about 35 years
34 since I've been going after the fisheries like that.
35 I'm not getting anywhere. To me I'm not getting
36 anywhere. Gosh, nobody does want to talk about it I
37 don't think. A lot of times I go to the North Pacific
38 Fisheries Management Council, and I get slashed out of
39 there. A lot of conflict. I try to give up, but I
40 can't. Some way if we can do it, I think we'll find a
41 way if we all work together, but we're not working
42 together. We have not worked together since 2009. I
43 want us to work together, but we're not working
44 together. So people talk different language, some
45 talks different language, and we're not getting
46 anywhere.

47

48 MS. SATTLER: On the bycatch issue?

49

50 MR. BILL: Yeah. Thank you very much.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Your
2 microphone, David.

3
4 Well, I've got to -- since you did
5 bring up specifically my comment here, which I did
6 make, but in a bit of a different context, in that one
7 of the greatest concerns that I have is that if people
8 continue to fish in a traditional way with a gussuk
9 equipment that has only got here in the last one or two
10 generations, and the kind salmon are that important to
11 that culture, it becomes almost a case of people are
12 going to be committing cultural suicide by using white
13 man gear and the old traditional ways. And that's why I
14 appreciate Mr. Bartley's attempt, so that we can get
15 those different perceptions from both sides to try to
16 come together to address that.

17
18 And I have said directly on there, we
19 do need limitations. We cannot afford to continue in
20 any way whatsoever under management in the way it
21 occurred last year by the managers.

22
23 And I also feel that anyone who does
24 not rely on the customary and traditional practice of
25 drying and smoking your fish should not have a net in
26 the water. Absolutely not. Their subsistence needs or
27 their subsistence use that is there just because they
28 happen to be a rural resident can be provided by those
29 other species. You can freeze your fish, you can
30 kipper your fish, you can can fish, and you can do that
31 with chums and silvers and reds. You do not have that
32 ability for that alternative resource to dry and smoke
33 fish. So anyone who's not drying and smoking their
34 fish in the traditional way should not be fishing. And
35 there needs to be management structure put in place to
36 address that. And that's my little soapbox on that
37 issue.

38
39 MS. SATTLER: If I might, and I'm not
40 responding directly to that statement, but when I was
41 in the working group meeting in January, I do think
42 that the Department of Fish and Game is coming further
43 to helping us understand on the river how they project
44 their forecast. And we went over their different
45 models and the way that the forecast for the different
46 ages. And one of the things that was not shared is
47 that that model works best for younger -- for fish with
48 a shorter life span, four or five-year life span. So
49 it work -- the models that they use work very well for
50 kings -- or, pardon me, not kings, for chums and reds

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Can I get
2 the Council members back to the table here, and we can
3 move along. We have eight more people signed up for
4 public. It's a bit more than anybody had anticipated
5 at this time, and we're always glad to see actually
6 more people show up. But in interest to that and the
7 time, we'll try to hold people to 10, 15 minutes at the
8 most, please, when you make your comments so that we
9 can get through our agenda here over the next couple
10 days.

11
12 Next up we have Jackson Williams
13 followed by Evan Waska.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Jackson Williams, (In
16 Yup'ik)

17
18 INTERPRETER: Jackson from Akiak. And
19 I'm in the advisory and I also am included. Thank you
20 very much.

21
22 At this time, because I'm not going to
23 make this long and I'm going to be addressing in Yup'ik
24 because you guys are all Yup'ik, and I'll be
25 identifying it in Yup'ik. And this is not contrarily
26 to our counter -- or we've got translators and be able
27 to translate what I be stating.

28
29 First of all, those that were making a
30 statement are interesting and they're acceptable, and
31 also I -- you guys know me. As much as I can, I
32 address things that are -- and I also addressed them
33 while at the advisory meeting. But a lot of times we,
34 the Yup'ik people, we grew up in this area. My father,
35 he teach me how to subsist, and taught me a lot how to
36 gather fish and wildlife. And at this time Eddie
37 Hoffman, I could recognize Eddie Hoffman, and he helped
38 us, and I wanted him to get up from his grave and to
39 help us, and he didn't care what he mentioned, too,
40 because he was a chief, and he used his leadership
41 accordingly.

42
43 But the subsistence is something that
44 we're using, you know, from the beginning from
45 thousands of years. Any time two years -- and we've
46 been closed, our subsistence area. And we didn't care
47 about the seven days, and we complied with the closure
48 for the seven days. But we heard from the -- we went,
49 attended the fish working group. A lot of people
50 requested, and I felt sorry for those that are from our

1 area when that person mentioned, my kids are tired of
2 eating chicken. If you guys open, because we want to
3 have some Chinooks. The listener, the person that
4 didn't have listened, and they all get together. And
5 when they came, they told us that there's going to be
6 five more extra days that the subsistence Chinook
7 fishing would be closed. You guys well aware of that.

8
9 And then in finishing, Kevin, I thank
10 him, the way he -- his comments, and also Mary, and
11 also Henry. And you guys heard what were being stated.

12
13 In addition this is from Akiak, and I'm
14 going to make this statement from Akiak. Our elders in
15 our community, we -- our elders support our way of
16 life, because of what they said in the past. As I
17 realize about Akiak, there was the first white people
18 in our community, and it was the first hospital.
19 Through that time, I catch the numbers, don't -- and
20 realized how we're going to change because of white
21 people that came in here, that came into our area.

22
23 As far as Akiak, a lot of people tell
24 us, and I used to hear it through my years, and told
25 us like this. Later on -- this part of what they said.
26 Fish and game, that is fish swimming, even though the
27 fish, and this is just an example, the fish will never
28 be caught or be taken. According to our elders, they
29 know what the future was. Through our elders.

30
31 But not make this any longer, the
32 tribal consultation started since last year as far as I
33 know, and it's been given for many years that the
34 tribes, we understand, are being recognized by the
35 Federal government.

36
37 And also Charlie -- as far as I
38 understand and aware, my community members in Akiak,
39 not too long ago some of them came and made testimony.
40 I thought I was going to hear him make testimony, but
41 told us not too long ago when they have a meeting, and
42 they -- and I'm going to present what I like. And
43 probably the tribal councils work to -- with Fish and
44 Wildlife and talk about what they should project for
45 next period.

46
47 For short, they like the -- my tribal
48 members liked what the -- my communities members --
49 what Fish and Wildlife presented. And that was the
50 first time that that community go to them to meet with

1 them. Just like Mr. Henry, I'm stating like Mr. Henry
2 mentioned regarding the meetings that were held that
3 this was represented. I'd like to support and if you
4 guys are listening, if you guys are on the phone, if we
5 do that, maybe somebody will start listening and
6 pushing them to how -- and including our elders and the
7 tribals, also include the elders from the beginning,
8 and they practiced that for many years.

9
10 As for myself, just like Henry
11 mentioned, I don't fish like I used to in the past.
12 And that's all the fish, I only had like two buckets,
13 even though it was opened for many years, and we are
14 cutting down on our catches. According to our elders,
15 that's what they're saying, and we listen about this
16 conservation. We should be closing not only -- we
17 don't really like being closed.

18
19 End of May you guys are well aware of,
20 and I'm just going to hear, I'm just going to see what
21 I was heard. It may not be true. There was on the
22 radio talk show that I heard and I'm going to present
23 it. If on May to close it and open on June 21 for us
24 people, how are we becoming. In other words, I'm not
25 going to say anything, I'm not going to mention the
26 four villages that make proposals and requested to Fish
27 and Game to have a meeting with them, and they
28 mentioned to them we like to eat when the fish first
29 arrive to our river. If you guys opened, even though
30 it's a few hours at the end of May, that wasn't
31 something I wasn't too excepting to believe acceptable.
32 If it's going to be closed that long.

33
34 They requested that to have a window
35 opened and also -- like for myself, I'm using as an
36 example for myself, if I eat Chinooks even though they
37 close us down, I'll comply with that. I'll comply with
38 it.

39
40 In addition I'd like to put forth the
41 tribal consultation that is happening to all the
42 villages who are listening.

43
44 And this was presented by Bill, and I
45 had a question regarding the trawlings that are
46 happening in Bering Sea. This winter that the
47 trawlers that do in Africa like in Bering Sea, they
48 reported -- this is what they found out. That this big
49 ship, there was -- there's no fish where those trawlers
50 are, because of trawlers just wiped everything. And

1 this one, the trawlers that's happening in Bering Sea,
2 the person that is talking, they call it narrator, this
3 was what the narrator mentioned, that the Bering Sea
4 trawlers, the fish that are going to be coming to our
5 rivers, to Kuskokwim and Yukon, and to other
6 tributaries, the fish will be exhausted. There will be
7 no more fish. We need to think. It's not only us,
8 it's -- when we had an advisory meeting, I mentioned it
9 to our members, and I also asked for help from the
10 Department of Fish, but the response was us people from
11 Akiak, we need to challenge those people, so we need
12 support, and hope.....

13

14 And Mr. Bill also mentioned, I worry
15 about some other peoples even though I want to say to
16 them. I've been in Akiak for 40 years, and as an IRA
17 member.....

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: To this very day.

20

21 INTERPRETER: Just like this guy, I
22 never get to any point. I listen to statements
23 regarding management by tribal, according to each
24 villages and work together, and also in Washington,
25 came from Department of Fish and Game as an examp --
26 they brought us a sample. And we can address that.
27 It's been long stating what I had mentioned, but thank
28 you.

29

30 We need to work together further for
31 the future. Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
34 Boy, you guys are getting good. You're right on the
35 money. 15 minutes again.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana.
42 Evan Waska, then followed by Pat Sampson.

43

44 MR. WASKA: I'm Evan Waska. I'm from
45 on Yukon. And I'm here to speak on the same issue, on
46 king salmon subsistence.

47

48 All of us Natives, and those of us that
49 grew up with Native families, we grew up helping our
50 mother and father preparing this important food source

1 to get us through these long winter months. And we
2 live there 365 days a year, when we don't leave. And
3 our parents kept those important food source, before
4 freezers came around. And I could recall helping my
5 mom and dad like all of us Natives did. And when
6 freezers came around, I could still recall my father
7 putting the king salmon whole in the freezer to get us
8 through these long winter months.

9
10 And I wasn't okay for them to -- I
11 heard they were going to close through the month of May
12 and June. That's not good. Most of my people have no
13 jobs, and this is our important food source, and
14 they're taking away part of our livelihood. What are
15 they going to eat? That burns me up. And that's not
16 right. As first people of Alaska, that's downright
17 discrimination.

18
19 And just like the late Mr. Harris Park
20 and David Bill, back then they always, I still hear
21 their voices, we've got to stop this high seas
22 interception and fish trawlers. They're killing us.
23 And Marvin told me there's a big fleet, more than one
24 fleet. Are they having the same problem down south in
25 Sitka and down that way? I bet not.

26
27 All the salmon come from the sea. It's
28 not us. Why do they put the restriction on us? That
29 burns me up. That's downright discriminatory. They put
30 all the restriction on us and us suffer. Maybe my
31 dad's anger is going through me, but this is the way I
32 feel. And Mr. David Bill.

33
34 Quyana. Like with Mr. Harris Park.
35 We've got to stop this high seas fishery and trawlers.
36 They're killing us, period. And as first people, to
37 take this important food source from me, that's not
38 right. I was born eating kings, I'm going to die
39 eating kings. And just like I said, most of us don't
40 have jobs out there, from the mouth and up that way.
41 And even on the -- and my Yukon brothers and sisters.
42 All over Alaska. And to take that king salmon away from
43 us, that's not right.

44
45 And the people that speak before me,
46 quyana.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
49 Evan. Patrick Sampson. He'll be followed by John
50 Riley, Sr.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Pat Sampson. I'm here as myself.

3
4 And I wanted to talk about Elodea,
5 Didymo, chokecherry tree, and several other invasives.

6
7 Elodea is a plant that grows especially
8 in the lakes, and it grows really, really thick, so
9 snowmachine -- or, sorry, boats and motors can't go
10 through. And the fish and the fry can't go through
11 these things.

12
13 And I bring that up, because Fairbanks,
14 in Chena Lakes and Chena River are currently having
15 problems with Elodea. It chokes out all of these
16 things. And Chena Lake goes through the Chena River,
17 goes to the Tanana, goes to Nenana and goes down to the
18 Yukon River and flows out to the mouth of the Yukon.
19 And so that Elodea is going to be hitting the Yukon,
20 the whole Yukon River sooner or later. And up in
21 Canada they already have problems with that.

22
23 And Elodea is really detrimental to the
24 lakes in this area, especially for our blackfish and
25 our whitefish, because that's where the fry live there.
26 And so if it chokes out that stuff, then the salmon fry
27 don't have anything else to eat, so you're talking
28 about all the smelts and the lush and the pike that go
29 up to these lakes.

30
31 The other one that I wanted to talk
32 about is Didymo, which we call rock snot. Rock snot
33 when it is dried looks like the cardboard cover of the
34 eggs that we buy at the store, so if you take that
35 cardboard, that's what Elodea looks like. What the
36 Elodea does, it grows on rocks and everything so when
37 it's -- and it grows on the bottom of the river beds.
38 And so when a salmon or trout or anything tries to lay
39 its eggs on this Elodea, it just rolls off. The
40 current just rolls it off.

41
42 And Didymo is a big problem in Kodiak.
43 And it's been found in Kenai and other areas.

44
45 There was a meeting from the Sand Lake
46 community in Anchorage because at Sand Lake and Goose
47 Lake they have Elodea chocking out that lake. And they
48 have private airplanes with pontoons that fly from Sand
49 Lake out to wherever they go out fishing. And a lot of
50 those planes probably come to our mountains here and go

1 fishing, flyfishing for salmon and trout and whatnot.
2 So currently there's nobody assessing any of these
3 invasive species in our tributary areas.

4
5 The other problem that we have non-
6 native species coming here is the ships and the barges.
7 When the ships come in, they have ballast water that
8 they put into the bottom of their ships, so when
9 they're top heavy, they don't flip over. And so when
10 they're not top heavy any more, you've probably seen
11 ships out here spraying water from out of their holds.
12 That's where the ballast water is coming out. And in
13 that ballast water they have algae and micro-organisms,
14 snails, and turtles, and red tide, and all the other
15 insects that are not from here. And they've got little
16 carp and everything that feed on all these little fries
17 that we have.

18
19 The chokecherry tree is getting more
20 and more popular, especially in Bethel, because the
21 chokecherry tree in the summertime and in the falltime
22 when you look at a chokecherry tree, the leaves are
23 really perfect and there's no holes that the bugs are
24 eating. And those bugs that eat the leaves, that's
25 what the small salmon fry live on. So if you're out in
26 one of the tributary out on the Kisaralik River or
27 something like that, and you see all these willow
28 leaves on the water, that's really good news, because
29 the spiders and the bugs and the aphids and the
30 ladybugs lay all their eggs on these leaves, and they
31 live their whole lives on these leaves, and that's what
32 the little tiny fingerling salmon fry live on.

33
34 The chokecherry tree is an invasive
35 species. When a bird eats a chokecherry seed it flies
36 off and it drops it off somewhere. And a lot of birds,
37 they like to roost near waters, so those seeds go into
38 the ground where alders and birch and whatever else is
39 out there, and the chokecherry tree is known as an
40 allelopathic plant, which means it kills off all the
41 other plants, because it's the only one that wants to
42 be alive in that area. And so it takes like -- it's
43 dormant for like 10 years of something like -- or up to
44 10 years, and then it will start sprouting. Once it
45 starts sprouting, it slowly kills off all the other
46 plants. And chokecherry trees are established in our
47 tributaries, then the bugs are not eating from the
48 leaves, then in turn the salmon are not eating off of
49 the bugs there.

50

1 And beaver, I wanted to -- way back in
2 the day when I was a little kid, I used to hear people
3 going out up to the mountains to go trap beaver, or
4 they would go up to the Holitna River to go trap
5 beaver, and then they would come back, and it would be
6 a great big thing. Right now there's a beaver dam like
7 200 feet away from my house, and beavers are
8 everywhere, and it's all over.

9
10 And so that's the same thing with
11 invasive plants that are detrimental to the tributaries
12 for the salmon. And there's certainly nobody out there
13 in the tributaries assessing if we have any of these
14 invasive species. And there's a whole lot -- I think
15 the last count, there was 364 invasive species found in
16 Alaska. And they're certainly coming, but there's
17 nobody out there assessing and looking at our
18 tributaries and seeing how much affect it has.

19
20 And thank you for the opportunity, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
24 Pat.

25
26 Any questions. Comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I did have
31 one actually. You said there was -- you haven't had
32 any documentation in this region yet, or any kind of
33 assessment studies to find to what length -- I know
34 there's been a little bit down in Bethel I believe
35 through the Watershed Council in past years, but as far
36 as the tributaries or anywhere else in the drainage,
37 are you aware of any other assessment studies?

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. There has
40 been assessments done on invasive plants for the land
41 that are detrimental to blackberries, salmonberries,
42 and cranberries, and all the other berries. And
43 there's invasive species that choke out all those other
44 plants. And there's also plants identified that the
45 moose and the caribou don't like either. But there is
46 no aquatic person going out there and assessing the
47 waters, if there's invasive plants. Certainly we are
48 finding land-based invasive plants, like Bethel is
49 overrun with foxtail. And what the foxtail does, it
50 looks like a fox tail, and it has little barbs like a

1 porcupine quill, and especially because the dogs have
2 really thin skin, when it goes into the dog's skin, it
3 just get -- they get open sores and everything in it.
4 And it's really important also for the little kids.
5 Some of the people, when I showed them the foxtail,
6 they said they would put them in their shirt, and they
7 would literally feel them going up.

8
9 And so like I said land-based, non-
10 invasive plants, we've been assessing those, and we're
11 assessing them. And that's a whole new ordeal. All
12 the barges and all the heavy equipment operators that
13 came in and made all the airports and the runways, and
14 every time you bring in wood for boardwalks in the
15 villages, you're bringing in invasive plants. And I
16 don't mean to scare you, but we do need those
17 identified. But currently there's no identification of
18 aquatic species relating to salmon or other species of
19 water fish.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: You're welcome.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We have John
26 Riley, Sr., followed by Nick Ayapan.

27
28 MR. RILEY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
29 I'm John Riley, Sr. I'm a member of Lower Yukon
30 Advisory Committee, and I'm also representing myself
31 and the villages up the Yukon.

32
33 And I've heard testimonies about high
34 sea, and what I know about little high sea, the big
35 high seas fishermens, that I've heard, you know, they
36 hire local people from Yukon and Kuskokwim, all over.
37 First I used to hear they throw our king salmon away
38 overboard dead fish, the high sea fishermens, and live
39 fish they donate them to Seattle bank, and some people,
40 the Native young people that work out in them ships,
41 their story now is that they no long -- they also --
42 they throw the fish, dead fish away, keep the live
43 fish, doing the food bank, and now they're also I've
44 been hearing from them young people that are out there
45 working in them boats, they say they're feeding their
46 Native workers with the fish what they catch, king
47 salmon. You know, way back then when we never know
48 nothing about high sea fishermen, fisheries, and the
49 Yukon, the chum salmon declined really fast when the
50 high seas fishermens were throwing the chums away,

1 because they're not worth any money to them. They
2 declined way down.

3

4 You know, I lived in Kuskokwim River
5 for 24 years. I raised my family here. I fished here
6 commercially and subsistence. Living here way back, we
7 used to do good here, king salmon commercial fishing.
8 I had 60 mesh, fished for Brusco. Then they -- somehow
9 the egg roe showed up. And when the egg roe showed up
10 here in Kuskokwim, us commercial fishermen's here in
11 Kuskokwim, we weren't much as good as egg roe
12 fishermens. They'd come into the harbor to close docks
13 with buckets and buckets of egg roe. And that's when
14 the fish declined, and they won't allow -- then after
15 how many years, they got no more commercial fish for
16 king salmon in Kuskokwim.

17

18 I brought that up, because that's part
19 of my life, and I moved up Yukon, and that's -- I
20 supported my family commercial and subsistence fishing.

21

22

23 You know, in last 15 to 10 years, 12
24 years, we used to fish with 60 mesh, eight and a half,
25 eight and a quarter kings. A lot of commercially was
26 going on them days. Right now we don't even know -- I
27 think we do, some of us, own five and a half mesh,
28 that's the biggest net we have from eight and a half to
29 eight and a quarter. Some used to have nine inches.
30 They just keep cutting us down. Then last year maybe
31 only twice we were allowed to fish with driftnet, if
32 I'm not mistaken.

33

34 I'm retired. I retired from commercial
35 fishing last year, transferred my permit to my son, my
36 younger son. You know, the first time in history last
37 year, the first time in history, we weren't allowed to
38 fish for king salmon. The first time in the history.
39 Just completely cut us off. First they started with 60
40 mesh, cut that down to nothing, down to five and a
41 half. They won't allow us to use it.

42

43 And last year the first time they --
44 these commercial fishermen was using dipnet. We never
45 thought that dipnet would work, because we never dipnet
46 in our whole life, except dipnetting smelts and eels up
47 the Yukon. That dipnet worked for us up the Yukon.
48 The younger generation liked it. They say it's better
49 than drifting. Not boring, no time to have a
50 cigarette.

1 Now, last year, this is the first
2 winter we -- first time with no kings on the table.
3 It's very hard. We have kings. salt fish, bake fish,
4 boiled fish, pickled fish. Fish is all one species,
5 king salmon. But we don't have that. Every weekend
6 we'd have breakfast, pattycakes and salt fish. This
7 year we had nothing, no kings. But last year, knowing
8 that -- with my family knowing that we weren't going to
9 be allowed to get kings, so we went -- first time in
10 the history, we put up our little fish rack, 8 by 10,
11 behind the house, because when it's flooded up Yukon,
12 we can't put fish rack in the beach. It's too high of
13 water, especially these last few years it's been pretty
14 high. We put up chums. Put up our little rack with my
15 wife and my daughter goes over -- lives here and goes
16 over to Yukon. We put up chums, strips. It wasn't
17 bad, but that king salmon has been our vitamin A to
18 vitamin -- all the way to Z. You know, it's our food.
19 Taking it away is just -- from close to 100 kings to
20 zero kings.

21
22 My son brought home red king. When he
23 brought that red king salmon, spawned out king, I told
24 him, don't ever bring home that kind of fish, that
25 color fish. My wife cut up the fish. We had the head
26 and tail for summer. And they asked me, why you don't
27 like red kings? I said, it's spawned. It tastes --
28 it's watery fish. And the rest of it my wife salted
29 it. I didn't get involved, because my mind wasn't
30 happy. And sometime middle of the winter I smoke some
31 from that red king. My God, it wasn't too bad.
32 Completely better than nothing.

33
34 You know it's -- I can talk all day
35 long, but, you know, some place along the line someone
36 will put our king salmon back on the table.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
41 John. Questions for John.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
46 Nick Ayapan, and then Joe Asuluk is after that.
47 Senior.

48
49 MR. AYAPAN: Quyana, Mr. Chair. Mine
50 will real short.

1 (In Yup'ik)
2
3 INTERPRETER: When we have a meeting,
4 we always hear regarding the high fisheries.
5
6 MR. AYAPAN: I think talking about
7 conservation.
8
9 (In Yup'ik)
10
11 INTERPRETER: We always talk about what
12 is being stated. When they talk about the high
13 fisheries, how we should be getting to that -- we get
14 to that point of the high fisheries.
15
16 When we talk about the high fisheries,
17 we started saying to have somebody look and monitor
18 those trawlers, and how many king salmon they're
19 catching. At this time we don't know when we talk
20 about.....
21
22 MR. AYAPAN: How can we get information
23 of how is it (In Yup'ik).
24
25 INTERPRETER: What effective -- how
26 effect are we getting from -- do we have on the
27 Kuskokwim. We don't have that information. We only
28 got -- we received from one person that did analyze and
29 count the fisheries. How did we receive -- they
30 switched, having one person on the ship and monitoring
31 the king salmons that are caught or being thrown off
32 of trawlers fleet. My question is according to me we
33 tried to stop the -- but we learned something of how to
34 handle and how they -- our process. I think we might
35 talk about more of a conservative way on our fish.
36
37 I hear a lot of things. We don't talk
38 about the conservation.....
39
40 MR. AYAPAN: How it affects our area.
41
42 (In Yup'ik)
43
44 INTERPRETER: But when we talk about
45 that in that area, we identify the person who is going
46 to be monitoring these trawlers and how many bycatch
47 are being thrown.
48
49 If we learn how we get that information
50 regarding -- and how we can help assist in improving

1 how it can be corrected.

2

3 The person that talked about it on the
4 North Pacific Fisheries Council when that person went
5 to that meeting, he saw two guys with the shirt in
6 yellow, and the other people had different colors and
7 they made different cases that how we fished is good
8 and how the catch was -- our catch were being okay.
9 Stated by somebody.

10

11 But we as people from this area, who's
12 going to help us? Is it you or are we going to do it
13 on our own in trying to acquire some information, and I
14 think it will be working out better.

15

16 Restating how we should conserve the
17 fisheries. WE already understand individually how
18 Chinook is and how we should talk about in regards to
19 handle the fish. The other fishers, even we understand
20 them, we need more information how to work with that.

21

22 MR. AYAPAN: I think we need more
23 information regarding that, and how did we get one
24 person on each ship to count (In Yup'ik).

25

26 INTERPRETER: That if we need
27 information from those fleets, how are we going to
28 acquire that information. The Fish and Wildlife is the
29 game in our area. When I need information, I usually
30 request from them, and we understand what needs to be
31 done accordingly. But the high fisheries, if we learn
32 more about them fleet I think we'll do better.

33

34 Quyana.

35

36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
37 Nick. Okay. I have two more here. Nicholai Alexie --
38 oh, I'm sorry. Joe Asuluk was next. And then Nicholai
39 didn't provide us anything last time, but I guess he
40 changed his mind, and he wants to tell us something.

41

42 MR. ASULUK: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44

45 (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: I'm going to -- I'm
48 representing myself and I'm also speaking for my
49 children and my grandchildren I think is -- the people
50 that I live with here on the Kuskokwim and on the Yukon

1 River, and also on the coast, on Nelson Island as well,
2 because I want to address to them or from them.

3
4 I work with the Federal government as a
5 refuge technician. And those are my two jobs as a
6 migratory bird surveyor and I also take the -- dispatch
7 the information out to the villages, and I have
8 meetings with them, and talk to them about the issues.

9
10
11 And I want to know where are the
12 Council representatives from the villages. Those are
13 the ones that can address these issues. Where are
14 they? Why are they not here?

15
16 And with that I want to say that our
17 subsistence way of life cannot be helped, how I'm
18 looking at it. You see the dollar sign. And is there
19 a dollar because the subsistence users are -- we don't
20 have any grant money or anything like that backing us,
21 to represent us during the meetings. But all the high
22 sea fishermen have people that attend the meetings for
23 them. Why do we not have any representatives of the
24 villages?

25
26 MR. ASULUK: We have children out there
27 who are hungry. I went through that. My old man was
28 -- he wasn't a good provider. I don't want my
29 grandchildren and my great grandchildren to go through
30 what I went through. (In Yup'ik)

31
32 Somebody got to do something now to
33 where there's subsistence. The other day I was in
34 Nightmute, and one family with eight kids and three
35 grandchildren. No food. (In Yup'ik) And my wife and
36 I had to donate some, almost half of our food to them.

37
38 (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: You guys have interested
41 in the high sea fisheries, and people have come up
42 here, because they have never -- they've always talked
43 about the high sea fishery, but the restricted areas
44 are always the ones that are taking the least amount of
45 fish. And so those areas in the Kuskokwim, the
46 fishermen.....

47
48 MR. ASULUK: The Kuskokwim and Yukon
49 people, they have grandchildren and great
50 grandchildren.

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: We really need to
4 remember the children and the grandchildren that people
5 have in the Yukon and the Kuskokwim area. And we
6 should not be -- I'm sorry, I'm not yelling at you
7 guys, but I'm talking on behalf of the people here from
8 my home town, and I'm thinking about the children and
9 the grandchildren that people want. And I really wish
10 I could help them foodwise, because a lot of the
11 families don't have anything out in the villages.

12

13 And I also heard last year that they
14 confiscated the fishermen's -- they have -- by
15 confiscating the nets, you are taking away the food
16 that you would be providing for your children. When
17 you confiscate nets, how are you going to provide food
18 for the children and for the grandchildren living in
19 their house? How can we help them. They're just --
20 the people who hire lobbyists and the big companies
21 that hire lobbyists to represent them during the high
22 level meetings, those are more important to the State
23 of Alaska, to the government. But we don't have any
24 lobbyists for us, and that's why nobody gives us any
25 credence or mind at all during the high level meetings
26 for fish and game.

27

28 And right now I really would like to
29 address that. If I could address getting lobbyists or
30 somebody to represent us during these high level
31 meetings we're just talking about. We really need to
32 talk about in the villages. The only people with their
33 jobs in the villages are post office and the airline
34 and the store clerks, and at the school. They're only
35 like 10, 20 percent employment in the villages, and
36 there's 80 percent are not employed in the villages,
37 and so they rely on subsistence a lot.

38

39 And people do not understand the
40 subsistence way of life, how important it is out in the
41 villages. And this is often overlooked, and so.....

42

43 MR. ASULUK: We ought to send somebody
44 out there to the village and stay one year and do the
45 subsistence to learn.

46

47 (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: Perhaps we could station
50 somebody out there in the villages to talk -- to live

1 off the land for one year. Perhaps they could start
2 understanding the subsistence way of life. When you do
3 subsistence activities, you are always continually
4 risking your life to perpetuate the subsistence. And
5 his name was John Hooper, he drowned doing subsistence
6 activities out there. It's not an easy thing. It a
7 life or death situation out there trying to feed your
8 families.

9

10 And so this -- there are dollars that
11 we have for lobbyist or representative to sit on the
12 boards for us, because the lobbyist for the high seas
13 fishermen, they're more important in the eyes of the
14 rulemakers or the lawmakers. The lawmakers do not
15 think that as important because we don't have any paid
16 representatives on these.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana, Joe.
21 We'll have Nicolai Alexie followed by John Nickelas.

22

23 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Quyana. My name is
24 (In Yup'ik), I'm from Kwethluk. (In Yup'ik) I'm just
25 going to read a statement, a paragraph, and then I'm
26 going to give you some numbers.

27

28 Whenever is population's food supply
29 increases, that population increases. As that
30 population increases, its food supply decreases. And
31 as its food supply decreases, that population
32 decreases. This interaction between food populations
33 and feeder populations is what keeps everything in
34 balance.

35

36 And I'm going to read out some numbers.
37 I got these numbers from 2012 population census from
38 the State of Alaska, and these are for the villages in
39 the Kuskokwim region. Akiakchomi (ph), they have a
40 population, this is estimated numbers, 663. Doshakiumi
41 (ph), 361. Akmoshomi (ph), 302. Eek, 339. Kwethluk
42 is 751. Napakiak, 358. Napaskiami (ph), 434.
43 Oscarvillami (ph), 69. Tuntutulami (ph) -- I mean
44 Tuluksak, 384. Tuntutulimish (ph) 420. Out of those
45 villages, total population village at 4,081. (In
46 Yup'ik) Scammon, (In Yup'ik), Kwethluk, Akiak,
47 Akiachak, and Tuluksak, 2159. That's even at four
48 villages. Bethalami (ph), Bethel census, 6,113.
49 That's just in Bethel. Whole YK Delta, the Bethel
50 census area, it's 17,600. (In Yup'ik) After reading

1 those numbers, there's lots of (indiscernible).
2 There's a lot more people than back then. And it goes
3 for all over the world, like 7 billion people plus in
4 the world. (In Yup'ik) And it goes (In Yup'ik).

5
6 INTERPRETER: There's more increase in
7 population, and if it goes in that trend, fish species
8 will decrease. And once the fish decrease, the
9 population of the people will get the hardship then.

10
11 MR. ALEXIE: And that goes --
12 resources, renewable resources (In Yup'ik)

13
14 INTERPRETER: And these species do come
15 back and they're part of renewable resources.

16
17 MR. ALEXIE: There's management or
18 system breakdown some place. (In Yup'ik) Not on the
19 local level. We're just suffering here. (In Yup'ik)
20 It meets somewhere up in high level, high places. And
21 (In Yup'ik).

22
23 INTERPRETER: We usually don't think
24 about ourselves, but we need to understand what we're
25 going through.

26
27 MR. ALEXIE: And they have to
28 understand what we're going through. And we do need to
29 look at how we do gather our resources. Management (In
30 Yup'ik). We need local input and local management.
31 Co-management, (In Yup'ik), and we need to start
32 looking into that.

33
34 INTERPRETER: Akiachak and Akiak and
35 also Tuluksak, they're all in Unit 4 -- in Unit 18.

36
37 MR. ALEXIE: And we're trying to work
38 it out, get our (In Yup'ik), we're trying to figure
39 something out. We're looking for solutions. And we do
40 need all the help we can.

41
42 Quyana.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
45 Nick. John Nickelas followed by Schouvillen Wassilie.
46 And we're almost to lunchtime.

47
48 MR. NICKELAS: Quyana.

49
50 (In Yup'ik)

1 INTERPRETER: Thank you very much. My
2 name is -- I'm John Nickels from Kwethluk. I've lived
3 my life out here, and I came to being and we never used
4 to dry fish, but we used to be told how to care and
5 cure salmon. And they told us how to conserve. And we
6 need to never go beyond our need. And so right now our
7 river is being polluted, both the Yukon and the
8 Kuskokwim River is being polluted. Every time I go up
9 on the river, I always see plastic on the rivers, and I
10 see -- because the fish, the salmon are no different,
11 because the salmon's world is the water, and when I --
12 the Johnson River is not home to the salmon. Once in a
13 great while they do come in here. Perhaps when the
14 salmon are too abundant, they come into the Johnson
15 River. But the humpies are probably crazy like me, and
16 that's why they come into the river, Johnson River, my
17 home town.

18
19 But I'm an old man now and way back in
20 the day when they started seeing how people are, there
21 weren't all that many people. And you young people, I
22 want to -- I'm trying to do my best to help you,
23 because for you are my -- I always try to help people
24 that are born after me. My grandparents, my children,
25 their friends, because I'm always trying to do things
26 for them, and we always need to keep that in mind, that
27 we.....

28
29 We right now have senators and we have
30 -- we can ask the Federal government for relief and the
31 State, we can ask and implore for them that the Yukon
32 and the Kuskokwim Rivers that have lived their whole
33 life on these two rivers to be representatives. And if
34 we ask the senators and to the Federal government that
35 they need to appoint representatives from people that
36 have lived their whole life on the Kuskokwim and on the
37 Yukon River, that their whole lives are staked down
38 there. You do need to appoint representatives to your
39 high boards, and I've always told that issue in all the
40 meetings.

41
42 And as an example, if you look at that
43 -- where they were saying that the migratory bird
44 management, that the people used to come here, and they
45 use to drive the birds away from our hunting areas.
46 But since there are plenty of people from this area,
47 too, that advise the bird committee, it has gotten a
48 lot better, and there's no misunderstanding between
49 those two sections of people.

50

1 And so if you could into the advisory
2 board or the Fish Board or whoever board he's talking
3 about that if you put people from this area that have
4 grown up using subsistence salmon, that would be a good
5 move.

6
7 And way back in the day they used to
8 catch a lot of salmon, and we -- the commercial
9 fishermen way back in the day used to harvest salmon,
10 and they used to dry them. They would sell to a
11 company, and we put a lot of dried salmon into the
12 boats and we would sell that. And so I know that they
13 used to use the salmon fishery here on the Kuskokwim as
14 a commercial source. And so I'm talking -- I'm asking
15 that you ask the senator and to the Federal government
16 that you need to implore to them, even though that
17 they're not going to honor or request, but we do need
18 to request to them that they need to appoint people,
19 overseers at the Kuskokwim and the Yukon Rivers, people
20 who have staked their whole lives on the two rivers.

21
22 And way back in the day we never used
23 to harvest the king salmon, but when the kind salmon
24 used to come into the water -- I'm not from the
25 Kuskokwim area, I'm from one of the tributary areas,
26 and so my game of source wasn't the salmon, it was the
27 whitefish and the blackfish, and stuff, but we do need
28 to get somebody that are well-versed in the Kuskokwim,
29 the Yukon River way of life to be sitting on these
30 boards. And please go find somebody to appoint to
31 those board.

32
33 And thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
36 John. Next is Schouvillen Wassilie. And just a
37 note.....

38
39 MR. WASSILIE: Quyana.

40
41 (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: Thank you for letting me
44 sit here and address to you, Mr. Chairman. And so the
45 first thing right here, when I was thinking about this,
46 that is the workers at Fish and Game, they are very
47 highly educated, every last one of them. And you
48 people are probably highly educated as well sitting up
49 there on the Board.

50

1 But the migration of the salmon coming
2 into the river are not plentiful now and then, and
3 because they use the Bering Sea as a staging area, we
4 have no idea how many -- how much salmon come into our
5 Kuskokwim River. Only God knows how many salmon enters
6 the river.

7
8 And you guys have education, and so the
9 workers of the State, can they do a study and pinpoint
10 why the salmon is declining in our area, and why is the
11 king salmon declining in population. Can you guys
12 pinpoint that, because you guys are educated and you
13 guys know how to do that. And so especially our
14 tributaries need to be looked at, and especially
15 Kisaralik and Tuluksak, the headwaters up there. And
16 the Kuskokwim headwaters, they do. And Fish and Game
17 have put weirs up there. They probably count these,
18 but the salmon are wary of any activities that are
19 happening in the rivers. Any animal, whether it be a
20 fish or moose or a game, or bear or anything like that,
21 they avoid contact or confrontation. And because the
22 fish weirs that are placed, that's probably another
23 issue that's affecting the population increase or
24 decrease of the salmon.

25
26 And so right now the -- the game right
27 now, there used to be a lot of chums in the waters
28 here. And when I was a little boy, and when -- if we
29 drifted for 15 minutes, we would catch way too much,
30 and so it was when we used to have almost every hole
31 with the salmon, so it was dangerous to even put the
32 salmon in there. But right now it's reversing, and now
33 there's more and more red salmon coming up. And
34 perhaps there's just not going to be interesting the
35 king salmon only, because the subsistence way of life,
36 we really need help with our -- addressing the fish and
37 game needs, because our children may not have the
38 enjoyment to enjoy the salmon as we have in times past.
39 Perhaps out of the tributaries right now we're very
40 hungry, we're not famine, but we really need to put our
41 efforts in to increasing the salmon population.

42
43 And the land right now that come up on
44 the land, we can do aerial surveys of moose and caribou
45 and whatnot. We can use technology to land mammals,
46 but why are we not using sonar or any of the technical
47 -- why are we not using technology to survey how many
48 fish are in our rivers, and how can we figure out what
49 species are coming into the rivers? Can't we just
50 utilize the technology that is available right now?

1 And every year there's not an ever
2 increasing number of salmon coming into the Kuskokwim
3 or the Yukon. They come in two cycles. Sometimes we
4 have a year of plenty, and sometimes we don't have very
5 much even if we are out there drifting. Even if we
6 catch one salmon then we're always happy for that one
7 salmon, and we put that salmon into our boat. And it's
8 the same thing, that we are -- we happily take all
9 these things, and how are going to address the economic
10 situation, how famine may hit our children. And so our
11 forefathers right now and the elders and the old
12 people, when they used to talk about the times past,
13 way back in the day, they didn't have any hobbies or
14 anything like that. Their whole life was trained to
15 their subsistence way of life of providing food. And
16 so that they used to work everything to avoid famine,
17 because in times of famine, they experience -- there
18 was horrors that comes with famine. So right now if we
19 have enough, we over exercise our bodies, we have
20 cramps and stuff, and that really almost kills --
21 almost kills us with these cramps, but that's nothing
22 compared to the famine areas when they did -- when they
23 had no food in their stomach, and they used to have
24 stomach cramps, the hunger pains. That's -- that they
25 compared to the muscle sprains and cramps that we have.
26 And so right now, thinking about that, we really need
27 to put all our resources into addressing all the
28 species, just not the king salmon, but we need to
29 include reds and silvers and chums. We all need to
30 group them into one, because perhaps it's going to be
31 an issue just like the king salmon issue. It's going
32 to be all the fish species issues, and we really need
33 to be prudent in our management styles, especially the
34 Kuskokwim River.

35
36 Right now, out in the Bering Sea
37 perhaps there's a lot of big die-offs out in the Bering
38 Sea that we have no idea about. And perhaps every year
39 we catch king salmon and a lot of the fish with marks
40 like -- sometimes we have fish with bloodsucker scars,
41 or we have scars from seals or from what are these
42 scars coming from? And every time that anything that,
43 like mosquitoes suck blood from you, that gives you
44 less strength. And that the same thing with the
45 salmon. And so there are all these bloodsuckers out in
46 the salmon that are really killing them off or letting
47 them die off, and it's just not the trawlers that are
48 affecting the salmon population.

49
50 You guys need to do a study, and you

1 guys have enough money to get the technology and
2 utilize how many salmon are coming in, and if you start
3 and pursue it at the mouth of salmon rivers instead of
4 way up in the tributaries, perhaps you can get a better
5 count of how many salmon are entering he waters. And
6 so it's a little too late when you start counting
7 salmon at the tributaries, but if you did it -- and so
8 when they go up through the rivers, there's a lot of
9 mortality happening with the salmon before they even
10 get to their destination, so that's an area that we
11 don't even know about, because I know the salmon go
12 back to where they were born at, and so even though
13 we're humans, we know where we grow up, and the animals
14 and the fish are like -- they're the same. They don't
15 just stand around getting caught.

16

17 Everything that I catch either in the
18 water or on the land is always where we have contact.
19 And a lot of times when the animals or the fish are
20 sick, they are not wary of the contact, but you guys
21 are all highly educated, and if you guys could utilize
22 your technology and look at why the salmon are being
23 affected, why the decline is happening, and even
24 perhaps if you could do it on at the bay of the
25 Kuskokwim and put a sonar on the Kuskokwim Bay and you
26 can count how many fish are going down. And if you
27 could utilize that 365 day a year.

28

29 And there's salmon fishing under the
30 ice. They swim and the migrate under the ice as well,
31 too. So I have a net out in the river during the
32 wintertime, and I keep it out there until spring. And
33 sometimes in the wintertime I catch salmon. I catch
34 silvers and red salmon, but I've never caught a kind
35 salmon in the wintertime, but all the other species
36 I've caught during the wintertime.

37

38 And so if you could the counter or
39 sonar even the banks of the -- or if you could do it at
40 a bottleneck area near Napakiak, if you could put a
41 sonar there, using technology, you could get a better
42 picture of how many salmon are for sure entering into
43 the rivers. And I know the Federal and the State
44 utilizes a lot of the money on all these, can they use
45 some of these funding and get sonar technology into the
46 rivers and see how much fish there are.

47

48 How can you -- can we not work together
49 and figure out how we can along with Fish and Game and
50 all the subsistence people, if we work together, and

1 try to address now -- why the decline is, and
2 everything that we catch either the fish or mammals,
3 it's like they don't want to be a source of
4 controversy. And so every time there's controversy, it
5 always tells -- it has bad feelings at the end, so if
6 we can all work together with the Fish and Game, with
7 Fish and Wildlife, and the subsistence group users, if
8 we could all come together and address this, and the
9 byproduct will be all the subsistence people on the
10 headwaters of the Kuskokwim communities, all the way
11 down to the -- all the small communities lining all the
12 rivers from Canada to the mouth of the Yukon, and from
13 the Kuskokwim, if we all work together and try to work
14 with each other, it would probably be better. And so
15 if we could study why the decline of the salmon is a
16 perpetual event here, perhaps we can identify and
17 pinpoint why the salmon is declining and that would
18 give us a better ability to address that problem.

19
20 And so I know a lot of the -- you guys
21 are always talking about the deep sea trawlers, and
22 perhaps they are taking a lot of the fish, but that's
23 not the only element that is affecting the salmon runs.
24 There are fries, maybe the little fries are being
25 affected somehow, or the fingerlings or something,
26 perhaps on their way out to the sea something's
27 probably affecting them. And what's happening with
28 these. A lot of the mortality rates are probably high
29 when the leave the fresh waters to race out into the
30 rivers, and why are there -- a lot of the eels are
31 going up on the Kuskokwim River during the fall time.
32 And do those eels -- is the eels feeding on the salmon.
33 And, you guys, there's a lot of things that you guys
34 need to study towards the salmon issue.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
39 Schouvillen.

40
41 Okay. I see Henry Lupie turned in one.
42 Let's see, asking for one follow up for a comment, and
43 recognizing that you had your chance already, but I'll
44 give you another five minutes, and you got to start us
45 off, and so I guess you'll get the last word, too.
46 You're the last one here. And then after that we'll go
47 to lunch.

48
49 MR. LUPIE: Quyana, Mr. Chair. Earlier
50 there was a guy from the University of Alaska, I think

1 it was Kevin. And it's true that like for me I'm very
2 intimidated by speaking in front of groups, even (In
3 Yup'ik).

4
5 INTERPRETER: Even though you guys are
6 Yup'ik people, it's kind of weird to say stuff.

7
8 MR. LUPIE: Because there's elders like
9 James Charles, Harry Wilde, Charlie Brown. Growing up
10 we were taught to listen to our elders. Even if we
11 have some comments, you know, we're supposed to hold
12 it. And I think a lot of us are in that situation.

13
14 But at this sage, like all the speakers
15 here pointed out that the subsistence issue is a
16 concern of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and up to this
17 point it's frustrating that nothing acceptable to the
18 Native communities have ever been developed. And like
19 I also want to point out that in general the Yup'ik
20 people are passive, and, you know, that's how we were
21 brought up.

22
23 But two or three years ago -- when
24 Jackson mentioned that, you know, a seven-day closure,
25 and then added another five-day closure, I think it
26 sends a clear message that, you know, the subsistence
27 way of life, not just -- I don't think it's just
28 confined to salmon.

29
30 The speakers keep pointing out that in
31 all other areas where we survive off the land, be it
32 fish and wildlife, the point is obvious that, you know,
33 what happened two years ago, I don't think it was, you
34 know -- it wasn't just in opposition to what the Fish
35 and Game did, but the point was made that the
36 subsistence way of life is very important to us.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
41 Henry. It makes it loud and clear. And actually I
42 think this is -- we've kind of set a record this time,
43 at least for me. I've been on this Council for 10 to
44 12 years, and, Harry and James, I think you've been
45 here since it actually started, but at least since the
46 time I've been here, the most we've ever had for
47 testimony is maybe three or four people at most, and we
48 have well over a dozen this time. So I sure appreciate
49 folks coming in. I don't know, you guys ever seen this
50 many people testify?

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: First time.
2
3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: First time.
4 So, I mean, we'll certainly do our best to get the
5 comments you've given us reflected in the management
6 actions that we have the responsibility to try and get
7 those who do make those decisions to make the ones that
8 reflect what people desire here the most. So, quyana
9 (on Yup'ik).
10
11 We'll break now until, oh, what, we'll
12 call it 1:45.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (On record)
17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll call
19 the meeting back to order at 1:48 p.m. And we're about
20 to go into some of the business items, but we do have
21 one more blue card here. And if there's anyone else
22 that has general public comments that aren't related to
23 the agenda, we'll take those up at the beginning of the
24 meeting tomorrow, but we'll get one more here. Nels
25 Alexis.
26
27 (Off record conversation)
28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
30 Nels.
31
32 MR. ALEXIE: Well, there's -- for those
33 who may not know me, my name is Nels Alexie.
34
35 I just want to -- my first question is
36 going to be what kind of gear do I have to use after
37 first day of May until the last day of June. I want to
38 double check, because I have not hear anything, you
39 know, what kind of gear I should be using. Is
40 subsistence going to be closed for everything that we
41 hunt for and fish for? And that's my question. (In
42 Yup'ik)
43
44 INTERPRETER: He's rephrasing what he
45 introduced at the beginning of his statement. Mr.
46 Chairman, can you restate that we've got translators,
47 they don't have to translate what they just said.
48 Thank you.
49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I can offer

1 you somewhat of a response to that is that nobody knows
2 yet. That determination has not been made. There are
3 various proposals being discussed between the Kuskokwim
4 Working Group, the State managers, and the Federal
5 managers. And the final meetings for those are
6 scheduled for I believe the first week of April to make
7 that determination. Right now it's probably looking
8 there will be some sort of restrictions, what those
9 restrictions are going to be, we don't know yet. And
10 depending on how the run comes back, what their plans
11 are for the pre-meeting may change during the course of
12 the season, if there are fewer fish or more fish. So
13 right now the Working Group's proposal or
14 recommendation to the managers is to close on May 15th
15 and four-inch or less gear with the first opening in
16 District 1 being around the 23rd of June.

17
18 The State Department is still wanting
19 to consider, since there are 20,000 fish in the
20 forecast for a harvestable surplus, that there may be
21 an opportunity for some limited fishing perhaps with
22 restricted year or six-inch or less.

23
24 But again none of those determinations
25 have been made yet, and how that might occur and what
26 happens between the State managers and the Federal
27 managers, and the user groups and advisory councils and
28 committees, what comes out the other side, we really
29 don't know yet, and won't know until in April at the
30 earliest.

31
32 MR. ALEXIE: So once you find out, once
33 you learn what kind of a situation we're going to have,
34 you're going to bring it out quick?

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, the
37 announcements will be made by the State and Federal
38 managers.

39
40 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Well, I guess I'm
41 not the only one I guess who will want to know as quick
42 as possible.

43
44 The second one, it's not a question,
45 but we had Yup'ik management two years back. The older
46 ones may understand what I'm trying to explain, you
47 know, when I mention it. As we were growing as a
48 child, a young fellow, we were told not to waste
49 anything. Just process what you can process, and get
50 what you can process. Or I used to hear some people

1 saying, get what your wife can process. I remember one
2 person have said that, we're going to have to tell that
3 guy to quit, stop it. If he's going to be wasting what
4 the husband had received like this. And that's what I
5 call a Native, our Native management, not to try and
6 get something that will be wasted. In other words, in
7 the blond, blue-eyed people, that's superstitious I
8 guess. Because sometimes when I say something what we
9 do, and then they say, oh, well, that's just
10 superstitious. Enough of that. Yeah, we used to be
11 told what to do and what not to do. I'll just make
12 everything short.

13

14 And then I have heard about salmon, you
15 know, every species that we get in summertime all my
16 life. And when I was a little boy, the king salmon and
17 other species had went down. I was young. I used to
18 hang around with the fishermens. And my brother or my
19 dad didn't bring me out, I go with somebody.

20

21 In my lifetime, the salmon had
22 declined. And I have checked with the people who are a
23 little older, the Native people, not the gussuks,
24 Native people that I've seen. And a lot of them, they
25 don't even remember that -- the time that it had
26 happened.

27

28 So when something happens, you know,
29 what we use -- what we should do is observe the
30 weather, water, universe, everything. Then we wouldn't
31 be surprised. The fish goes in cycles, not a few years
32 cycle, but in long cycles.

33

34 The second, the fish were increasing
35 and then, you know, some people they thought that, you
36 know, it's going to be -- the river is going to be full
37 of salmon. At the same time when they were popping up,
38 the older people, they're all gone, and I hope I'm not
39 gone tomorrow. Maybe I will tonight. Have told me
40 that the fish are going up to the peak, they're going
41 to decline. And then they told me the signs how they
42 know. By the snowfall, which I did not learn. And I
43 remember the time when the fish decline, and then went
44 back up. Today and I'm expecting to -- fish to
45 increase again sometime later.

46

47 But thinking about the big fishing
48 boats down in the Bering Sea and Pacific Sea, I don't
49 know what's going to happen, because the cycle might be
50 hurt by those big fishermens down there.

1 So this is all I have to say for now.
2 I don't want to waste your time, but I hope somebody
3 understand what I'm trying to explain. I see all of
4 your are Yup'ik except one Indian.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. ALEXIE: (In Yup'ik)
9
10 INTERPRETER: You guys understand?
11
12 MR. ALEXIE: You understand what I'm
13 trying to explain?
14
15 (In Yup'ik)
16
17 INTERPRETER: A lot of times even
18 though they walked in the same area where all the fish
19 has declined, for a person that, James Tuckian (ph),
20 the one that fishes.....
21
22 MR. ALEXIE: The old man Tuckian. And
23 he was a healthy, wealthy Eskimo guy. His wife have
24 told the other people, this morning my husband brought
25 home hills of silvers, a washtub. And that's the most
26 that he caught on silvers at that time.
27
28 So I hope our fish rebuild again in the
29 future. Even though they will increase again, but the
30 big fishermens down there might not help us to rebuild
31 our fish in our rivers.
32
33 Okey-doke. Well, thank you for letting
34 me bring out my gossip to you guys.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MR. ALEXIE: Well, think about it.
39 Quyana
40
41 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana,
42 Nels. And let me assure you at least from this Indian
43 that listening to what you have to say would never be
44 waste of time.
45
46 With that we can move on then into --
47 getting into the old business with the summary of the
48 State Board of Game actions. And do we have anybody
49 here to address that.
50

1 I think, James, you wanted to speak to
2 that one.

3
4 MR. CHARLES: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
7 you have the floor.

8
9 MR. CHARLES: Like I started this
10 morning, I went to Kotzebue for Game Board meeting in
11 January. And I will let you guys know about actions
12 they did for this area only, Game Management Unit 18.
13 And they worked on a lot of other areas. And at that
14 time this how the Board of Game voted at Kotzebue
15 meeting in January.

16
17 Number 1, modify Lower Yukon area for
18 moose hunting in 18. No action.

19
20 They deferred some items to State Board
21 meeting that's coming up next week. So when they had
22 no action that time, they may vote on those items when
23 they're back in session next week in Anchorage.

24
25 So, number 2, modify the Lower Yukon
26 area for moose hunting in 18, extend the resident
27 season and liberalize the bag limit. No action.

28
29 Number 3, modify the season and bag
30 limit for moose in the Game Management Unit 18,
31 remainder and Lower Yukon area. They supported that
32 proposal. And that will become in the regulations.

33
34 And, number 4, re-authorize the
35 antlerless moose season in Unit 18. No action.

36
37 Number 5, open a subsistence musk ox
38 hunt in 18 and 19. No action.

39
40 Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island
41 musk ox registration permit issued for the winter
42 season, and retain requirement that permits are issued
43 on a first come, first basis. That was supported by
44 the Game Board.

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair, what
47 did he say no support on?

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Number 6, that was remove
50 the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration

1 permit issued for the winter season. That's the one
2 that they voted on and passed at their Kotzebue
3 meeting.

4

5 Number 7, shift wolverine hunting
6 season dates in Unit 18. That failed. They wanted to
7 move the wolverine season longer, or somebody proposed
8 that, but that failed. And there it's still the same
9 as before.

10

11 And lengthen the lynx ox -- excuse me.
12 Number 8, lengthen the lynx hunting season in Unit 18.
13 That failed again.

14

15 Number 9, extend lynx hunting season,
16 18. Oh, that's extend, yeah. That failed again. So
17 that's the same thing, lengthen and extend. They both
18 failed.

19

20 Number 10, modify the Game Management
21 Unit boundary for 18, 19, and 21. That's this proposal
22 from Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory
23 Committee. That was moved to statewide meeting in
24 March, next week. That's next week. They vote on that
25 one then, so they moved it.

26

27 And number 11, prohibit the use of .22
28 caliber for taking big game animals, excluding wolves
29 and wolverines. That one there failed. They want to
30 keep the same caliber, same size gun they carry for big
31 game. Sometimes people use -- that's all they have, so
32 that one there failed. Even they carry .22 for big
33 game, they have nothing else, so that one didn't pass.

34

35 And number 12, change the salvage
36 requirement for wildlife in 18. Move to statewide.
37 That's that proposal, if you'll remember, proposal for
38 wildlife that was taken to the dump and not (In Yup'ik)
39 or whatever that, to leave some meat on the bones.
40 They don't want that, and that one there was moved to
41 statewide meeting next week.

42

43 That's all the actions they did for
44 this area at that time. But there was other game areas
45 they were talking about, like Nome, Barrow, Kotzebue at
46 that time.

47

48 And these are pretty much like lower
49 Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted. But this last
50 one, this Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee met here

1 in Bethel in November, and one of the actions at that
2 time was the Game Management Unit 18, 19, 21E
3 boundaries. That at that time the group from the Lower
4 Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted or --
5 you will see it on this one. They voted the opposite
6 way the proposal was made. The proposal was to make
7 the line on 18 side for the downriver. They wanted the
8 line to be changed upriver. So that's how our group
9 voted.

10

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And I guess I'd just add a little bit
that people might be wondering, to the proposal that
you mentioned for the for Yukon side moose hunt, there
was four proposals in to make changes to that hunt, and
the proposal that the Board did pass, they kind of did
a consolidation of all of those, and what's come out
and what will be in place next year is that the
boundary that used to separate the lowest Yukon and the
remainder on up to Russian Mission and out, including
Chevak, Scammon, Hooper area, that boundary was gotten
rid of. That will all be managed as one unit now.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
James.

The season, instead of opening August
10th and closing September 30th, and then re-opening on
December 20 through February, that was changed, and
that was for one moose on the State, two moose on the
Federal side, that proposal -- or the regulation was
changed. That season will now open August 1 and go
continuously through the 15th of March and with a bag
limit of two moose, any moose, including cows in both
fall and winter. The only restriction within that is
from October 1 through the first of December, you may
not shoot a moose with antlers, and that was to prevent
commercial services from taking advantage of bulls in
the rut and being able to come out and essentially
conduct trophy hunts when as many people know the meat
is not too good to eat, and encouraging that. So
that's the changes that occurred on there for the Lower
Yukon hunt. Now it will be continuous all the way
through, two moose, any moose. That's the main ones.

And the one you mentioned on the
salvage requirements that they deferred, that was for
waterfowl and game birds. And currently the
regulations state that the salvage requirements for

1 birds is the breast meat only. And like James
2 mentioned, there was an incident not only here, but in
3 -- it was also noticed in other regions within the AYK
4 area, that birds were being harvested, in this case it
5 was several swans. I think it was like a dozen swans,
6 people just took the breast meat and threw the rest of
7 the birds away.

8
9 And the Board was very supportive of
10 that concept, but they said something like this should
11 not apply only in one region. They wanted to take it
12 up on a statewide level so it could apply statewide.
13 It would require salvage of all edible meat to include
14 the wings and the legs and the rest of the bird where
15 you have a lot of meat, and it's pretty good (In
16 Yup'ik).

17
18 So those are the -- I just wanted to
19 add to that.

20
21 And if there's any questions. James.

22
23 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I forgot to mention the dates of Game Board meeting in
25 Anchorage are going to start on March 13, that's next
26 week. So anybody can go testify at the Anchorage
27 meeting, and it's going to be at that big building,
28 what do the call that? Dena'ina Building. Next week
29 meeting's going to be in there. So anybody's invited
30 to testify.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay.
35 Moving on then to item (a) regarding the 18, 19, and 21
36 boundary, which was Proposal 10 before the Board, that
37 they deferred at that time. If there's any Staff here
38 to address this proposal.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 I thought I saw the State biologist
43 here earlier. He evidently is not here now.

44
45 So I'll make a run at it since I was
46 actually asked in my capacity as a representative to
47 bring this issue forward to the Council.

48
49 And what you have here in front of you
50 is -- this is what the current boundary is, for people

1 that know, between GMU 18, 19 and 21E. It generally
2 follows below Whitefish Lake on the south side of
3 Kuskokwim, and it's the drainage into Whitefish Lake,
4 up to Kalskag, and then it's a straight line across to
5 Paimiut.

6
7 And one of our Council members, who is
8 not here at this time, has been putting in proposals
9 for several years now to get that boundary changed.

10
11 In this last round of the State's Staff
12 review of this proposal, they actually took -- what's
13 in the codified is a description of what the boundary
14 would be and found that what's been on the maps for the
15 last 40 to 50 years in the State regulatory books is
16 incorrect. And so the second map that you have shows
17 where that boundary would actually be. And it's a
18 very, very major difference. It included all of the
19 Old River across from Kalskag up to where -- right
20 above Discovery Creek, and adds I believe several
21 thousand -- a couple thousand square miles to GMU 18.

22
23 The Board in deferring this proposal
24 has sent it back to the advisory committees again for
25 one more look at it. And that meeting is actually
26 scheduled to occur this Friday.

27
28 The third page of this map, and these
29 maps are all from the State Fish and Game -- or
30 Division of Wildlife's presentation at the Kotzebue
31 meeting. That is Proposal 10 that was put forward by
32 the resident of Kalskag, who's main issue with a lot of
33 this has been that they didn't like Kalskag, the
34 boundary line running right through the middle of the
35 village, and felt that they did belong in Unit 19, and
36 not Unit 18 as they were categorized as.

37
38 So Proposal 10 is what has been put in
39 for several years, and the Board has not taken any
40 action on it, because the advisory committees could not
41 agree to any kind of a compromise.

42
43 And as a result of that meeting,
44 however, they did direct the advisory committees, and
45 this information coming forward showing the thousand --
46 you know, like I said, one to 2,000 square miles being
47 added to Unit 18, to send it back to the advisory
48 committees one more time to try to come to some
49 agreement and compromise on it. And if they do not
50 come to an agreement they stated they will have no

1 choice but to go with what's written in the actual
2 codified regulation, meaning what's down in law of what
3 it's been intended to be for all this time.

4

5 And the fourth page there is what the
6 Lower Kuskokwim came up as a proposed amendment,
7 keeping the line north of the Kuskokwim as a straight
8 line between Paimiut and Kalskag, but then going down
9 to where Old River comes in, and those of you from
10 Kuskokwim will be able to recognize this, again up Old
11 River to where it hits that Egialich (ph) Creek, the
12 creek coming out of Whitefish, following that up to
13 Whitefish Lake, following the western boundary around
14 the egg of Whitefish Lake to Over Creek and then up to
15 the hills.

16

17 And the fifth page is -- gives you a
18 general view of what all those boundaries look like.

19

20 There has since that time been I
21 believe two more if not -- no, three more proposed
22 amendments to this boundary. I was not at the Interior
23 Region's meeting for the Board of Game, but I have been
24 told that the Board at that time generated another
25 proposal that accepted the Lower Kuskokwim's amendments
26 south of the Kuskokwim using Whitefish Creek and the
27 Central Kuskokwim's proposed boundary line that follows
28 the Old Portage Trail.

29

30 Oops, I'm sorry, there was three
31 different proposals. The sixth page is what a Board
32 member generated from Kotzebue, actually saying that
33 Unit 18 and 19 should be separated by the crest of the
34 ridge, the high ground over to the 21E boundary, and
35 that actually includes even more of what is now Unit
36 19A all the way up to Aniak Slough to Unit 18, which
37 anybody familiar with the countryside of the Kuskokwim
38 knows that that's pretty unrealistic.

39

40 So to the last page you have in here
41 and that I was requested to bring forward to look at
42 possible support by this Council is a change that
43 incorporates several of these options that have been
44 put in front of -- or that are under consideration that
45 takes the Lower Kuskokwim's proposal on the south side
46 of Kuskokwim starting at Mud Creek, up the Old River,
47 then following the Egialich or the Whitefish Creek up
48 to where it enters Whitefish Lake. But then instead of
49 following the boundary around it on the west side of
50 the river, just go directly across to Ophir Creek.

1 That actually should be kind of a housekeeping, but
2 having it along the boundary of the lake puts someone
3 in a position that if they park their boat on the west
4 side of Whitefish Lake, and there's a moose on the
5 bank, they're shooting that moose from 19A and shooting
6 a moose that's standing in Unit 18. So that one there
7 should just be essentially a housekeeping that they
8 need to get straightened out.

9
10 The other side, however, on the north
11 side of the Kuskokwim, and the reason I was asked to
12 bring it forward to the Council is because there is a
13 major subsistence issue with that boundary line, using
14 the Old Portage Trail and the description that's in
15 place there. That excludes the upper reaches of the
16 Johnson River that the tundra villages use quite
17 regularly for hunting in the fall. And so those upper
18 lakes, the headwaters of the Johnson River would become
19 excluded and become part of 19A. A portion of them
20 already are under the old boundary line, with a
21 straight line, but this one cuts it out even further.
22 So the tundra, yeah, Nunak, Kasigluk, Atmaltuk, and
23 anyone -- Tunt and Napakiak, Napaskiak, others that go
24 up the Johnson River and are able to hunt there in the
25 fall under the remainder of GMU 18 would not be able to
26 do that on the headwaters any more. It would fall
27 under the Tier II hunt that's in place on both State
28 and Federal regulations in 19A.

29
30 So that's the main reason that I was
31 asked to bring this forward to you. And that boundary
32 then would follow the Central Kuskokwim's proposal as
33 far as starting on the -- across from Old River and
34 over to the mount of Mud Creek on the north of the
35 Kuskokwim, following Mud Creek up to its headwaters,
36 and then going to the crest of the Portage Mountains on
37 across to its high point on the north side of the
38 Portage Mountains, and then directly across to Paimiut,
39 which would make the boundary on the Yukon side
40 essentially the -- right at the top of Twelve Mile
41 Slough rather than cutting in between and across, being
42 a squiggly line across the tundra and through the
43 middle of lakes where there really is no boundary
44 that's discernable on the ground, at least not in the
45 fall.

46
47 So that's what I was asked to put
48 before you, that last -- the last page of this packet.
49 And I cannot make motions or anything of that nature,
50 so it's up to rest of the Council members here if they

1 want to follow p on it, and bring it -- if you choose
2 to do so, we can bring it to the meeting on Friday and
3 to the Board at their meeting next week.

4
5 James.

6
7 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I move to
8 adopt this for discussion purposes only. Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: A motion.
11 Do we have a second. Going once.

12
13 MR. ONEY: I'll second.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Second by
16 Ray. It was for discussion purposes.

17
18 Go ahead, James.

19
20 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21
22
23 I see this boundary on the last
24 proposal here, I see the boundary change from Yukon
25 side. Too much area there, and we need to talk to the
26 people, that they may not accept, or the 21E people
27 might not accept this proposal, because there's a lot
28 of change there.

29
30 We on the Kuskokwim side, 18 and 19 --
31 18 people from Akiak, Chuathbaluk, Tuluksak, up there,
32 hunt in that area a lot, up below Kalskag. They call
33 it (In Yup'ik), that area, and that's going to be -- I
34 don't like to see people fighting for the boundaries,
35 but that (indiscernible - noise on teleconference).

36
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: To whoever's
38 on line, please mute your phone. We're getting a lot
39 of interference with papers or something, somebody's
40 running them against their microphone. Please mute
41 your phone, star-six, and if you need to request --
42 need to talk, then you press star-six again. But star-
43 six to mute your phone, please.

44
45 Sorry, James. Go ahead.

46
47 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Why I mentioned that is because I talk to people from
49 Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiachak and they hunt in that area a
50 lot, up at the boundary line, close to the boundary

1 line. Close to Kalskag. Anyway, why they told me that
2 -- about that area is because 19A people always have no
3 trespass signs where people hunt, and that's one of the
4 reasons why I don't like the area changed to too far
5 down. They don't want to see no trespass signs on the
6 18 like where we are now. We're on 18.

7

8 And on this codified map, it's almost
9 like Federal map. We're on Federal land. That's why I
10 mentioned it. I looked at this Federal map. This line
11 goes up to Aniak River. And that's why I like the
12 codified map.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anybody want
17 to add anything more. Henry.

18

19 Those maps should be -- you put them
20 back there for more people to look at?

21

22 Oh, yes, we do allow that. Go ahead,
23 Henry Lupie. State your name for the record when you
24 turn on the mic. Turn on the microphone.

25

26 MR. LUPIE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Henry Lupie from Tuntutuliak.

28

29 The Federal Subsistence Board's
30 personnel do send us letters, some information, but I
31 think, quote, that's consultation. And, for example,
32 down in Tuntutuliak, we just get limited information
33 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

34

35 And on this area, Unit 18, 19 and 21,
36 before March 13 I would like the (In Yup'ik) Advisory
37 Council? Advisory Council to be aware that there's
38 geological difference, and also what James Charles
39 mentioned, people from Unit 18 do have hunting areas.

40

41 And as I was listening to the report, I
42 was wondering who made the proposals? Is it the Game
43 Board, who does not know or had not been in the area
44 made the proposal. And for the same reason I'm
45 suggesting that the Council who's sitting here, when
46 they go to Anchorage to point out exactly what James
47 mentioned.

48

49 And for the consultation, I want
50 strongly recommend that U.S. Fish and Wildlife or other

1 departments get the contact persons from each outlying
2 village so they can get the -- present information.
3 The reason that I'm pointing that out is a lot of this
4 information should be going out to the tribal
5 government, but because of the change in personnel, I
6 think AVCP assigns emails to the tribal administrator.
7 And like for Tuntutuliak, Anukamiut (ph) Corporation,
8 the email doesn't change even with the change of
9 personnel. And I want the Council and the Board to be
10 aware that there are a lot of contacts -- way of
11 contacting the person in each village, and they change.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Uh-huh.

16 Yes. And to answer your one question, the proposal was
17 sponsored by the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee.
18 It has been put in for several cycles now, at least
19 four or five, which equals to 10 to 12 years, by Mr.
20 Aloysius who resides in Kalskag. And the last two
21 times it has been sponsored by the Central Kuskokwim
22 Advisory Committee.

23

24

The Advisory Committees that are
25 affected by this proposal are scheduled to meet this
26 Friday. It includes the Lower Kuskokwim, the Central
27 Kuskokwim, the Lower Yukon, the GASH committees,
28 Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross, McGrath, and I
29 believe the Central Bering Sea as well. It was a total
30 of eight. Oh, yeah, the Bethel Advisory Committee,
31 which was just approved at the Joint Boards last
32 October, also is part of that. But anyway there will
33 be eight advisory committees meeting to discuss this
34 boundary this Friday to come up with a hoped for
35 consensus to go to the Board with at their meeting next
36 week.

37

38

I was informed that the GASH, although
39 they have not seen it as a committee, have stated that
40 they would prefer, rather than a line across the middle
41 of the tundra, something that's more easy to identify
42 on the ground, such as that mountain to the top of this
43 slough and this river, and that's something that people
44 can identify rather than have to rely on GPS
45 coordinates or something of that nature to be able to
46 figure out where 18 and 19 or 18 and 21 boundary may
47 be.

48

49

Any other comments on this one. Do you
50 want to move forward.

1 Alex. Mr. Nick, go ahead.

2

3 Oh, let me -- before I get off of that
4 point, one other thing I wanted to be sure, from
5 Henry's comments there, too, so people have a clear
6 picture in their mind about this. This is a State
7 regulation. The Federal government does not set
8 boundaries; however, this Council is recognized by the
9 State Board as another advisory committee that gets the
10 same consideration as the other State-sponsored
11 advisory committees within their system, to be able to
12 present their views. So just to make that clear. And,
13 again, because of the subsistence aspects that are
14 included in this one, and that recognition, that's why
15 it's before you. If there wasn't a subsistence
16 consideration here, then it wouldn't be appropriate for
17 this Council to take it up. And the State does not
18 recognize tribes.

19

20 Go ahead, Alex.

21

22 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
24 Alex Nick. I'm the Council coordinator for this
25 Regional Advisory Council.

26

27 I want to speak to what Lower Kalskag
28 with my help, and Paula Hartzel I believe, who left the
29 Refuge, did last year, and I mentioned this before in
30 one of your -- I believe it was in your fall meeting or
31 winter meeting. The Lower Kalskag tribe along with the
32 local elders worked with me and Paula to request a name
33 change in one of the drainages. What's identified in
34 the current regulation and current old maps as Crooked
35 Creek leading up to the lake. I don't how to pronounce
36 that, but I believe it's Arolmaksluk (ph) Lake, they
37 call it locally Pike Lake, behind Kalskag.

38

39 The real Crooked Creek, which is in
40 Yup'ik (In Yup'ik), leads from below that area up
41 toward Yukon. And it goes out into one of the smaller
42 lakes. The proposal to change the name, two names,
43 which is identified as Johnson River leading up toward
44 Yukon, is going to be changed to Crooked Creek. That's
45 what they call locally and also in Yukon, Russian
46 Mission. The one that goes up to the lake is part of
47 Johnson River.

48

49 And I wanted to mention this to you for
50 future references, because if there is going to be a

1 boundary change by the State of Alaska, it will affect
2 customary and traditional use determination for Lower
3 Kalskag on Federal regulations.

4

5 And for future reference purposes, I
6 just wanted to mention to you that it was my
7 understanding from Paula before she left that the
8 request was approved by the agency that deals with
9 changes on the maps.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
14 Ales. The request has gone into the geological place
15 names commission, whatever it is making those changes.

16

17 Okay. Just to go back to this proposal,
18 the Board is very, very tired of addressing this issue
19 after 10 to 12 years, and what they have done in the
20 past, and would probably have done this time again, is
21 saying until you guys can agree on a boundary change,
22 we're not going to do anything. But with that change
23 that was found, that error in the map versus what the
24 legal description of where that boundary is now says a
25 change is going to occur one way or the other. So the
26 Board is making one last run at it, and they're going
27 to come up with something. And if they do nothing, it
28 will change to include all of Discovery Creek and all
29 of Old River and all of Whitefish Lake into GMU 18. If
30 they do nothing. And I don't think that's going to be
31 very well supported by a majority of the advisory
32 committees either.

33

34 But anyway there is a change coming one
35 way or the other. So if we want to weigh in on it as a
36 council, we need to take some action here. If we
37 don't, if there's not a desire to do that, then let's
38 put it to rest and move on.

39

40 And we do have a motion to support the
41 proposed amendment. And seconded. Do we have any
42 further discussion.

43

44 MR. BILL: Do we have a motion?

45

46 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes, there
47 was a motion to support the proposed YK RAC amendment,
48 the last page of the packet that was handed out to you.

49

50 MR. BILL: Was there a second?

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: There was a
2 second, yes. If we don't have any further comments,
3 input, discussion on it, we'd be ready to move forward
4 with the question.
5
6 MR. BILL: There's some discussion, the
7 people that.....
8
9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Your mic, on
10 record, please.
11
12 MR. BILL: I guess the discussion might
13 be with the people that uses the area. They know more
14 than us. Those are the people that can make the right
15 kind of request -- discussion. I don't use this area
16 here, got all the way up to Kashunuk and the Yukon. So
17 it's up to you guys, the people that are using, they
18 should be the ones that discuss this thing, discuss it.
19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, the
21 boundary does affect both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim.
22 The proposed amendment that's in front. And I guess
23 I'd just.....
24
25 MR. BILL: Well, If I have to
26 discuss.....
27
28 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I can
29 understand why you'd want to defer.
30
31 MR. BILL: If I have to discuss, I have
32 to support the two motion makers. I would be in
33 support of it.
34
35 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Other
36 discussion. Comments from the Yukon representatives.
37
38 James.
39
40 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 For your information, I chaired the Lower Kuskokwim
42 Fish and Game Advisory Committee, but I come from other
43 side of this boundary, so it don't bother me a bit, but
44 I want to help the people from the northern part of the
45 Game Management Unit 18, the people from Tuluksak,
46 Akiak, Akiachak, so I'm for those people, so it don't
47 bother me, because I come from Lower Kusko, way down at
48 the mouth of Kuskokwim. So that's for your
49 information.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
4 James.

5

6 I'll take Fritz. Go ahead. State your
7 name for the record when you turn the mic on, please.

8

9 MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 INTERPRETER: Fritz George from
12 Akiachak.

13

14 I reach that area, because I like to
15 look at -- but I never went to Makasuk (ph), on that
16 river, I never went to Makasuk. Makasuk is not being
17 used. There's no railroad. There's few woods.
18 There's a little foundation of where planes used to
19 stay there. I think Myluk (ph), he told me that they
20 never used it. There's three dams in that river, and
21 before they reach that area, they go back. But with
22 those that went through the Kwethluk River probably
23 reached that area. Myluk told me that they can reach
24 it through Kwethluk River through the lake and then get
25 to Yukon during fall time.

26

27 The upriver people, the proposal, I'd
28 like to -- would like to ask for you not to support it,
29 because -- leave it the way it is. I'd like to have it
30 the way it is. And that's what my request is.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any other
35 further discussion on it. Pat.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

38 Pat Sampson.

39

40 (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Pat Sampson, and I'm here accordingly.

44

45 My half is from Nunap, and many times
46 we went up Kwethluk River to hunt moose from that area
47 through that River. At this time, that area, we went
48 to the lake, especially the young people. The rivers
49 in that area, they don't usually hunt on the river, but
50 the young guys, when they go hunting, the ones hat want

1 to catch, they go further, and they go through the
2 dams. And if that is closed -- I cannot support, not
3 to support what is being presented. I like to have it
4 the way it is in the past. And usually people from the
5 tundra go routes that Unit maintain. And falltime I
6 mostly go hunt with those people through that area.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
11 Mr. Brown, go ahead.

12

13 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

14

15 INTERPRETER: William Charlie Brown.
16 Quyana, Mr. Chair. I'm going to present this in Yup'ik
17 because we've got translators.

18

19 The boundary lines, when it first
20 mentioned, when we had a meeting in my community, the
21 place that we hunt and gather, the Oohohuk (ph) area,
22 just below Kalskag, a lot of people didn't accept --
23 they didn't want to lose that hunting area, because
24 it's part of their hunting ground. That Myluk had
25 supported and the person that talked last made a
26 comment, because my village people don't want to have
27 that boundary fixed.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
32 Charles. I guess what I'm hearing what I'm hearing is
33 essentially support for the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory
34 Committee's proposed amendment, which would leave the
35 boundary the same north of the Kuskokwim, but south of
36 the Kuskokwim to change it to that Old River and then
37 up Egialich (ph) to the Whitefish Lake. So if that was
38 the case -- again I haven't heard from the Yukon guys
39 yet on what they want on their side, but anyway.

40

41 Ray.

42

43 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman. Ray Oney for the record.

45

46 I believe we did take this up in the
47 December. Maybe John can correct me if I'm wrong. I
48 don't have how we voted on the changes to this
49 proposal, but we did take it up in December I believe.
50 Maybe John can correct me on that on how we voted on

1 it.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: John Riley.

4

5 MR. RILEY: John Riley, Sr. Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman and Ray.

7

8 When we have Lower Yukon Advisory Board
9 member, I've been on that Board, member since it
10 started. I can't remember what year. When I first got
11 in, you know, many years ago, I haven't -- I never went
12 to school, because my old man went to TB hospital,
13 Tacoma, Washington, middle of winter when I was eight
14 years old. I took over the family dog team and
15 everything. That's why I used to be afraid to be speak
16 in public. Now I don't. I learned a lot from Eddie
17 Hoffman.

18

19 When we had these boundary lines, or
20 when we are board member, we had board members from all
21 the way from Holy Cross, Russian Mission, all the way
22 Yukon, every village has Board member appointed by the
23 council, tribal council members, all the way to the
24 coast. Now we're split. From Russian Mission down to
25 Mountain Village, and the rest is the coastline. That
26 way we saved the money, we saved the State money. I
27 don't know for what we're saving it for. That way
28 we'll have two voices. We have upriver, the board, and
29 coastal board.

30

31 When have a proposal in front of us,
32 when it's Kuskokwim proposal, if it affects Kuskokwim,
33 the first thing I'd say is, table it. No action. Or
34 no -- table it. I believe that's what we did. We
35 tabled it.

36

37 You know, this boundary line up Yukon,
38 we had boundary line. When they speak of downriver, it
39 used to be from Mountain Village on down, Federal land
40 opens, moose hunting. Last two years ago, Sundown from
41 Bureau of Trooper Wildlife came over to our village,
42 Pitka's Point, explained, because there was a lot of --
43 when they opened Federal land, when we go out, we don't
44 know where the Federal land is. There is no markers,
45 there's no signs. And some of us would be afraid to
46 kill a moose. It's either Federal or State land. So
47 they moved that boundary line from Mountain Village up
48 two years ago when Sundown come over, had public
49 meeting, to Kashunuk across Pilot Station. That river
50 goes out to Barrow Indian. They used that for a

1 boundary line. That was two years ago.

2

3 Now the whole -- I believe right now
4 the whole river's open now, Yukon, all the way up to
5 where the line is, because it's -- I can believe them
6 when they say there's a lot of moose. And I think I
7 believe.....

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Ray.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Before you
12 go, John, I'd just -- in the Lower Yukon's discussion,
13 did you take up Proposal 10? Because that boundary
14 line for the Lower Yukon below Mountain was not part of
15 this proposal. This is one that would be between 18
16 and 21E, a straight line between Kalskag and Paimiut?
17 It runs across Dahtlashok (ph) there, around by the
18 portage, and then about halfway through Twelve Mile in
19 to Paimiut.

20

21 MR. RILEY: You know, since -- I can't
22 think going back at the meeting, you know, what
23 happened. But the only thing is, like I stated
24 earlier, our board, when it's out of our districts and
25 it's not affecting us, we usually table, because
26 Kuskokwim has its own board. They have a lot of -- a
27 working group and all kinds of board members. So do we
28 up the Yukon. We try not to interfere with their --
29 you know what I mean. We -- especially me, I usually,
30 because of living here in Kuskokwim, I usually -- I
31 probably won't answer your question, because we usually
32 table them, because Kuskokwim got their own board
33 members of all sorts. Working group and all that.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. And I
38 entirely understand that, deferring to the other area,
39 but there was a part of this proposal that directly
40 affected the Yukon side. If you guys didn't take it
41 up, I mean, I'm not trying to put you on the spot or
42 nothing. That's okay.

43

44 MR. RILEY: Yeah. Well, we didn't take
45 it up because we were comfortable when they moved the
46 line all the up the Pasunuk (ph), then they moved it up
47 again. We're comfortable with that. But the way I see
48 it, you keep coming up with upriver people, Kuskokwim
49 people are having problem with that line, that's their
50 problem.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
6 Harry.

7

8 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I think it's
9 still somewhere around mouth of Kashunuk to
10 Chuathbaluk, and from Chuathbaluk to Mountain Village.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It will not
13 be come the 1st of July. That language goes away, and
14 the Board's action in Kotzebue that eliminated that
15 line and made it the Yukon side all one now, because
16 there's actually more moose found above Mountain
17 Village to Russian than there are below. And that line
18 was put in place when there was lots of moose below,
19 and they were trying to direct a harvest down there.

20

21 And I believe that the Federal
22 Subsistence Board may address it to some degree at
23 their meeting in April as well.

24

25 Mr. Peltola.

26

27 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Gene Peltola,
28 OSM.

29

30 I received two phone calls in the last
31 about two weeks from Holy Cross concerning this
32 particular proposal. The most contentious part did not
33 seem to be the southern boundary between 19A and 18, at
34 least from the two people I talked to. Their concern
35 was the 21E/18 boundary where they felt as a local user
36 that it's easier for them as is, because they could
37 line their snowmachine up with the hill behind Paimiut,
38 the hill behind Kalskag, and if you're facing north, if
39 it was on the right side, it was in 21E, on the left
40 side of you shoulder there's 18. And that's the two
41 opinions that were expressed to me. I thought I might
42 just share, because it did not make it in the book or
43 anything else.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Again that
46 is pretty much consistent it sounds like with what the
47 Lower Kuskokwim's recommendation or proposed amendment
48 was.

49

50 Well, I guess not to run this down any

1 more and beat it up any further than it was, are you
2 ready for a vote.

3

4 MR. ONEY: Question.

5

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Question
7 called. I'm going to ask for a roll call on this one.
8 Mr. Nick.

9

10 As a clarification for the record, that
11 voting yes for this proposal was to support the
12 proposed amendment which calls for a changing of the
13 boundary up and around following the crest of the
14 Portage Hills over, and it would move the line farther
15 up to the headwaters -- from that high crest across to
16 Paimiut. It would include all of Twelve Mile South.
17 It would change and move Unit 18.

18

19 If you supported what the Lower
20 Kuskokwim's proposal, keeping the straight line between
21 Kalskag and Paimiut, you would vote not on this
22 proposal.

23

24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Could you read
25 the motion.

26

27 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The motion
28 was to support the proposed YK RAC amendment found on
29 the last page of the handout that was given regarding
30 Proposal 10 boundary change.

31

32 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Are
33 you ready to vote.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes.

36

37 MR. NICK: Mr. William Brown.

38

39 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 MR. NICK: Mr. William Brown is going
42 to vote last.

43

44 Mr. James Charles.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: No.

47

48 MR. NICK: Mr. -- excuse me. Mr.
49 Lester Wilde is excused. Mr. Manumik's excused.

50

1 Mr. Anthony Ulak.
2
3 MR. ULAK: No.
4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Harry Wilde.
6
7 MR. H. WILDE: No.
8
9 MR. NICK: Mary Gregory's absent.
10
11 Mr. Ray Oney.
12
13 MR. ONEY: Yes.
14
15 MR. NICK: Mr. Greg Roczicka.
16
17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes.
18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Robert Aloysius is
20 excused.
21
22 Mr. David Bill.
23
24 MR. BILL: No.
25
26 MR. NICK: Mr. William Brown.
27
28 MR. BROWN: No.
29
30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We have two yes
31 and five no.
32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So that
34 proposal fails.
35
36 And we'll move along here and I think
37 we want -- I had a request to step down for a few
38 minutes before we get into the next agenda item of the
39 2014 Yukon River fishing outlook. And along with that
40 we'll get review and possible action on potential
41 statewide of Federal fisheries proposals.
42
43 So we'll be on break here for -- take
44 10 and we'll get going.
45
46 (Off record)
47
48 (On record)
49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Back

1 on record. It's 3:12.

2

3 We're going to the Yukon fisheries,
4 please. Your name for the record, and carry on.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chairman and
7 Council. I am Gerald Maschmann. I work for the U.S.
8 Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. I'm the Yukon
9 River assistant Federal salmon manager. My supervisor
10 is Fred Bue, and he couldn't make it today as the
11 Eastern Interior RAC is also having a meeting this
12 week, and they overlap.

13

14 I know you guys like more Federal
15 paperwork, and we just gave you a big stack of more
16 papers, but for now I'm going to be running off this
17 one here that says Yukon River 2014. I'm going to be
18 reviewing the 2014 season.

19

20 As most everyone knows, the Chinook
21 salmon runs on the Yukon River have been low in recent
22 years, and managers have taken actions to try and meet
23 escapement goals, provide for subsistence users, and
24 provide, when available, for other uses such as
25 commercial fishing.

26

27 If you'd turn to Page 2 of that
28 handout, the top graph shows the.....

29

30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Pardon me,
31 which handout?

32

33 MR. ONEY: This one right here.

34

35 MR. MASCHMANN: The Yukon River 2014.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

38

39 MR. MASCHMANN: So if you turn to Page
40 2 of that handout, the top graph shows the Chinook
41 salmon commercial harvest. You can see that the
42 harvests have been reducing since 1998.

43

44 The middle graph shows the subsistence
45 harvest. And for the most part the subsistence
46 harvests have remained steady until about -- until 2012
47 and 2013 when more severe subsistence fishing
48 restrictions had to be implemented in order to
49 safeguard escapement needs. You can see that the
50 severe restrictions implemented on subsistence fishing

1 in 2013 resulted in a total harvest of approximately
2 12,500 Chinook salmon, which is roughly 75 percent
3 below the average subsistence harvest.

4
5 The bottom graph shows the Chinook
6 salmon estimated total run sizes. And as you can see,
7 they've been declining steadily since about 2006.

8
9 If you turn to Pages 3 and 4, these are
10 additional Yukon River escapement projects. And as you
11 can see, some of these projects have been declining,
12 whereas a few have remained steady.

13
14 If you turn to Page 5, the color age,
15 the top graph on Page 5 shows the salmon run timing and
16 abundance on the Yukon River in 2013. This graphs
17 shows the four salmon species and their abundance and
18 run timing as they pass the sonar near Pilot Station.
19 The red line shows summer chum salmon run timing and
20 abundance, and the blue line shows Chinook salmon run
21 timing and abundance.

22
23 It's been a major challenge for
24 managers to allow fishermen to harvest the abundant
25 summer chum while protecting the overlapping Chinook
26 salmon.

27
28 In contrast, to visualize upper river
29 District 5, you would see almost that the entire red
30 line representing the summer chum would be absent. So
31 up in District 5 on the Yukon, they don't get summer
32 chum. So there's really no option for them in District
33 5 to harvest summer chum as a replacement for the
34 reduced Chinook salmon subsistence use.

35
36 Not only is it a challenge to manage
37 the overlapping summer chum and Chinook salmon runs,
38 the bottom graph shows that we're also trying to manage
39 a mixed stock fishery with Chinook salmon going to many
40 different places on the river. For example, the Lower
41 Yukon, they pretty much have every stock available to
42 them as it enters the river. But as the Chinook go
43 upriver, they begin to veer off into the Koyukuk River,
44 and the Tanana River, and other tributaries. So folks
45 up in the Upper Yukon don't necessarily have access to
46 the entire run of Chinook. They only have access to
47 that portion that is traveling by their village.

48
49 And this all gets pretty complex. And
50 the one thing we've learned with our studies is that

1 the earlier portions of the run ten to migrate the
2 farthest upriver. So when we talk about first pulse
3 protection, those are the Chinook we're trying to
4 protect to get all the way up to the border.

5
6 If you turn to Page 6, Page 6
7 summarizes the 2013 season. And I won't go into the
8 2013 season too much since our focus now is really
9 headed into the 2014 season. However, it is important
10 to note that we went into 2013 anticipating coming in
11 on the low end of the preseason Chinook salmon run
12 projection. And we did not meet our border passage
13 objective into Canada, and we did not meet four of the
14 seven Chinook salmon escapement goals in 2013. And
15 this was with pretty severe subsistence salmon fishing
16 restrictions.

17
18 If you turn that over to the 2014
19 Chinook salmon run, the preliminary outlook for 2014
20 looks to be poor, similar to last year in 2012, and
21 we'll be looking to manage the run to achieve
22 escapement and allow harvest on summer chum while
23 minimizing Chinook salmon mortality. We will be asking
24 for fishermen's input at riverwide pre-season planning
25 meetings which are scheduled for April 8th, 9th, and
26 10th.

27
28 Some of the suggestions that the
29 managers are considering are perhaps managing the
30 coastal fisheries to conserve Chinook salmon, and then
31 trying to decide like there was some talk about earlier
32 on the Kuskokwim, like when to start the windows, we're
33 going to be looking at on the Yukon, too. Do we set a
34 date pre-season and say, this is when we want to start,
35 or do we want to wait for that ice-out and make a
36 decision based upon the ice-out, and be flexible with
37 it, making it an in-season decision based upon the ice-
38 out and if early Chinook are coming in, or if folks
39 want to harvest sheefish in that early portion of the
40 run.

41
42 There is somewhat of a silver lining.
43 Both summer and fall chum are projecting to be above
44 average runs, and managers are expecting to provide
45 both subsistence and commercial harvest opportunities
46 on these fish.

47
48 And at this time I'd like to ask the
49 Department of Fish and Game if they have anything
50 they'd like to add.

1 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair, members of the
2 Council. My name is Eric Newland with the Alaska
3 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the Yukon area summer
4 season manager for the State.

5
6 As far as making comments, I think
7 Gerald summed it up pretty well. Last year was tough.
8 This is a series of tough years for the Yukon. We're
9 doing new things. We're looking at new gear types for
10 commercial. We're doing significant reductions in
11 harvest. People on the river are complying with these
12 changes to the schedule. We asked people to reduce
13 their harvest by 75 percent. We pretty much did that.
14 We knocked it down. We got the harvest where we
15 thought we wanted it, and we were still short. You
16 know, we're still not making our goals. And it's not
17 by a lack of effort by people on the river.

18
19 So that being said, we really
20 appreciate everybody's effort. It's unfortunate that
21 we're still not making our goals, but making our goals
22 is the number 1 priority. And then the number 1
23 priority use is subsistence. And really what we're
24 trying to do is we're looking at ways to almost bring
25 that Chinook harvest to a minimum, almost to zero on
26 the Yukon.

27
28 Right now the run sizes are so low,
29 we're looking at things less than 100,000 for Chinook.
30 And that means that there's really nothing as far as
31 surplus for harvest. So pretty much most of those --
32 almost all those fish need to go to escapement if we're
33 going to make those goals.

34
35 So when we talk about subsistence and
36 providing opportunity, we're really trying to provide
37 opportunity for the abundant summer chum. And like
38 Gerald was getting at here, in the lower river summer
39 chum are available, and providing the opportunity to
40 the people in the lower river is extremely important.

41
42 When we get into the upper river,
43 summer chum aren't available, so we tend to think of
44 providing an opportunity and making sure that they're
45 going to get their fall chum opportunity.

46
47 And so those are kind of the issues
48 that we're dealing with. We're rally looking into
49 trying to minimize that Chinook harvest to zero, and
50 provide as much opportunity on the chum resource as

1 possible. You know, like I said, we've got 100,000 or
2 less Chinook salmon run, and last year we're talking 4
3 million plus summer chum, plus -- or 3.2 million summer
4 chum, and about a million fall chum. So four million
5 chum. So it's really how do we manage chum, and really
6 trying to work to reduce all that harvest in -- or any
7 harvest on the Chinook.

8

9 So I guess, that being said, I just
10 want to say thanks, everybody. I know it was a rough
11 year. We'll probably be looking at a lot of the same
12 kind of things, even tightening it down a little bit
13 more.

14

15 One of the things that Gerald mentioned
16 was that we will be looking at how we manage the
17 coastal fisheries. And I know we have some
18 representatives here, Mr. Ulak, and I know Lester who
19 chairs this meeting, at Hooper. We have been kind of
20 just doing six-inch restriction on the coast, and how
21 we look at moving forward into 2014, you might consider
22 doing some closures around those groups of fish.

23

24 And we -- Gerald did make mention that
25 we've been closing around the first pulse, and that's
26 been happening every year since I've -- about 2009,
27 '11, '12, and '13. But in 2013 we -- pretty much every
28 large group of fish, we were closing around. It was
29 really just in the shoulders, in between bigger groups
30 of fish we were trying to provide opportunity. And
31 like I said, mostly that's with gear, or at times when
32 we thought it was summer chum.

33

34 So it will be very similar. We're
35 going to be looking at doing a little bit more for
36 2014, and reduce the Chinook harvest so we can make
37 that goal. We really do want to make these goals,
38 especially when we're looking at such poor runs. It's
39 critical that we don't kind of shoot ourselves in the
40 foot here and dig into our bank account when we're
41 running low on funds.

42

43 I guess I'll just leave it at that.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
46 Questions on the presentation for the fishing outlook
47 to either State or Federal before we get into the Board
48 proposals, either State or Federal that are here.

49

50 MR. CHARLES: There's a hand over

1 there, Greg.

2

3 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Harry.

6

7 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. In Mountain
8 Village we're not allowed to keep the king salmon. We
9 have to let it go. Two years now I never -- we never
10 have any fresh king salmon, because we are allowed not
11 to keep them, but let it go. I don't know. That's
12 some long time, and we work with the people upriver. I
13 was working with the upriver people that one of this --
14 we don't take any more king salmon in the Yukon. And
15 we can't even keep them to our family no more any more.
16 I don't know. We don't even use it. I never have
17 fresh king salmon for two years. We release it and let
18 it go every time when we catch king salmon. I don't
19 know. We're just like worse than anything, try to fish
20 down there.

21

22 I have to talk with my grandson. He's
23 a fisherman. I give him my permit to him to go
24 fishing. I make sure that he wouldn't go into trouble
25 if he have a king salmon with him.

26

27 So we were start thinking there must be
28 way to taste something, specially that when you can't
29 even have no taste of king salmon for two years.

30

31 And all this time I used to have
32 working with U.S./Canada negotiation. With them. We
33 had many problems. And today people are asking, what
34 you go meeting for if you cannot help us any more. So
35 it's up to Fish and Game I suppose. We don't even --
36 just like fishing, commercial fishing. They go
37 commercial fishing. If you get for subsistence
38 fishing, you've got to take it out from your commercial
39 fishing in order to get chum salmon for fishing. It's
40 very -- people are worried, and wondering what you guys
41 doing in the meetings. You guys are not really helping
42 us any more. I don't know.

43

44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Would either
45 of you care to respond to that?

46

47 MR. NEWLAND: Harry, I appreciate your
48 comments, and I can let you know that they're not
49 falling on deaf ears. We hear a lot from people not
50 only in the lower river, but in the upper river that

1 they're not meeting their needs. They're not even
2 close. And it's not that we don't want people to meet
3 their needs; it's that we really want to see Chinook
4 salmon on the spawning grounds so we have them in the
5 future.

6

7 And I guess what I'm trying to get at
8 is that our run sizes are so low that even without any
9 harvest, if we didn't harvest any Chinook salmon, we
10 might not make some of our goals. That's kind of where
11 we're at.

12

13 Everybody's feeling it, and it's not
14 just in the lower river. People in the upper river as
15 well. The Canadians are looking at the Alaskans going,
16 where are the fish at. And we're trying our best. But
17 we're not dealing with a very strong run here. And
18 we're trying not to kick it while it's down.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: John Riley,
21 you had a question on the outlook presentation here.

22

23 And whilst you're making your way up
24 here to do that, I find this is a good time to mention
25 as well, we have two vacancies on this Council that
26 represent Yukon River interests

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. RILEY: Department of Fish and
31 Game. You know, last summer was the first time in
32 history that we weren't allowed to have king salmon. I
33 know earlier I stated I put my -- I lived in Kuskokwim
34 for 24 years, raised a family, move back to Yukon. And
35 also supported my family from the river.

36

37 My question is how much since the whole
38 Yukon wasn't allowed to harvest king salmon for our own
39 use, how much -- all these years we know they've been
40 declining. Since we weren't allowed, how much did that
41 number jump up? Any? You know what I mean, it passed
42 sonar, and upper guys weren't allowed. They did -- do
43 you have -- did that number jump up because we weren't
44 allowed to take any?

45

46 Because we are hurting. You know it.
47 But some place along the line, someone has to allow us
48 at least one, two, three fish. Kings I'm talking
49 about. We just can't be completely cut off, because
50 the trawlers out there throwing our fish away.

1 They're not making it up to the spawning ground. And a
2 lot of us here, every year after season, every year,
3 never fail, always someone about from Holy Cross on up
4 some place up there, always say at the meetings, I got
5 30 fish, I got 60 fish. Kings they're talking about.
6 70, 80, 90. And why aren't we allowed down here at
7 least five, six, seven kings, you know?

8

9 And on top of that, every year at AFN
10 in Anchorage, or Fairbanks, this year I didn't go,
11 there's always someone with coolers with hoodon (ph)
12 from upriver some place selling strips. Many years.
13 And we never do that. Our area.

14

15 Thank you. I'll let you give that.
16 Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
19 And the filing period is open through I believe March
20 24th.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. NEWLAND: Through the Chair. Mr.
25 Riley, I definitely understand your frustration, and we
26 want to see some kind of positive -- we want to see
27 returns out of these efforts we're making.

28

29 Like I was saying, when we're doing
30 these actions, we're not trying to do these actions to
31 necessarily make it miserable on people. We're trying
32 to make escapement goals. And the entire hope of
33 making those escapement goals is so that in the future
34 those fish are able to produce little young ones that
35 go out to the ocean and survive well. And right now
36 what we're seeing is we're seeing somewhere in the
37 neighborhood of one to one return per spawner. So that
38 means if we're only barely making our escapement, and
39 they're going out to the ocean and they're only really
40 replacing themselves, we're looking at this for a
41 while. What we really need to see is that ocean
42 production improve where we see more than one, a couple
43 fish, you know, that are returning per spawner.

44

45 The last year that we made some pretty
46 significant headway in making our escapement goals into
47 Canada, and in fact in 2009 was kind of our first year
48 in really kind of our first year in really kind of
49 actively managing the subsistence fishery. And we took
50 pretty -- I think it was the first year we did this

1 first pulse closure. And it was I think something like
2 10 days, somewhere around there, 8 days. Well, that
3 year I think we met the goal into Canada and went over
4 it by quite a bit, like 15,000 or something like that
5 at the time. And so this year is going to be the first
6 year we'll see kind of the first returns out of that
7 brood. So it will be our kind of first look at maybe
8 what we've been doing.

9
10 So it's a long process, and I
11 understand people are frustrated. But, like I said, I
12 think it's really the only thing we can do at this
13 point. We hope that things improve in the ocean. When
14 we started hearing people on the Kuskokwim saying the
15 same thing, you know -- in 2009 when we came to these
16 meetings, talking about reducing harvest on the Yukon,
17 I know people on the Kusko were saying, why are you
18 guys doing that, you know, take it easy on our brothers
19 over there. But now everybody's talking the same
20 story. Everybody understands the Chinook problem, and
21 more than likely it's an ocean problem, that we're
22 having some kind of production out there, and lots of
23 factors being played out. So hopefully we'll see some
24 better returns than what we've done in the past.

25
26 And 2009 like I said was the last year
27 that we had pretty good escapement.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: You wanted
30 to add to that? I didn't hear the second half of Mr.
31 Riley's question being addressed.

32
33 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah. Through the
34 Chair. The information we got from a lot of
35 subsistence fishermen was in the commercial fishery in
36 the lower river they were dipnetting, and they were
37 required to -- if they caught any Chinook, to throw
38 those back alive. They weren't allowed to keep them.
39 And that also applied to fishwheel commercial fishing
40 up in District 4A. They had to man the wheel and any
41 Chinook they caught in that commercial fishery they had
42 to throw back alive.

43
44 During the short subsistence periods,
45 where we allowed the chum gear to be fished, if a
46 fisherman caught a jack Chinook, or a small Chinook in
47 the chum gear, they were allowed to keep that.
48 Particularly in the lower river there were so many
49 chums people would basically chum up and they would be
50 done with chums, and so they would call themselves

1 done, and maybe they didn't get any Chinook or just a
2 few.

3

4 And, you know, hearing about other
5 people somewhere else, you know, it's fishing.
6 Sometimes you hear about that one person who just
7 happened to have the right spot at the right time, and
8 you know, they just happened to catch more Chinook,
9 but what we've heard through the winter meetings is
10 that most people did not meet their needs, and they --
11 we asked them to reduce by 75 percent, and it sounds
12 like most people did. And some people sat out the
13 season. I know it's tough when you hear one person who
14 did meet their needs, or they caught this many, but,
15 you know, that's fishing. Sometimes somebody gets more
16 than they should have taken, or they decided they were
17 going to get as many kings as they could get, and they
18 didn't care. But for the most part that's not -- I
19 don't think that's happening too much on the Yukon.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If there's a
22 provision for people to reduce by 75 percent, I would
23 think that should be applied equitably throughout the
24 river.

25

26 And the last point raised there,
27 however, I believe under Federal at least that
28 customary trade and barter was supposed to also only
29 occur between residents of -- Federally-recognized
30 users of the Yukon River drainage. It did pass the
31 Board. And what is being done in enforcement to
32 address that problem, which is a very substantial.....

33

34 MR. MASCHMANN: I can't answer that.
35 I'll have to take that back.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA:that
38 was a major issue at the Fish Board and remains one to
39 this day.

40

41 MR. MASCHMANN: Right. I know
42 that's.....

43

44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And I also
45 have seen those same individuals conducting those
46 activities.

47

48 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm going to have to
49 take that back and see what's going on with our law
50 enforcement on that, but, yeah, it's been an on-going

1 issue.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I've got a
4 note here. Are the people on teleconference still able
5 to hear us?

6

7 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford. We can
8 hear.

9

10 MR. SANDONE: Gene Sandone. I can hear
11 you.

12

13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
14 Yeah, we can hear you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. It
17 sounds like it's a good enough response to know that
18 we're still on line.

19

20 Any other questions on the Yukon River
21 management outlook presentation. This is Yukon.
22 Charlie.

23

24 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
25 have a question about Yukon. I haven't been there.
26 During the Kuskokwim we had a spawning ground like in
27 the Holitna. We learned that these people like you
28 guys are serving, those Chinooks, their spawning ground
29 is somewhere in the Holitna area.

30

31 And I have a question about Yukon. Do
32 you have spawning ground on your river? And the other
33 question that I have, do those beyond the border, are
34 those Canadians working tracking those species, like
35 you guys.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
38 Gerald.

39

40 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
41 Councilman Brown. Yes, if you look at the handout I
42 handed out, you'll see those are all Chinook salmon
43 escapement projects. And so we have a few, like the
44 East Fork Andreaafsky weir, that counts chum and Chinook
45 salmon. The Gisasa River and Henshaw River weirs, they
46 both count summer chum and Chinook. And the Chena
47 River tower and Salcha River tower are primarily
48 Chinook counting, but they also count summer chum.

49

50 One of the challenges with Chinook

1 salmon is there's a few main spawning grounds, but then
2 they disperse throughout the whole drainage, so there's
3 lots of small spawning grounds where there's 200 or 500
4 or maybe 1,000 Chinook salmon that are dispersed, and
5 it's almost impossible to monitor every stream. The
6 Department of Fish and Game does do aerial surveys by
7 airplane, and they'll be doing aerial surveys to check
8 those spawning grounds.

9

10 And about half the Yukon -- or we
11 believe about half the Yukon River Chinook do originate
12 in Canada. And so we work real closely with Canada
13 through the Yukon River Panel. And the Canadians have
14 several spawning ground monitoring projects, several
15 sonars, and a weir, and various counting projects in
16 Canada, including the Eagle sonar. So we have an Eagle
17 sonar at the border that counts Chinook salmon as they
18 travel up across the border.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Jackson, you
21 had something specific to the Yukon River outlook? The
22 Kuskokwim is coming up in about three or four agenda
23 items. This is the Yukon? Come up to the mic, please.

24

25 And for everybody who wants to ask lots
26 of questions again, I'm going to remind them that the
27 filing period for vacant seats on this Council is by
28 March 24th.

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Jackson Williams
31 from Akiak.

32

33 You know, probably you guys will know
34 this. It's a question, you know, one of the -- Mr.
35 Brown over there mentioned it, I mentioned it this
36 morning to him. Is it possible other than Fish and
37 Game, because from Kuskokwim, the sonar that is in the
38 Yukon is only one, is it? Only one? Two?

39

40 MR. NEWLAND: There's a couple, yeah.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Is it possible, and I
43 want you guys to listen on this, too, is it possible
44 some village, not the Fish and Game operate it, but
45 people, even one, two village have their own sonar to
46 really make sure that both sides agree? Because a lot
47 of things I've been hearing from the Yukon, it's not --
48 the way I've been hearing it, it's not really good what
49 I was hearing.

50

1 That's all I've got. Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Erik.

4

5 MR. NEWLAND: Through the Chair. Mr.
6 Williams. Sonar is a difficult thing to operate in the
7 lower river on the Yukon. It's a challenge. What we
8 face on the Lower Yukon is, as Gerald was explaining in
9 these charts, that in the Lower Yukon we have all
10 stocks going through there, so we have a large quantity
11 of summer chum, and a little sprinkling of Chinook
12 going through there, and, yeah, we're trying to manage
13 intensely on those sprinkling of Chinook.

14

15 And trying to figure out how many
16 Chinook are going by at that sonar project at Pilot
17 Station is a challenge. And we're making a lot of
18 decisions based on what's going by at Pilot Station.
19 It is also about the lowest point in the river where
20 all the mouths come together on the Yukon, so it's
21 strategically about the lowest in the river we can
22 operate. However, it is still quite silty there. It's
23 difficult in the sense that we have to test fish to
24 apportion our counts. It is the best piece of
25 information we have at the time, I mean. And we're
26 working with the best information we have at the time.

27

28 At the upper end of the river near
29 Eagle, we have the Eagle sonar project, which is a
30 little different. It's not quite so silty. They see a
31 lot better. The sonar works a lot better. They don't
32 have as many stocks going by. It's pretty much at the
33 time Chinook. So when they're seeing fish moving by
34 the sonar, it's pretty much just Chinook. So we feel a
35 little bit better about the project that's operated out
36 of there, and it's kind of more the final say. It's
37 kind of our final report card as it goes into Canada.

38

39 We're still looking at other things
40 when we're seeing it go by Pilot. We take everything
41 from Pilot with a little bit of a grain of salt,
42 knowing that high water early in the season is very
43 challenging on both test fishing and sonar. We've had
44 issues in the past that we know and we're aware of.
45 But like I said, it's pretty much the best piece of
46 information that we can work with. And we're always
47 looking at ways to improve it.

48

49 It does take some training and some
50 technical expertise. The people that we do have --

1 that kind of oversee those projects are quite talented,
2 and understand sonar, and have been working with it for
3 a long time. We do work with the local community of
4 Pilot and Eagle, and try to put people to work at those
5 sites. And I think it's always -- it's the only way
6 thing work. And at least on the Yukon, our projects
7 work much better when we have locals involved. So that
8 being said, I think it would be great to see something
9 like that happen on the Kusko as well.

10

11 MR. BILL: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
14 David. Microphone.

15

16 MR. BILL: The fishermen's association
17 has been trying to get liaisons to work the sonars
18 since the day of sonar counting mud (ph) outside of
19 Pilot Station. But the State doesn't want to give us
20 any money for the liaison to work. We've been trying
21 it for years, like I said, since the day of the sonar
22 counting mud (ph) outside of the pilot station. Every
23 year we ask the State to see if we could get some money
24 for the liaison to watch the sonars out there, but they
25 won't give us any money. That's the -- we've been
26 trying that, and it never worked.

27

28 I have another question, Mr. Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. BILL: I would like to ask when was
33 the last -- the day that Chinook salmon start declining
34 in the Yukon? I'm looking at it. I'm looking at it
35 but I want you to tell me.

36

37 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. Through Chair.
38 Mr. Bill. So about 1998 we see a precipitous drop in
39 the Chinook returns to the Yukon. And you can see that
40 there's the 80s through the late 90s average that's
41 somewhere in the neighborhood of 300,000 Chinook
42 salmon.

43

44 And like I was saying earlier, we're
45 looking at run sizes that are about a third of that,
46 you know. This last year, maybe even less than that.
47 80,000. 70,000. So it's a drastic drop.

48

49 And there's kind of a middle ground in
50 there, probably the 2000s, you know, the early 2000s

1 where, you know, we started looking at things like
2 reducing commercial. That was the first step. We
3 started reducing the commercial and started slimming
4 that back. And now we're looking at several years of
5 reductions to subsistence, and potentially almost to
6 zero subsistence. So it's been a scaled-down step.
7
8

9 We did think, you know, like in 2003,
10 you can see, we thought we might be seeing a come-back,
11 it was only going to be down a couple years. That's
12 not been the case. We're looking at something like 15
13 years now where it's been pretty poor.
14

15 MR. BILL: Follow up, Mr. Chairman.
16

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: One more
18 follow up and then we'll move on.
19

20 MR. BILL: Yeah. There were three of
21 us in early 1990s, we stopped the Russians from taking
22 Chinook salmon in U.S. waters. It was me, Harold
23 Sparks, and Joe McGill. Three of us stopped them. And
24 after that, starting 19 -- I mean, starting 2007 and 8,
25 7 and 8, we start having trouble with the bycatch on
26 Chinook salmon. It was the industry that we were going
27 after, not a CDQ.
28

29 We had a big meeting on 2009, but like
30 I said earlier this morning, we talked three languages
31 that time, and it didn't work. We filled out accord, a
32 bit of us, the Natives going over there, but AVCP was
33 there. The chiefs up there in the Yukon area, whatever
34 they call them. Tanana Chiefs. Myself. And people
35 from Norton Sound. We were talking four languages.
36 Talking 47,000, 40,000, 32,000 and 30,000. That's why
37 we lost. Industry talk with one language. Six to
38 eight.
39

40 And right after that, the Fish and
41 Wildlife started making regulations to close the Yukon
42 and Kuskokwim and Norton Sound. Why didn't they do it
43 out there in the ocean where the industry was throwing
44 all the fish. Instead they blamed the Native people
45 for taking too much subsistence. I know that; I was
46 there. I was there all during the time of the bycatch.
47 You know, whenever this comes in, I always wonder why
48 don't Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Coast Guard get
49 together and do something about the ocean, the bycatch
50 in the ocean, instead of doing it in the rivers. Or

1 work with the Native people. I think I'm doing --
2 we're going to -- if you guys could sit down and work
3 together. You know, the old saying is to work
4 together. If you work together, you can even move a
5 mountain. That's not kidding.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Next
10 we'll go into proposals. Before I do that, I just want
11 to mention, Mr. Sandone, I believe you're on line. We
12 had you on the agenda to address the proposals after.
13 I'll ask the Staff here to present the potential Board
14 actions that we may be looking at.

15

16 And also just for general awareness as
17 well, we do have someone who has to leave on a plane
18 tonight, so probably around 4:30, 5:00 o'clock,
19 somewhere in there, when we get to a break point, we'll
20 hear from the Partners Program briefing before we
21 adjourn this evening, so somewhere in that range.

22

23 Anyway, go ahead then with the next
24 section here on the proposals or Board actions pending
25 and then we'll hear from Mr. Sandone.

26

27 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. Members of
28 the Council. I propose the way we take this on is we
29 have Mr. Sandone introduce the two proposals that YRDFA
30 put forward. And that would be the one regarding the
31 dipnets in Districts 1, 2, and 3 of the Yukon, and the
32 purse seine proposal.

33

34 I did hand out the -- there's two
35 separate handouts Mr. Sandone had provided, and one was
36 the proposals. discussion of the proposals that he
37 wrote, as well as the second one I believe is a handout
38 that discusses the test fishery that was operated in
39 the Yukon that looked at using purse seines as a means
40 of targeting summer chum salmon and releasing king
41 salmon.

42

43 So what that means, that I'll hand over
44 to Mr. Sandone, and then maybe Mr. Pappas could follow
45 up with his comments to those proposals. And if
46 there's any further clarifications needed after that,
47 we can make comments. And then we'll follow with the
48 two other proposals. Okay?

49

50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That sounds

1 good. Do we need to set up the phone for the
2 teleconference, to be on the mic?

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think Gene's on
5 line.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I was
8 thinking about the audience being able to, or the
9 recorder to be able to catch that as well.

10

11 Gene, if you're on line, go ahead.

12

13 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chairman, are you
14 speaking to me? this is Gene Sandone.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes. Did
17 you hear Mr. Newland's request?

18

19 MR. SANDONE: Right.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We were
22 going to have you address your proposals, make your
23 presentation now. I don't know how long you need.

24

25 MR. SANDONE: That's fine with me. You
26 should have in front of you two documents. They're
27 PowerPoint documents that are reduced to handouts. The
28 one is Yukon area proposals to Alaska Board of
29 Fisheries, March 2014 by Gene J. Sandone, Yukon Delta
30 Fisheries Development Association. The other one is
31 entitled test purse seine activities, Lower Yukon River
32 2013, by Gene J. Sandone, Yukon Delta Fisheries
33 Development Association in support of Board of Fish
34 Proposal 377.

35

36 I'll be going through the Yukon area
37 proposals that the Yukon Delta proposed.

38

39 These proposals -- slide one, these
40 proposals came about through an ACR, the dipnet
41 proposal, which would remove the restriction on the
42 dipnet size, and through an emergency petition, to
43 allow purse seines on the Yukon in the commercial
44 fisheries, to increase efficiency at catching summer
45 chum salmon, and releasing the kings alive.

46

47 Okay. Slide two, Proposal No. 371.
48 This proposal will allow unrestricted commercial dipnet
49 size. The proposer, as I said, is Yukon Delta
50 Fisheries Development Association. The purpose of the

1 proposal is to increase the efficiency of this gear
2 type without causing harm to king salmon. Presently
3 the regulation reads that there should be only a
4 maximum of five feet, and that's measured as a straight
5 line maximum, on all dip nets. And this reflects the
6 personal use regulations.

7
8 And what we feel is that, you know,
9 this is a commercial fishery, and personal use
10 regulations really don't apply here. We need more
11 efficient gear. On the circular hoop net, the five-
12 foot is measured as the diameter of the dipnet.

13
14 However, on the triangle dipnets, the
15 maximum straight line distance is measured from the
16 base to somewhere between the middle and the edge of
17 the dipnet. And presently the base of the triangle
18 dipnet is approximately four-foot. And this is what
19 rests on the bottom. And we feel like a lot of travel
20 the bottom, and if we can increase that size to, say,
21 at least six-foot or more, then the dipnet may be more
22 efficient at catching the chum salmon.

23
24 The next slide, number 3, is a picture
25 of a triangle dipnet with a four-foot base. You can
26 see it's fairly small. The four-foot base is on the
27 ground, and the measurement is taken from -- the five-
28 foot measurement is taken from probably the ground
29 where the corner is to midway between the handle and
30 the first curve, so that's about five-foot there. Now,
31 if we increase this to maybe six or seven feet, I think
32 it still can be used by one person, you know, manning
33 the dipnet, and would not be too hard to handle. The
34 hoop net, however, five-foot maximum is a pretty big
35 net, but I still think that you could probably increase
36 it maybe another foot or so and still be able to handle
37 it with one person and one handle.

38
39 Next slide, number 4. Proposal No. 377
40 would allow purse seine use in the Lower Yukon area for
41 commercial fishing for summer chum salmon. Late in the
42 season last year we had this idea that, wow, we might
43 be able to wrap up a good number of summer chum salmon
44 without really affecting king salmon.
45 We'd be able to let them go. The purpose is to harvest
46 large quantities of summer chum salmon without harming
47 king salmon.

48
49 Currently Washington and Oregon are
50 prohibiting gillnets on the Columbia River for fishing

1 for salmon. They're using alternative gear types.
2 Purse seines, beach seines, traps, tangle nets.
3 They're trying to selectively harvest hatchery kings
4 and release wild kings to the river. There's a really
5 good You Tube video, it's called Wild Release, Coville
6 Confederated Tribes Selective Salmon Harvest. I'd
7 encourage you to really take a look at this and watch
8 how they do the purse seines, and also release the wild
9 fish.

10

11 Next slide, Proposal 377, continued.
12 Secondly, we're asking the Board to allow the use of
13 multi-strand monofilament webbing on the purse seines.
14 There has been some confusion about this. We are not
15 seeking to allow the use of single-strand monofilament.
16 We're seeking to allow the use of multi-strand
17 monofilament webbing similar to what you have in
18 gillnet webbing. We feel that it increases the
19 efficiency of the purse seine, because multi-strand
20 monofilament is a lot lighter and easier to pull
21 through the water with the small boats we use in the
22 Lower Yukon than the regular purse seine webbing. This
23 would really I think increase the efficiency of the
24 purse seines that were used in-river.

25

26 Okay. While on purse seines, last year
27 the Board of Fish gave us beach seines and dipnets as
28 alternative gear were we were supposed to release all
29 the king salmon alive that were captured in this gear.
30 However, beach seines were basically not used during
31 the summer season, because no sites were available
32 because of seasonably high water. In a beach seine,
33 you've got to set it from the beach, and bring it back
34 to the beach, and the beach is defined as dry land.

35

36 The dipnets worked out pretty good, but
37 they were an extremely inefficient method of catching
38 summer chum salmon. I calculated the exploitation rate
39 to be about nine percent.

40

41 Also, there was poor participation in
42 the dipnet fishery by fishers. In District 1, the
43 participation ranged from a number of 12 fishermen to
44 maybe 76 in the numerous openings that District 1 had.
45 And in District 2 it ranged from about 15 to about 69.
46 So they're similar. The overall median of
47 participation by fishermen in each opening was about
48 50. And they had 32 openings in Districts 1 and 2.
49 They were about 12 hours apiece.

50

1 Over 2 million summer chum salmon were
2 targeted for commercial harvest last year, and that
3 amounts to about 65 percent of the run.

4
5 I'm going to stop right here, because I
6 hear a beep on the line, and I want to make sure you
7 can hear me. Can you hear me?

8
9 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: You're
10 coming through loud and clear on this end, too. Yeah, I
11 hear it. It's like a busy signal beep going on in the
12 background. I don't know what might be causing it.

13
14 MR. SANDONE: Okay. Very good. The
15 total drainage commercial harvest was only about
16 486,000 summer chum salmon, which accounts for 15
17 percent of the run. So half of the run that was
18 targeted for commercial harvest was basically let to go
19 on the spawning grounds. There was 1.6 million summer
20 chum salmon commercial harvest were gone. And I said
21 before that accounts for 15 percent of the run.

22
23 The drainage escapement was over 2.6
24 million, and that was 81 percent of the runs. So more
25 than -- you know, less than 19 percent were actually
26 harvested in commercial and subsistence fisheries.
27 There was an estimated 1 million summer chum salmon
28 foregone, commercial harvest, in the Lower Yukon alone.

29
30
31 The value of the Lower Yukon summer
32 fishery to fishers this year was \$1.7 million. With
33 the foregone harvest, if they would have caught all
34 those fish, was about \$4.3 million.

35
36 Next slide. This is just a summary
37 table of the summer chum salmon run last year. The
38 first line, you see that it was about 3.2 million fish
39 came into the river. The targeted escapement in my
40 estimation should have been around 1 million fish. The
41 estimated subsistence harvest, I think this is generous
42 at about 115,000.

43
44 That leaves a targeted commercial
45 harvest of about 2.0 or 2.1 million fish. This allowed
46 about 2.6 million fish to go on the spawning grounds.
47 The District 1 and 2 commercial allocation was about 1.3
48 million. The actual harvest was about 379,000. That
49 put the value of the fishery as 1.7 million. Foregone
50 harvest in Districts 1 and 2 alone was about a million

1 fish. Other districts only harvested about 106,000.
2 Again, the bottom line here, total area foregone
3 harvest 1.6 million fish.

4
5 Okay. Continuing on why allow purse
6 seines. Because of the high level of foregone harvest,
7 escapement calculations were set too high. Again, 2.6
8 million fish in 2013. In my analysis, summer chum
9 salmon escapement in excess of 2 million salmon have
10 occurred on the spawning grounds for the last three
11 years. And in my analysis also, I see that summer chum
12 salmon escapements over 1.8 to 2.0 million basically
13 have not replaced themselves. In other words, we're
14 getting a return per spawner in that area of about 1 to
15 1, and that's poor production.

16
17 I think that starting with the 2015
18 season we may actually see lower summer chum salmon runs
19 because of the high escapements of the spawners that
20 produced those runs.

21
22 Next slide, number 9. This graph just
23 shows numbers of salmons in the dark and the white
24 bars. The dark bar is the escapement, and the white
25 bars is the return from that escapement. And there's a
26 general trend here that when you have low escapements,
27 you have high returns, and when you have high
28 escapements, you have low returns.

29
30 The numbers above the bars are the
31 actual return per spawners, so you can see in 2001, we
32 had the lowest escapement on record that we've been
33 keeping track of, and we had the highest return per
34 spawner of 11.8. That was phenomenal.

35
36 Okay. Next slide, please. This is a
37 Ricker curve. And on the Y axis we have number of
38 recruits that are basically the children from the
39 parents, and on the X axis we have the number of
40 spawners. And the bottom line is the replacement line.
41 That's where you have basically a one-to-one return per
42 spawner, or that's where the run's replacing
43 themselves. And the dark line is the Ricker curve.
44 And where it crosses the replacement line is basically
45 where you have one-to-one return per spawner. And
46 note, after that point, all the years, that means,
47 these numbers reflect brood years, are below the line,
48 so that's where you're getting poor production when you
49 increase escapements, or about 1.8 to 2 million and
50 larger.

1 Next slide. Summer chum salmon
2 escapement analysis. I think it's very important not
3 to exceed 1.8 million to 2 million escapement. On this
4 graph you can get the optimal escapement for the
5 maximum sustained yield, and I calculate it as between
6 700 and 1 million summer chum. That's where you get
7 your most bang for your buck. In other words, that's
8 the most productive range of escapements. And can see
9 that on the graph. If you go look at about 700,000 to
10 1 million, you see there's the greatest distance
11 between the black line and the dotted line, and that's
12 where the maximum sustained yield occurs.

13
14 Next slide. Okay. We do have a concern
15 for king salmon. And the question is, how do we
16 harvest large quantities of summer chum salmon without
17 harming the king salmon? We need efficient, selective
18 harvest techniques. Beach seines don't work, because
19 of the seasonally high water. Dipnets work, but they
20 are very inefficient. There's a poor catch per hour
21 compared to gillnets, and there's also poor
22 participation by fishers. Purse seines may be the
23 answer to catching large number of summer chum salmon
24 while allowing the live release of king salmon.

25
26 Next slide. This is a picture of us
27 release -- or catching the salmon out of the purse
28 seine. They're free swimming in the purse seine pool,
29 and as the net is brought in, you can easily dip net
30 them out and either release them or retain them.

31
32 Next slide, please. And this is one
33 picture of how we operated the purse seine fisheries.
34 We operated it with one and two boats. It was a very
35 labor intensive method, but we feel like that it has a
36 lot of promise and I would encourage the Council to
37 support these two proposals.

38
39 And that's all I have for this
40 presentation.

41
42 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
43 Gene.

44
45 I don't know if it will do any good,
46 but people can check the status of your phones. That
47 beep is really distracting in the background. It
48 sounds like somebody's hold -- put us on hold, so we're
49 on hold, and if that's where the noise comes from, it
50 would do good to tell them that. If people could just

1 check the status of your phone.

2

3 Any further questions for Mr. Sandone's
4 presentation?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If not, a
9 motion would be in order if folks feel his proposals
10 371 and 377 we're supporting.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
13 Office of Subsistence Management. I'd like to offer
14 the Federal perspective from the Federal Subsistence
15 Management Program, please.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: My
18 apologies, George. Go ahead.

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
21 and members of the Council.

22

23 Yes. I'll cut to the chase on this.
24 Gene covered the content of the proposals.

25

26 Proposal No. 371 regarding dipnets.
27 The Federal Subsistence Management Program is concerned
28 about any increases in mortality of king salmon on the
29 Yukon River, especially during times of low abundance.
30 Increases in the number of Chinook salmon handled by
31 more efficient and larger nets likely will increase
32 overall mortality. Maybe not immediate mortality in
33 the net, maybe a delayed mortality, maybe it might
34 impact spawning.

35

36 But currently both State and Federal
37 subsistence fisheries are being managed cooperatively
38 to progressively decrease salmon mortality due to
39 subsistence activity, in an effort to attain escapement
40 objectives. The whole river's being restricted.

41

42 Conversely, a gear type change may --
43 or could only increase Chinook salmon mortality due to
44 commercial fishing during times when subsistence
45 fishermen are currently not meeting needs. We don't
46 know, we don't have information that indicates bigger
47 or more efficient dipnets will end up with more -- the
48 higher mortality rates in kings, but it's logical that
49 there will be some mortality associated with this.

50

1 So currently the Federal Subsistence
2 Management Program opposes regulatory actions which may
3 increase Yukon River Chinook salmon mortality by
4 allowing it during times of low abundance.

5
6 That's my comments for 371, and I can
7 move to 377 regarding purse seines with your
8 permission, sir.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Please go
11 ahead. We heard both of them on the other side.

12
13 MR. PAPPAS: Proposal 377 regarding the
14 purse seines, I'll cut to the chase on this one, too.
15 This is basically, and I'll repeat the comments from
16 the dipnet.

17
18 Authorizing use of a purse seine in a
19 chum salmon commercial fishery during times of low
20 Chinook salmon abundance in the Yukon, depending on how
21 many kings are actually captured and released, will
22 result in some mortality. And it may impact the
23 traditional subsistence uses by Federally-qualified
24 users and result in a conservation concern, but we
25 don't know. The information we have is very limited,
26 but it is expected there will be some mortality
27 associated. And currently the subsistence fisheries
28 are being managed to conserve fish through heavy
29 restrictions to allow for escapement. And we don't
30 know how much more mortality from handling may occur
31 with this type of gear type if approved.

32
33 So at this time the program opposes the
34 second proposal also.

35
36 An update for you from the Western
37 Interior RAC, they approved the dipnet modifications,
38 and the justifications were in theory less kings will
39 die being released out of a dipnet than a gillnet. So
40 if there is a surplus available of chums and there's a
41 way to harvest those chums without harming the kings,
42 or minimally harvesting the kings -- or, excuse me,
43 minimal damage to the kings, then they would like to
44 see a shift from gillnets to dipnets during times of
45 abundance. And that was a 6/2 split vote to approve.

46
47 And for the purse seines, they approved
48 it I believe six to two. And their justification was
49 -- they approved it as modified. They offered the
50 modification to allow purse seines with multi-strand

1 filaments there up to 50 fathoms in length, and 20 feet
2 in depth. They had the same comments that if this gear
3 type does work and does not damage kings, and they can
4 harvest a whole bunch of chums at the same time and
5 release the kings without damage, then they'd rather
6 support that than actually using gillnets, which would
7 kill the kings.

8

9 They also voted to have a moratorium on
10 both of these. Try them for two years and sent a
11 letter to the Board of Fish asking that the Department
12 do some studies on any type of mortality associated
13 with these gear types through radio telemetry or use of
14 DIDSON.

15

16 And that's what I have for you, sir.
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
20 George.

21

22 Questions for Mr. Pappas or Mr.
23 Sandone.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. SANDONE: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Gene.

30

31 MR. SANDONE: Yeah, I just want to say,
32 I know there's probably not enough time for me to do
33 the second presentation, but I would encourage you to
34 flip through the pictures at least and see how we were
35 conducting the purse seine test fishery.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

40

41 Board members, your pleasure. We
42 should take these one at a time. A motion would be in
43 order, stated to positive for support, and we can vote
44 up, down or amend.

45

46 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I move
47 that we go ahead and take up the proposals one at a
48 time starting with Proposal No. 371. I move.

49

50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The motion

1 is to support Proposal 371. Is there a second.

2

3 MR. ULAK: Second.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by

6 Anthony.

7

8 MR. BILL: Second.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We've

11 got a second second by Mr. Bill and Mr. Ulak.

12

13 Discussion on it. James.

14

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

16 Are these proposals for commercial only or commercial

17 and subsistence, too.

18

19 MR. NEWLAND: Through the Chair. Mr.

20 Charles. This is Eric Newland with the Department of

21 Fish and Game.

22

23 These are options, these are gear type

24 options only for the commercial harvest of summer chum.

25 they would only be enacted during times of king salmon

26 conservation, so much like the dipnet -- well, the

27 dipnet and the beach seine option, would only be used

28 when we're concerned for king salmon. Any other time

29 we'd be looking to offer commercial opportunity with

30 gillnets, specifically six-inch or smaller mesh.

31

32 Yeah. So that was what was going on

33 last year. We had commercial dipnet fishing as well as

34 well as beach seine. Like Mr. Sandone said, the beach

35 seine opportunity -- or beach seine fishing wasn't

36 highly utilized, because there wasn't a whole lot of

37 beach available due to the high water. And so most

38 people tried the dipnets.

39

40 And so these gear types, or enlarging

41 the dip net would be to maximize the harvest. And the

42 purse seine would be an additional type of gear that

43 could be used to harvest summer chum salmon during

44 times of king salmon conservation where the kings could

45 be released.

46

47 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And the

48 follow up for that is are both of these gear types

49 already authorized for subsistence? I believe dipnets

50 are, but I'm wondering about the purse seine also.

1 MR. NEWLAND: Purse seines are not I
2 don't believe. Beach seines and dip nets are
3 subsistence gear I believe.

4
5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: John, you
6 have something to add here? You probably know more
7 than any of us sitting in this room about how it's
8 going to affect people. Come on up here, please.

9
10 MR. RILEY: My name is John Riley, Sr.

11
12 I would like -- I want you to
13 understand the Board. You know, when Gene came up with
14 -- Kwik'Pak came up with the proposal dipnets, we
15 really thought that the dipnet wasn't going to work,
16 because we never dipnet any chums before. And
17 unbelievably last year it worked, because the State
18 department wouldn't allow us with driftnets or setnets.
19 And a lot of them young generation, some of us, you
20 know, we turned our fishing permit to our sons, our
21 younger sons, and they're happy. Some of them did real
22 good dipnet. First time in the history they used
23 dipnet. And thanks to Kwik'Pak and Gene.

24
25 And now this other proposal, beach
26 seine, I seen one -- I think there were a couple of
27 them beach seine up Middle Yukon. Them young boys try
28 it. They didn't like the idea of beach seine. It
29 didn't make sense to me either. Beach seine, you tie
30 the one end and you drift the other side towards the
31 beach. You could only pick up a bunch of rocks and a
32 bunch of deadwood. That didn't -- nobody liked that.

33
34 But this purse seine, I seen it in --
35 Gene showed us in December when we had meeting here.
36 It seemed like it's going to work. We have to try
37 something, because they won't allow us to drift any
38 more or setnet. I really think that this beach seine
39 -- purse seine will work the way I seen it in the sites
40 or the movie they showed us at the meeting. We have no
41 other choice.

42
43 I urge the Board to approve, adopt it.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
48 John.

49
50 Further discussion.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. CHARLES: Question.

4

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I want to
6 weigh in a little bit here. I'm a little -- hearing
7 that raises my comfort level somewhat. I was a little
8 bit leery of especially the purse seine portion of it
9 going in there. And commercial fisheries do scare me,
10 because relating to what happened on the Kuskokwim.
11 It's my very strong belief that the aggressive
12 commercial fishing that occurred on this river killed
13 off the large kings on our river. They disappeared
14 after 10 years of that aggressively happening. I want
15 to be really cautious going forward on that, but
16 hearing from the Lower Yukon folks there, and also
17 noticing that the Western Interior RAC, although it was
18 a split vote, did support this. And I believe the
19 folks up there have some very involved folks that do
20 some -- do a substantial amount of homework when it
21 comes to issues like this. So although hesitantly, it
22 raises my comfort level enough so that I think I'll
23 support it.

24

25 If no further discussion we have the
26 question on Proposal 371. Do we need a roll call or --
27 I'll just call for the question at this time. All
28 those in favor say aye in support of Proposal 371 on
29 allowing the commercial dipnet size increase. Those in
30 favor say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed,
35 same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing
40 none, we support Proposal 371.

41

42 Proposal 377.

43

44 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I move
45 to adopt Proposal 377.

46

47 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moved by Mr.
48 Oney for supporting Proposal 377. Is there a second.

49

50 MR. BILL: Second.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by
2 Mr. Bill. Any further discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. BROWN: Question.
7
8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I'd just
9 reference my comments again from the previous proposal.
10
11 If no further discussion, we're ready
12 for the question. All those in favor say aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All opposed
17 same sign.
18
19 (No opposing votes)
20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The motion
22 carries for support of Proposal 377.
23
24 The other proposals you referenced,
25 about how long do you think that might take.
26
27 MR. NEWLAND: Another 20 minutes maybe,
28 10 minutes apiece.
29
30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We'll
31 turn on the stop watch here. Go ahead.
32
33 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
34 Members of the Council. Again for the record my name's
35 Erik Newland. I'm the Yukon area summer season manager
36 for the Department of Fish and Game.
37
38 Proposal 372. This proposal -- I think
39 Gerald handed a handout that's in the proposal book.
40 Yeah, he could hold it up
41
42 So we're looking 372. This was
43 proposed by Virgil Umphenour. And this proposal would
44 modify the specifications and operation of a commercial
45 fishwheel in the Yukon area to allow the use of a lead.
46 Currently the regulations are that commercial gear in
47 the Upper Yukon River in Districts 4 through 6,
48 fishwheels are allowed; however, the use of leads is
49 not authorized by regulation, because there's not a
50 specific definition or allowance for this type of use.

1 The use of leads while subsistence
2 fishing is authorized. And a lead is defined as the
3 length of net employed for guiding fish into a seine,
4 or a length of net or fencing employed for guiding fish
5 into fishwheel, fyke net, or dipnet.

6
7 This proposal would allow fishermen to
8 use leads while commercial fishing with fishwheels, and
9 authorize a long-standing practice. So this is
10 something that's been identified as kind of something
11 that's -- people have been fishing with leads in
12 commercial fisheries. People have not been getting
13 cited for this. This is something that the proponent
14 feels that probably should be clarified in the
15 regulations.

16 And I guess, you know, brought up to standards for the
17 practice, that people are doing this, this is the
18 fishing has been occurring, and it needs to be put into
19 regulation, and it was an oversight that it hasn't been
20 put into regulation. So that's the proponent's take on
21 it.

22
23 And I should mention the Department
24 will be presenting comments on all of these proposals
25 prior to the board meeting, but at this time they are
26 not published, and so I won't reference our specific
27 comments.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Pappas.

30
31 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 won't be making any comments for this on, but just for
33 your head's up, earlier this morning the State of
34 Alaska's comments were posted on line. Mr. Chair.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Do
37 you have those comments available now to put on the
38 record?

39
40 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. Again this is
41 Eric Newland with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
42 The Department does support this proposal as a means of
43 aligning regulations with current commercial fishing
44 practices, to efficiently operate fish wheels of any
45 size, the use of a lead is required. When a surplus of
46 salmon is available sufficient to meet escapement and
47 subsistence needs, then commercial fishwheeling
48 opportunities should be allowed to occur so that
49 harvest effort can be maximized through the use of
50 leads.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
2 With that, is there a motion to support Proposal 372.
3
4 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chair.
5
6 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Charles.
7
8 MR. CHARLES: I move to adopt Proposal
9 372.
10
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moved by
12 James Charles. Do we have a second.
13
14 MR. ULAK: Second
15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Second by
17 Anthony Ulak. Discussion.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seeing none,
22 I guess I would just offer one comment, which is the
23 justification by the sponsor of this proposal in his
24 final thing, that we should create consistency between
25 subsistence and commercial fishing regulations I don't
26 find a compelling argument. Subsistence regulations
27 should certainly be given more selective ability for a
28 better harvest when it can occur, and especially for,
29 you know, conservation mode.
30
31 But again I'd reference my previous
32 arguments with -- or comments from the previous
33 proposals to -- it's only if there was a significant
34 concern, and fishwheels do not have the same level of
35 concern with the live boxes that I assume would go
36 along that are already in the existing regulations that
37 are required for the release of king salmon. So all
38 that.
39
40 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. Members of
41 the Council. There are many provisions that we have
42 for authorizing commercial fishing with fishwheels now.
43 The Board has required us to -- when we're trying to
44 target summer chum salmon with fishwheels we have to
45 have people manning those fishwheels to release king
46 salmon. That's the stipulation. So we do have other
47 regulations that are enacted so that king salmon aren't
48 killed.
49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The other

1 thing though, it's not known that there isn't.

2

3 I would like to hear what the Western
4 Interior thought of this one. Mr. Pappas, do you have
5 that?

6

7 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
8 do not have it in front of me right now. I apologize.
9 Mr. Chair.

10

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All right.
12 I just wondered if they might have put the same
13 stipulation on that they did with the previous 371 and
14 377 on the two-year sunshine clause, to allow the
15 Department to investigate the potential mortality from
16 the net fishing, which I full-heartedly support and
17 would incorporate by reference into our previous
18 action. I wish I would have put it on the record then,
19 but I didn't.

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 George Pappas again.

23

24 Yes, I do recall that the Western
25 Interior RAC did approve this proposal. There was at
26 least one, maybe two that opposed the proposal, and
27 didn't like the idea of having more fishing gear,
28 especially during times of low salmon abundance. And
29 also there was a concern voiced that there's no limits
30 set, so in theory someone could put up an extremely
31 large lead, and that's why having that proposal. Mr.
32 Chair. It was actually -- it looks like it was a 7/1
33 vote.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you
38 for that clarification.

39

40 Further discussion. Go ahead, James.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Are there a lot of fishwheels up there in the Yukon, or
44 how many fishwheels are there?

45

46 MR. NEWLAND: Through the Chair. Mr.
47 Charles. Currently there's a couple of limited
48 fishwheel commercial fisheries in the Upper Yukon. And
49 that's what we're talking about here, providing this
50 lead to a commercial fishwheel. Currently there's a

1 fishery that's going on in the Kaltag area, and I
2 believe that that fishery is somewhere in the
3 neighborhood of 10 wheels, 8 to 10 wheels, something
4 like that. And then there's about three participating
5 fishermen I believe in District 6. And both of those
6 fisheries, as I was trying to explain earlier, when we
7 are concerned for king salmon, the way it works is that
8 we require the fishwheel operator to man the wheel, and
9 that when a fish, a king salmon is in the basket,
10 they're there to slide that fish from the basket back
11 into the water, and so then they are released. So when
12 those fisheries are occurring, somebody has to be on
13 that wheel releasing king salmon so that the king
14 salmon are back in the water immediately.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
17 James.

18
19 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Are there buyer/seller operation over there, too, like
21 they have in Kuskokwim?

22
23 MR. NEWLAND: Both of these commercial
24 fisheries, the buyer is a small processor,
25 buyer/processor, one of which is the proponent of the
26 wheel.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes.
29 Further discussion.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The Chair
34 will hear the question. Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Riley for
35 Lower Yukon AC.

36
37 MR. RILEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
38 just want to come up with when I was a little kid, many
39 years ago, there used to be a lot of fishwheels, from
40 Mountain Village on up. Fishwheels. I don't know how
41 far up. And then time changed. The nets showed up.
42 Nylon nets. Then they used to have a lot of trouble
43 with fishwheels. When the storm hits, fishwheels used
44 to break up.

45
46 But now the river has changed a lot,
47 because we don't get no more snow like we used to. The
48 ice don't get think like it used to. Sand bars are
49 building right and left all over Yukon. And it's very
50 hard -- they might be --if this proposal passes, there

1 might be some, from Mountain on up, a few places to use
2 fishwheel.

3

4 Mr. Charles asked how many fishwheels
5 in Lower Yukon. We never see none, but I believe
6 Kwik'Pak last year or the year before, they got a
7 fishwheel from upriver and brought it down to below,
8 around Fish (ph) Village area. They tried it, and I
9 don't think it worked, because the current is too slow
10 there, because they get high tide, low tide. It don't
11 turn fast enough.

12

13 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
16 John. Ready for the question. The Chair would hear
17 the question.

18

19 MR. CHARLES: Call for question.

20

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The question
22 called. All those in favor say aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: In support
27 of Proposal 372. I only heard two ayes. I don't think
28 that's sufficient. Do we need a roll call vote, or
29 I'll ask one more time. All those in favor of
30 supporting Proposal 372, say aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed,
35 same sign.

36

37 MR. ULAK: Aye.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So the
40 proposal fails, 6/1. I do believe it -- is that --
41 maybe I'll call on my parliamentarian. I'm not sure
42 about this, but when we are a bare seven, which makes a
43 bare quorum of this committee, it would require at
44 least a quorum to pass any proposals. Do we have any
45 parliamentarian type folks here that might be able to
46 clarify that.

47

48 Mr. Nick.

49

50 MR. NICK: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

1 Alex Nick for the record.

2

3 I am not parliamentarian, but we were
4 asked to act as one in Council meetings in absence of a
5 parliamentarian.

6

7 I was told that YK RAC, or this is my
8 understanding. YK RAC currently has, what, 11 current
9 members now with two vacancies due to appointments that
10 are pending or whatever. Anyway, I think all you
11 needed was six people for your quorum.

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So we had 11
14 active seats, and we would need six for the quorum.
15 Yeah. Okay.

16

17 Well, with one dissenting then, I guess
18 the proposal does pass with our support.

19

20 Next proposal.

21

22 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. Members of
23 the Council.

24

25 Proposal 373, this proposal was
26 proposed by the Department of Fish and Game. This
27 would remove the exception allowing for a dead king
28 salmon to be taken, but not retained in the Yukon area
29 Districts 1 through 3 dipnet and beach seine commercial
30 summer chum salmon fisheries.

31

32 During times of king salmon
33 conservation, dipnets and beach seine gear may be
34 allowed to target summer chum salmon. All king salmon
35 caught in a dipnet and beach seine must be returned
36 immediately to the water alive, except that a dead king
37 salmon may be taken, but not retained, and that dead
38 king salmon must be recorded on the fish ticket and
39 forfeited to the State.

40

41 This proposal would remove the
42 potential loophole that may allow fishermen to
43 illegally harvest salmon while commercially fishing,
44 and places emphasis on ensuring all king salmon are
45 turned immediately to the water alive.

46

47 So to provide a little background on
48 this, in 2013 beach seines and dipnets were allowed to
49 be used, and approximately 188,000 summer chum salmon
50 were harvested by dipnets and 1,000 summer chum salmon

1 in beach seines. Relatively minimal impact to the king
2 salmon was observed using these gear types, and
3 approximately 900 king salmon were reported as released
4 alive during these commercial periods. However, an
5 enforcement officer reported a dipnet fisherman was
6 contacted with three dead king salmon in his boat. The
7 fish were seized, but no citation was issued, because
8 it was not illegal for him to take that king salmon,
9 and he was saying that he was going to forfeit them to
10 the State.

11
12 Based on observations from the beach
13 seine and dipnet commercial activity in the Yukon River
14 in 2013, the Department feels it is unlikely for king
15 salmon to incur severe injury or mortality at the time
16 they are caught in these gear types.

17
18 The Department submitted and supports
19 this proposal. Encouraging and enforcing the practice
20 of returning king salmon immediately to the water alive
21 can be best achieved by removing language that allows
22 for the taking of king salmon. In order to operate an
23 orderly dipnet and beach seine commercial fishery,
24 regulations need to emphasize and infer that all king
25 salmon are released alive.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
30 Mr. Pappas, OSM.

31
32 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 This is a tough proposal for us. It's
35 unclear to the Federal Subsistence Management Program
36 if this proposal is adopted, what would happen to the
37 Chinook salmon mortally wounded in a commercial fishery
38 when retention of Chinook salmon is prohibited. So you
39 get a king wrapped up in your dipnet and somehow it
40 dies. If this proposal is adopted at written, you're
41 required to throw that fish back dead, which is to us a
42 form of wanton waste. So if this proposal is not
43 adopted, the loophole still remains.

44
45 So the Federal Subsistence Management
46 Program with assistance from our enforcement folks
47 said, if you want an enforceable regulation, we have
48 three recommendations that you can do to this
49 regulation -- proposal to modify it.

50

1 One, modify the regulation so that all
2 mortally wounded kind salmon that are retained from a
3 commercial fishery, one comes up wrapped up dead, what
4 have you, you mark it in such a way that allows
5 enforcement folks to see that it's different than a
6 subsistence fish. So maybe you clip the pectoral fins.
7 Come up with a marking mechanism to say this is a dead
8 king from a commercial fishery.

9
10 Second, require the commercial
11 fisherman record the dead fish on their fish ticket
12 before they conceal it from plain view. Now, this is
13 complicated, because on the Yukon you're not required
14 to have fish tickets on your person. There are many
15 fisheries in Alaska that require commercial fishermen
16 to have a fish ticket on their person. For example, a
17 live seller, what's the other one, or a transport
18 permit when you're making deliveries for other people.
19 So there are ways of getting to that so somebody has a
20 fish ticket, a commercial fisherman in the field has a
21 fish ticket on them.

22
23 And the third recommendation is to
24 establish some type of tracking or recording mechanism
25 which documents where that fish was forfeited to the
26 State. Was it delivered to a Fish and Game camp, was
27 it delivered to a headquarters there, what have you.
28 So you can look at the reporting mechanism, track that
29 fish back to the commercial fishery.

30
31 So those are three recommendations that
32 if Department wants a proposal -- or, excuse me, an
33 enforceable regulation that potentially avoids wanton
34 waste, that's our recommendation.

35
36 Now, the Western Interior RAC voted to
37 support this proposal -- though the Federal Subsistence
38 Management Program opposes the proposal as written and
39 offers modifications to fix the issue from our
40 perspective, the Western Interior RAC stated on record,
41 well, Fish and Game probably already thought of this.
42 We support any type of regulation that's going to
43 prohibit -- or, excuse me, eliminate any -- what did
44 they say, any motivation to retain a fish. So if
45 you're caught with a fish that's illegal, there's no
46 loopholes. And they did take our comments into
47 consideration. And I don't have their exact vote, but
48 I think it was a vast majority vote.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
2 George.
3
4 Lower Yukon Advisory Committee. John,
5 did you guys take this proposal. On Proposal 373.
6
7 Oh, I'm sorry. Ray.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Yeah. I don't remember.
10 Mr. Chair. I don't remember how we voted. I don't know
11 if you have the record on how we voted in December on
12 this proposal. I don't remember how we voted on it. I
13 don't recall. I don't have any documentation in front
14 of me on that.
15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Well,
19 a motion would be in order for support, and we do or we
20 don't, or amend.
21
22 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I move to
23 adopt Proposal 374.
24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: 373.
26
27 MR. CHARLES: 73.
28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moved by Mr.
30 Charles. Do we have a second.
31
32 MR. ONEY: Second.
33
34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by
35 Mr. Oney.
36
37 Further discussion. Anybody.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. BILL: Question
42
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, I
44 think we should have a little something on the record
45 about this one.
46
47 What I'm seeing as part of it, if I'm
48 reading it correctly is that you already have this
49 restriction in place for subsistence, but it's a
50 loophole for commercial fisheries, commercial fishermen

1 not to be subject to the same regulation or restriction
2 that's on the subsistence fisherman; is that correct?

3

4 MR. NEWLAND: The idea is this is for
5 the commercial fishery, and they're required to release
6 king salmon alive. When the Board took this up in,
7 what was it, January of 2013, there was a concern
8 raised by lots of people on the river to the Board, and
9 they said, what happens is we encounter a dead king.
10 And we didn't have any information at the time. The
11 Board was making decisions to move forward with limited
12 information about dipnet fisheries on the Yukon. And
13 so they were being pretty precautionary by saying,
14 let's address this, what happens if we encounter a dead
15 king.

16

17 So now after this season, we saw,
18 well, this information is -- this extra little sentence
19 we put in there isn't actually helping enforcement.
20 And so the Department is saying, we've seen this
21 fishery, we've seen how it works. Most people, when
22 you feel a king in you net, you just turn the net
23 around and then the fish is out. There's no need to
24 get it twisted up. It's pretty simple, and you release
25 the king that way.

26

27 And so the idea is that we're just
28 trying to get rid any language that is confusing or
29 maybe provides that loophole. And in other areas where
30 the -- in the Copper River where these fisheries have
31 like a personal use fishery with dipnets, they don't
32 have this language. They just say that you have to
33 release the king. So it's simplified.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Further
36 discussion. I'm having trouble with this one, all
37 right. It looks to me like it's saying it exactly
38 backwards. By taking that language out, it actually
39 removes the requirement. I don't know, I'd be more
40 comfortable with this with the -- amended to
41 incorporate the OSM recommendations that were in there,
42 the tracking mechanism and the marking of a commercial
43 fish versus a subsistence fish. It does bother me
44 quite a bit that it is providing whether utilized or
45 not or whether commercial fishermen or more honest than
46 subsistence fishermen are, having a requirement on
47 subsistence, you know, it's the exact other side of the
48 argument that I voiced on an earlier one.

49

50 I don't know. I'm having a hard time

1 supporting it, but perhaps if there's amendment to
2 incorporate some of those recommendations of OSM.
3 Council.

4
5 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas
6 here.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
9 Mr. Pappas.

10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 Yes, the idea from the enforcement
14 branch, I'll provide the recommendations here. One is,
15 you know, immediate marking. Two is immediate
16 recording. Three is a tracking mechanism for where
17 that fish is forfeited. At any point in time, if
18 someone is pulled over on the river with a dead king on
19 board, there are enforcement regulations for that fish
20 in the boat. So that's their perspective.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That is
25 already covered; it just needed to be made clear within
26 the context of the proposal.

27
28 MR. PAPPAS: Correct, Mr. Chair.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

31
32 Further discussion.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: With that, I
37 guess I could support this. With that clarification.

38
39 Are we ready for the question. The
40 Chair is ready for the question. And the Chair will
41 call the question.

42
43 MR. CHARLES: Question.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All those in
46 favor in support of Proposal 373, say aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed

1 same sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, we are in support of Proposal No. 373 as well.

7

8

9

That does it for the Yukon proposals? Go ahead, Mr. Maschmann.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. MASCHMANN: I had one other topic that Fred, the Federal manager, wanted to bring up about whether the Council felt it was appropriate for him to institute a Federally-qualified user for on the Yukon River for 2014. In other words, limit subsistence fishing to only Federally-qualified users on Federal waters on the Yukon. He's wondering what the Council's opinion is on that.

We've only done it once on the Yukon over the years, and it's another management strategy that he has that he can use. He's concerned. He's wondering, well, will it save any fish anyway.

Some folks do have out-of-town relatives that come in to help their families fish. And because it's a patchwork of State and Federal waters on the Yukon, folks in the Federally-qualified areas are kind of at a disadvantage compared to the folks who live in State waters, which this would not apply to.

So he's asking the Council's opinion on whether to implement that Federally-qualified user on the Yukon River this summer.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Anyone want to weigh in on that one.

(No comments)

MR. MASCHMANN: I'm not sure how many out-of-towners are coming.

ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I'm wondering if there's any proposals or any pending action that would trigger that, and at present what you're seeing on the horizon.

MR. MASCHMANN: I think some folks are

1 talking that since.....

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I mean, I
4 can talk to the Kuskokwim all day about this one, but I
5 don't know, I'm not familiar enough with the Yukon
6 regulatory structure and status to be able to give an
7 informed opinion on that.

8

9 MR. MASCHMANN: I think probably what
10 you're dealing with on the Kuskokwim, the issues are
11 probably the same as we are dealing with a king
12 conservation. And so should the Federal manager then
13 limit subsistence fishing to Federally-qualified users
14 on the Yukon River. Is that an option he should.....

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Subsistence
17 fishing as whole? From what I understand, the main
18 concern is with king salmon, and you're not allowing --
19 or authorizing any king fishing.

20

21 MR. MASCHMANN: That's another point.

22

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We don't
24 have any harvestable surplus.

25

26 MR. MASCHMANN: That was another point
27 that Fred.....

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And you have
30 a commercial fishery going on with, in some people's
31 estimation, up to 2 million fish. So that really
32 complicates things and makes it a whole lot different
33 than what's happening over here on this side of our
34 region.

35

36 Speaking for myself, I'm not
37 comfortable making a recommendation to that level yet
38 given basically what I just said.

39

40 I don't know how anybody else would
41 feel.

42

43 Mr. Nick, you have something to add
44 here.

45

46 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Alex Nick for the record. Council coordinator for YK.

48

49 I was going to try to interpret what
50 Gerry is asking the Council, because I felt maybe some

1 of the members don't understand the question. Mr.
2 Chair. In Yup'ik.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I thought we
5 had our simul translation going.

6
7 MR. NICK: But your members are not
8 listening to the interpretation.

9
10
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
12 Carry on.

13
14 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

15
16 INTERPRETER: Some people think that
17 Gerald Maschmann's question, that you guys don't
18 understand. The Federal manager is the manager for the
19 Yukon, Fred Bue, wanted you to ask, during the upcoming
20 summer season, will it make a difference if it were
21 only to the Federally-qualified users, the people that
22 reside in that river here in Alaska. The Federally-
23 qualified subsistence users. Will it make a
24 difference. We want to see what you think about the
25 Federal manager's rule to change, because -- I wanted
26 to translate that, because you guys aren't really
27 listening to the translator down there. So I wanted to
28 explain this to you in Yup'ik, and I wanted to ask from
29 you -- I asked the Chairman what you guys all think
30 about that.

31
32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Thank you.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anything
35 further.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Actually
40 I've been wondering, what is preempting this action to
41 go forward -- if the Federal manager doesn't feel it's
42 appropriate at this point in time, why is the request
43 coming to the Council.

44
45 MR. MASCHMANN: It's always been
46 something that has been in the back of his mind as the
47 Federal manager, and as we've seen the last two years,
48 the Chinook salmon are doing pretty poor, and maybe
49 that is a management strategy he ought to be
50 implementing. But again we said it wouldn't apply

1 equally to the entire river, because of the patchwork
2 State and Federal waters. Maybe it doesn't save any
3 salmon anyway, so what's the point. Or maybe it does
4 save some salmon. He's wondering what -- how the
5 Council feels about limiting fishing to Federally-
6 qualified users. He's looking for your guidance on
7 helping him make up his mind on whether this is
8 something he needs to do.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All right.
11 In the absence of anybody else weighing in on it. I'd
12 just say that I think you're about 5 or 10 years too
13 late. If you're looking at no harvestable surplus
14 right now, the Kuskokwim is not in that condition. The
15 Kuskokwim has a forecast of 20,000 fish harvestable
16 surplus, we should be looking at that. Or the Federal
17 managers should certainly be taking that up. But when
18 we're talking about king conservation, and the huge
19 harvestable surplus you have in the other species, I
20 don't -- I'd say it's asking us, well, years too late
21 for implementation of something of that sort, and maybe
22 it ought to be considered on re-opening if you do have
23 a forecast with a harvestable surplus, maybe, yes, but
24 why is it being asked now when it doesn't really apply
25 any more, because you have none to apply it to.

26

27 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: How ahead.

30

31 MR. NEWLAND: Just to let you know, the
32 last time that question was posed, your sentiments were
33 pretty much what was being told to us. I think that
34 was in 2012 or so. It is something we revisit just
35 because it's an option. That's just it. Maybe it
36 would find its way into the Kusko, I don't know, but it
37 isn't something that people are wrapping around.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank
40 you both.

41

42 At this time I'm going to ask for
43 suspension of the rules. I'm looking at going to maybe
44 5:30 latest for tonight. I don't know about how the
45 rest of you are, but some of us got other meetings to
46 be and prior commitments.

47

48 So there is a lady here with a
49 presentation that does have to catch a plane. So I'd
50 ask for a suspension of the rules to hear from the

1 Partners Program briefly. Rebecca. It's a change in
2 the agenda, moving it ahead.

3

4 Is there a motion to suspend the rules?
5 Or any objection to suspending the rules to hear from
6 the KNA and the Partners program. Any objection.
7 You're supposed to ask twice according to Robert's
8 Rules, just in case nobody was listening the first
9 time.

10

11 (No objections)

12

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We're
14 suspending the rules to hear from the Partners Program
15 briefing. They have to catch a plane before we go
16 tonight.

17

18 MS. FRYE: Could we take a break.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We'll
21 step down five minutes, good enough? Five, 10 at the
22 most. Okay We're at ease.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 MS. FRYE: Okay. So I think we're
29 ready to go.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Back
32 on record at 5:10 here, and we've got one more
33 presentation for the evening before we recess.

34

35 Go ahead.

36

37 MS. FRYE: All right. Thanks. This is
38 Rebecca Frye here from KNA.

39

40 I just want to give a little update on
41 our Partners Program. This is a 2014 RAC meeting.

42

43 Our KNA fisheries Staff, we have two
44 full-time biologists, myself and Dan Gilliken is the
45 fisheries director. We have one fisheries high school
46 intern coordinator. We employ three to six seasonal
47 technicians, three to six seasonal college intern, 15
48 to 20 high school interns.

49

50 KNA was formed in 1978 using BIA

1 funding that was pulled from 12 villages. In 2002 the
2 Partners Program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service, OSM, was awarded to KNA, which allowed
4 specialized biologists to come in and operate this
5 program.

6
7 We have 12 member villages, starting at
8 Lower Kalskag all the way up to Stoney River, including
9 two outlyers, Russian Mission and Lime Village.

10
11 What do we do? Partners in Fisheries
12 Monitoring, we represent members and provide technical
13 assistance, outreach, education and communication,
14 build professional and local fisheries work force. So
15 we're involved. We try and travel to several of our
16 member villages, participate in community meetings, get
17 locals involved, get students involved.

18
19 Some of our projects that we have going
20 on. We're working on Bering cisco monitoring, spawning
21 grounds. Currently we have done this for two years,
22 and we are going to continue this project into 2014,
23 hoping to tag fish at the Kalskag fishwheel in
24 operation with the State as well. And this is an OSM-
25 funded project. We want to identify all spawning
26 populations in the Kuskokwim, identify migration
27 timing, identify upper and lower extents of the
28 spawning grounds, determine what habitat and
29 characteristics the cisco are utilizing in the spawning
30 areas, and protect these from development as there are
31 only three known spawning grounds for Bering cisco.

32
33 Another project KNA is operating in is
34 the post-season subsistence surveys, which is OSM
35 funded, divided up by ADF&G. And this year we employed
36 three local technicians, estimate annual subsistence
37 harvest, document subsistence salmon use, and examine
38 trends in salmon subsistence use. And Aniak this year
39 did complete surveys 100 percent.

40
41 The goal of our internships through the
42 Partners Program, this is a multi-step process. We try
43 and visit the schools, get into elementary schools, get
44 kids involved through the Salmon in the Classrooms
45 Project, which they bring in salmon eggs, have the
46 salmon grow year round and let them -- and then the
47 kids can see the life cycle of a salmon, do
48 dissections, understand this.

49
50 And then they go on to participate in a

1 high school internship, which gets them out to the
2 weirs, up to where the actual monitoring is going on,
3 the counting of the fish.

4
5 And then the high school internship,
6 some of the students go on to complete a college
7 internship, which can then go into either a technician
8 position with the State or KNA, become a biologist, or
9 an informed community member.

10
11 And so this is important to us, because
12 the students that are in the elementary schools, the
13 high school internships, college internships are going
14 to be in our communities.

15
16 To date we have had 198 students
17 participate in our high school internship. We had 19
18 in 2013. Hoping to get several more this year. They
19 participate in one to two-week internships, up to one
20 to four students per week. Interns ranged in age for
21 14 to 19. And this year we did have third-year
22 returning students.

23
24 Some of the activities, they work at
25 the Kalskag fishwheel, participate in fish tagging,
26 counting, ASL, complete the day's lesson, and they also
27 work at two of our weirs, the George and Tatlawiksuk
28 River Weir.

29
30 Here's some great pictures of the kids
31 getting out, and getting involved. And also we have
32 had students from all 13 villages participate in our
33 internship program.

34
35 College internship began in 2004.
36 We've had 29 interns to date, and we had 3 last year.
37 And Brad, at the bottom, I believe this was his third
38 year, second or third year completing the internship,
39 college internship. Several of the students have gone
40 on to receive positions with ADF&G as technicians.

41
42 For the 2013, some of the field
43 projects were at Kalskag fishwheel, George River and
44 Tatlawiksuk River weir, Salmon River weir, Ottetail
45 environmental, Donlin Gold. The students participated
46 in the working group, some of the working group
47 meetings here in Bethel, as traveled to Napaimiut for
48 some meetings.

49
50 Here's the platforms for our monitoring

1 projects. We operate at Kalskag fishwheels, the George
2 River weir, Tatlawiksuk River weir, and Salmon River
3 weir.

4

5 For recruitment, currently we are
6 accepting applications for high school internships and
7 college internships, and also technicians. We're
8 looking for students in high school, 14 to 17,
9 especially people involved in the biological aspect or
10 natural resources on the Kuskokwim.

11

12 There's a few pictures of the weir.
13 The George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs have been a
14 cooperative project with Fish and Game since 1998. The
15 goals are to determine daily and annual escapement of
16 Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, monitor habitat
17 variables including water temperature and quality, and
18 collect ASL data. This is also one of our major
19 platforms for the education program, and salmon tag
20 recaptures.

21

22 The Salmon River weir operated from
23 2006 to 2009, and once again in 2012 to 2013. The
24 goals were the same as the previous two, and it
25 replaced the Aniak sonar.

26

27 All three of our weirs are funded for
28 another season this year.

29

30 Acknowledgements. We'd like to thank
31 ADF&G, Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM, Yukon-Kuskokwim
32 National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Field Office, ONC,
33 Donlin Gold, CBRF, and several others.

34

35 Any questions. Yes.

36

37 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Would you go
38 to the mic, please, so they've got it on record.

39

40 MR. CHARLES: Are there -- how many
41 kids are working up in that area, KNA area, young
42 people like that? I'm always for internship like that
43 for any kind of starter. I call it start-up work.

44

45 MS. FRYE: Oh, yeah. It's a great
46 program we have going. And like I said, 198 students
47 to date have participated in the high school internship
48 program. We hire between 15 and 25 a year for the
49 internships. And like I said, some of the students
50 returned for three years in a row. We employ six --

1 well, between three and six seasonal technicians. We
2 have the post-season surveys, which are hired locally.
3 We have tree of those, as well operating all of our
4 weirs. And we do hire from rural Alaska. So it's a
5 great program.

6
7 MR. CHARLES: Are your programs posted
8 or mailed to people at villages?

9
10 MS. FRYE: Uh-huh. Yep, we try and get
11 everything out to our member villages, as well as in
12 the schools. Yeah.

13
14 Any other questions.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. I'm
17 wondering about the -- as far as the schools, at what
18 level you're involved in the curriculum, and what did
19 it take to get there if you are. And did you have to
20 go through the Kuspuk School District and ask every one
21 of their -- you know, the school board and
22 administration and everybody else on board? How does
23 that all -- how was that put together, and how is
24 it.....

25
26 MS. FRYE: Are you talking about going
27 to the schools and being involved with the students?

28
29 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes.

30
31 MS. FRYE: It's just on an individual
32 teacher basis. We get in contact with usually the
33 science teachers at the school, try to get involved as
34 much as we can afford to budgetwise, of course. We've
35 helped out with the salmon in the classroom previously
36 very extensively, but not as much now, because the
37 teachers that are involved in it, they've done it for
38 several years now. We do offer some support as well as
39 going to the high school, giving presentations to the
40 kids. It's not as extensive as it used to be. But we
41 still try and make an effort to get out there to the
42 community.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
45 Are there questions for Rebecca.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. FRYE: Okay. I do have one more
50 update from KNA.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Go
2 ahead.

3
4 MS. FRYE: Just a few talking points.
5 This is more of our resolutions that KNA has passed.

6
7 KNA passed a resolution calling for
8 significant conservation of Chinook in 2014. We would
9 like to see equitable harvest opportunity up and down
10 the Kuskokwim between lower, middle, and upper river.
11 And should we see that the State is not going in that
12 direction, we would submit a special action request to
13 OSM requesting this again.

14
15 We have participated in the working
16 group meetings. We continue -- we want to do so the
17 whole season. We've collaborated with State and
18 Federal managers, and sent letters recommending
19 management actions to the working group. At the
20 January working group meeting they -- nearly all
21 recommendations suggested by KNA were adopted to
22 working group as part of the preliminary management
23 strategy for 2014. KNA continues to support those
24 recommendations and is encouraged by State and Federal
25 managers also supporting these recommendations.

26
27 Actions for 2014. We support the
28 working group's special action request to allow the use
29 of dipnets, and limit the length of drift gillnets to
30 25 fathom just in order to conserve Chinook this
31 season.

32
33 We are neutral, I did not see anything
34 about the proposal to OSM from Napaskiak requesting
35 Tier II allocation system, but we are neutral on that
36 currently until we get more feedback from our members.

37
38 I think that's all. Yeah. We would
39 like to -- the increased harvest in Bethel recently is
40 an issue with us supporting that, because in the past
41 decade harvest in middle to upper river has been
42 declining, whereas Bethel has been increasing. And so
43 if you look at it that way, I think maybe we need to go
44 back longer than just a decade if we're going to look
45 at a Tier II system.

46
47 Any questions.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: What is the
50 -- you mentioned something from Napaskiak. What

1 is.....

2

3 MS. FRYE: I'm not -- there's a
4 proposal to OSM by the Village of Napaskiak requesting
5 a Tier II system for this year. I've not seen anything
6 in this packet yet. I wasn't sure what.....

7

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That's okay.
9 Any other questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. FRYE: Thank you.

14

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If not,
16 you're all done.

17

18 Okay. Well, we'll go ahead and recess
19 then for the evening at 5:25, and back again at 9:00
20 o'clock tomorrow morning.

21

22 Do you have any final announcements
23 from Staff here before? Alex.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 (Off record)

28

29 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

