

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
12 February 25, 2015
13 11:00 a.m.

14
15
16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 18
19 Lester Wilde, Sr., Chair
20 Greg J. Roczicka, Vice Chair
21 Raymond J. Oney, Secretary
22 William Frank Brown
23 James Aiagiak Charles
24 John W. Andrew
25 Michael P. Peters
26 Dale T. Smith, Sr.
27 Anthony F. Ulak
28 Annie C. Cleveland
29 Dorothy G. Johnson
30 Robert E. Aloysius
31 David Bill, Sr.
32
33
34 Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson
35 Adrienne Fleek
36

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41
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48 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
49 Anchorage, AK 99501
50 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Bethel, Alaska - 02/25/2015)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It is now 11:00. At this time
8 we'll have invocation. Mr. Bob Aloysius, would you
9 please say the invocation for us.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: In the name of the
12 Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
13 Heavenly Father, maker of the universe, maker of all
14 that we see and cannot see, maker of this beautiful
15 land, when I'm home, I always say overflowing with
16 fish, with game, plants and berries, and giving us the
17 opportunity to hunt, to trap, and gather, and share
18 that bounty. We ask you to bless us with the knowledge
19 and wisdom of our ancestors, the love, teachings,
20 patience, generosity, gentleness, kindness, patience,
21 humility and humor of our grandparents. Strengthen our
22 courage that we inherited from our parents. But most
23 of all we ask you to bless us with the energy of our
24 youth, the dreams, and visions of our children, and the
25 spirit and innocence of our infants so that we, the
26 descendants of our ancestors, be worthy of what they
27 promised us, that if we take care of the land, the
28 water, the land, the water will reward us with plenty.
29 Remind us that we are the stewards of this bountiful
30 land. Give us the grace to continue the work of our
31 ancestors, so that our children and their children will
32 be able to experience what we today sometimes just take
33 for granted. Let us be mindful that there's so many
34 changes coming so fast that we are being caught up in
35 the turmoil and forgetting that we must take care of
36 all of our relations on earth, not only our human
37 relations, but our sisters and brothers that fly,
38 roost, climb, walk, crawl, slither, burrow, swim, and
39 grow on Mother Earth. Give us the courage and the
40 strength to be worthy, to be worthy stewards of this
41 land. And we ask for these in the name of your son and
42 our brother, Jesus Christ.

43

44 Amen.

45

46 In the name of the Father, and the Son,
47 and the Holy Spirit.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
50 Aloysius.

1 We'll have a roll call vote, please.
2 Mr. Secretary, would you please call the roll. And our
3 secretary is Mr. Raymond Oney.
4
5 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman.
7
8 William Brown.
9
10 MR. BROWN: Here.
11
12 MR. ONEY: James Charles.
13
14 MR. CHARLES: Here.
15
16 MR. ONEY: John Andrew. I believe he
17 has a hospital appointment, but should be here shortly.
18
19 Michael Peters.
20
21 MR. PETERS: Here.
22
23 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde, Sr.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.
26
27 MR. ONEY: Dale Smith.
28
29 MR. SMITH: Here.
30
31 MR. ONEY: Anthony Ulak.
32
33 MR. ULAK: Here.
34
35 MR. ONEY: Annie Cleveland.
36
37 MS. CLEVELAND: Here.
38
39 MR. ONEY: Dorothy Johnson.
40
41 MS. JOHNSON: Here.
42
43 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, here.
44
45 Greg Roczicka.
46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: Here.
48
49 MR. ONEY: Robert Aloysius
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Here.
2
3 MR. ONEY: David Bill, Sr.
4
5 MR. BILL: Here.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman, we do have a
8 quorum. Thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. At this
11 time we'd like to have introductions, starting from the
12 gentleman way over on the left going to the right.
13
14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
15 away from microphones)
16
17 MR. LEKANDER: Robert Lekander with
18 (indiscernible) ONC (indiscernible) report.
19
20 MR. TIKIUN: Henry Tikiun, (In Yup'ik)
21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: Jackson Williams, Akiak.
23
24 MS. McATEE: June McAtee, living in
25 Anchorage.
26
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
28 someone's hearing aid squealing)
29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA,
31 Anchorage, in the subsistence branch.
32
33 MS. YUPANIK: June Yupanik, Pitkas
34 Point Council
35
36 MS. ISAAC: Teresa Isaac, Pitkas Point.
37
38 MR. LALONDE: Neil Lalonde, U.S. Fish
39 and Wildlife, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge,
40 Refuge manager.
41
42 MR. SUNDOWN. Robert Sundown with the
43 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
44
45 MS. LLIABAN: Lillian Lliaban, Akiak.
46
47 MR. NICOLAI: Martin Nicolai, Kwethluk.
48
49 MR. T. ANDREW: Good morning and
50 welcome, Tim Andrew with AVCP in Bethel.

1 MR. MASCHMANN: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 -- Gerald Maschmann, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
3
4 MR. BUE: Fred Bue with the U.S. Fish
5 and Wildlife Service. I'm based out of Fairbanks. I'm
6 the Yukon River manager.
7
8 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner with the
9 Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage.
10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the young ladies
12 that are just coming in, could you please introduce
13 yourselves.
14
15 MS. NICHOLAS: Is the public invited to
16 this meeting?
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you are.
19
20 MS. NICHOLAS: Okay. Grace Nicholas.
21
22 MR. NICK: Alex Nick, Bethel.
23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: Jackson Williams, Akiak.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And starting from the
27 table back there, please?
28
29 MR. MCKEE: I'm Chris McKee. I'm the
30 Wildlife Division Chief with the Office of Subsistence
31 Management in Anchorage.
32
33 MR. FOX: Good morning. Trevor Fox
34 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of
35 Anchorage.
36
37 MS. FLEEK: Adrienne Fleek with the
38 Office of Subsistence Management, Subsistence Council
39 coordinator.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And our recording
42 secretary, ma'am.
43
44 MS. HILE: I am Tina Hile, and I'm the
45 recorder for the Council.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl.
48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Carl Johnson, Office of
50 Subsistence Management.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your next,
2 introduction.
3
4 MR. BROWN: William Charlie Brown.
5
6 MR. BILL: David Bill, Sr. Nelson
7 Island.
8
9 MR. CHARLES: James Charles from
10 Tuntutuliak.
11
12 MS. JOHNSON: Dorothy Johnson from
13 Mountain Village.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)
16
17 Translation, Bob Aloysius from Kalskag,
18 Alaska 99607.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm Lester Wilde from
23 Hooper Bay. I chair the Council.
24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: Greg Roczicka, 99559.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. PETERS: Mike Peters, Marshall.
30
31 MR. ULAK: Anthony Ulak, Scammon Bay.
32
33 MR. SMITH: Dale Smith, Mekoryuk.
34
35 MS. CLEVELAND: Annie Cleveland,
36 Quinhagak, a new member for this group.
37
38 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney, Alakanuk.
39 Secretary.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone on
42 the line.
43
44 MS. MONCRIEFF: Hi. This is Catherine
45 Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
46 Association.
47
48 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, everybody.
49 This is Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence
50 Management.

1 MR. WALSH: And good morning. This is
2 Pat Walsh, lead biologist, Togiak National Wildlife
3 Refuge, Dillingham.

4
5 MS. SCHMIDT: Good morning. This is
6 Stephanie Schmidt, the Yukon River summer season
7 manager with Fish and Game in the Anchorage office. I
8 also have sitting with me the assistant summer season
9 manager, Sabrina Garcia.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else on line.

12
13 MS. TONNESON: Good morning. This is
14 Heather Tonneson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
15 Service out of Anchorage, and I will be down there a
16 little later this afternoon. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Anyone
19 else.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we get started,
24 I would like to request that everybody turn or mute
25 their telephones so we don't get disturbed during our
26 deliberation. Thank you.

27
28 The agenda that we're going to be
29 working on and covering today is as follows:

30
31 Item 5 is review and adoption of the
32 agenda.

33
34 Item 6 is the election of officers.

35
36 Item 7, review and approve previous
37 meeting minute.

38
39 Item 8 is reports by the Council
40 members or the Chair.

41
42 Item 9 is public and tribal comment on
43 non-agenda items.

44
45 Item 10 is old business. Item 11 --
46 I'm sorry, under 10 is rural
47 determination process review. Item B
48 under 10 is customary and traditional
49 use determination and the Southeast
50 Council proposal. And we'll have

1 Refuge proposed rule on hunting.
2
3 Item 11 is new business. Item A under
4 new business, call for Federal hunting
5 and trapping regulatory proposals.
6 Item B, funding notification, Fisheries
7 Resource Monitoring Program. Pardon
8 me. Item C is review and approve
9 fiscal 2014 annual report. Item D,
10 charter revisions. Item C, Kodiak/
11 Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory
12 Council emperor goose resolution. It's
13 supplementary.
14
15 Item 12, agency reports. Under agency
16 reports will be tribal governments,
17 Native organizations, U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National
19 Wildlife Refuge and the Togiak National
20 Wildlife Refuge, National Park Service,
21 BLM, ADF&G, OSM is Office of
22 Subsistence Management, North Pacific
23 Fishery Management Council bycatch
24 presentation.
25
26 Item 13 is future meeting dates.
27 Confirm date and location of fall 2015
28 meeting. Winter meeting 2016, all-
29 Council meeting update.
30
31 Item 14 will be closing comments.
32
33 Item 15 will be adjourn.
34
35 Any additions or deletions on the
36 agenda.
37
38 Mr. Johnson.
39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
41 have several updates for the agenda.
42
43 First under Item 6, in addition to
44 election of officers, that would be a good time to
45 appoint representatives from the Council to serve on
46 the Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel. That's the new
47 local management panel created by the Alaska Department
48 of Fish and Game. And they have invited members to
49 include members from this Council, and then also from
50 the Western Interior Council, Kuskokwim residents.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was that again?
2 The appointment on Kuskokwim what

3
4 MR. JOHNSON: It's called the Kuskokwim
5 Subsistence Salmon Panel. So it's a new body created
6 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding
7 Kuskokwim salmon management. And so that would be
8 under election of officers. They're not officers, but
9 it seems like a good to discuss appointing somebody to
10 represent the RAC on that.

11
12 Then under new business, there is a new
13 Item F.

14
15 And if whoever we have who's on the
16 phone making that noise, please mute your phone, that's
17 very distracting. Again, please mute your phones if
18 you're on the teleconference. Yes, that's you with the
19 shuffling noise. Okay.

20
21 So a new Item F under new business.
22 That will be the BLM Bering Sea Western Interior
23 planning. That's going to be presented by YRDFA.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you repeat that
26 again, please, Carl.

27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. The BLM Bering Sea
29 Western Interior planning. And that will be presented
30 by YRDFA.

31
32 A new Item G, the wood bison management
33 plan, and that will be presented by Chris McKee from
34 OSM.

35
36 And then we have two items that are
37 going to be presented by AVCP. First a new Item H,
38 which is the proposed Kuskokwim Fisheries Co-management
39 Demonstration Project. I know that's a mouthful, so
40 I'll repeat it. Again a new Item H, proposed Kuskokwim
41 Fisheries Co-management Demonstration Project. And
42 that will be AVCP.

43
44 And a new Item I, reduction of Chinook
45 salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea. Again, AVCP,
46 reduction of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea.

47
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What was our number G
50 again?

1 MR. JOHNSON: That will be a new letter
2 I. So you've got a new F, G, H AND I under new
3 business.

4
5 And then there's two Fish and Wildlife
6 Service agency reports to add. One is going to be from
7 the Regional 7 Regional Director, and that's Geoff
8 Haskett. He's also the Fish and Wildlife Service
9 representative on the Federal Subsistence Board. And
10 then Fred Bue will be giving you a Yukon fisheries
11 report.

12
13 And that's is for any addition that we
14 as your support Staff ad to add. And, of course, if
15 anybody else in the public needs to add anything to the
16 agenda.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else. Mr.
19 Aloysius.

20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I need little
22 guidance on this one here. The new boundary 18, 19 and
23 21, the boundary on the map for 21 and 19 is very, very
24 erroneous, so I need some place to talk about that.
25 Where would that be, old business or new business.

26
27 MR. JOHNSON: Well, through the Chair.
28 Since the Unit boundaries are set by the Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game, perhaps maybe we could
30 have somebody from ADF&G talk about that. I don't know
31 if it -- it could be a new business item, or it could
32 just be part of their agency reports. That would be
33 the discretion I think a to where that would best fit
34 in.

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: All I would like to do
37 is clarify it and make sure that everybody understands
38 exactly where that boundary is supposed to be.

39
40 MS. KENNER: Are you talking about
41 this boundary?

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

44
45 MS. KENNER: It's already moved.

46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not this -- that's just
48 a general map. I'm talking about the map exactly where
49 18 ends, 21 on the north, and 19 on the south meet.
50 There is no way for Kuskokwim drainage to flow into the

1 Yukon, and their map shows 21 coming down to Kalskag,
2 which is in 19. And so there's no way for all the
3 drainage south of the High Portage that goes from
4 behind Kalskag down to Devil's Elbow to flow into the
5 Yukon. It all goes into the Johnson River, and the
6 Johnson River empties into the Kuskokwim River. So
7 that is something that has to be clarified so people
8 will know where they are. You know, we don't go
9 hunting 21E right behind our house. So I need somebody
10 to clarify that. And I thought that maybe this group
11 can help start that process.

12

13 Thank you. Where would I put it, under
14 new business?

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, under the new
17 business. Under J.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. That will be
20 under new Item J, clarification of Game Management Unit
21 19 and 21 boundary.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else. Mr.
26 Roczicka.

27

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

29

30 Maybe just a clarification or to make
31 aware for what we have under H on the Kuskokwim
32 Fisheries Co-Management Demonstration Project. The
33 Staff to address that will not be here until tomorrow
34 morning, and they're very limited on their time. So
35 when that does come up tomorrow morning, I'd like to
36 look for a suspension of the rules to accommodate them
37 during the time that they're here. So given that it's
38 so far down the agenda, we may have to do that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That can be done.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Just to let people know
43 ahead of time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else, new
46 agenda items.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I moved to
2 adopt agenda as amended.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motions been made to
5 adopt the agenda as amended.

6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
10 Aloysius.

11
12 Mr. Roczicka.

13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 In discussion, regarding under
17 elections where it's been suggested about the
18 appointment of representatives for the Kuskokwim
19 Subsistence Salmon Panel, in the past, up until the
20 last election and for as many years as I've been
21 involved with this Council on both sides of the table,
22 there was always a point following the election of
23 officers for this RAC to appoint two representatives
24 for the Kuskokwim, two representatives for the Yukon to
25 serve on fisheries issues and attend meetings on behalf
26 of the RAC. And we couldn't take a position if the RAC
27 hadn't formally discussed it on record, but those were
28 two individuals identified specifically to address
29 fisheries meetings that came up out of cycle, or in
30 between the RAC meeting to attend. And it's not on the
31 agenda this time. And to have -- we had those
32 individuals identified at our last meeting that were to
33 serve that role.

34
35 And this appointment of the
36 representative to the Subsistence Salmon Panel, this is
37 only a temporary panel that will go away come this
38 fall, probably before -- well, not before our next RAC
39 meeting, but we already have those individuals
40 identified.

41
42 And I guess I need some clarification
43 why do we need to go to specifics on here when it's
44 been standard procedure for the last 20 years for the
45 RAC to identify representatives to represent them for
46 these types of meetings, and where the difference came
47 in, and why this specific determination on this
48 appointment, and why not maintain what's been there all
49 this time in the past for us to appoint two
50 representatives. I believe it's Bob Aloysius and John

1 Andrew are the two presently for the Kuskokwim; and I
2 think Ray, and who's the other one for the Yukon?
3 Tony, yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Johnson, do you
6 have any comments on that?

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

9
10 And through the Chair, in response to
11 that, Greg, I reviewed the transcripts of the prior
12 meetings, and unfortunately the transcripts only
13 reflected that the individuals were appointed to
14 specifically serve on specific bodies like the
15 Kuskokwim Salmon, the working group or YRDFA or
16 something else very specific. It didn't reflect that
17 it was an open-ended serve on any panel. So I
18 discussed that with our ARD, our assistant regional
19 director, and he said, given that they weren't
20 specifically appointed to serve on this new panel which
21 didn't exist at the last meeting, that we would need to
22 wait until we got a formal appointment from the Council
23 to serve on this.

24
25 Now again that's just the basis for why
26 we're doing it this way. And I don't know how long
27 this new Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel will exist,
28 but at least this way now we know it exists, and the
29 Council will have an opportunity to appoint
30 representatives to represent the Council there.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 It was specifically put to us on these
35 elections in the past to appointing these
36 representative for our respective drainages,
37 specifically for this for meetings that come up in the
38 interim that nobody's aware of, and for those people to
39 attend on behalf of the RAC. That has been there as I
40 said, ever since the inception of the RACs as far as
41 I'm aware of.

42
43 And I did also discuss it with the
44 assistant regional director, and he said that he was
45 informed the way it was present that we hadn't taken
46 specific action for that appointment to this committee,
47 and, of course, we couldn't, because it hadn't been
48 created. But if he would have been aware that we had
49 these two positions and appointment filled specifically
50 for this purpose, he would have had no problem. Because

1 I was wondering if money was an issue, and I was told,
2 no, money's not an issue. It's because the RAC hadn't
3 taken formal action. But we have. These people were
4 appointed specifically to do that. And it should be a
5 matter of record. And I checked with our former
6 Council coordinator, and as far as he's aware from his
7 retirement last July, it was still existing policy.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Johnson.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Through the Chair.
12 I apologize, Greg, but just again my review of the
13 transcript reflected appointment specific to particular
14 meetings, not a general catch-all any fisheries
15 meetings. So I can only go by what my review of the
16 transcript reflects. And that's the explanation.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Then I may, through the
19 Chair, then is it no longer policy that the RAC
20 appoints two members for Kuskokwim and two members for
21 the Yukon as they've been directed to do by their
22 coordinators and by Staff for, again, back as far as I
23 know since the last started. Is that no longer
24 existing policy? Is it something that people were
25 unaware of? What?

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Response.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Again, through the Chair,
30 Greg. There is no policy one way or the other. I
31 can't speak to what happened 20 years ago. I suppose
32 if I had the spare time to review 20 years worth of
33 transcripts, I could have given you a more detailed
34 history. But if the Council at this meeting wants to
35 state on the record that it wants to appoint, you know,
36 two members from the Yukon community, and two members
37 from the Kuskokwim community to serve on any panel, any
38 meeting that comes up in the future, we can do that.
39 There's no prohibition on that. All I'm saying is what
40 my review of the transcripts from the last two meetings
41 reflected, which was not an open-ended appointment, but
42 specific appointments to specific meetings. So we can
43 do it that way, there's no policy one way or the other.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: And not to belabor it,
48 I'm not saying from 20 years ago. That has been my
49 experience for every year there had been an elections
50 since I've been on, it was to appoint those people, and

1 that was their purpose. And I thought it was clearly
2 stated on the record. Obviously it was not recorded
3 that way for the last two years, but it certainly has
4 been to my understanding, and I think most of the other
5 members that I've talked to in between, yes, that was
6 what we appointed these people for.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Roczicka. And that has always been my understanding,
10 and as Chair, that we do appoint with the consensus of
11 the rest of the Council members, that we do appoint
12 representatives to either the Kuskokwim or the Yukon on
13 fisheries matters to represent this Council. It's
14 always been that way, and I think we'd prefer to keep
15 it that way. If it's all right with OSM, that's the
16 way we're going to do it.

17

18 Mr. Aloysius.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of order. Let us
21 get to this when we get to that particular item on the
22 agenda, because we're going to spend time against what
23 we are discussing right is approving of the agenda.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
26 discussion. There's a motion -- did we approve the
27 agenda?

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: It was discussion. It's
30 been moved and seconded.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made and
33 seconded to approve the agenda as correct. Any further
34 discussion

35

36 MR. ALOYSIUS: As amended.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: As amended, I'm sorry.
39 Any further discussion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
46 All favor say aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.

4

5 And we forgot to have our two introduce
6 themselves. I think it's time before we get into any
7 further -- I'd like to make sure that everybody knows
8 there are interpreters. And if you have anything to
9 say about what you do, could you do this at this time.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. CHARLIE: I'm Charlie Charlie from
14 the Village of Tuntutuliak. And interpreting for
15 awhile in the (indiscernible - noise on teleconference)
16 area (indiscernible) you folks and the audience, and
17 elders who don't understand English, for them.
18 (indiscernible) interpreting trails. Quyana.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Pat Sampson, the other
21 translator for the RAC committee. we have translating
22 equipment here. If you want to speak Yup'ik, speak
23 Yup'ik, if you want to speak English, speak English.
24 Don't do both of them, when you're trans -- the English
25 language talks like this, but the Yup'ik language flips
26 that. So if you're talking English and Yup'ik, that's
27 kind of confusing. So if you don't understand either
28 one, we have these available. And thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And for those people
31 that are listening in on the telephone, even the
32 changing of your paper or turning of your page is heard
33 by everyone in this Council, so if you need to speak to
34 someone else or addressing someone else on phone, could
35 you please make sure that your phone is muted so that
36 you are not disturbing the proceedings of this Council
37 meeting.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 And at this time the call free number,
42 the toll free number is 1-866-560-5984, and when
43 prompted, enter the pass code 12960066.

44

45 Public comments are welcome for each
46 agenda item that we have, and for regional concerns,
47 and for anything that you might want to say not
48 included on the agenda. The Council always appreciates
49 hearing your concerns and knowledge. But make sure
50 that you fill out a comment form to be recognized. And

1 the comment forms this year, this time you can find I
2 believe at the table somewhere back there. They're
3 available back at the table, so fill one of those out.
4 It's a green form.

5
6 And we don't usually allow time limits
7 for anyone who would like to say anything, to address
8 the Council on any specific items that you have
9 concerns on.

10
11 And please note that these are
12 estimated times, and the agenda is subject to change.
13 And if you have any other items, that you could contact
14 Staff for the current schedule.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 At this time we'll going election of
19 officers. Mr. Johnson, would you please chair that
20 portion.

21
22 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
23 name is Carl Johnson. I'm with the Office of
24 Subsistence Management. And for the election of Chair
25 of the Council, I will serve as the Chair of this
26 meeting.

27
28 The table is now open for nominations
29 of the position of Chair for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
30 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Mr. Roczicka.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: I'd nominate Lester
33 Wilde to remain as chair.

34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. That's a
36 nomination for Lester Wilde for the position of Chair.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Second.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that nominations
41 be closed.

42
43 MR. JOHNSON: There's a motion that
44 nominations be closed with that one nomination. Do we
45 have a second.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Second.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: I will second the
50 nomination and move that nominations be closed.

1 MR. JOHNSON: All right. So the
2 nomination was seconded and then we have a motion for
3 nominations to be closed that was seconded by John
4 Andrew.

5
6 Any discussion on that motion.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: The question has been
11 called. All those in favor of closing nominations with
12 the one nomination of Lester Wilde for Chair, please
13 indicate by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Those opposed say nay.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MR. JOHNSON: Motion carries
22 unanimously.

23
24 Mr. Wilde, you are now Chair of this
25 Council, and I ass the gavel back to you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. At this
28 time we're -- could you, Mr. Johnson, explain to us
29 what DFO is? The only DFO I know is Division of
30 Fisheries and Oceans, and that's in Canada.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd be
35 happy. DFO.

36
37 For those members of the public, we had
38 a brief training session prior to the meeting for the
39 Council members. One of the things we covered is that
40 these meetings are covered by the Federal Advisory
41 committee Act, which requires a public process for the
42 Council to meet. One of the creations from that law is
43 something called a designated Federal official, which
44 is what you see as DFO under your parenthesis. And in
45 the Office of Subsistence Management that person is the
46 Council coordinator. So that is the person who is
47 responsible under that Federal law to make sure that
48 this meeting is conducted in accordance with that law.
49 So that is what you'll see as DFO on your agenda.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Johnson.
5
6 Nominations are now open for Vice
7 Chair. Any nominations.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. I nominate
10 Greg Roczicka a Vice Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg Roczicka has been
13 nominated for Vice Chair.
14
15 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I nominate Greg
16 Roczicka for Vice Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, he was already
19 nominated.
20
21 MR. BILL: Oh, I'm sorry.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other
24 nominations.
25
26 I would like to nominate Mr. Bob
27 Aloysius for Vice Chair.
28
29 Any other nominations. Nominations
30 necessarily don't need any second.
31
32 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I close
33 the nominations.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nominations have been
36 closed. All in favor of the motion to close the
37 nominations say aye.
38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.
46 We'll have a secret ballot. There's pieces of paper in
47 front of you. You print your.....
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: No speeches?
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you would like to
2 make speeches, Mr. Aloysius, you're welcome to.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let somebody from the
7 audience read the numbers or count the numbers.

8
9 Mr. Johnson, may I ask Adrienne as one
10 of her first official roles to count the names. And
11 we'll have our secretary at this time, who is now at
12 the moment Mr. Oney, take the tally.

13
14 MR. RIVARD: Excuse me, this is Don
15 Rivard on line. I don't know if you can hear me, but
16 we're not hearing things on line. It seems to be
17 fading in and out.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're having the
20 election of officers at this time, and if it seems
21 quiet to you, it is because it is.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. RIVARD: Okay, Mr. Chair.

26
27 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. We have eight
28 for Greg Roczicka, and five for Bob Aloysius.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Greg
31 Roczicka, you are the Vice Chair.

32
33 At this time we're -- need an
34 appointment for Secretary.

35
36 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chair. I nominate Dale
37 Smith from Mekoryuk.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dale Smith has been
40 nominate as Secretary.

41
42 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I nominate
43 Raymond Oney.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Raymond Oney's been
46 nominated.

47
48 MR. ANDREW: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else.

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chair. I'll close
2 the nominations.
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: I nominate Dorothy
5 Johnson.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dorothy Johnson's been
8 nominated. Anyone else.
9
10 MR. CHARLES: Close the nominations.
11 Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nominations have been
14 closed -- or a motion's been made to close
15 nominations. Do I hear a second.
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All in favor of the
22 motion say aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And, Adrienne, could
31 you handle this for us, please. Thank you.
32
33 Go ahead, Mr. Johnson.
34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 While we're counting the ballots, I forgot to mention
37 when we were going over the agenda that one of the
38 things we've been doing with regard to the rural
39 determination proposed rule is that we moved that on
40 the agenda so that it happens the morning after we have
41 the public meeting, so it gives the Council a chance to
42 hear the public before the Council itself discusses and
43 deliberates what it wants to recommend on the proposed
44 rule.
45
46 So if I may, Mr. Chair, have that
47 issue, which is now under old business, item (a) be
48 addressed tomorrow morning rather than in it's natural
49 order under the agenda today.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We can do that.
4
5 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. If I may.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Secretary.
8
9 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman.
11
12 I know we appoint a CFC for the Yukon
13 and Kuskokwim. Is that going to happen during this
14 election.
15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: That's after the
17 Secretary.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: YES
20
21 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Johnson.
24
25 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Chair. While
26 normally the Secretary would be involved in the final
27 ballot tally, given that this is the election for
28 Secretary, Adrienne just handed me the ballots.
29
30 And the total results are six votes for
31 Ray Oney. Four for Dale Smith. And three for Dorothy
32 Johnson.
33
34 So your new Secretary is Mr. Oney.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The new and the old.
37 The old new.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Now, is that the
40 majority?
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's majority. How
43 many was for -- that was just for major. Just
44 majority.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Could we have the
47 numbers?
48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. That was six for
50 Ray Oney. Four for Dale Smith. And three for Dorothy

1 Johnson.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Simple majority.

4

5 MR. ROCZICKA: It's not a majority.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Simple majority.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Simple majority, yes.

10 So simple majority rules. Mr. Oney's the new

11 secretary. New old secretary.

12

13 We continue on with our agenda. We are
14 now down to review and approve previous minutes.

15

16 Mr. Johnson.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Mr. Chair. If
19 you recall under the amended agenda, now is the point
20 on the agenda where we discuss the appointment of
21 representative to the Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon
22 Panel, or as was suggested, that we make it a very
23 statement on the record that this is for any fisheries
24 management group meeting, committee, et cetera, and the
25 representatives for those

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I failed to write that
30 down. But anyway at this time any volunteers for the
31 CFC for the Yukon.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. If I
34 may, I'd like to ask who is on the Kuskokwim committee
35 now.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's Bob Aloysius
38 and Mr. James Charles I believe was who they were. Is
39 that what -- Mr. Johnson, do you remember who was named
40 on the CFC prior at the transcript that you -- somebody
41 mistakenly wrote or you mistakenly.....

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, that's what I
44 recall from the discussion on who the Kuskokwim members
45 were.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Aloysius and
48 James Charles.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. Mr.

1 Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And for the Yukon, who
4 was -- there was Mr. Oney and who? Oh, Tony Ulak and
5 Raymond Oney. Any discussion on the appointments for
6 the CFC. Any suggestions.

7

8 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman. Anthony Ulak.
9 I'd like to -- on my place I'd like to appoint Michael
10 Peters. He's been with the Yukon for quite a long
11 time, so I'd like to see that turnover.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

14

15 MR. ALOYSIUS: What now?

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If that's the
18 consensus of the Council, for the Kuskokwim it will be
19 Mr. Bob Aloysius and Mr. James Charles as was in the
20 past, and they've always done a good job for us, and
21 always made reports.

22

23 Mr. Roczicka.

24

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

26

27 And I have actually been requested that
28 specific under this appointment for the fisheries, that
29 Bob and James would still be the primary, but in the
30 event, since we all wear a lot of hats, specific for
31 the Kuskokwim Management Working Group, sometimes to
32 achieve a quorum, we need all the different bodies
33 represented, if I can be approved as an alternate for
34 either Bob or James within the Kuskokwim Salmon
35 Management Working Group.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We can do that. Any
38 objections by the Council.

39

40 (No objections)

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, so
43 ordered.

44

45 Any changes on the Yukon CFC. Mr. Mike
46 Peters and Mr. Oney for the Yukon, if that's the
47 consensus of the rest of the Council members.

48

49 MR. ULAK: Mr. Chairman, I was
50 suggesting Raymond Oney and Michael Peters.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Raymond Oney and
2 Michael Peters. Any objections.
3
4 (No objections)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, Ray
7 Oney and Michael Peters will be representing the Yukon
8 on any of the discussions, anything to do with
9 fisheries.
10
11 Mr. Johnson.
12
13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. And if I may suggest as Greg did regarding
15 Kuskokwim, if we can identify an alternate for Yukon
16 River in case it is needed.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. The Yukon
19 alternate, I'd like to keep on Mr. Ulak as our
20 alternate, if that's all right with you, Mr. Ulak.
21
22 MR. ULAK: It is.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any objections.
25
26 (No objections)
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, so
29 ordered.
30
31 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. I've got a
32 question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead, Mr.
35 Smith.
36
37 MR. SMITH: Earlier Mr. Roczicka
38 mentioned or talked about clearly understanding that
39 the appointments were done some 20 years ago. Is this
40 going to be every year or you're going to have
41 elections every year?
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We do have elections
44 every year. Mr. Roczicka, you might cover.
45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Dale, to clarify
47 that, it did occur 20 years ago, but it's occurred
48 every year since that time. And that was what was
49 causing my confusion. And I know there's been some
50 Staff turnover, but I also believe there's been people

1 that have been there for a long time that should have
2 been well aware of that and know who the CFC is and
3 what the purpose of it was, and that has always been
4 our understanding. And as far as I know, we've had
5 those elections. Every time when we come up with
6 officers, that's been included.

7
8 Is there any more clarification that
9 needs to be done on record that the representatives
10 we've chosen are to serve for the Chair to pick and
11 chose or see who's available to attend on behalf of the
12 RAC. They can't take an action for the RAC, but the
13 attend on our behalf and report back, and if there are
14 issues to be -- that call for a vote, they would weigh
15 in. And we appoint them with that trust in mind and
16 understanding

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Johnson.

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
21 Chair. I think this makes it very clear. And again I
22 imagine, you know, Staff turnover is a part of it. We
23 have lost a lot of institutional memory at the Office
24 of Subsistence Management in the last two years. But
25 now we're starting with a bunch of new Staff. You'll
26 get a report on that later.

27
28 So this does make it clear for any
29 Kuskokwim or Yukon River related CFC of any kind, that
30 these individuals will represent the Council at those
31 meetings, and then can be the ears for the Council and
32 report back to the Council at its next meeting.

33
34 So thank you for that clarification.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: As it has for the last
37 19 years.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other further
40 discussion on this matter. Mr. Charles.

41
42 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 So did I understand right that Greg is the alternate
44 for Kuskokwim now?

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

47
48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
4 we'll continue on down with our regular agenda then.
5 Will be review and approve the previous minutes.
6
7 Any discussion. Mr. Roczicka
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
10 we approve the minutes for the meeting of -- what is
11 the date -- oh.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.
16
17 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you.
18
19 The only two things I seen on the
20 meeting minutes is typos on Page 3 under Mr. Stan Slaw.
21 It should be.....
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of order We have
24 move to approve, then follow with a second and reading.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. And then we get
27 into it. We need to approve.
28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Bob moved, I seconded.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been moved by
32 Mr. Aloysius to approve the minutes as written.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Seconded.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that what you said,
37 Mr. Aloysius.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm trying to find the
40 date of the meeting. Oh, okay. October 14-15, 2014.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, there was
43 corrections for those minutes. Prior to approval of
44 the minutes, we need to hear those corrections.
45
46 Mr. Oney, you stated there was a
47 correction in the minutes.
48
49 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chairman. It was moved and seconded by Greg, and

1 that's the reason why I said there needs to be typos on
2 the meeting minutes.

3

4 If you look on Page 9 under Mr. Stan
5 Slaw, it should be Mr. Stanslaus Sheppard. And on Page
6 11 under Roberta Chaves, there should be a Z in there
7 somewhere.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't hear a word he
12 said.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could you repeat that.
15 Bob has a problem with hearing you. Could you repeat
16 what you said, please.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Pull your mic a little
19 bit closer to you.

20

21 MR. ONEY: Okay. On Page 9. Page 9,
22 on the bottom where it says Mr. Stan Slaw, it should be
23 Stanslaus instead of Stan Slaw. Stan Slaw is separate.
24 Okay.

25

26 On Page 11 under Roberta Chaves, there
27 should be a Z in there somewhere. If you look at the
28 -- I don't remember what page that was, but it's with a
29 Z in there. Those are just the two typos that I
30 recognized.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
35 corrections on the minutes. Yes, we'll get to you
36 after Mr. -- I forgot your name since you haven't been
37 our.....

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
42 the record, my name is Alex Nick.

43

44 And I just wanted to make a couple
45 points on my comments on Page 9 also. It was not
46 overview boundaries. If I remember, I raised questions
47 on boundary of Unit 18 near Kalskag. I don't know how
48 transcripts reflect, Mr. Chair, but I think that also
49 needs to be changed.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where was that at?
2 Could you point that out exactly.
3
4 MR. NICK: It's under miscellaneous
5 presentations and discussions, down third paragraph
6 from the bottom where it says Alex Nick, Bethel,
7 provided an overview of boundary changes. If I
8 remember correctly, I was questioning where the
9 boundaries at the time, because State of Alaska is
10 supposed to have probably provided a copy of that. And
11 also at the time I did not -- I don't think I provided
12 overview of changes, I just wondered at the time where
13 the boundary change was, because, you know, I've seen
14 several maps, very small maps that did not tell me
15 exactly where the changes was. I think Bob will be
16 speaking to that later on.
17
18 Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He already has. Thank
21 you, Mr. Aloysius.
22
23 Any further corrections on the minutes.
24 Mr. Andrew.
25
26 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27
28 On Page 5 of your minutes, on the NGO
29 and public participants, Martin Nicolai should be
30 spelled without the H. And on Page 7 and 8, and all
31 those fisheries proposals, their titles need to be
32 written down and spelled out.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
37 corrections on the minutes as written. Any further
38 corrections.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, the Chair will
43 entertain the motion for adoption.
44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question's been
48 called for. All in favor of adopting the minutes as
49 corrected please say aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All opposed same sign.
4
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's carried.
9
10 At this time we'll take a five-minute
11 break.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, lunch.
14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: No lunch?
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, lunch break. I
18 thought you said -- let's take a five-minute lunch
19 break.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll take a
24 lunch break and be back here at 1:30, since it takes a
25 little time to order in some of those places. So 1:30
26 we'll reconvene.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 (Off record)
31
32 (On record)
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
35 to order. The time is now 1:30.
36
37 We are down to reports. Council
38 members, any reports from Council members.
39
40 Mr. Roczicka.
41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43
44 Right before and then following the
45 last Council meeting which I was unable to be at,
46 because of the other fisheries issues on the State
47 side, I was appointed by you to attend the wood bison
48 reintroduction planning meetings. We had several that
49 took place that was paid for -- or sponsored through
50 the State Wildlife Division. And I attended a meeting

1 in late September, two more I believe in November, and
2 then two more in January. And it is on the agenda. I
3 believe Mr. McKee over there will be making a
4 presentation on it later, but I just wanted to say I
5 did attend all the meetings.

6
7 A lot of the concerns that I had and
8 that were brought forward to me in talking to folks at
9 the conventions and fall meetings were pretty well
10 addressed.

11
12 I did not take a position for the
13 Counsel on it. It would have to come back.

14
15 There were three primary areas that
16 people brought forward. The did not want -- they were
17 worried whether these bison might conflict with moose
18 populations, have a negative effect on the populations.
19 There was a safety issue and where they go afterwards,
20 and who gets to harvest them.

21
22 And again the main one being about
23 whether they would compete with moose. And it was
24 fairly strongly put forward that they will not be
25 competing with moose, that they're actually grazers
26 whereas moose are browsers, so they use different
27 habitat. Will not be competing for food.

28
29 They're aggressiveness, whether they'd
30 be like the muskox, trampling the dog teams over
31 towards Holy Cross, or Russian Mission as has happened
32 in the past, that bison tend to make their own trails,
33 they don't follow the packed snowmachine trails
34 necessarily. They pretty much stay off by themselves
35 and have their own territories, and tend to be pretty
36 faithful to it.

37
38 And there is a potential for expansion
39 of the herd on into the future, 5 or 10 years, Again
40 you'll get more detail on that from Mr. McKee later.
41 But the most likely place for them to expand, if they
42 do, is going to be coming down into Unit 18 down off
43 the south end of the Portage Mountains.

44
45 So it has gone forward, and the release
46 of the bison is scheduled for late March. The Federal
47 Board did approve the -- took an action supporting the
48 release of them, but they have referred the issue
49 forward to both this RAC and the Western Interior RAC
50 for further review and recommendation.

1 I just wanted to give that report to
2 you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Roczicka.

6
7 Any other Council members, pardon me,
8 have any reports.

9
10 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

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

15
16 When we were elected as CFC for
17 Kuskokwim Subsistence Panel I was glad that maybe we
18 would do better this time because in the past I have
19 been elected as CFC as for Kuskokwim River, and me and
20 Bob or Mary and a few other people have been elected to
21 be Kuskokwim Coordinating Fisheries Committee members.
22 And that has not worked in the past, and I hope it
23 works better this time, because Bob and I and Greg and
24 Charlie, we're with Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working
25 Group. And even we tell the Department of Fish and
26 Game or Fish and Wildlife Service, they don't do
27 anything about this, or doesn't listen. So when they
28 go get out of the office and make their own decision
29 some place in the building. We wait for them, hoping
30 they would extend or whatever -- or open the river for
31 subsistence, something like that, but that doesn't
32 happen all the time. But when they go make their own
33 decision, we -- our things are nothing, and forget about
34 it. I hope this works better this time.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
39 Charles.

40
41 Any further reports. Mr. Oney.

42
43 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman.

45
46 Yeah, I fall along the same lines as
47 James Charles. You know, i've been appointed to the
48 Yukon CFC, but, you know, I think since I've been on,
49 I've been only contacted once, and that was a number of
50 years ago, and I haven't been contacted for any reason

1 regarding the CFC. Just to note that.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other. Mr. Mike
6 Peter.

7

8 MR. PETERS; Mr. Chair. You know,
9 since I'm the new on this new Yukon River, you know,
10 what they really need to do is if there's something
11 being discussed about the Yukon and Kuskokwim, I think
12 we need to be let known about what proposals are going
13 to be changed and stuff like that, and somehow have
14 like a feedback to us. And that way we could, since
15 we're representing the Yukon and people that live over
16 there, I think what they really need to do is if
17 they're going to have a discussion about the Yukon or
18 Kuskokwim, I think they need to let us know and bring
19 us to their table. And that way we could make
20 recommendations to their Fish and Game Board and try to
21 make it work better or both side of the river.

22

23 And I just thought I'd bring that to
24 the attention, you know. That way someone would do a
25 follow up and we'll be there if there's any changes

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters. I might
30 make a statement that you as CFC member are a
31 representative of this Council and you report to the
32 Council, and you do not make any decisions whatsoever
33 concerning this Council unless it's approved by this
34 Council.

35

36 MR. PETERS: Yeah. Okay. Thank you
37 for the correction. That's all I need to know.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other reports.
42 Mr. Aloysius.

43

44 MR. SMITH: Oh, go ahead, Mr. Aloysius.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Considering
49 that I'm new to the Council here, would it be proper
50 time to make comments or ask questions, because I

1 didn't see in the agenda for Council comments and
2 concerns.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That Council comments
5 well be at the very end of the agenda.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
10 Mr. Aloysius. Or reports.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Well, kind
13 of a request from funding. I would have a problem of
14 being in the village when they're having city council
15 or tribal council meetings, and they're getting a
16 little bit leery about, when are you going to tell us
17 what they're doing? Well, is there any possibility of
18 funding for having a meeting with a joint Council, the
19 tribe and the city, you know, that I can call when I'm
20 there? Or I have to put it on my own, I mean, you
21 know. That's it right not, yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Johnson, do you
24 have an answer to that question.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I'm not quite
27 sure I understand the question. Funding for a joint
28 meeting?

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. You know, like
31 right after we meet here, I like to report to the
32 village what went on. But when I'm there, their city
33 council or their tribal council are meeting at times
34 when sometimes I'm not there. So if there was some way
35 I can call a joint meeting with the city and tribe,
36 then I could report to them what was going on, you
37 know, right after our meeting. I don't see what kind
38 of money it would take. Maybe copying some material
39 and all that, but if there's money for that, because we
40 have nothing in the village. I mean, you know, even
41 the ACs have nothing in a village.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, through the Chair.
44 I think certainly if you wanted to give some type of
45 presentation back to your village council after you get
46 back home, if you wanted to have some handouts, like
47 maybe some information from this meeting, and if you
48 needed more, just let your council coordinator know,
49 and we could mail you some printed materials that
50 related to, you know, pretty much anything that we have

1 here. We could provide that for you, and then you
2 could have that as kind of a handout at the meeting to
3 update your local community about what happened at this
4 meeting. There's definitely a lot of times where we
5 need your help in getting information back to the
6 communities, and we'll certainly, you know, provide you
7 any material support you need for that.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: The other concern is
10 that 90 percent of the meetings pertain to salmon.
11 Salmon or moose, caribou. What about our native fish
12 that are here year round. that is a thing people are
13 concerned about. Why don't we talk about that? Why
14 don't we do something to make sure that we still
15 continue to have our native fish, you know. There are
16 three different kinds of pike, five whitefish, and
17 lush, blackfish, needle fish, rainbow trout, Dolly
18 Varden, grayling. When are we going to start doing
19 something about making sure we conserve them, you know,
20 because we're always saying, well, we have a lot of
21 native fish, but nobody is doing anything to make sure
22 that they are conserved and taken care of. And so
23 that's something that has come to me a lot of times.
24 Just food for thought for the Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have any
27 comments, Mr. Johnson.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.
30 Certainly if there are any discussions you want to have
31 at this meeting about any population, whether it's
32 wildlife or fish, you know, local fish, whatever kind
33 of fish, again, you know, if you -- a good time to talk
34 about it is here at the meeting and say you know, we'd
35 like to see -- we'd like to get a report at our next
36 meeting on what's happening with whitefish in the area
37 or are any -- you know, people have any interest of any
38 kind, of any kind of report, either from the State or
39 Federal agencies, let us know, and then we tried to
40 work with the Department of Fish and Game or we work
41 with other Federal agencies to get a report for you at
42 your next meeting.

43

44 And I do know sometimes, too, that the
45 Federal liaison team for the Department of Fish and
46 Game, you know, Jennifer Yuhas and Drew Crawford, they
47 also listen in on these meetings. And a lot of times
48 if there's a specific for information, they can get it
49 to us, and sometimes even during the meeting, or we can
50 get it out to you shortly after the meeting, like if

1 it's a recent report or something like that.

2

3 So, you know, again we are here to
4 assist you in doing what you feel like you need to do
5 to have good discussions on fish and wildlife
6 management. So you just let us know what you need and
7 we'll try to meet that need for you.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Johnson.

13

14 Any other Council members have any
15 reports.

16

17 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill.

20

21 MR. BILL: It might be a question much
22 more than a report. What part of it is on report.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill, could you
25 talk right into the mic, please.

26

27 MR. BILL: Part of it is on the report
28 side, and part of it is on the asking side is what I'm
29 going to ask. I would like to find out if I did hear
30 it right earlier this morning when the gentleman was
31 talking to us. About three miles and federal waters,
32 the report side of it is we went to the subsistence
33 committee meeting last time, the Fish and Game told us
34 that -- something about salmon, but earlier I found out
35 that, if I hear it wrong, the Fish and Game -- I mean
36 the Fish and Wildlife don't, how do you pronounce it,
37 enforce or put the regulations on salmon on the Federal
38 waters. I'm going to go back and forth on this one.

39

40 But, you know, Fish and Game told us we
41 cannot use any net that is over six inches on Federal
42 waters, and the Federal water means three -- outside of
43 three miles. Most of that rally is on three miles
44 only, because it's the beach of the ocean. There's
45 only a couple of villages that has rivers with them,
46 but the rivers are all shallow around, mud. It's the
47 Village of Kipnuk and the Village of Chefornak. The
48 river goes all the way out about, I'd say about 15, 20
49 miles. All mud around it, just the river on the low
50 water. There's a little bit of water, but not deep

1 enough for any fish on the side of the river. I did
2 not really understand what they were talking about,
3 that they were saying in the river you cannot -- in the
4 Federal waters you cannot use anything more than six
5 inches. To me, those were kind of mixed up to me.

6
7 That's why I want -- trying to ask the
8 gentleman there if he can answer these questions.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you understand the
13 question, Mr. Johnson.

14
15 MR. JOHNSON: (Shaking head
16 negatively)

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't know exactly
19 what he -- did you mean the -- Pippa, did you have an
20 answer to that. Did you understand his question.

21
22 MS. KENNER: Oh, I understood his
23 question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
28 the record, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

29
30 I understood your question, but when it
31 comes to where Federal jurisdiction ends on the coast,
32 on marine waters, I am not competent to answer that
33 question. There is a point where Federal public waters
34 end and marine waters start that we don't have
35 jurisdiction in most marine waters. But where exactly
36 it is on the beach, I don't think very many people
37 could answer that right now. It's kind of
38 situationally dependent. But I can understand why you
39 would be asking that. It's somewhere between where the
40 fresh waters and the marine waters start. Somewhere on
41 that beach there is a mark.

42
43 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. Freshwaters only
44 come out of the streams in the mountains, not in the
45 river in the coastal area. Sometimes they're only
46 about half -- the freshwater goes out into the bay, and
47 before it gets into the Bay, it's all saltwater, before
48 it clears the dry land. That's how it is.

49
50 MS. KENNER: I think that for the

1 purposes of actually putting a net in that isn't
2 allowed under Federal regulations, my advice would be
3 you would have to talk to the enforcement officer, and
4 find out exactly where that point was.

5
6 MR. BILL: Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Council
9 members.

10
11 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. -- there is a
14 section for non-agenda items that you can.....

15
16 MR. SMITH: I just wanted to make a
17 clarifying. The tribal council of Mekoryuk had a
18 meeting and they wanted me to bring up an issue to the
19 Board here. Would that be the time now?

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You will have that on
22 the next agenda item for public and tribal comments.

23
24 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: After the Council and
27 the Chair's reports.

28
29 Any other Council members have any
30 reports.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there are no other
35 reports from the Council, I have just a couple things
36 to report on.

37
38 All the proposals that we've put
39 forward for the last go around with the Subsistence
40 Board were opposed as we wanted them opposed, and
41 passed and approved as we wanted them passed and
42 approved.

43
44 And one thing I've got to congratulate
45 this Council on is that we've had 51 proposals that we
46 supported in front of Board and out of those 51
47 proposals, 47 were adopted and supported by the Board.
48 47, I'm sorry. 47 of those proposals that we passed
49 were also passed by the Subsistence Board. So
50 congratulations on you guys' ability to -- for your

1 insight and your ability to be able to make sure that
2 these proposals and arguments that we've had in this
3 Council were presented to the subsistence Board.

4
5 And that's all I have to report as far
6 as the Chair's reports goes.

7
8 If there isn't anything else, we're
9 going down to Item No. 9, public and tribal comment on
10 non-agenda items. This is the time for anybody who
11 would like to testify to get your name on these blue
12 sheets. You can find them in the back, turn them into
13 either Mr. Johnson or to our recording secretary over
14 there, recording lady, and she'll take care of them.

15
16 The first on the list is Mr. Alex Nick.
17 Is he present.

18
19 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Members of the Council. I see new faces, and
21 congratulations to the new members of the Council. I'm
22 sure that Ms. Johnson and the lady from Quinhagak will
23 do okay as well as others like Mr. Smith.

24
25 Mr. Chair. For the record my name is
26 Alex Nick. I'm originally from Bethel -- or rather --
27 or not originally, but I'm living in Bethel.
28 Originally from Russian Mission.

29
30 I thank you for this opportunity to
31 provide some comments, and I'm going to reserve some of
32 my comments on the agenda topics.

33
34 What I would like to speak about at
35 this point is Unit 18 Yukon River moose hunting. It
36 has been brought to my attention, I don't know whether
37 it's on private lands or on the corporation lands over
38 on the Yukon side that there has been some unacceptable
39 activities, not necessarily poaching, but littering.
40 Some hunters I understand this winter has left some
41 piles of trash, could be on the Federal land, or on
42 corporation, or on the Native allotments. That
43 resulted in the past. And it was brought to my
44 attention in the past by one of the elders who passed
45 on from Kuskokwim River, but I never did bring that up.

46
47
48 I feel kind of not obligated, but kind
49 of responsible to give a report on this to the Regional
50 Advisory Council, because the regulations that you

1 adopt or forward to Federal Subsistence Board for
2 adoption are the regulations that are on Federal
3 lands, the ones that subsistence users will be
4 following when they hunt any subsistence resource.

5
6 I would like to recommend that in the
7 future there should be a section in the regulatory
8 booklet that anyone who hunts, whether it's on Federal
9 or private lands should be required to bring back trash
10 to where they originate from, or burn the trash on the
11 field, and gather all the metal that cannot be burned.
12 One of the reasons why I'm recommending this is because
13 there are private lands that are pending approval.
14 When a piece of property, land, is not approved or is
15 not deeded to a land owner, it's still under Federal
16 management. That need to be kept in mind, you know,
17 when regulatory issues comes up.

18
19 I'm going to reserve the second one
20 until later after I ask some questions to the
21 Department Staff, because what I was going to also
22 mention on record might be a hearsay maybe. I'll have
23 to find out about what people are telling me here in
24 Kuskokwim area.

25
26 The next comment -- if you don't have
27 any questions, I'll go on to the next comment.

28
29 The next comment I would like to
30 provide is a comment on salmon fishery. As you know,
31 it was proposed last year in 2014 salmon season that
32 dipnets should be used for harvest of salmon. Well,
33 I've got news for you. I bought a dipnet. I went out
34 to the river, I did not catch one salmon. And to make
35 it worse I lost nearly \$250 dipnet into the river that
36 same afternoon. But I would like to applaud ONC,
37 Orutsararmiut Native Council. They have some dipnets
38 to be loaned to a subsistence fisherman in Kuskokwim
39 River. But I will tell you that dipnet is not
40 efficient method to fish for subsistence. I've seen
41 several boats dipnetting out in the banks of the
42 Kuskokwim River, and when I went to talk to them, they
43 never caught a salmon. Any salmon. Yes, maybe those
44 dipnets are efficient for fresh water where there's
45 narrow channels, but in the -- probably not in the
46 tidal waters like -- or where there is tidal activity
47 like near Bethel and surrounding areas.

48
49 And I would like to let the Council
50 know, especially those who are from immediate area or

1 from Kuskokwim, that in the future there should be a
2 proposal to do away with dipnets. It's okay to keep
3 them in place, I don't any heartburn over that, but I
4 have heartburn when I have to burn gas looking for a
5 spot away from my fish camp, and go on back to my
6 family with nothing in the boat. That's not good for
7 my family; it's not good for me either. And it's
8 because my wife and I, we start our meals with salmon.
9 Dry fish.

10

11 I can tell you last season I caught a
12 jack Chinook salmon. I was fortunate that ONC was
13 distributing some salmon, and they gave me and my
14 family one pretty good size salmon. And like all other
15 Native people did in the past, we shared that fish with
16 our neighbors and some family members. And we didn't
17 have very much to freeze for the winter.

18

19 And that's the extent of my comment. I
20 will reserve some of my comments on agenda topics. And
21 if you have any questions, I will try to answer your
22 questions. And I will provide you a little information
23 with your permission, Mr. Chairman, on CFC history.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr
26 Nick.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
31 Nick.

32

33 MR. NICK: I am done, but I have some
34 comments on CFC.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
37 Nick. Mr. Roczicka.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I'd be interesting in hearing Alex's perspective on the
41 CFC.

42

43 MR. NICK: Okay. In the past, not only
44 the YK Council and other Councils like Western Interior
45 and Eastern Interior, they were dealing with fishery
46 issues, and I think Mr. Wilde and Mr Greg Roczicka, and
47 James Charles, as well as one or two others who has
48 served on the Council for several years will remember.
49 One of the main role of the CFC members were to work
50 with other regions like Western Interior and Eastern

1 Interior. And that was mainly on Yukon River salmon
2 issues. And because Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
3 Regional Advisory Council represents the whole Yukon-
4 Kuskokwim Delta, they chose to appoint CFC members.
5 They're called Coordinating Fisheries Committee members
6 for Kuskokwim and Yukon River. And as the time went
7 on, and as I left OSM last July, if I remember
8 correctly, Mr. Johnson will explain this maybe a little
9 further, the CFC committees were members on as-needed
10 basis on the Council. That's my understanding from the
11 past.

12

13 Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any
16 questions for Mr. Nick. Mr. Aloysius.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I think one thing that
19 we ought to make really clear that no agency is
20 requiring people to use dipnets. Dipnets are just
21 another tool that you can use to harvest salmon.
22 Nothing says that you are required to use a dipnet.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

25

26 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman. And, Mr.
27 Nick, I think this discussion was brought up about
28 dipnetting on the Yukon, and I think, you know, coming
29 from Marshall on the Yukon, you know, I would like to
30 express that this was brought up and it wasn't working
31 in our area. And let you know, you know, we have
32 similar experience as was expressed by other Council
33 members. It was tough, dipnets are not working in my
34 area, which means it's Marshall and my area and
35 community. There were some elders who got no fish for
36 the winter. We would like to see them go back to
37 setnet. It's sufficient that us subsistence users do
38 away with regulation and go back to setnet.

39

40 Every village tribal representation
41 should be recognized in this G2 draft copy, what's
42 happened at the meeting and discussion. And there was
43 a lack of follow up, and the questions like what you
44 have, I think it was brought to the table, to what our
45 tribes trying to express this concern, and I think, you
46 know, to let the Board know that people that come up
47 and express about something that's not working in our
48 area, someone should do a follow up on this question,
49 and go back to see if the set net would be available to
50 see if it will be working for our people that live on

1 the Yukon. Not just the Yukon, but also the Kuskokwim.

2

3 And, you know, for clarification, I
4 just thought I'd bring that up, because that was being
5 discussed at our table, and it's down there in the
6 minutes. And there are no follow up about that, of
7 why, you know. And if someone from the department
8 could correct me if I'm wrong, but like these questions
9 like the elders have, and concerned citizens, I think
10 that should be brought to the table and be recognized.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Mr. Nick.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

15

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

17

18 Well, echoing kind of a little bit what
19 Bob said, the dipnets aren't required. However, one of
20 the things that all of us got to come to grips with,
21 and especially those that are in a management role, is
22 how to provide some kind of opportunity when you cannot
23 afford to turn 2500 boats loose with gear that they did
24 not have 50 years ago, and that came in specifically
25 for commercial purposes, for top end commercial
26 exploitation, and has since been adopted into use by
27 subsistence users and just everybody here in the last
28 two generations. But yet if you were to allow that
29 gear to go out, you have the ability in such a depleted
30 run year to cause major even further negative impacts.
31 That's the thing that we really need to wrestle with.

32

33 But I wanted to go back on the
34 clarification you mentioned about the CFC. And perhaps
35 I had an askewed understanding of it, or most of the
36 rest of us did, too, because it was our understanding
37 that it was to be our appointees for fisheries in
38 general, and I would still say that the action we took
39 today did clarify that purpose, and hopefully it's
40 there now. But you're saying it was put in place for
41 the purpose of when you had cross-regional -- when you
42 had two different RACs involved or two different
43 regions, that's it's primary purpose that it was there?
44 Which that Kusko Fisheries Panel certain apply to.

45

46 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. I might
47 be incorrect, but during the time that I was with OSM,
48 if I remember correctly, the CFC -- well, before I was
49 hired by OSM, I was an RIT here in Bethel and I was
50 serving as one of the interpreters. They had a meeting

1 in Anchorage. There was a meeting called by OSM on the
2 three RACs, that was Y-K, Western Interior, and the
3 Eastern Interior, and try to hash out some fishery
4 issues. And if I remember correctly, at the time they
5 appointed fishery -- rather Coordinated Fishery
6 Committees. Maybe they might have been appointed
7 before that. John will know that. John Andrew. He
8 was coordinator at the time.

9
10 And after that, how it worked in the
11 past even when I was coordinator was every now and then
12 CFC members were appointed to deal with fishery issues
13 on -- or rather to represent the Council on behalf of
14 the Council they're a member of, like Y-K, for example.
15 And not so long ago, I'm not sure how long ago, it
16 became not needed very much I think.

17
18 But one of your, what do you call,
19 Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group, that comes from CFC
20 members, too, I think.

21
22 So I could be incorrect, but, you know,
23 I'm trying to remember off the top or my head how
24 things worked at the time.

25
26 Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions of
29 Mr. Nick.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.

34
35 MR. NICK: Thank you very much. And I
36 forgot to say that I'm representing myself and my
37 family. Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.

40
41 Next Mr. James Nicori.

42
43 MR. NICORI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Members of the Council. My name is James Nicori.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute. What
47 was that you wanted.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 And pardon me. I would like to let everybody on the

1 teleconference, I would like to remind everybody on the
2 teleconference to please mute your phones. There's a
3 lot of background noise, it's very distracting. If you
4 do not have a mute button on your phone, you can mute
5 your phone through the teleconference by hitting star-
6 6, and then that way we can have a discussion here at
7 the Council without distraction. If your phone is not
8 muted, I have the ability to, and I will mute all
9 phones on the line through a web monitoring system. So
10 if we have more distractions, I'm just going to mute
11 everybody, and that does not benefit everybody when
12 that happens.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Johnson. I was instructed to remind people on the
18 phone also, and I got so carried away in doing what we
19 were doing, so I forgot to do that.

20

21 Okay. Mr. Nicori, you have the floor.

22

23 MR. NICORI: Again, thank you, Mr.
24 Chair and members of the Council. My name is James
25 Nicori. I'm from Kwethluk. I'm on my village tribal
26 council.

27

28 And my first concern is last year we
29 had a problem with our fish where the village did not
30 authorize the Fish and Wildlife to catch the fish who
31 are in our river. And without our permission, they
32 placed a fish weir on the river. We wanted to have it
33 out for a year so -- thinking that the fish, the salmon
34 would go up the stream without any distractions from
35 anybody. Like any other animal or fish, the fish are
36 distracted by the people, even they're on the shore or
37 just riding on the river.

38

39 And that was our main concern that
40 since the fish weir, money was put in through the
41 Organized Village of Kwethluk, under that name, they
42 get the money. And after they had worked on it, they
43 count the fish, the person that was in charge of that
44 did not come to our village to make any reports of the
45 activities they had all summer on that fish weir.

46

47 And my next item that I've been
48 thinking about very hard lately was salmon gear. We
49 are restricted down to 4-inch 60 feet I believe. And
50 in the old days we were using proper fish gear. And

1 when we had our goal everybody takes their setnet out
2 and let the later -- the fish that came in last, the
3 king salmons that come in last escape. And from what I
4 learn from my uncle and my days of fishing, the females
5 come in late, they are late runners. The first ones
6 that go up the river are the males, then the females
7 come in latter part of June, and early part of July.
8 And those are the fish that our elders used to keep
9 away from to have more spawning up on the rivers. And
10 if we had legal gear, like eight-inch for setnet only,
11 no drifting, there would be more escapement of the
12 fish. We use four-inch and six-inch, we destroy more
13 fish that we cannot see in the water. We destroy all
14 those fish that are supposed to go up into the streams
15 and spawn.

16

17 And another thing, with the four-inch,
18 we get those salmon jacks, those smaller salmons that,
19 what I learn from the elders is they come up the river
20 to explore what they have to come back to when they are
21 adults. The salmon jacks go up the river, and then
22 they go back to the ocean where they grow up to be
23 adults and then come back. We use four-inch, we kill
24 all those jacks that are supposed to come in later. We
25 kill two with one stone using four-inch. We destroy
26 more than what we think. And that is what people have
27 to understand that are telling us how to fish. We on
28 the river had grown up with the river and the fish.

29

30 And I've been fishing since I was 13
31 years old all by myself. And I learned a lot from
32 that. And I was wondering why my dad used to let me go
33 out alone without teaching me. And I found out later
34 that he did that to teach myself what is to come later,
35 and it's very useful. Those are the ones, the thing
36 that we are supposed to be looking out for, the salmon
37 gear.

38

39 Go back to the old traditional eight-
40 inch. Setnet only, no drifting. We would have more
41 escapement without killing all those salmons that we
42 kill with a four-inch. Just look at yourself, if
43 you're injured around your respiratory area, if you're
44 injured there, you won't go long way. You won't go
45 long ways. You're going to go part of the and you're
46 going to collapse. The fish are the very same way as
47 that. We injure their respiratory system, they won't
48 go far. With the four-inch and a six-inch, we destroy
49 lots.

50

1 And another thing is our moose season
2 which is in our Kuskokwim area. We had 10-year
3 moratorium, and that is a lot that we went through to
4 increase the amount of moose we have. Now we have a 10-
5 day 100 limit I guess. And what I was thinking and
6 looking at, and pondering in my mind was Bethel is a
7 large place, and more of that 100 moose that are
8 supposed to be sent out to the smaller villages, which
9 have less economy, and if there was a percentage that
10 is being put more to the villages and less for the
11 people that have economy, that would serve us better
12 and that to my mind would be more equal.

13
14 Those are the three concerns that I
15 have.

16
17 Mr. Chair.

18
19 Thank you for the time and giving me
20 time to say my mind.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nicori.

23
24 Any questions for Mr. Nicori. Mr.
25 Flood.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

28
29 Mr. Nicori, you mentioned you're
30 representing Organized Village of Kwethluk?

31
32 MR. NICORI: Yes.

33
34 MR. SMITH: Your comments, are these
35 comments coming from the tribe or just you?

36
37 MR. NICORI: From our tribes that we
38 meet with -- we have three entities that work together
39 on these. The village council -- the city council,
40 tribal council, and our corporation, and we meet with
41 the village that have comments for us to bring into
42 wherever we're going before we meet. We have a joint
43 meeting once a month for the concerns that need to be
44 brought up to the village or to any meeting that we are
45 going to.

46
47 MR. SMITH: Quyana.

48
49 MR. NICORI: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
2 for Mr. Nicori.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
7 thank you, Mr. Nicori.

8
9 MR. NICORI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next is Lillian
12 Lliaban.

13
14 MS. LLIABAN: Good afternoon. Quyana.
15 Lillian Lliaban.

16
17 (In Yup'ik)

18
19 INTERPRETER: I am going to speak, be
20 speaking in Yup'ik here, so I will be speaking in
21 Yup'ik.

22
23 A long time ago I bought this issue up
24 a long time ago, because a person who has a mind, we as
25 Yup'ik people have our own frame of mind, because that
26 frame of mind that we have is respect for the land, and
27 we do not go out there and conquer and divide the
28 wilderness. When we get fish and game, we do not just
29 prepare it any old way. We respect to the Giver and
30 the land that gives us the sustenance. And all of us
31 have our piece of mind, and decide what is best for
32 ourselves and for our family.

33
34 The way that I look at this issue, when
35 they use the four-inch mesh net, they kill all of the
36 small fish, the small fry, the small jack salmon. It
37 is akin to -- if a child is given one day to live and
38 these children, if we do not take care of them -- if we
39 take care of our children, in due time the children
40 becomes leaders of the communities. And it is the same
41 thing with the king salmon, that the jack salmon, the
42 king jacks that come into the fish, they do not stay in
43 the waters, they go back out to the ocean to get
44 bigger, and they come back again. And the smaller
45 mesh, the size that we are using, it's detrimental to
46 the population, that we are destroying that population
47 that are going to be producing from later time.

48
49 And a long time ago, if we look back
50 into our history, we know that the elders and the

1 widows were often hungry, and the young children and
2 the young boys, they would give them good broth for
3 them to drink. And the elders in time of famine would
4 tell the keepers of the house to feed the young
5 children, the young lady and the young boy, to give
6 them more nourishment than they would the elders,
7 because the elders have lived their life already, and
8 that's what we operated under. And the only time that
9 we stopped surviving is when we take our last breath.

10

11 And like James said earlier that you
12 guys have meetings and you guys have regulations and
13 what not, and you come up with all these regulations.
14 And then after you take the information from our area,
15 from our land, from the fish counts, they do not come
16 back to the region and tell us what they have found or
17 what they have learned. It is like that they are
18 stealing the information from us, and that information
19 is not coming to us. And the way that I'm thinking is
20 that we should not even be doing this at all. We
21 should not even be in this predicament.

22

23 Because I always remember this one
24 person, this person, Katie John had moved from her
25 homeland to another land, because we should not even be
26 giving problems and heartache and trouble as we gave
27 Katie John the trouble and heartache that she went
28 through, but through all the regulations and stuff,
29 perhaps we can -- the people that, the first people
30 that have always been here, we should have a regulation
31 stating that they were here first, and we should not
32 even impose changing their way of life. And so that is
33 what I advocate for, and I would like it to be put into
34 regulations that a way life, a person's way of life
35 should not change for conservation methods from other
36 areas, from the Western civilization that comes here
37 and tries to impose all these way of life and try to
38 change our way of life. And they come up with all
39 these regulations to start fighting against each other
40 and they are trying to undermine our activities.
41 They're trying to undermine everything, and they're
42 trying to give us problems through their systems that
43 we are trying to provide for our families in the way
44 that I'm thinking here on this earth, that we are only
45 one people. There's only one thing that a man cannot
46 take. There is no way that a man can ever take this as
47 a real person that lives off the land and the whole way
48 of that person, cannot take this. Only God can take
49 this, because he's the only creator that made this, and
50 he can take our way of life in this land.

1 The air is not governed by man or
2 people. Only God is the one that govern the air, and
3 so man cannot say, I own this piece of air here. So
4 this air that gives, provides life, it is not regulated
5 by anybody.

6
7 And I thank you for listening to me,
8 and you do not need to question, because I only have
9 comments, and I only wanted to say what was in my mind.
10 And thank you for listening to me, and have a good day.
11 Thank you.

12
13 (Applause)

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana, Lillian.

18
19 (In Yup'ik)

20
21 INTERPRETER: Mr. Aloysius. You are
22 not the only one offer the statement in stating all in
23 Yup'ik language. We are caught in other ways. The
24 true way of life. Up to this day we have left our --
25 because of other Western way of life. But through
26 papers and black and white, they are being taught. Us,
27 we taught through of water and of land, and that's how
28 we were taught. And we keep on hold to what we are
29 taught. And we are given from our mind, top to bottom
30 of Yup'ik way of life. The other ethnic groups do not
31 understand our way of life.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Bob.

36
37 (Applause)

38
39 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill.

42
43 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: I'm going to be stating
46 all this in Yup'ik.

47
48 My eluk (ph) and cousin, thank you.

49
50 I'm not really from Nelson Island. I'm

1 much money, give it to me, but if we go home, I'm not
2 going to bring those foods that I'm going -- since I'm
3 not going to eat them, then I'm not going bring it
4 home. So in five minutes it kind of opened and closed.
5 My cousin reminded me of those words of wisdoms that I
6 was told, and they are very true.

7

8 Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Mr. Bill.

11

12 Next is Jackson Williams.

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'll speak
15 English, because my cousin just spoke in Yup'ik really
16 good. Talked to most of you that understood. And a
17 lot of the things that I had in mind were being brought
18 out. I'm really glad -- let me comment, Greg this past
19 I think fall, we had a meeting up that trading center
20 up there. And he bring up to the Board, Federal Board,
21 the Department of Fish and Game should have a
22 supervisor or big man up there around this area, not in
23 Washington, D.C. To me that's not right. And I think
24 you as subsistence personnel here can really input on
25 that part.

26

27 You know, when we have meetings here
28 with working group or with -- I belong in the Lower
29 Kuskokwim Advisory Committee. You know, when we bring
30 up these things, they always answer, the big man in
31 D.C. So far to have a boss or supervisor way down
32 there. And I talk with Greg earlier, maybe it might be
33 the Secretary of Interior that they bring these things
34 to them. I like what Greg said, hey, I hope the Fish
35 and Game, if they're listening, either the Federal
36 Board or you guys start to have input, not way down in
37 D.C.

38

39 And when they talk about boundaries,
40 like when we were bringing up this trawler down the --
41 that's destroying a lot of our Chinook, they are. When
42 I listen to 360 North on the TV, I learn a lot. That
43 the trawlers down there, holy cow, these young salmon
44 that go out, like Chinook, they go to the ocean to grow
45 up. Those plants, you know, underneath those trawler
46 dipnet, really big dip under the ocean, destroy plants.
47 Holy cow.

48

49 And last time when I approach you guys,
50 I got really emotional when I saw that 360, you know.

1 A lot of -- so many fish from the ship they dump into
2 the sea, ocean. That's not right. And aren't somebody
3 supposed to do something about them? They're the ones
4 that are wasting. I got really emotional really. I
5 cried, too, on my first testimony with you guys last
6 year or so.

7
8 You know, let me share something for
9 thought. I grew up spring camp all the time, never
10 missed growing up. I hunt muskrat. We, my dad, he was
11 born conservative already. We don't just hunt in one
12 area. He move us around. Every spring, like this time
13 of year, he go check the lake where those black stuff
14 on the lake, he can tell there's going to be muskrat
15 this area. We always go where he tell us, bring us.
16 And the reason why I'm going to share this, we hunt all
17 we want, all night do I hunt. Nobody ever tell me you
18 can't do that. Free. That's the way I like to be,
19 free. Nobody telling me you can't. And we hunted all
20 those years every spring. Every spring I'm always
21 surprised. Those muskrats that I hunted never get
22 less, and some spring I kill a lot, very lots. In one
23 day when there are plenty, I catch 20 in one day.

24
25 But anyway let me share this. Three,
26 four years ago now my grandkids, and I know the hot
27 spots. I bring them to that hot spot where there's
28 always muskrat. Maybe around 2:00 o'clock I bring
29 them, my usual hunting day, 2:00 o'clock, 3. Stayed
30 there all afternoon, and, you know, in spring daylight
31 are longer and it don't get dark as much. Maybe toward
32 midnight I bring them home. And I tell them, holy cow,
33 where's all those muskrat? To me they're supposed to
34 be plentiful. Not even one did we see a muskrat swim.
35 Where are they? We never over-hunt them.

36
37 You know, to me that day I started
38 thinking. My Creator, we're not hunting them any more.
39 You know, that's something to think about.

40
41 And Lillian bring up the four-inch. I
42 brought it up in the past. I don't need to bring it up
43 too much about it. But
44 I believe this elder when we were in advisory committee
45 meeting told us that these small ones with the four-
46 inch, like James mentioned earlier too, I believe them.
47 They go up to where they did come out, spawn, you know,
48 and when they know where it is, they go back. They do.
49 I believe those elders that told us like that.

50

1 And with the four-inch, you know, our
2 advisory meeting from here in Bethel, and usually,
3 think about this, and usually they were catching a lot
4 of Chinooks. I think we're doing more harm than good.

5
6 And like one of them stated, I'll back
7 it up, too, like when I want a fresh king salmon, I go
8 down maybe even 5, 10 minutes or even less, I set my
9 eight-inch, and when I caught one, I just go and go
10 home and have fresh king salmon.

11
12 We don't need to shorten it. Well,
13 that's the way I've been doing it all these years. I
14 make a really short drift. And I like what people
15 refer to, use an eight-inch setnet, just to even watch
16 it. When it catch, take it off, and just bring it
17 home.

18
19 A lot of things that really is always
20 on my mind. When we're craving to eat fresh king
21 salmon or any salmon that comes up, you know it's --
22 you can't get over it. I can't.

23
24 '07 was the year, every summer like
25 someone in my family died. Why? Because I can't go
26 out and fish what I love to.

27
28 And there was so many things, like
29 there was a mention of Katie John on TV. I was really
30 glad it showed Alaska Natives can start subsistence
31 fish now. Holy cow, I was glad to see that. He won
32 that supreme court, and there was a sign on the T.V.
33 written, Alaska Natives can subsistence fish now.

34
35 And the latest one, Board of Game, we
36 went over, let the elders start fishing, too. Elders.
37 They're the ones that taught us, that really let us
38 learn a lot how to live on the land and the river. Gee
39 whiz, we should at least respect the elders and fish
40 for them. Like in my community, you know, I'm always
41 glad my kids -- I share the whole community birthday,
42 and a lot of the Native foods that I have, I share them
43 with people in their birthday. Now I've got grandkids.
44 I never quit sharing. I feed the people what I've
45 caught. Lately it's been really hard, these Chinooks.

46
47
48 A lot of the people when I hear
49 nowadays they prefer Chinook, not us in Akiachak, I was
50 born into it. It's my fish. Like last time in the

1 Board, when I bring it up, king salmon is like prime
2 rib to me, tastiest fish in the world. That's the
3 tastiest fish in the world. You can't compare the
4 taste with any other fish.

5
6 Well, there's Dolly though. Dolly.
7 You know, I was invited here in, Dollies. Right. Holy
8 cow. Tasty, too.

9
10 But anyway, you know, one thing, my
11 goal. I'm really glad, and when the Chairman earlier,
12 what you guys are doing, or being brought up the
13 Departments, I guess, and they're being passed out, I'm
14 really glad, you know, there's at least something going
15 on.

16
17 And one thing, you know, that I really
18 look forward to you guys, you now, this might be way
19 off my boundary or what I'm going to say, but I just
20 want to bring it up. You know, hopefully -- I heard
21 about it, maybe in Kuskokwim and Yukon might come
22 around. Commission, you know.

23
24 The one I heard in Seattle those Indian
25 tribes, they took over that commission and make their
26 own Fish and Game. And the reports that I've been
27 hearing, they're doing really, really good. You know
28 why? They know the area. They know the land; they
29 know the river. That's what we should be doing here,
30 too. We know this river upside down. We know the land
31 upside down. And hopefully we'll come around to it and
32 start, you know, something like that. I'll be really
33 glad when that happens.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nicori.
38 Any questions for.....

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Williams.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions of Mr.
43 Jackson Williams.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
48 Jackson.

49
50 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next Adolph Lupie.

2

3 MR. LUPIE: Good afternoon.

4

5 (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: Good afternoon for all
8 the people.

9

10 MR. LUPIE: My name is Adolph Lupie,
11 and I'm a designated representative from Tuntutuliak
12 through our village corporation, Qinarmiut Corporation.

13

14 And there are other entities that are
15 involved. They are called -- they have a joint group
16 meetings every quarter or once in a while. And they're
17 Tuntutuliak Traditional Council, it's our tribal
18 governing body; Tuntutuliak Community Service Utility;
19 and the other organizations are invited, like out high
20 school site administrator and two religious
21 organizations. But when there is a discussion, we use
22 the holistic and harmony approach to the villages.
23 That's how our rights has been exercising throughout
24 the years.

25

26 Today it's really difficult for each
27 organizations to present their issues. There are
28 economic problems. One organization, our corporation
29 here, do the economic development, and the other social
30 services, the education, and the religious
31 organization. Those are things that we are facing in
32 Tuntutuliak.

33

34 Now recently we haven't had a really
35 difficult situations until the Chinook salmon runs were
36 low and the tribal members and residents of Tuntutuliak
37 were getting arrested or cited for the violations. So
38 that's why we're standing up today and speaking up from
39 our hearts.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 The moose population that we want to
44 address, last year -- I want notify the Council that
45 last year moose count was not actively counted in our
46 area. This is along the Kuskokwim River. The Fish and
47 Game and Fish and Wildlife, they failed to do that.
48 And it hurt us, because we exercised that five-year
49 moratorium to increase moose population. And that
50 worked for that five-year moratorium. And people, we

1 accepted it. It was a really difficult issue where all
2 the people, our elders, young people, they didn't
3 agree, but they said try it. The Federal -- Fish and
4 Game and Fish and Wildlife, came with the cups, too,
5 that had the design about one moose, and then in five
6 years there will be a five-year -- in five years there
7 will be 1,000 moose. And each household got one, each
8 one of them. So today those cups, some of them are
9 broken, but they're still using them. And they remind
10 us that they grown.

11
12 And that population grew. The first
13 day that it opened, what we never heard before was each
14 -- it's going to be open for 10 days. Here we were
15 expecting -- we're used to moose hunting for whole
16 month of September, you know, for 30 days. And then
17 after that, while hunting for 10 days, there's
18 something came up to the quota, 100, up along the
19 Kuskokwim River, and that hurt everybody that has no
20 way of getting communication or receiving that 100
21 moose have been caught today. Go home. Some people
22 didn't know that quota was met. They still hunt, keep
23 on hunting, and they'll come home and they say -- we'll
24 tell them it was closed three or four days ago. or just
25 one hour ago, or five hours ago. And some of them will
26 get citations for that, too, because of no or no proper
27 notification.

28
29 The next one, Federally-qualified users
30 in the village, there was fish allocation throughout
31 the Kuskokwim River, and in Tuntutuliak 36 fish, where
32 they designated one or two fishermen to go out there
33 and catch those fish, when those are not enough for the
34 whole village. There's -- it be good for just have a
35 potluck or something like a fish gift day just coming,
36 but for the whole village, the 36 fish, allocating it,
37 it was difficult for us in Tuntutuliak to whom it will
38 be given out. And I want to ask how to increase that
39 36 fish to meet more allocation to our people, and how
40 to approach it with a proposal.

41
42 And the jurisdictions, I think
43 Federal/State jurisdictions, they're not really
44 adequately written out where the lines are. And it's
45 difficult for me to say, the jurisdiction is like this,
46 the mouth of the river, so the commercial fishing lines
47 like from Ishkowik to across the river, they set that
48 jurisdiction. Then I was thinking I could go further
49 than that and use a longer mesh just to catch maybe 15
50 or 20 fish for myself. But that jurisdiction, it's

1 extended out to further out to the Bay, so it was
2 really -- I think Mr. Daniel Bill, if I said it right,
3 brought that out.

4

5 And one more thing, the dipnetting, I
6 concur with Alex Nick's testimony. It's one of the
7 tools -- I understand it will be one of the tools that
8 we can use today, but somewhere along the line,
9 somewhere in the future, we will be forced to use the
10 dipnetting if that Chinooks are mostly depleted.

11

12 But last summer there was another
13 discussion on the reds and chums, those were getting
14 depleted, too, because they were over-fished, just
15 because of the commercial fishing. And I believe that
16 it wasn't right for the -- to include those reds and
17 chums to factor for not using it for the commercial
18 fishing.

19

20 And Tier II, it's not in use yet, but
21 from what I heard, it was practiced in Nome where they
22 receive points. The older you are, maybe if you are 70
23 years old, you'll get more points to be qualified for
24 using, and there are other factors. I don't think
25 those are right for some of those people who are
26 elderly yet and really need fish for the winter supply.

27

28 Thank you for your attention.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Lupie.

31

32 Any questions for Mr. Lupie.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

37

38 Next is Henry Tikiun.

39

40 MR. TIKIUN: Henry Tikiun.

41

42 (In Yup'ik)

43

44 INTERPRETER: I'm Henry Tikiun. I come
45 from Atmautluak.

46

47 Nobody told me to come here, but I
48 wanted to come and do -- I have a lot of grandchildren
49 and great grandchildren that I must try to look out for
50 their future. And I've got great grandchildren in

1 Anchorage, too. And it is the future that I am
2 thinking about when I come and do testimony or do some
3 speech here.

4
5 The way that I think, that I'm still a
6 young kid, so when people tell me that I'm an elder, I
7 always think that I'm still a little kid.

8
9 A lot of the things that my grandfather
10 and my grandmother caught me, that when the white
11 people come into our area, that we will have divisions
12 and we will have disagreements. And is it because that
13 what they refer to as people that know everything, the
14 people that are -- the people that know all this
15 information, they used to call them shamans or medicine
16 man. We used to have our own shamans and medicine men,
17 but they didn't know anything about the fish and game.
18 I never heard of any shamans say that they knew the
19 ways of the fish or animals or any game, but they did
20 know the weather, and they did know the climate, and
21 they did know what the winter was going to produce in
22 the summer, and they knew during the summer what kind
23 of winter it was going to be. And they could predict
24 how much fish there were going to be in the rivers.
25 They could predict how much berries that they were
26 going to be able to harvested this year. And they used
27 to wake us up from
28 our sleep and our slumber, and they would ask us to do
29 chores beyond our abilities. And I used to think that,
30 you know, when are we -- when am I going to put these
31 abilities to use.

32
33 And our children now, a lot of the
34 village kids, they go play basket and they sleep all
35 day long. And I think, is it because that they have
36 never faced any famine.

37
38 And I used to hear that we will be
39 faced with famine again, that when people do not have
40 anything to eat, when you don't have anything in your
41 belly, it produces extreme pain that you could never
42 even imagine. If you hurt yourself with a scalding
43 iron, that pain isn't even compared to having to go
44 through famine. And way back in the day, they used to
45 have skin clothing, and when they had -- in times of
46 famine way back in the day, they would start eating
47 their parkas made out of skins, and they would start
48 eating their footwear and everything else like that,
49 because they had nothing to eat.

50

1 What are we going to do when we are
2 hungry, because the way that I look at it, it's why are
3 they always trying to push us into starvation, into
4 famine. Is it because they do not know God? Should we
5 teach them about that God gives us the sustenance, they
6 give us game and fish and food to use, not to have
7 meetings and to have disagreements about.

8
9 And my uncle Paul Jenkins there, back
10 in Baird Inlet, we used to track it's fish back in the
11 day. Paul Jenkins is my uncle. And in yukfa (ph) to
12 look at Baird Inlet, I stayed with his parents at Baird
13 Inlet and my -- his mom is my grandpa's sister. And so
14 that is how we are related. Way back in the day at
15 Baird Inlet we used to go after the fish in the
16 wintertime, and nobody came by and told us not to do
17 it. They didn't give us any regulations or anything
18 like that. But we were already under our own ways that
19 we had to follow. And I can name many of these things
20 in my own village.

21
22 When I went to go provide services to
23 the elders, to help them with chores around the house,
24 they would invite me in for tea or dinner or something
25 like that, and they would tell me that by idly at home,
26 things are not going to get done and I will not be fed
27 properly. So if you are always getting up in the
28 morning and going after fish and game or doing whatever
29 you need to do, you will end up -- you won't end up
30 hungry, but if sleep all day long, nothing will happen
31 to you, you will get hungry and stuff like that.

32
33 But I could go on forever and ever,
34 I'll just stop here now, because I just wanted to stop
35 here, because it was a hard way of life for us. And so
36 thank you for listening to me.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik), Mr.
39 Tikiun.

40
41 (Applause)

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next is Mr. Paul
44 Jenkins.

45
46 MR. JENKINS: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: I was born in Hooper Bay
49 a long, long time ago.

50

1 MR. JENKINS: A long time ago. I know
2 all about Alaska. Before the machine that (In Yup'ik)

3
4 INTERPRETER: Before the Western
5 innovations came to this area, I already was living my
6 life and I know way before inventions came, and I seen
7 that way of life already, and I know all the ways of
8 life in the villages. I know the seasons, the say that
9 we can -- how we can trap and hunt for food. I lived
10 that life and I know that starting from the springtime.

11
12 MR. JENKINS: All the way from the
13 north, all the way down to our ocean. (In Yup'ik)

14
15 INTERPRETER: During June when it's
16 time -- before humidity raised up in the.....

17
18 MR. JENKINS: Anything that it can be
19 drying, you know, when it gets warm, a little bit warm.
20 They hang everything, not for themselves only, but for
21 the dog teams. We used dog teams long time ago. It
22 take us a long time to come -- I moved -- we moved from
23 Kashunuk River to true Chuathbaluk. That guy, he
24 explain to you. People all the way from the north all
25 the way to the Aleutian, everything they'll take can be
26 dried. When it gets warm, they hang it up for
27 themselves, for their dog teams. Work together all of
28 them, whole Alaska, it was free. Free that time.

29
30 But the people help each other when the
31 fish come. (In Yup'ik) When they fish for the kings,
32 when their racks full, that they stop. They go out
33 only in the high tide, because no engine.

34
35 (In Yup'ik)

36
37 INTERPRETER: We only fished with fish
38 during high tide, because we had no engines, so we had
39 only our rowboats, so we didn't have to fight the tide
40 to se up net, and we could catch all the fish that we
41 need to to put in our fish racks.

42
43 MR. JENKINS: There were so many fish
44 in the Kuskokwim River, they take only -- when the
45 racks full, they quit. That's my family. All those
46 people were live long time.

47
48 (In Yup'ik)

49
50 INTERPRETER: We ourselves.....

1 MR. JENKINS: All of us, it's changed.
2 Right now everything is changed, because of the United
3 States. Now it's (In Yup'ik). There was no law.

4
5 INTERPRETER: He's translating for
6 himself now.

7
8 MR. JENKINS: If we want to -- there
9 were only reindeers in the tundra. They all gone, but
10 right now the moose, they're controlled by the Fish and
11 Game. I guess so. (In Yup'ik) I got hurt. When white
12 man hunt moose, he left all the fat (ph). When he got
13 home, he threw all the bones to dump and I got really
14 hurt. Eskimo when he gets a moose, he eat all of it,
15 all the way from the head to toe. (In Yup'ik) When I
16 fished for cannery in Ekok, and end of salmon, I went
17 to Togiak and the point (In Yup'ik), the point is way
18 out there. I see ships, want each other all the way
19 across the ocean. (In Yup'ik)

20
21 INTERPRETER: All the fishermen were
22 just choked up into a line all the bay in Bristol Bay,
23 and I couldn't even see the end of the fishermen,
24 because they were setting up fence like. And they were
25 blocking the waterways that the ships coming in and
26 out.

27
28 And I hear that the big trawler throw
29 away the king salmon, and they throw away the salmon.
30 Those trawler that are fishing in the waters, they are
31 really changing the make of the right. And they're
32 really changing especially our region. These trawlers
33 are going out there and just depleting the fish out
34 there.

35
36 And so I'm really thankful right now
37 that I am talking to you, and I really want you guys to
38 take to heart these things that I am saying. And if
39 you guys could come up with a regulation or a way that
40 you manage the fisheries and you take the problems that
41 we are experiencing, such as the four-inch.

42 MR. JENKINS: It's not used for the
43 salmon. They hit the four-inch, they hit -- fish,
44 salmon hit it and they go out again. (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: The four inches are too
47 small for the salmon to go in. And this four-inch is
48 not really good for conservation.

49
50 MR. JENKINS: Little fish. They caught

1 only little fish, the four-inch. (In Yup'ik)
2
3 INTERPRETER: The four-inch only catch
4 the little fish, and it's not good at all.
5
6 MR. JENKINS: It's not good for the
7 people. (In Yup'ik)
8
9 INTERPRETER: That's why you guys that
10 are trying to determine how these regulations, and if
11 you set the.....
12
13 MR. JENKINS: Right way.
14
15 INTERPRETER:regulations, please
16 set the regulations in the right way.
17
18 MR. JENKINS: Alaska will be happy.
19
20 (In Yup'ik)
21
22 INTERPRETER: And your Alaskan people
23 will be happy with the regulations that you come up
24 with. If we can abide by these, we'll be happy the
25 recommendations that you come up with, and I'm thankful
26 that you guys are looking at these issues, because it's
27 been a long time that I have been alive, and I started
28 living a life before the outboard motor came.
29
30 MR. JENKINS: Every time I bring
31 something my mother takes care of everything. Some
32 things that they can be dried, they hang it. We didn't
33 have bananas, no bananas.
34
35 (In Yup'ik)
36
37 INTERPRETER: Before the stores,
38 before.....
39
40 MR. JENKINS: In Bethel, before they
41 build AC, they used to call it NC, before they built
42 it.
43
44 (In Yup'ik)
45
46 INTERPRETER: And from that time that
47 NC market place is open.....
48
49 MR. JENKINS: Five about this long five
50 cents each Candy bar. Ruth candy bar. Big ones. If

1 you eat one you get full. Right now little ones. I
2 bet these cost more than anything else. More than
3 anything else.

4
5 (In Yup'ik)

6
7 INTERPRETER: My favorite was the Baby
8 Ruth candy bar, the huge ones that I used to buy for a
9 nickel. And right now that little tiny one, the one
10 size, bite-size one, I bet it costs more than anything
11 else at all. It used -- and you look at me right now.

12
13 I know our way of life that has since
14 passed, I have always remembered.

15
16 MR. JENKINS: Old man Wassillie used to
17 talk to us in (In Yup'ik). I caught them all.

18
19 INTERPRETER: I have kept in my heard
20 the sayings of old man Wassillie, and that's why I have
21 kept all these sayings and I lived long, because I am
22 90 years old, and I can still move.

23
24 MR. JENKINS: That's why I live long.
25 I'm 90 right now, I still can move. (In Yup'ik)

26
27 INTERPRETER: And speak of those
28 sayings that I followed.

29
30 A person who is not causing dissention
31 among his relations and his friends and family, the
32 person who does not bring dissention will live a happy
33 and long life. And this is true.

34
35 MR. JENKINS: If you disobey anything,
36 that's not right. (In Yup'ik)

37
38 INTERPRETER: If you disobey any of
39 these sayings, and if you break people's minds and
40 whatnot.....

41
42 MR. JENKINS: Right way, we all going
43 to be happy. I know that.

44
45 INTERPRETER: if you do regulations
46 just the right way, we will all be happy, and we will
47 live long, prosperous life, and we will be happy.

48
49 MR. JENKINS: We will be happy. And
50 last summer my daughter only had one king salmon, and a

1 good thing the red salmon come. When the red salmon --
2 I mean silver salmon. When the silver come they try
3 hard to fill the rack up. Finally got enough for the
4 winter.

5
6 (In Yup'ik)

7
8 INTERPRETER: We never went
9 sportsfishing. we went fishing for our sustenance, for
10 the sustenance for ourselves and for our dogs, because
11 we didn't have machines. We had dogs as transport and
12 we used them.

13
14 And I'm telling you all of this, and
15 I'm thankful that I can address. And from this time,
16 now, please look at all these issues and do not shove
17 anything under the carpet.

18
19 MR. JENKINS: Don't leave them alone,
20 something that is not right. Don't leave them alone.
21 Work on, you will finish the work. (In Yup'ik) We all
22 going to be happy. Kuskokwim River, Yukon River, they
23 going to be happy if you et it right. Everything.

24
25 (In Yup'ik)

26
27 INTERPRETER: It is truthful and honest
28 saying that I am saying to you, and if we can use the
29 love.

30
31 MR. JENKINS: I don't want to lose
32 anybody, because I love them all.

33
34 INTERPRETER: I do not want to lose
35 anybody, because I love everybody.

36
37 MR. JENKINS: I don't want them to be
38 hungry. (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: If you think this way
41 that I am thinking.....

42
43 MR. JENKINS: You will be right. Right
44 to serve the country.

45
46 (In Yup'ik)

47
48 Quyana.

49
50 Thank you very much.

1 INTERPRETER: Thank you for letting me
2 say. I'm just going to cut it loose there. Thank you
3 very much.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

6

7 (Applause)

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next person,
10 although we don't deal with halibut, wants to bring
11 some concerns that his parents and his tribe would like
12 us to hear. And that's from Mr. Dale Smith from
13 Mekoryuk. Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

14

15 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 The tribal council had a meeting
18 February 12, and in that meeting I explained that I was
19 appointed to this Council here. So a tribal member
20 expressed his concern regarding the subsistence of
21 halibut. And if you could look at the map there,
22 Mekoryuk is on Nunivak Island, and we're basically
23 ocean people.

24

25 A lot of issues and concerns that I'm
26 hearing today, or this morning, this afternoon, is
27 regarding to subsistence and the individual that
28 expressed his concern was wondering what can this
29 Council do to either sway decisions at the Board level
30 or National Pacific Marine Fishery Council about the
31 bycatch of halibut, because as we know, like Mr. David
32 was saying earlier, according to his report that I'm
33 reading, is that trawlers, they catch a good amount of
34 halibut as bycatch, and throw them overboard. It's
35 about, from his estimate that he heard was about 9 to
36 10 million pounds of halibut are thrown overboard from
37 these trawlers. So the concern is, or the request that
38 the Village of Mekoryuk is looking for is what can this
39 Board or this Council do to either write a letter or a
40 resolution or whatever to look at this issue, because
41 it's definitely impacting the way we fish for halibut.
42 Because, for example, this last summer, I went halibut
43 fishing to put in my freezer, and I got a limited
44 amount. And I'm not the only one. So we're seeing a
45 decline in the amount of halibut in our area. And this
46 is a major concern.

47

48 And I was looking at Mr. Bill's report,
49 and from his report, he was talking about the Bering
50 Sea Elders Group, and how he can get assistance from

1 this Council to look at these issues. And I think that
2 coming from the island, I agree with him. Not only me,
3 but the community agrees that there needs to be
4 something done regarding the bycatch issued of halibut
5 being thrown overboard by these high sea trawlers. And
6 if you really look at that, it's the same issued of
7 salmon bycatch, so I think that there needs to be
8 something down at this level, or at least a nudge to
9 the Fed Board or the National Pacific Fisheries
10 Management Council to look at these issues, because the
11 bottom line is it's going to affect me and it's going
12 to affect my children, because we use subsistence as a
13 way of life. And basically you're meddling with a way
14 of life. And that's a concern that I'd like to bring
15 up to this Council here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions of Mr.
18 Flood [sic].

19

20 MR. BILL: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. David. Mr. Bill.

23

24 MR. BILL: Mr. Smith, I'd like to ask
25 you for how long has it been that Etolin Strait or
26 Nunivak, the south side and west side and even the
27 northwest side has been short of halibut?

28

29 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Mr. Bill. Over
30 the past, I'd say past five years, we see the decline
31 in the amount of halibut in the area. And as you very
32 well know, if you look at the map here, on the southern
33 end of the island there was a commercial halibut tender
34 that was there for five years. And the fishermen were
35 going further west to try and catch the halibut. And
36 Mekoryuk is on the north end, and historically we would
37 just go off maybe three or four miles from the village
38 and catch halibut, but nowadays, like I said, last
39 summer there's a major decline.

40

41 And I see on the agenda that there's
42 going to be a report by the National Marine Fisheries
43 Service or the Council. So maybe that would a good
44 time to have a dialogue.

45

46 But as a fisherman myself, commercial,
47 and subsistence user, yeah, there's been a decline in
48 the past five years of the halibut stock.

49

50 MR. BILL: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
6 thank you, Mr. Smith.
7
8 MR. SMITH: Quyana.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: At this time let's
11 take a 10-minute break.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: 15.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 15 minutes.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: 20? Do I hear 20?
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I stand corrected, 15-
22 minute break.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (On record)
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting back
29 to order. It is now quarter to four.
30
31 Before we took our break, I failed to
32 ask if there was anybody on the teleconference who
33 would like to address the Council. And Jackie
34 Cleveland, are you on.
35
36 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Yes, I'm on.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You have the
39 opportunity at this time now to address the Council.
40
41 MS. J. CLEVELAND. Quyana, Council.
42 I'm Jackie Cleveland with the Native Village of
43 Kwinhagak.
44
45 And there should be a copy of our
46 letter circulated by now. If not, I'm going to read it
47 anyway.
48
49 So the Native Village of Kwinhagak is
50 seeking your support in submitted a special action

1 request. We're asking the Federal Subsistence Board to
2 limit 2015 Kanektok River subsistence Chinook salmon
3 fisheries to Federally-qualified users, and conduct an
4 ANILCA .804 analysis to determine customary and
5 traditional users of Chinook salmon. The tribe is
6 kindly asking that the RAC take action by making a
7 positive recommendation to the Federal Subsistence
8 Board on our behalf.

9

10 And as some of you probably know, since
11 2012, Kanektok River has experienced low Chinook salmon
12 escapement numbers, starting with approximately 1500
13 Chinook in 2013, approximately 3500 in 2013 as well as
14 in 2014. Prior to 2012 -- or in 2011, it was about
15 6500 Chinook salmon escaped. And so the State is also
16 anticipating another low king run for our river this
17 year, which Kanektok River holds one of the last
18 subsistence Chinook salmon fisheries in the Y-K Delta.
19 And due to the subsistence restrictions on kings in our
20 surrounding area, such as the Kuskokwim and Yukon River
21 drainages, the community of Quinhagak experienced an
22 increase of non-local Chinook salmon subsistence users
23 in 2014.

24

25 Our first approach last year was to try
26 to use an honor system with this anticipation that we'd
27 see more traffic, and we put out a notice with, you
28 know, KYUK and the Delta Discovery. That didn't work
29 so well, so this year we're submitting this special
30 action.

31

32 Not only is designating Kanektok River
33 a C&T use area for king salmon subsistence fishery
34 necessary to maintain a healthy Chinook salmon stock
35 for future users, it's also necessary in ways it will
36 preserve our customary traditional, social, and
37 cultural uses for this vital resources. Your support
38 will be much appreciated.

39

40 Quyana, cakneq. From the Native
41 Village of Kwinhagak.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Ms.
44 Cleveland, Council members. Mr. Roczicka.

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. Mr. Chair.

47

48 Jackie, has Kwinhagak already submitted
49 this to OSM or to the Federal Subsistence Board.

50

1 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Not yet, no. We're
2 asking for as much support as we can get before.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Can we submit a
5 proposal?

6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Well, anyone can
8 submit a special action, and you don't have to have it
9 coming from a village. And I suppose the Council could
10 as well, but it would be more appropriate coming from
11 the village.

12
13 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Yeah,

14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: And then once it there
16 -- we will be asking almost certainly the same as last
17 year when the special actions were put into place that
18 the OSM or -- and the managers prior to taking actions
19 on them, that they do consult with this Council
20 similarly to the way they did last year. I guess it
21 needs to be there first for us to be able to respond to
22 it, to then be able to invoke that consultation, and to
23 get that support on the record.

24
25 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Okay. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.
28 Mr. Charles.

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 If this is going to be forwarded to OSM, I think the
32 Chairman's name should be changed.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

35
36 MS. J. CLEVELAND. Yeah, this was
37 prior.....

38
39 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I think she
40 meant that the Chairman of the Central Bering Sea.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, there was --
43 whatever.

44
45 MR. BILL: That's where I am, the
46 Central Bering Sea.

47
48 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Yeah, that's where
49 it was -- I mean, it was noted. Sorry about that.

50

1 MR. BILL: Central Bering Sea Advisory
2 Group. Yeah.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anything else for Ms.
5 Cleveland.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, I
10 think the best avenue would be as suggested by Mr.
11 Roczicka, that a proposal for special action go to the
12 -- be directed to the OSM. Jackie.
13
14 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Yes. So our next
15 meeting is in a couple of weeks and that's when it
16 should be going out.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.
23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: Through the Chair.
25 Yeah.
26
27 Jackie, the time that it takes for an
28 .804 analysis, and if you're looking for something to
29 be put into place this coming season, the sooner the
30 better.
31
32 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Okay.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: And as I said, your
35 last year - well, when those special actions went in, I
36 believe it was late January to mid February perhaps
37 that they were submitted, and it took them until April
38 to get it done. A lot of their work has been done as a
39 result of that, so maybe it won't be as time consuming
40 as it was last time, but we did have that special
41 meeting of this Council in early April where we did
42 support the SARs that were submitted last year. So,
43 again, the sooner, the better.
44
45 MS. J. CLEVELAND: Okay.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. With that
48 there.....
49
50 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE:are there anyone
2 else in the teleconference that like to address the
3 Council.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, Mr.
8 Bill. David.

9
10 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11
12 On the problem of Kanektok
13 sportsfishery, I was kind of talking about it with one
14 of the -- I forget which one it is, one of the Fish and
15 Wildlife guys, and they said they couldn't do anything
16 about it. I think this was last year. But they said
17 that if we want to do something about it, we'll have to
18 go through our legislators, but I don't now which
19 legislator he was talking about, maybe the State or
20 Federal, and that I have to find out.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Myron Naneng I see
25 submitted a blue card during the break.

26
27 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. It was
28 for a specific agenda item, but if he has anything else
29 he wishes to address. That's why I withheld it.

30
31 MR. NANENG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Members of the Regional Advisory Council. My name is
33 Myron Naneng. I'm the president of the Association of
34 Village Council Presidents. I'm also the Chairman of
35 the Waterfowl Conservation Committee here within our
36 region. Also a member of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
37 management Council, a Native representative on that
38 Council.

39
40 I know you're going to have on the
41 agenda tomorrow the request from the Kodiak RAC, or
42 resolution, but I just want to speak to it in case I'm
43 not here present tomorrow.

44
45 The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
46 Council is working with the Migratory Bird Division of
47 Fish and Wildlife Service to make sure that if there's
48 going to be any emperor goose numbers, that they
49 provide as accurately as possible the numbers of birds
50 that are in the flyway. The emperor good does not fly

1 south beyond the Aleutian Islands according the reports
2 that we've gotten since 1986. They summer here in the
3 Y-K Delta and next out here. The population since 1986
4 has been estimated to be around 70,000 by index,
5 meaning that it's just an estimate without true
6 numbers. And it's similar to what they do with
7 fisheries management. They give an index of what
8 numbers of salmon are swimming in the river, and then
9 make a determination of whether to keep the river
10 closed or opened. It's the same thing with the emperor
11 geese, that they have an index number that they've been
12 using since 1986 to keep the emperor goose from being
13 harvested by our people in the Y-K Delta, up in Bering
14 Straits area, like St. Lawrence Island, Bristol Bay,
15 Aleutians, and Kodiak.

16

17 And that's why they're making the
18 request, but we're requesting Fish and Wildlife Service
19 to do a better count, because they only do aerial
20 surveys during springtime when they're migrating up
21 north, you know, back to their nesting areas during the
22 springtime. And it's why we hear a lot of people out
23 on the coast that are seal hunting complaining about
24 airplanes flying around. And they're doing an aerial
25 survey of those birds during springtime when our people
26 are out seal hunting out on the coast. And it's
27 created a lot of issues for many of our people in the
28 Y-K Delta, because it disturbs them also while they're
29 seal hunting.

30

31 So we just -- and I've been dealing
32 with this issues, working with this since about 1986
33 when they first got closed -- with an agreement with
34 the AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee, Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, and other people that are involved in
36 the management of the emperor geese population.

37

38 So we've requested Fish and Wildlife
39 Service, Migratory Birds under no uncertain terms to
40 start providing better numbers, accurate numbers on
41 emperor geese. And once we find that numbers, once we
42 are provided that numbers, that we hope that our people
43 on the Y-K Delta will also be able to harvest a certain
44 number of emperor geese when they come up north during
45 spring time.

46

47 Many people in the region don't hunt
48 emperor geese during the falltime, because they start
49 to smell, like as they say, like a rotten fish. They
50 don't hunt them during the falltime. They only hunt

1 them during springtime before they nest, or during
2 flight, when they're flightless or when they're
3 molting.

4

5 So I just wanted to provide that update
6 to the Regional Advisory Council of what Alaska
7 Migratory Bird Co-management Council is working on.

8

9 Another issue that I think that the
10 Regional Advisory Council needs to be aware of, and
11 we've heard this from villages on the Yukon from
12 Russian Mission, Marshall, Pilot Station, St. Mary's,
13 Andreafsky, as well as Mountain Village, and some of
14 the -- now it will eventually probably come down to the
15 Lower Yukon, because of the moose population in those
16 areas. You know, we have Andreafsky wilderness area.
17 There's some guiding services that are providing
18 hunting opportunities for people that come all the way
19 from Texas. This last fall I saw a guy. I said,
20 where'd you come from? He said, I came up from
21 Houston. And where did he go? He went to the Russian
22 Mission area to go moose hunting. The other person
23 next to him went out bear hunting.

24

25 What do they do with the meat once they
26 get it. More often than not, they put it in a plastic
27 bag, leave it at airport. The heat during falltime
28 rots it out. But if it's our people that do that, I'm
29 sure law enforcement will be there to give them a
30 citation of wanton waste. And I believe that this
31 needs to be addressed, because our people went through
32 about seven years of moratorium on the Lower Yukon to
33 help increase the moose population. And guess who's
34 ending up wasting it. People that come from Lower 48.
35 They don't give a damn of what our people eat up here.
36 Excuse my language. They don't care about the fact
37 that our people don't have the grocery stores that they
38 have that they can buy groceries at a cheaper price.

39

40 And the villages are now asking what
41 can we do to stop; this wanton waste that goes on.
42 Last year we were successful by working with the
43 Regional Advisory Council and bringing it before the
44 Board of Game wanton waste of birds. They were
45 harvesting geese, cranes, swans, and you now how big
46 those birds are. And the only thing that they took out
47 from those birds are the breasts. You know, a swan is
48 bigger than a turkey, yet they expect us to eat the
49 whole turkey or even the chicken. But they don't want
50 to be able to cook the rest of the bird once they

1 harvest it. So the Alaska Board of Game came up with a
2 regulation that we've been working on, because we
3 showed them pictures of wanton waste of swans, that
4 there is going to be only species of birds where they
5 will not allow them to throw away. Swans, cranes and
6 geese. What about the ducks? You know, the ducks are
7 good eating, especially during the falltime when
8 they're nice and fat.

9
10 I've seen on Sports Channel, Outdoor
11 Channel, people that have gone moose hunting up here,
12 maybe around the Kilbuck Mountain areas and drifting
13 downriver. They shoot ducks, (In Yup'ik), those are
14 the wigeons. The only thing they take off to cook. I
15 don't have to say it. They only took out the breasts
16 to cook them, threw away the rest of the bird. Our
17 people in villages cook the whole bird. They don't
18 throw it away. And if they're doing it with birds, I
19 think that they ought to do something about the moose
20 that they're harvesting during the falltime that our
21 people have had to sacrifice for at least seven years
22 on a moratorium, and maybe Fish and Game or Fish and
23 Wildlife or the law enforcement people will say, oh, he
24 paid for his license, his hunting permit, and that
25 allows him to waste. The only thing they take back
26 with them are the antlers, or even the head so that
27 they can have it as a show piece or a talking piece,
28 storytelling that they can have once they get back to
29 wherever they came from.

30
31 So AVCP will be working with the
32 villages on the Lower Yukon to put an end to this
33 wanton waste. You know, we talk about salmon being
34 thrown overboard, halibut being thrown overboard by
35 these commercial interests. The sportshunters that are
36 flown in are really no different than any of these
37 people. Or any of these groups.

38
39 But when our people have lived here on
40 this land and they classify this as a wildlife refuge,
41 I've heard comments in the past where they said, the
42 people that live there should move to some other
43 location so that we can have a lot of animals. That's
44 what that land was selected for. But they never
45 appreciated the fact that our people have lived here
46 even before they ever showed up, or before this land
47 was classified as a wildlife refuge. Or even before it
48 became a State.

49
50 You know, it's very frustrating to hear

1 that people are given citations on the river to fish
2 for food. It's very frustrating when some of our
3 people in the villages need the food and they go
4 hunting, and they catch something to put food on the
5 table, because they're not close to a grocery store,
6 and they get cited. So, you know, this is something
7 that needs to be done, and if we're going to be working
8 as a Regional Advisory Council on Subsistence.

9
10 I think that we ought to pay attention
11 to these issues, because if the people on the Kuskokwim
12 River are now doing the moratorium on moose and the
13 number of moose population shoots up to the point where
14 local people can hunt them, are they going to allow
15 people from the Lower 48 to hunt them and get away with
16 wanton waste. So I just want to raise that concern up,
17 Mr. Chairman, and I hope that the Regional Advisory
18 Council takes that to heart, and I hope that the
19 Federal Subsistence Board will help us in coming up
20 with rules and regulations that apply to sportshunters,
21 not just the subsistence users who have to put food on
22 the table.

23
24 So, Mr. Chairman, those are the
25 comments that I have, and I appreciate the opportunity.

26
27 Thank you, very much.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Naneng.

30
31 Any questions for Mr. Naneng. Mr.
32 Roczicka.

33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 Myron, thanks for that update. I was
37 kind of wondering how to deal with that resolution
38 there, and if the Migratory Bird Co-management Council
39 had started to address this. So I appreciate that.

40
41 I'd like to switch gears on you a
42 little bit here, because I know you covered a lot of
43 this territory, but it's come up several times from
44 Council member comments, and also from the public
45 regarding the jurisdiction issue and what the
46 authorities are for the Federal Board and Fish and
47 Wildlife, and, of course, pertaining to the Bering Sea
48 trawl fleet and the bycatch issues. Those are under
49 Department of Commerce. And I understand that there
50 was efforts in the works over the last year or two on

1 the re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act by our
2 former senator who chaired that fisheries subcommittee
3 to make that subsistence would be recognized and
4 accorded the same level of consideration. As far as
5 you know, where we're at in that process? Is it going
6 forward. Are the new chairs of that committee
7 continuing to pursue that?

8

9 MR. NANENG: We're continuing to pursue
10 the need for the subsistence and even a tribal seat on
11 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. We're
12 working with Congressman Don Young's office. And I
13 spoke to Senator Murkowski last week when I was in
14 Kotzebue. So that issue is being still discussed by
15 the Native community within Alaska. It's still
16 ongoing, but we also have some lobbyists that are
17 working for AVCP and other organizations within our
18 State and also we're working with Tanana Chiefs in
19 trying and trying to make sure that Magnuson-Stevens
20 Act includes a subsistence and a tribal seat on the
21 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

22

23 You know, it took a long time to get
24 even subsistence members on the Federal Subsistence
25 Board. And if that can happen, I'm sure we can make it
26 happen, too, on the North Pacific Fishery Management
27 Council.

28

29 Thanks, Greg.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Myron, has
34 AVCP ever pursued the legality of prohibiting Lower 48
35 hunters to sport hunt ducks, geese, swans, anything in
36 the State of Alaska?

37

38 MR. NANENG: Right now I don't know of
39 anyone that comes up here from the Lower 48 to our
40 region to go migratory bird hunting.

41

42 The AVCP Waterfowl Conservation
43 Committee, when it was formed back in 1984 was
44 concerned about the population cackling Canada geese.
45 At that time there were like about 25,000. By working
46 together with the states of Washington, Oregon, and
47 California, the population of cackling Canada geese is
48 now over 160,000. And, you know, that's done by an
49 agreement every two years under the Y-K Delta Goose
50 Management Plan. The Goose Management Plan has not

1 been signed since 2010, because the Oregon farmers are
2 now complaining about having too many cackler geese.
3 It's because they're eating their farm fields and the
4 plans that they have. However, there's other species
5 of geese that winter in Oregon, but it seems like most
6 of the one that -- as they say, most of the crop
7 destroyers are the ones that come up here to nest in
8 the Y-K Delta, and those are the cackler.

9

10 So sometimes our success can create
11 problems to other parts of the flyway.

12

13 MR. ALOYSIUS: I guess it was my
14 misunderstanding when I heard you say the sportshunters
15 were hunting ducks, geese, swans, and then just taking
16 the breast. I thought you were talking about Lower 48
17 sportshunters, but it's evidently from the State of
18 Alaska?

19

20 MR. NANENG: According to both the
21 State and Federal regulations; but, however, the State
22 of Alaska last fall, or last time they had a Board of
23 Game meeting, I think the one before this last one,
24 made regulations that you can harvest the whole bird of
25 a swan, crane and geese, because we had raised a
26 concern and showed pictures to the Board of Game that
27 people were taking only the breasts of swans and
28 throwing the rest of the bird away.

29

30 But currently I don't think there's any
31 Federal regulations that prohibit anyone from having to
32 take only the breasts of the birds. And we need to
33 work on it, and I'm sure the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
34 management Council is going to be working on that for
35 meeting in April, and that's going to -- that has been
36 raised as a concern, not only from people within our
37 region, but from other parts of the State.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.
42 Comments. Mr. Roczicka.

43

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

45

46 I guess maybe we might look forward
47 then to this at our meeting this fall that there may be
48 a proposal for the Federal Subsistence Board -- or for
49 this Council on getting the salvage requirements, and
50 eliminating wanton waste for the salvage of the entire

1 birds for waterfowl, perhaps. Wildlife I think is
2 coming up March 25 I believe is the deadline.

3
4 MR. NANENG: Well, we're going to be
5 working with the villages on the Yukon, because they've
6 raised the concern regarding moose. And it's an
7 ongoing concern that we have as Alaska Migratory Bird
8 Co-management Council regarding wanton waste of
9 migratory birds.

10
11 MR. PETERS: Mr. Myron. Mike Peters
12 from Marshall.

13
14 And I think the people on the Yukon,
15 you know, they're also with the Yukon Delta. And I
16 think it's affecting not just the Lower Yukon villages.
17 I think, you know, by having something like this in
18 place, I think it's a good start, and like I'm a voting
19 delegate from Marshall, and I think that all the
20 villages that's going to be affected by it, you know,
21 it's about time that they start doing something about
22 this, you know, or helping the -- like the villages
23 along the Yukon and also on the Yukon Delta, because
24 it's a big area, and they look forward, you know,
25 working with something like this that's going to help
26 the people.

27
28 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

31
32 MR. NANENG: Just one final comment, we
33 don't want to end up being like those people in AHTNA
34 region where the people that originally from AHTNA are
35 not able to hunt for moose or fish in their area, but
36 are being displaced by people like from Anchorage and
37 Fairbanks. We want to be full participants in the
38 management of our resources within our region without
39 being pushed aside from our hunting areas. And we want
40 to prevent that from happening.

41
42 So I just want to share that with you,
43 because right now, last week in Kotzebue, Congressman
44 Don Young said that he was going to introduce
45 legislation again in Congress to have AHTNA be the
46 manager of the lands that they've selected, because
47 they have been fully displaced by people coming in from
48 Anchorage and elsewhere from their hunting areas, and
49 the local people are not able to hunt for any of the
50 traditional foods that they've had done in the past.

1 So we're going to work also with the Congressional
2 delegation and make sure that some of that language
3 will also possibly be included in our area out here in
4 Western Alaska.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Naneng.

7
8 Mr. Smith.

9
10 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

11
12 Mr. Naneng, going back to the North
13 Pacific Fishery Management Council seat, is that
14 something you're going to correspond to all the
15 villages, or is that something that AVCP will take.

16
17 MR. NANENG: Well, we'll correspond
18 that with all the villages that are affected by it,
19 because even right now the Governor's office is also
20 working to see if we can find ways to have someone be
21 seated on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
22 that has a good understanding of subsistence harvests,
23 of salmon and halibut, and other salmon resources on
24 the river systems as well as out in the Bering Sea,
25 because we all know where does the salmon come from.
26 From the rivers. But there -- quite a number of it is
27 harvested out in the Bering Sea, and I think that we
28 should have someone that has a good understanding of
29 that from Western Alaska sit on that board so that they
30 can provide them with information that they currently
31 are not provided by those that are sitting on that
32 North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
39 thank you very much, Mr. Naneng.

40
41 MR. NANENG: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there anyone prior
44 before we go on with our agenda. Is there anyone who
45 would like to speak on any other non-agenda items at
46 this time.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, then we'll

1 continue on with our agenda. The next on the agenda is
2 old business. I think the rural determination process
3 will be taken care of tomorrow.

4
5 And our next item on the agenda is the
6 customary and traditional use determination, Southeast
7 proposal. And that is to be presented by whom.

8
9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. That will be
10 Pippa Kenner from the Office of Subsistence Management.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

13
14 (Pause)

15
16 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair and
17 Council members. My name is Pippa Kenner, and I'm with
18 the Anthropology Division at the Office of Subsistence
19 Management in Anchorage.

20
21 So I am going to be presenting the
22 customary and traditional use determination briefing,
23 which was supplemental material that was sent to you
24 with your books. It looks like this. There were some
25 copies in the back of the room, but I think they've all
26 been taken. I have one spare copy here if anybody is
27 interested in it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's also -- the
30 briefing is also in your packet.

31
32 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 But again this is not an action item,
35 and no recommendation from the Council is necessary at
36 this time.

37
38 So in April 2014 Mr. Bertrand Adams,
39 Sr., the Chair of the Southeast Alaska Regional
40 Advisory Council, sent a letter to Mr. Tim Towarak,
41 who's the chair of the Federal Subsistence Board,
42 requesting an analysis of the effects statewide of
43 possible changes to the customary and traditional use
44 determination process. And in response to the request,
45 anthropologists at the Office of Subsistence Management
46 wrote an analysis of the proposed changes. And the
47 purpose of the briefing is to better inform the
48 Southeast Alaska Council, and the other Councils of the
49 possible effects of specific changes to the
50 determination process.

1 So I'm going to direct you to a couple
2 of places in the briefing. One is the letter from the
3 Southeast Council, which begins on Page 32.

4
5 And in it the Southeast Council
6 requests Staff to analyze the effects of eliminating
7 the eight factors from the customary and traditional
8 use determination process; allowing each Regional
9 Advisory Council to determine its own process to
10 identify subsistence users; and requiring the Board to
11 defer to Regional Advisory Council recommendations on
12 customary and traditional use determinations.

13
14 So additionally, in Appendix A of the
15 briefing -- you don't need to go to it now. It starts
16 on Page 21. So in Appendix A it's a review of the
17 Regional Advisory Council comments we received in 2013
18 and '14 that describe aspects of the customary and
19 traditional use determination process that's specific
20 to each region.

21
22 So hopefully, or when you have had a
23 chance to read the briefing, I'll try to answer your
24 questions if you have any. This is an informational
25 briefing. No action is necessary. Your Council has
26 already given us information and taken a position and
27 voted on it. And if you're interested in seeing what
28 that is, it is on -- it begins on Page 28 of the packet
29 is a review of the comments from your Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments or
32 questions for Ms. Kenner.

33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: It seems that each
39 packet does not contain every item that we're working
40 on this. This packet is half empty where others are
41 full.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Johnson.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, through the Chair,
46 Mr. Aloysius. The reason why some of the supplemental
47 packets look full, and that is the new Council members
48 have in their packet this, so it's going to make their
49 packets look a lot fatter than yours.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: But this is not in that
2 in mine.

3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You can see the
5 comments of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
6 Regional Advisory Council on Page 28. What's that?

7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: It was in the
9 supplemental.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, it was in the
12 supplemental section of your -- are there any other
13 comments on the customary and traditional use
14 determination besides the comments that were made by
15 the Y-K Delta on Page 28.

16
17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

20
21 MR. SMITH: Yes. Back last year,
22 there's a representative from Fish and Game that
23 travelled to Mekoryuk and did a survey on customary and
24 traditional use. And one of the -- I'm 43 years old
25 and I was raised to hunt, fish, whatever is out on the
26 island. And I was explaining to this gentleman that
27 everything that I do is to me customary and
28 traditional.

29
30 And I guess the question, comment is,
31 was anybody from Fish and Game dialoguing with OSM to
32 formulate the customary and traditional use here that
33 was adopted last year.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
36 Through the Chair again, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM.
37 Yes. Yeah, we talked.

38
39 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

42
43 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Further comments.
44 So the issue that I had brought up to this gentleman
45 was that there's a generation difference, meaning my
46 generation and my father's generation. And we were
47 talking about the introduction of muskox to Nunivak
48 Island. And the muskox were introduced in 1935/36.
49 And I guess the discussion revolved around how can we
50 claim traditional and customary use on muskox. So

1 during the discussion, like I mentioned before, my
2 father's generation was the first generation to harvest
3 for subsistence use. Then my generation through the
4 regulations of State of Alaska, I can claim that,
5 correct, because it was passed down as a knowledge to
6 harvest muskox as a traditional use. The knowledge
7 meaning subsistence.

8

9 And I just want to make that
10 clarification if there was any discussion or comment on
11 whether or not there is a generational discussion of
12 claiming customary and traditional use.

13

14 MS. KENNER: A discussion with Fish and
15 Game? Or are you looking for the Federal point of view
16 on introduced species, whether or not a community can
17 be included in a customary and traditional use
18 determination?

19

20 MR. SMITH: Yes, your point of view.

21

22 MS. KENNER: Yes. Well, our Federal
23 Subsistence Board has adopted customary and traditional
24 use determinations for introduced, reintroduced and
25 recently migrated species. ANILCA doesn't
26 differentiate between natural, introduced,
27 reintroduced, and recently migrated species.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Mr. Aloysius.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. One thing
32 that I brought up earlier was the emphasis that
33 everybody always places on fish and wildlife. 25
34 percent of our food source is plants and berries and
35 roots, and yet no one has never said anything about
36 that. And that's something I hear from my old people
37 at home is what about our berries, our plants, our
38 roots. We gather them. We don't hunt, fish, and trap
39 them; we gather them. And they provide up to 25
40 percent of our food source. So that's something that
41 needs to really be addressed.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This was a proposal
46 that was put forward by the Southeast Council. This
47 briefing is the proposal of the Southeast Council; is
48 that correct?

49

50 MS. KENNER: Yes, the first part of the

1 briefing. And it was a proposal in order to get more
2 information. They did not submit the proposal to
3 change regulations, but they submitted it in order to
4 get more information, to get us to respond to it. For
5 Staff to respond.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
8 additional comments on the Southeast proposal by
9 Council members here.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, I think at
15 this time Mr. Nick had.....

16

17 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I wasn't here
18 when he was asking about (indiscernible - microphone
19 off) Oh, I wanted -- I was outside while this was going
20 on. I didn't hear some of it.

21

22 I'd like to say something about muskox.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill, we were
25 discussing this proposal that was put forth by the
26 Southeast Council.

27

28 MR. BILL: No, I didn't see that. I
29 thought this was.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's a briefing on the
32 proposal. That's on our agenda at this moment. And if
33 you don't have that, we'll give you an opportunity to
34 find it.

35

36 In the meantime I'd like to call on Mr.
37 Alex Nick who would like to speak on the C&T for Unit
38 18.

39

40 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
41 the record my name is Alex Nick. I'm a resident of
42 Bethel, originally from Russian Mission.

43

44 And my comments are in no way going to
45 be in any form of criticism or any form of -- I mean, I
46 question the C&T for my area, my village area. And
47 what I would like to do is to provide a couple of
48 comments about C&T.

49

50 I'm not sure if majority of the

1 consumers that uses the Federal and State lands
2 understand what C&T means. My understanding about
3 customary and traditional use determination, based on
4 the eight factors the State of Alaska provided years
5 ago and adopted by the Federal management agencies in
6 Alaska, are outdated to my mind.

7
8 And not only that, but if we understand
9 what C&T means, if, for example, someone from Manokotak
10 will come to Unit 18 to hunt in certain areas of Unit
11 18, and not be cited, because they have C&T. And on
12 the other side of that coin, when someone from one of
13 the villages that does not have C&T hunts the same
14 resource, just because under the Federal regulations
15 their village is not listed in this C&T, Federal land
16 C&T, they will be given citation. That's what it is.

17
18 And what I would like to provide to you
19 is that as you remember, this proposal has been
20 presented to you at least three times in your last
21 three meetings, and you were asked to give your
22 comments, and I hear you, you did provide comment. But
23 have we overlooked something in the regulatory booklet
24 that will possibly be a disadvantage to some community
25 or communities in our region. Let me give you an
26 example. For Unit 18 moose hunting in the remainder of
27 Unit 18, let me read to you what it says in C&T.

28
29 Unit 18, that portion of the Yukon
30 River drainage upstream of Russian Mission, and that
31 portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream of,
32 but not including Tuluksak River drainage. And that's
33 C&T for moose hunting.

34
35 Now, if I remember correctly, C&T
36 determination for Unit 18 is Upper Kalskag and St.
37 Michaels. What about Lower Kalskag? Lower Kalskag is
38 now -- well, Upper Kalskag is -- rather Lower Kalskag,
39 if I understand correctly under State Unit 18 changes,
40 is in Unit 19A now. It's not in Unit 18 any more.
41 According to my understanding, if my understanding is
42 correct about the boundaries. I may be wrong. I might
43 be wrong, because I heard that the unit went down the
44 Johnson River over toward Mud Creek and Gold -- up
45 south of Kuskokwim River, south bank of Kuskokwim
46 River, up to the -- I'm not sure where it is, but I
47 don't have the map with me, but I saw that map, a
48 little map that I saw.

49
50 What I'm talking about is, if you don't

1 have legal understanding of what the legal language of
2 C&T means, you probably won't understand what it's
3 talking about.

4
5 So what I'm recommending is, since
6 Southeast Council is asking you question about do you
7 want to have your own process how you want to change
8 C&T in your region, or do you want whole Alaska to be
9 involved in changing your C&T is how I understand that.
10 What I am talking about is if I -- you know, I only
11 know basic English. If I understand basic English,
12 what this one tells me about the area, about the area,
13 Unit 18, that portion north -- rather, I'm sorry. Unit
14 18, that portion of Yukon River drainage upstream of
15 Russian Mission, and that portion of the Kuskokwim
16 River drainage upstream of, but not including --
17 including Tuluksak River. If I was not one of the
18 people that understand what it means, I would probably
19 say, oh, I can't hunt below Russian Mission. Oh, I
20 can't hunt below Tuluksak. But upstream of.

21
22 So I think what the Council might -- I
23 would recommend the Council do is maybe in the future,
24 not now, but in the future, maybe there needs to be a
25 review of C&T in our region, and our neighboring
26 regions like Unit 17A, 21E, and 19A, and also 22A,
27 because some of our villages like Kalskag, like
28 Quinhagak, Kotlik, they're very close to the unit
29 boundary.

30
31 So those are the comments that I wanted
32 to provide.

33
34 I have some concerns. I know that I
35 brought this up, not to the current Staff, but to the
36 past Staff, even to the current -- not to the current
37 Refuge Staff, but past Staff and Refuge managers, that
38 this little legal language might be misunderstood by a
39 lot of hunters.

40
41 And I thank you, Mr. Chair for
42 providing -- or rather allowing me to say my comments,
43 because these are my personal comments, and I'm
44 providing these comments not because I worked for OSM
45 before, but because I have a lot of family here and
46 also upriver, I have a lot of family from Russian
47 Mission on downriver, and even down in the coast that
48 likes to hunt in my area.

49
50 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.

2

3 And according to the Southeast
4 briefing, customary and traditional use process, they
5 requested eliminating the eight factors from the
6 customary and traditional use determination process.
7 And No. 2, to allowing Regional Advisory Council
8 determine its own process to identify subsistence
9 users. And Item 3 was requiring the Board to defer to
10 the Regional Advisory Council recommendations on
11 customary and traditional use determinations.

12

13 That is the context of the briefing.
14 And all the other information concerning those is
15 written in this book. In this briefing.

16

17 Is that correct, Ms. Kenner?

18

19 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other discussion
23 on the Southeast proposal briefing. Mr. Roczicka.

24

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

26

27 I didn't bring my homework with me this
28 time with the other packet that had some notes on it,
29 but as I read through it, I didn't see any major
30 changes from the previous material that they'd
31 forwarded to us. And I still have a lot of reservation
32 with wanting eliminate that customary and traditional
33 use criteria that is in place, and has got a pretty
34 good track record. Sometimes the implementation
35 certainly hasn't been perfect.

36

37 But as far as Mr. Nick's suggestion
38 about reviewing the customary and traditional
39 determinations for our area, that may be a good
40 exercise to go through for us in some places, but as
41 far as when you're talking about cross boundaries with
42 19A and 18, or 18 and 21E, I think you're going to find
43 pretty much coming to that brick wall again that we've
44 run into in the past, that even though we have several
45 generations of history prior to even snowmachines in
46 those areas and people that went up and hunted out of
47 Unit 18 by dog team, and was insufficient for people to
48 come to agreement on it. You're going to have a
49 proposal that is not going to be agreed to between the
50 two Regional Advisory Councils, and it's kind of an

1 exercise in -- just an exercise. It's not going to get
2 anywhere. There's not going to be an agreement there
3 for the villages below Russian Mission down to the
4 coast to be agreed to by the villages of 21E, which are
5 already concerned about their moose numbers, the same
6 as folks in 18 are expressing concern in Russian
7 Mission and others about the effects on their moose
8 numbers.

9

10 In my mind, we've achieved a good
11 balance here.

12

13 Their proposal does have some merit to
14 it I suppose, but I don't know about going through the
15 exercise. It's just that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that it?

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: So I'm not inclined to
20 change anything that we have really at the moment.
21 That's just the way I feel about it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any other
24 comments on the proposed briefing of the customary and
25 traditional us. Mr. Aloysius.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. When was
28 this handout printed? I mean made. It has no date on
29 it. Because the new boundary for 19 includes Lower
30 Kalskag, which has always been in Unit 19 except for
31 some boondoggle that -- I don't want to get into that,
32 it's really confusing, because it says Unit 18
33 Remainder, residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag; Unit
34 18, that portion north of a line and all this other
35 thing, and residents of Unit 18, St. Michaels,
36 Stebbins, and Lower Kalskag -- I mean, Upper Kalskag.
37 Well, those are -- they're meaningless any more,
38 because Kalskag has always been 19, and now with the
39 boundary change, 18 is in 19. I mean, Lower Kalskag is
40 in 19.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Mr. Aloysius, can I
45 respond, through the Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
50 comment. And so in the maps of the region that you

1 were given, we do not show the boundary of Unit 18
2 having been changed. On these maps it indicates that
3 the Unit 18 boundary passes between Lower Kalskag and
4 Kalskag. But in the new regulation books for wildlife,
5 our map has been modified to agree with the boundary
6 change.

7

8 It's right there.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.

11 What.....

12

13 MS. KENNER: Let me.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead and
16 continue with what you've got, Ms. Kenner.

17

18 MS. KENNER: What I'm going towards is
19 this. That we could probably make the change of Lower
20 Kalskag, including it by name in the C&Ts, because it
21 may not be in Unit 18 any more. We probably could have
22 done it administratively. We do recognize the C&Ts of
23 Lower Kalskag as they were even though it may not be
24 listed by name. But we decided it would be best to
25 contact Lower Kalskag and work with them. So their
26 tribal council is in the process of submitting a
27 proposal right now to change all these C&Ts so that
28 they can continue to be in the C&Ts they were in. And
29 we're working very closely with them. We should get
30 the proposal in the next couple of days, and it will be
31 published after that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Moose do not know
36 boundaries. Caribou do not know boundaries. Mink,
37 otter, beaver do not know boundaries. So therefore we
38 as the hunters do not know boundaries.

39

40 And the other thing is, you know, you
41 talk about Unit 18. I know people all the way from
42 Crooked Creek go down to Unit 18 to hunt, and they're
43 not included. You know, people from Quinhagak go up to
44 21E to hunt, and they're not included. Somebody
45 clarify something.

46

47 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Mr. Chair to
48 Mr. Aloysius. The Board -- the Council, and then the
49 Board reviews C&Ts as we get proposals. So anyone --
50 it's a wildlife cycle -- well, on any cycle, somebody

1 can submit a proposal to change the regulations to
2 modify the C&Ts. Many of the C&Ts for caribou and
3 moose in Unit 18 have already been modified and have
4 been supported by the Council. So there will be a
5 point in our meeting where we will present to you this
6 opportunity for the Councils to submit a proposal to
7 the Federal Subsistence Board to change the C&T
8 determinations, or any member of the public. The call
9 for proposals to change regulations is open until March
10 25th.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that
13 my.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. I noticed
16 the young man next to you is pulling at his leash, so
17 we better let him have his moment. Go ahead.

18

19 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
20 the record my name is Trevor Fox. I'm with the Fish
21 and Wildlife Service out of Anchorage. And I'm the
22 InterAgency Staff Committee member for the agency.

23

24 As far as these boundary changes, the
25 changes were made by the Alaska Board of Game, and
26 that's for State regulations. In the Federal handy-
27 dandy, it shows those updates, but that's incorrect.
28 The Federal Subsistence Board has not changed the
29 boundaries, so the handy-dandy is wrong. We still have
30 the old boundaries. It's under the Codified Federal
31 Regulations, the CFR. It still has the old boundaries.
32 So as of right now, there's a misalignment between the
33 boundaries of Units 18, 19, and 21E under State and
34 Federal regulations.

35

36 MR. ROCZICKA: Can I ask a
37 clarification.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, a clarification on
42 that. Didn't the Federal program adopt the State
43 boundaries when it came? And I guess I was under the
44 understanding that similar to migratory waterfowl, they
45 deferred to the State Board to make decisions in that
46 arena. Was it the same way for the boundaries?

47

48 MR. FOX: Through the Chair. In
49 Section 14 it does say that unless there's -- that
50 there are regulations that are incorporated into

1 Federal regulations unless superseded by. But those
2 boundaries are specifically listed in Section 26 for
3 the unit specific regulations. So because they're
4 specifically listed in the the Federal regulations,
5 they need to be changed by the Federal Subsistence
6 Board.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: So you've just got to go
9 through the administrative exercise of getting it all
10 published and changed.

11

12 MR. FOX: Right.

13

14 MR. ROCZICKA: It's not a regulatory
15 action or a Board action that really needs to take
16 place. It's more administrative than anything.

17

18 MR. FOX: I believe it would be a.....

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: It would be a
21 housekeeping proposal for them basically.

22

23 MR. FOX: I'm not sure if it would fall
24 under housekeeping. It would have to be a proposal. I
25 was trying to get some clarification back from the main
26 office to see if there was a proposal submitted to make
27 those changes to Federal boundaries. I haven't heard
28 anything back yet, so I'm not sure if there's been
29 something submitted yet, but I imagine there will be
30 one coming.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion on
33 the -- go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
36 ask a point of order. We're discussion Yukon and
37 Kuskokwim customary and traditional use determination.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, actually we're
42 discussing the Southeast Council proposal on our
43 agenda, but this is just -- go ahead. We'll just have
44 one more comment.

45

46 Mr. Smith.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 Just for clarification, this Southeast

1 Council proposal is just an FYI to this Council, that
2 they are proposing to eliminate the eight factors, and
3 it's just letting us know this is what they're doing.
4 Correct?

5

6 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
7 Through the Chair. Yes, for transparency in the
8 process, and because the analysis includes some
9 information that your Council members might be
10 interested in. We did put it in the packet for all the
11 Councils and all the Council members.

12

13 The customary and traditional use
14 determinations for the different regions of the State,
15 the character of them, the tone of them is different in
16 the different regions. And what the Southeast Council
17 asked your Council to do in 2013 and 2014 was to talk
18 to them, to tell us Staff and to tell the Southeast
19 Council what it is in your region that you think would
20 work for you. All the different parts of the State
21 have very different ways of doing things, sometimes for
22 different species. But they were asking you what you
23 wanted, what you thought were problems, if you wanted
24 any changes. And so all of this is very valuable.

25

26 One of the things that has come up is
27 that the process is complicated and hard to understand.
28 And I've heard in the different meetings that we've had
29 with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council, that that's an
30 issue.

31

32 So thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Johnson.

35

36 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 And just to clarify for the benefit of
39 the Council and everyone, the Southeast Council has not
40 submitted a proposal to change C&T. They are
41 considering a proposal that could include some of these
42 elements, and they wanted a briefing at Staff at OSM to
43 see what it could look like if they submitted a
44 proposal. So if the Southeast Council does move ahead
45 and actually submit a proposal to change how we do
46 customary and traditional use determinations, you will
47 have an opportunity with a full analysis to provide
48 your recommendation to the Board at that time. So
49 you'll still get to address this again if the Southeast
50 Council does move ahead with an actual proposal to

1 change regulations.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

4 Johnson.

5

6 Ms. Kenner.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Real quickly. Thank you,

9 Mr Chair.

10

11 And if the Southeast Council submits a
12 proposal, we don't know what it will look like. They
13 asked to get information about what this would look
14 like. Also, because the request made by the Southeast
15 Council includes many different elements, and not all
16 of it was analyzed thoroughly. It was analyzed in its
17 broadest context, in a way to communicate what the
18 structure of possible new regulations would look like.
19 However, the Southeast Council at times has also been
20 interested making C&T is -- modifying the customary and
21 traditional use determination process in a way that a
22 Council would identify a geographic area, all of their
23 region or part of their region, and then allow for a
24 customary and traditional use determination that
25 included all species and all residents of the area.

26

27 Now, in many areas of the State,
28 including the Y-K Delta, the Councils have already done
29 this. In fact, I put together the C&Ts, the customary
30 and traditional use determinations for Tuntutuliak,
31 because it's in the middle of the region, and if you
32 look at it, Tuntutuliak has C&T for everything in the
33 region, in Unit 18. Now there's other areas of the
34 State that might not be true, but it is for many of the
35 communities in the Y-K Delta.

36

37 And there are areas where that isn't
38 true, but those -- oftentimes those C&T determinations
39 have been recommended by the Councils to take care of
40 certain territorial problems, or for whatever reasons.

41

42

43 So I just wanted to point that out.
44 There were other aspects of the proposal that might not
45 come across in the analysis.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
50 presentation, Ms. Kenner.

1 At this time we'd like to go on,
2 continue on with our agenda. Our next item on the
3 agenda is Refuge proposed rule on hunting.

4
5 After this is done, we're going to
6 break for -- recess until tomorrow morning at nine.

7
8 We need eyes behind our heads I guess.

9
10 (Setting up PowerPoint)

11
12 MS. TONNESON: Good afternoon, Mr.
13 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Heather
14 Tonneson, and I am the regional ecologist for U.S. Fish
15 and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System
16 out of Anchorage. I also have Neil Lalonde, who is the
17 Refuge manager at Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
18 here with me today.

19
20 I feel very fortunate to have the
21 opportunity to be here in person and listen in and be a
22 part of the discussions today, and we really appreciate
23 the opportunity to talk with you today about some of
24 the regulatory changes we are considering on National
25 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

26
27 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
28 considering updating regulations governing National
29 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska to be consistent with our
30 Federal mandates from managing these refuges. We are
31 mandated to conserve fish and wildlife populations and
32 their habitats in their natural diversity, and to
33 maintain biological integrity, diversity, and
34 environmental health on refuges in Alaska.

35
36 And actually, before I go any further,
37 I do want to point out that you should have handouts as
38 well, so I'm going to be going through this stuff, but
39 if you wanted to follow along with the PowerPoint, some
40 handouts that we're going to be going through here.

41
42 ANILCA requires that Federal agencies
43 manage wildlife consistent with the conservation of
44 healthy populations of fish and wildlife.

45
46 (Technical difficulties)

47
48 MR. LALONDE: Bear with us folks.

49
50 (Pause)

1 MS. TONNESON: Okay. Sorry about that.
2 It's no fun without a little bit of technical
3 difficulties to keep us on our toes.

4
5 So as I was saying, ANILCA requires
6 that Federal agencies manage wildlife consistent with
7 the conservation of healthy populations of fish and
8 wildlife. The legislative history defines this phrase
9 as the maintenance of fish and wildlife resources in
10 their habitats in a condition which assures stable and
11 continuing natural populations and species mix of
12 plants and animals.

13
14 We strongly support the sustainable
15 harvest of fish and wildlife and manage these
16 activities to insure consistency with Refuge purposes,
17 including managing species populations and habitats in
18 their natural diversity on refuges in Alaska.

19
20 We've been talking with folks in local
21 communities throughout the State through tribal
22 consultation, conferences, and various other meetings
23 such as these RACs about these proposed regulatory
24 changes that we're considering for about the last six
25 months, and we've heard a lot of helpful feedback so
26 far. We are also consulting with the State on this
27 matter.

28
29 Next slide, please.

30
31 The proposed National Wildlife Refuge
32 System regulations we are considering can be broken
33 into two main components with the first pertaining to
34 clarification of our existing mandates for the
35 conservation of natural diversity, biological
36 diversity, biological integrity, and environmental
37 health on refuges in Alaska in relation to predator
38 harvest. This part would amend current Federal
39 regulations for non-subsistence hunting and trapping of
40 wildlife on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges found in
41 Chapter 50, Part 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

42
43 Predator reduction activities with the
44 intent or potential to alter or manipulate the natural
45 diversity of species populations or habitats, such as
46 artificial increasing or decreasing wildlife
47 populations for the sole or primary purpose of
48 providing for more harvest opportunity are inconsistent
49 with our Federal mandates, and, as such, would be
50 prohibited on refuges in Alaska.

1 Next slide, please.

2

3 Specifically, the following methods and
4 means for predator harvest would be prohibited on
5 refuges in Alaska. Click. The first would be take of
6 bear cubs or sows with cubs. I want to note on this
7 one that there would be an exception allowed for
8 resident hunters to take black bear cubs or sows with
9 cubs under customary and traditional use activities at
10 a den site October 15th through April 30th in specific
11 game management units in accordance with State law.

12

13 Click. The next would be the
14 prohibited take of brown bears over bait.

15

16 The prohibited take of wolves and
17 coyotes during the spring and summer denning season.

18

19 And the take of bears from an aircraft
20 or on the say as air travel has occurred.

21

22 And I think I skipped one. Also the
23 take of bears using traps or snares.

24

25 So originally we were considering a
26 much longer list of potential prohibited wildlife
27 harvest methods and means for inclusion in these
28 proposed regulations, but after hearing concerns that
29 were brought up early in our scoping process and
30 through tribal consultation, we've reduced the proposed
31 prohibited methods and means we are considering from 16
32 original to a list of these 5 that you see here.

33

34 Also in response to feedback received,
35 we have decided not to propose language which would
36 open Alaska refuges to the collection of natural
37 resources such as edible plant materials and downed
38 timber by recreational users as a part of what we were
39 considering for inclusion under these regulatory
40 changes. This practice is currently open to
41 subsistence users, and this would not change.

42

43 So next slide.

44

45 Hunting is a priority public use on
46 National Wildlife Refuges under existing law and agency
47 policy. Again, we have and will continue to strongly
48 support hunting and sustainable harvest of fish and
49 wildlife on National Wildlife Refuges, including the
50 harvest of predators, and most of the State of Alaska

1 hunting and trapping regulations, including harvest
2 limits, would continue to be adopted and apply on
3 refuges in Alaska.

4
5 Underlying this current effort to amend
6 existing regulations governing the non-subsistence take
7 of fish and wildlife on Alaska refuges is that the Fish
8 and Wildlife Service must administer hunting on refuges
9 in an manner compatible with refuge establishment
10 purposes, and consistent with all other legal mandates.

11
12 Click. The proposed regulations are
13 aimed at ensuring that the over-arching establishment
14 purpose of all refuges in Alaska as defined under
15 ANILCA is met. That is, to conserve all fish and
16 wildlife and their habitats in their natural diversity.

17
18 Refuges in Alaska must also be managed
19 so as to maintain biological integrity, biological
20 diversity and environmental health. And this latter
21 mandate applies to all National Wildlife Refuges
22 throughout the country,

23
24 Click. In the recent past the Alaska
25 Board of Game has adopted or considered for adoption
26 hunting and trapping regulations and intensive
27 management control areas in various parts of the State
28 which allow particular practices for the harvest of
29 predators, such as the take of wolves and coyotes
30 during the denning season, take of brown bears over
31 bait, trapping and snaring of bears, and same-day-
32 airborne take of bears over bait, and same-day-airborne
33 take of wolves.

34
35 The Fish and Wildlife Service believes
36 these recently adopted or considered methods and means
37 for take of predators conflict with our legal mandates,
38 because they're intended and/or have potential to
39 depress and manage predator populations on Alaska
40 refuges at levels inconsistent with conserving all fish
41 and wildlife in their natural diversity and maintaining
42 biological integrity, diversity and environmental
43 health on these refuges.

44
45 Click. The Fish and Wildlife Service
46 is required to the extent practicable to be consistent
47 with State regulations governing the take of fish and
48 wildlife on Alaska refuges. And it is, in fact, our
49 preference to do so whenever we can. That said, while
50 we fully respect the State's role and responsibilities

1 for managing wildlife in Alaska, we also recognize that
2 differences do exist between the State's mandates and
3 Federal laws governing the administration of Alaska
4 refuges, and that these differences sometimes require a
5 different regulatory approach.

6

7

Next slide, please

8

9

The second component of the regulatory
10 changes we are considering would be to update our
11 public participation and closure procedures for public
12 recreational activities on National Wildlife Refuges
13 found in 50 CRF 36. These regulations apply to closing
14 or restricting recreational activities on Alaska
15 refuges or in areas within refuges, such as general
16 hunting and fishing, camping and recreational trail
17 use. The proposed regulatory changes would not apply
18 to regulations for public participation and closure
19 procedures for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife or
20 use of transportation methods traditionally employed by
21 rural residents engaged in subsistence activities.

22

23

We are proposing these changes to be
24 consistent with other Federal regulations and to more
25 effectively engage the public. Some of these updates
26 we are considering under this part are to include the
27 conservation of natural and biological diversity,
28 biological integrity, and environmental health, the
29 list of the existing closure criteria. To increase the
30 possible duration of an emergency closure from 30 to 60
31 days, and this is consistent with the timeframe for
32 emergency special actions under Federal subsistence
33 regulations.

34

35

The temporary closure duration would
36 remain the same as it is now for only as long as
37 reasonably necessary under the given circumstances.
38 However, currently that is limited to 12 months with
39 extensions possible. And we are saying now that that
40 would be not to exceed five year, with requirement for
41 periodic review and outreach to the public.

42

43

Click. Temporary and permanent
44 closures would require consultation with the State and
45 affected tribes and Native corporations, and
46 opportunity for public comment and public meeting in
47 the affected area, as well as publication in the
48 Federal register.

49

50

Click. These proposed regulations

1 would also expand the methods for public notice by
2 adding the use of internet or other available methods
3 in addition to continuing to use the more traditional
4 methods of newspapers, signs and radios.

5
6 Click. And next slide.

7
8 Okay. So these changes we are
9 considering under the refuge hunting and trapping
10 regulations would apply only to State-regulated general
11 hunting and trapping, which is open to all Alaska
12 residents as well as people from the Lower 48, as well
13 as intensive management activities on Alaska National
14 Wildlife Refuges. These proposed regulations would not
15 apply to Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting
16 or trapping under Federal subsistence regulations.

17
18 So, for example, brown bear baiting is
19 currently allowed under Federal subsistence regulation
20 in Unit 25D, and these proposed regulations would not
21 change that.

22
23 Next slide.

24
25 These proposed regulations would only
26 apply on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. They
27 would not apply to other Federal, state, private or
28 Native lands or waters, even those that occur within
29 refuges boundaries.

30
31 So within the area under the purview of
32 the Yukon Delta RAC, these proposed regulations would
33 apply to the Yukon Delta Refuge, and the northwest
34 corner of the Togiak refuge within Unit 18. The
35 proposed regulations would not, however, result in any
36 changes to current general hunting and trapping
37 regulations on these two refuges since the proposed
38 prohibited methods and means for wildlife harvest that
39 we are considering are consistent with existing State
40 regulations for Game Management Unit 18.

41
42 Next slide.

43
44 Okay. So I'm wrapping up here with the
45 timeline. Thanks for bearing with me.

46
47 So currently, as I mentioned, we are
48 now in the scoping and tribal and State consultation
49 phase as well as doing outreach to the public.
50 Beginning phases of that.

1 In April of 2015 we will be hopefully
2 publishing a proposed rule and start a 60-day public
3 comment period, which will include continued
4 opportunity for tribal consultation and meetings or
5 hearings in various locations around the State.

6
7 Click twice, please.

8
9 And then in fall of 2015, we'll be
10 reviewing any public comments received and updating the
11 proposed rule accordingly. And then sometime in early
12 next year, so maybe January of 2016, we are
13 anticipating that we will be publishing a final rule.

14
15 So with that, I'd like to wrap up and
16 just say thanks again for the opportunity to talk with
17 you today. And thanks for bearing with us. We welcome
18 any feedback or questions you may have at this time.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
23 questions from the Council. Any questions from the
24 Council. Mr. Roczicka. I know you've got that look on
25 your face like you're going to ask something.

26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: I've actually got a
28 question. Just comment. When this was first out --
29 and I would like to commend the Service for not taking
30 a step that was -- or the process that was followed by
31 your partner entity under DOI, with the Park Service
32 with putting something out without gaining some input.

33
34 The first draft that was sent out last
35 October had some pretty egregious criteria contained in
36 there, and you guys have done a tremendous job of what
37 I would call damage control by having political science
38 shoved down your -- put forward to you to have to deal
39 with rather than base your actions on biological
40 science.

41
42 I still have a lot of personal
43 difficulties and professional difficulties with the
44 whole thrust of this. And particularly you mentioned
45 in your presentation that this is all focused towards
46 preventing intensive management activities by the
47 State. Well, you should say so. This inclusion of the
48 word that you have in here, for or potential, can apply
49 to anything that has to do with human activity. Is
50 there any place in Federal regulation that does fully

1 recognize the human harvest as being part of that
2 natural diversity. It's been there for as many say the
3 thousands of years and which you attempt to address by
4 not including subsistence regulations under this. But
5 those protections and those recognitions should be in
6 place, I believe, prior to something like this going
7 forward. Once it's in place in the sportsfishing
8 regulations, I recognize that this is one of those
9 issues that comes down through the chain of command
10 from folks that have probably never been to Region X or
11 the Alaska region other than to go see ANWR, or stop in
12 Anchorage, Fairbanks for a five-day visit in one region
13 or another, but are really putting personal moral
14 values onto hunting and fishing activities in Alaska.

15
16 And again I appreciate that it's saying
17 it's focused only on the sport activities in those
18 regulations, but, by gosh, once it's there and they've
19 got it on the books, folks with that kind of an agenda
20 are not -- they're looking 100 years out. I've read
21 some of their, oh, what do they call them, not their
22 syllabus, but manifestos I guess for lack of a better
23 word. But they are looking at generational changes,
24 100 years down the line, 50 years down the line. And
25 things like this really do worry me.

26
27 I would like to see specifically for
28 this proposal that at least the word potential be taken
29 out, and it is focused on intensive management
30 activities, that it's put in their place, and there's a
31 line of it under State law. And I realize that that
32 law was pretty poorly written actually by the fellow
33 that put it out through the Alaska legislature back in
34 1995 and '96, and was doing it in a knee jerk response.
35 And I was on the Board that had to try to make sense
36 out of it and put it into regulation, and it took us
37 four years to do it. So it was difficult even for the
38 state managers to come up with a scenario.

39
40 But I don't believe that adding it in
41 as a catch all, let's focus your regulation in on the
42 intensive management, because that is were your problem
43 lies. That is where the State and Federal conflict
44 lies in this arena, and it should be specifically
45 stated. Take that word potential, I mean it -- I would
46 just say predator reduction activities under this
47 consideration that are under the State of Alaska
48 intensive management with the intent to alter or
49 manipulate. Take out that word potential. That's
50 terrible.

1 And again I really appreciate what --
2 you've taken a lot of our major concerns already that
3 we had in there as far as prohibitive activities. Mr.
4 Lalonde had -- we've sat down a couple times and he has
5 provided me some insight there, but those 10 or 11 that
6 were take out, and having about six or seven of them
7 specifically.

8
9 We appreciate that you've just taken
10 that step. And I see Fish and Wildlife was put under
11 having to do damage control from not other way to say
12 it, but a D.C. directive. I can't say that that's what
13 happened, but it smells, it reeks of something of that
14 nature.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further comments
17 on the proposed rule on hunting.

18
19 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Charles.

22
23 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 Can anybody make a proposal to change
26 the regulations like the State does on Federal side.

27
28 MS. TONNESON: Through the Chair.
29 This is Heather Tonneson.

30
31 So the Federal Government can manage
32 it's Federal lands, and it is a slightly different
33 process. That's why we're going through the process
34 that we're going through to update our Refuge-specific
35 regulations. So as I mentioned, it would not apply to
36 other lands beyond just those Refuge lands.

37
38 I'm not sure if that answers your
39 question.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: What I meant was if it
42 have to be the group, or RAC members, or tribal
43 council, or tribal council, or anybody, can anybody
44 make a proposal to change regulations.

45
46 MS. TONNESON: This is Heather
47 Tonneson, through the Chair.

48
49 So I guess, I mean, there's obviously
50 the process that you all have with the RACs that you

1 can make proposals to the Board that would change or
2 update the Federal subsistence regulations. Those
3 would apply on Federal lands. And so in that way, yes,
4 you certainly could.

5
6 As far as updating the Refuge-specific
7 regulations that are in the Code of Federal
8 Regulations, we would work with local people to hear
9 concerns, and we certainly could decide to open up a
10 process if someone wanted to talk with us about
11 concerns. But it's a slightly different process I
12 guess than the RAC process, so that's what I'm trying
13 to make clear. Does that help?

14
15 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, I think so.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
18 questions concerning this proposed rule. Mr. Andrew.

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

21
22 I have a question over here, and what
23 are the proposed change in one section. You said they
24 won't be able to use traps or snares on bears. I'd
25 like to make an exception and try to keep the one on
26 snares to try to capture the nuisance bears that raid
27 our fish camps, because some of -- the last two years
28 has been bad for my village area and my neighboring
29 villages. I hear of stories, and I've seen broken
30 doors and busted walls where the bears go in and take
31 their winter supply of fish, and they lose them. And
32 some of those elder bears are really smart. You can
33 recognize them, the same bears by their behavior or
34 their footprint by the properties. They're really hard
35 to get. They come and raid fish camps only in the
36 dark, because they can see at night, but we can't.

37
38 It's my comment for now.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

43
44 MR. PETERS: I got a comment on like
45 similar like in Marshall. Like there were some brown
46 bears that came into the village and, you know, the
47 residents were trying to protect their like where they
48 store their fish and stuff like that, but if they were
49 to kill the bear or something or somewhere along the
50 line, they've got to kind of draw their line to where

1 that -- if they're protecting their family or their
2 resource, I think somewhere along the line, you know,
3 hearing it from the village resident over there at
4 Marshall, I think it was a great danger, because they
5 were coming right into the village And, you know,
6 people that live in Marshall know about that, because
7 it was a concern. And somewhere along the line they
8 need to clarify to where that if they dispose of the
9 bear, would they be charged with something like a
10 criminal thing where that at the same time they're
11 trying to protect our own village people, because they
12 come around in the dark, and I think that that's a
13 concern, And I think that's one of the things the
14 Federal or Fish and Game need to local residents to
15 dispose of the bear in a proper way, but at the same
16 time to try to protect local residents that they won't
17 be criminalized for something that they're trying to
18 protect their family, you know. I just wanted to let
19 you know.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a.....

24

25 MS. TONNESON: Mr. Chair. This is
26 Heather Tonneson.

27

28 So maybe I could ask for some help from
29 maybe somebody in the audience that might know, but my
30 understanding is what you're talking about would be
31 defense of life and property, and that would probably
32 be a different case where this would not apply. I
33 would want to get clarification on that. Okay. But,
34 yeah, so the things we're talking about right now would
35 not apply to defense of life and property. You would
36 still be able to use those actions to protect your
37 family.

38

39 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chair. You know, the
40 only reason why I brought that up is, is there some way
41 for the guidelines could do a follow up about, you
42 know, these people trying to protect their families and
43 stuff like that, to have it down on black and white to
44 where that -- you know, there's this thing where that
45 the Federal or State governments have that power to
46 protect the local residents, because at times you could
47 see where the -- you know, brown bears are very big and
48 they could be very dangerous. And that's something I
49 thought I'd bring up to your attention, because there
50 are times like what Mr. Andrew was talking about. They

1 come around only when it's dark and raid camps or come
2 into the village. The only reason why I would like for
3 the Department to know is where does the protection
4 come when someone's trying to protect their family or
5 their residence, you see. Somewhere along the line
6 they've got to have that compliance to where the local
7 Native people are protected in the same situation about
8 it.

9

10 Now, I'm not going to repeat myself,
11 but, you know, I could always be corrected if I'm wrong
12 or there's some agency that could come out and look at
13 the situation with Marshall or the tribal government at
14 some sort of event.

15

16 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 MS. TONNESON: Mr. Chair, this is
19 Heather Tonneson again.

20

21 I just wanted to note that your
22 comments are well taken, and definitely that should be
23 clarified in the actual proposed rule language. And
24 Neil has something to add, too.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair. This is Neil
31 Lalonde.

32

33 Mr. Peters, we would be happy to come
34 to your village and discuss with you the current
35 regulations and try and answer specific questions, and
36 bring out law enforcement Staff that have the specific
37 expertise. As you said, there may be some question as
38 to, you know, when is it within regulation, and when it
39 was without. So we'd be happy to come see you in
40 Marshall and discuss that.

41

42 MR. PETERS: You know, just
43 informational -- excuse me, Mr. Chair. Just
44 informational for the local residents like -- and I'm
45 not talking for myself. I'm talking for the village of
46 Marshall, or the people of Marshall. What direction
47 should they go next or who they contact in your
48 department, and that's something that need to be
49 brought out and talked about, how could they be
50 protected, you know. We would like to see some sort of

1 assistance or of how it could be regulated in the
2 system, see.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.

7

8 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair. So there's a
9 different process depending if it happens on State land
10 or Federal lands, but again we'd be happy to come meet
11 with the village to go through the regulations to where
12 there are no questions.

13 And that goes for any village. So that everyone
14 currently understands the regulation and reporting
15 process.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
18 Roczicka.

19

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

21

22 I just wanted to highlight another
23 point that was brought forward to me regarding this.
24 And I appreciate again that you guys took the
25 opportunity to make a positive move, because it's
26 something that's been brought up through Subsistence
27 Councils and various meetings in the past. And Bob
28 even mentioned it today about protecting the berries
29 and the plants that people gather. And currently that
30 non-commercial use or subsistence use for gathering
31 your fruits, berries, mushrooms or whatever, other
32 plant uses you have for subsistence, including even
33 firewood gathering, it's allowed only by the local
34 subsistence users under Federal law. And under the
35 original proposal that was put out, that was actually
36 expanded to include any and all recreational users from
37 anywhere on all refuges throughout the state. And as a
38 result of the consultations and so forth that we had,
39 that has -- that provision was taken out, so that is no
40 longer there to provide recreational harvesting of
41 plants and firewood to extend to anybody for
42 recreational purposes. And I appreciate that and
43 wanted to note that for the record.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments or
46 questions from the Council. Mr. Bill.

47

48 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Qu yana. We've got a similar problem there on Nelson
50 Island. I don't what they are, if they're brown bear

1 or (In Yup'ik), there are two of them, and there's
2 about three or four wolves who walk around on the
3 island. We're afraid that if we don't do something
4 about it, our salmon, blackberry pickers might be
5 frightened from them. We don't know what to do with
6 them. Do you have any way of telling us what to do
7 with them?

8
9 MR. LALONDE: I'm not sure I completely
10 understood the question.

11
12 MR. BILL: What I'm saying -- Mr.
13 Chair. What I'm trying to say is we're afraid they
14 might scare us out, because something towards -- they
15 might do something to our blackberry pickers, the
16 women, who goes out with no weapon or nothing. If they
17 ever -- we're afraid that they might get hurt
18 sometimes. Is there any way that we can -- I know
19 we're not going to try to run them out. That the only
20 way that we can do it I think is shoot them down. If
21 there's a way.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 That's my question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you understand the
28 question?

29
30 MR. LALONDE: Yes, I believe so, Mr.
31 Chair.

32
33 So I just would encourage you to take
34 advantage of all the opportunities of open seasons in
35 and around the village. And if there are additional
36 concerns of safety, then again we would like to talk to
37 you about that, and see what other things we can do to
38 assist.

39
40 MR. BILL: (Indiscernible - microphone
41 not on) Quyana. What I'm trying to say,
42 (indiscernible) about it, if some of our people get
43 hurt. You know, if nothing's done, if some of our
44 people get hurt, or one of them. That would be the
45 closed seasons for them.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: May I?

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you may.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Maybe just to -- Mr.
4 Lalonde was being very political in his answer to you,
5 but if you take advantage of the open season and you've
6 got some bears nearby your village, the open season is
7 July 1 through July 30 with a bag limit of three bears
8 for black bears.
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Year round.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MR. BILL: Again, Mr. Chair, in July
15 there's no blackberries, they have to come out, and the
16 blackberry picking in the time of September/October.
17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: In other words, it's
19 open all year round. So if anybody wants to go catch
20 them.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MR. BILL: No, they'll be running from
25 us if they ever heard somebody.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions or
28 concerns concerning the regulations that were put forth
29 by -- or potential ruling on the -- proposed ruling by
30 the Refuge.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none, I
35 think we're all getting tired.
36
37 Mr. Johnson, I think you've got the
38 last word.
39
40 MR. JOHNSON: In that case I'll be
41 brief. So just a reminder to everybody in the room
42 that at 7:00 p.m. we'll have a public meeting on the
43 proposed rule on the rural determination process. We
44 encourage the Council to be here so that if people from
45 the public do testify, you can get a chance to hear
46 what they have to say. People who come in the evening
47 may not come in the morning when the Council addresses
48 this, so it might give you a chance to hear something
49 different.
50

1 And then also since it is a rare
2 occasion that we have all 13 members of this Council
3 together, I want to make sure that tomorrow at some
4 point in time, maybe after one of our breaks, we do a
5 quick group photo of the whole Council together, just
6 because it is such a rare thing. Yes, that will also
7 give us a chance to have pictures of our new Council
8 members, too. But that's just for tomorrow.

9
10 And I just wanted to thank the Council
11 for a good day.

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was that, at 7:00
14 o'clock?

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, the meeting on
17 the proposed rule is starting at seven?

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct. It's
20 7:00 p.m. right here.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Tonight? Today?

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: Today.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tonight, this evening.

27
28 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 (In Yup'ik)

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, it's all right.
33 I guess it's okay for us to leave our things on the
34 table.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, everything can stay
37 on the table where your stuff is. We will do our best
38 to not disturb anything, and we will lock up the room
39 after we're done.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Recess until 7:00
44 o'clock.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. We recess until
47 seven. Whoever can make it to that meeting at 7:00
48 o'clock is encouraged to come. And the meeting will
49 start tomorrow at nine.

50

1 Thank you and have a good night.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 112 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 25th day of February 2015 at Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of March 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18