

1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
9 Bethel, Alaska
10 February 26, 2009
11 9:00 o'clock a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15
16 Lester Wilde, Sr., Chair
17 Robert E. Aloysius
18 William F. Brown
19 James A. Charles
20 Mary Gregory
21 Paul J. Manumik, Sr. (Telephonic)
22 Joseph P. Mike ((Telephonic)
23 Raymond Oney (Telephonic)
24 Greg J. Roczicka, Vice Chair
25 Harry Wilde (Telephonic)
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30 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 700 W. 2nd Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 2/26/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting to order at 9:03.

CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Ms. Becca Gisclair joins.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Who's that that just joined?

MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah, this is Becca Gisclair with YRDFA.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Good morning, Becca.

MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do we need to call roll?

CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Joseph Mike joins.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go to item 13, Regional Council business. 13.A. Correspondence. You, Alex Nick. And announcements, too.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. The first thing I wanted to take care of this morning with assistance from the OSM Staff, we do have a few awards that we would like to announce.

CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Don Rivard joins.

MR. NICK: We would like to know who's on line, please?

MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard.

MR. KRON: Don, Becca, Joseph Mike and Ray.

MR. RIVARD: Hi, this is Don Rivard in Anchorage.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Good morning, Don.
2
3 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair
4 and everybody else there.
5
6 MR. NICK: Good morning. Mr. Chair.
7 Before we take care of this, I would like to make a
8 couple of announcements. We've had lodging issues that
9 we deal with. I will deal with that after the Council
10 leaves. I will work with our Staff in Anchorage and
11 also with the local people for the next -- rather local
12 hotels for the next meeting. And hopefully you won't
13 have to deal with that issue in the future.
14
15 And I've also contacted airlines this
16 morning to reschedule your flights, with your
17 permission, of course. And so hopefully you will be
18 good to go.
19
20 And we do have I believe four
21 certificates that we would like to present at this
22 time, with your permission, Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.
25
26 MR. NICK: And I'll Tom Kron present
27 that for us. Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Tom.
30
31 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Excuse me. Paul
32 Manumik joins.
33
34 MR. KRON: Okay. We have -- we're
35 providing long-term Council members with small awards.
36 Those that have served both 5 and 10 years. And for
37 this Council, there are four of the Council members
38 that have served, very dedicated, for 5 years. And
39 they are Ray Oney, Joseph Mike, and Greg Roczicka and
40 Robert Aloysius.
41
42 (Applause)
43
44 MR. KRON: And as a small token of our
45 appreciation, we have a certificate and Alex also has
46 some cups. And again for Ray and Joseph, Alex will
47 have to get these to you later. But we've got Greg and
48 Robert here, so thank you very much.
49
50 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

1 MR. KRON: Thank you very much.
2
3 (Applause)
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Just a little point here
6 I guess. Some people call me Ray, because they don't
7 understand me. Ray, they just gave me your
8 certificate. Can I hang it on my wall?
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. NICK: It must be weather. Thank
13 you, Tom.
14
15 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Pete DeMatteo
16 joins.
17
18 MR. BROWN: You'll have to change your
19 name.
20
21 MR. NICK: Okay. Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.
24
25 MR. NICK: I believe I was recognized
26 to go ahead with the Council business.
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you were.
29
30 MR. NICK: Okay. Under 13.A,
31 correspondence from you, we have a lot of
32 correspondence that we received from -- copies of
33 letter sent to other agencies and to Fish and Wildlife
34 Service from agencies and organizations. We do have a
35 copy of those if any of the Council members want to see
36 a copy or need a copy of that. I have some available
37 here and also up in the office.
38
39 And also under C, on Page 198 of your
40 Council book is your 2008 draft annual report we did
41 the best we can to put together. It's in a draft
42 stage, and I assume that hopefully most of the Council
43 members have reviewed that.
44
45 And under D, we need to confirm the
46 date and place of fall meeting.
47
48 Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: I don't know if you were
6 going to call for comments here or not.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, I was going
9 to, but go ahead.
10
11 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Excuse me. Harry
12 Wilde joins.
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Hello, Harry.
15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: And, Mr. Chairman, I
17 have to leave on an emergency meeting that was called
18 by my Council here shortly.
19
20 But just regarding the draft report, I
21 really appreciate that you put this together and all
22 that, Alex. And I had a few editorial comments. For
23 example, some places where you have the word must and
24 it actually should be should. I mean, we want it, but
25 it's not a requirement. Those type of things.
26
27 But the other one would be I'd like to
28 reinsert the paragraph in here, or the issue regarding
29 management that we included in last year's report, and
30 was -- it's substance was totally ignored in the
31 response that came back to us that I saw.
32
33 Thank you.
34
35 (Miscellaneous conversation on
36 teleconference)
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was that -- is
39 there something you wanted to insert, you said?
40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: To restate the issue
42 that we brought up last year regarding management to
43 provide for subsistence and the interpretations that
44 are coming through at the administrative level
45 regarding ANILCA and that these refuges were created
46 under ANILCA to protect subsistence, but get the issue
47 of managing the populations to provide for subsistence
48 needs, or even the opportunity is not being fulfilled
49 whereas i the Congressional record when ANILCA was
50 passed, and I provided copies of that at the last

1 meeting that, you know, last winter, that it
2 specifically stated that this is not precluded. So
3 this is a judgment call that's being put down.

4
5 And I know I've been critical and I say
6 OSM Staff many times, and I'd like to clarify here as
7 well. It's not really the local area Staff or
8 necessarily even the regional Staff. These are
9 mandates that are brought down from again the
10 administrative level and a problem with the whole
11 Federal Subsistence Program that there are policies
12 that are put in place and forced on us by people that
13 really have no concept or common base of perception of
14 how life is in Alaska. They come from the East Coast
15 and they're driven by attitudes, feelings of a Lower 48
16 urban mentality. I'm sorry, but that's just the way it
17 is. And it's not right, and we want to bring that --
18 as we mentioned yesterday, keep bringing these issues
19 forward.

20
21 When I represented this Council at last
22 spring's meeting, as I mentioned before, there was a
23 definite agreement by the Federal Subsistence Council
24 members that this issue did need to be addressed and
25 there was to be meetings take place between their
26 individual management agencies, specifically Fish and
27 Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and BLM, to start to
28 try to address these. There's been a significant
29 amount of Staff turnover again. And this gets back
30 into the representatives on the Federal Subsistence
31 Board, being the directors of the Interior departments.
32 And we've had that turnover occur. Tom Melius who was
33 there last, was the former director for Fish and
34 Wildlife, he's now moved on and gone. There's a new
35 person in his place. I understand Pete Probasco, of
36 course, had stated a definite intent of OSM to go
37 forward with these meetings, and he's gone now.

38
39 So there's been all that turnover
40 again, so we need to bring this issue back up again in
41 front of them and make sure it's included in the annual
42 report. And point out to them how essentially they did
43 not respond to our returns, that what we got was the
44 boiler plate letter that was developed 15 to 20 years
45 ago in response to the Yukon Flats area request in the
46 upper Yukon that they wanted some active management,
47 including predator management within their area, to
48 keep their moose population -- to maintain their moose
49 populations, which is part of it.

50

1 And now we have the memorandum of
2 understanding in place that, if they follow through
3 with it, with many of the agreements and the guiding
4 principles that are stated in there, and the issues
5 that we've laid out regarding our concerns with -- in
6 many ways failure to the people to provide for
7 subsistence, or protection for subsistence uses through
8 Title VIII of ANILCA, that those need to be laid out
9 and responded to.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
12 discussion on this. Alex.

13

14 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Roczicka.
15 This is in draft form and it needs to -- it's an action
16 item for Council, so it's up to Council members present
17 and those on line to insert your topic. It would make
18 it easier for us to see it in black and white, but if
19 it's what Council wants, we will do our best to insert
20 that.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Greg.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 It would be essentially a resubmission of what was put
28 in last year and went as the Council recommendations to
29 the Federal Subsistence Board. So all those are in
30 place.

31

32 And I do have to leave here in about 5
33 to 10 minutes, so I just wanted to put that on the
34 record.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What is the wish of
37 the rest of the Council. Do you feel that that.....

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: And just it's one of
40 those on-going issues, just like beavers. And we're
41 not seeing the responses.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

44

45 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Roczicka.
46 The topics that you see and recommendations on your
47 2008 annual report comes from your topics during your
48 all meeting, the recommended topics. So if you want
49 go ahead and add that topic from 2007 annual report, or
50 previous report, then it would have to be concurred by

1 other members.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Robert.

4

5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. What is the
6 deadline for submitting addition to the report?

7

8 MR. NICK: We were hoping that the
9 Council would approve this annual report for 2008,
10 because it's your 2008 annual report. You will work on
11 your 2009 annual report in the fall. You will come up
12 with topics in the fall meeting, and then we will bring
13 up your -- a draft annual report for 2009 during winter
14 2010 meeting. That's correct, right, Tom?

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. It doesn't make
19 sense to me that we report at the tail end of the year
20 before the end of the year. It just doesn't ring
21 right. If we write a report for 2008, it should be
22 after December 31, 2008, not in the first part of
23 October 2008.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

26

27 MR. NICK: The annual report that you
28 have in front of you is for 2008, and drafted this
29 after 2008 was over. Well, actually came up with the
30 topics at your October meeting, and then we drafted it
31 for your consideration at this meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: On Page 98 is the
34 annual report. Do you need action on this right now,
35 Alex? Would you -- do you need action on this right
36 now, on the annual report?

37

38 MR. NICK: It's entirely up to the
39 Council. This is your annual report. And.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What is the feeling
42 of the Council then.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Maybe we vote. Mr.
45 Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary. Mrs.
48 Gregory.

49

50 MS. GREGORY: I think we can just look

1 at it and then -- when is our next meeting? In March?

2

3 MR. NICK: Your next meeting is
4 scheduled to be held on October 1 and 2, this fall.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: October 1 and 2.
7 Go ahead, Mr. Kron.

8

9 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Members
10 of the Council. This is one of ways that you can share
11 your feelings with the Board on issues that, you know,
12 may be outside of the normal business. Some of the
13 Councils don't submit annual reports, but I guess, just
14 based on the concerns we just heard from Greg and from
15 others here, it seems like you would want to share
16 these concerns with the Board and get their
17 perspectives back. So this is the time to do it. It
18 needs to happen at this meeting. And again as Alex
19 said, that this started back in the fall meeting, but,
20 you know, at this time of year all the Councils are
21 deciding whether or not they want to submit these
22 questions to the Board. Some do, some don't. But if
23 you're going to do it, you need to do it at this
24 meeting, or at least have things in place so it can
25 move ahead.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
30 Kron. Go ahead, Pippa.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

34

35 In the interest of time, I thought I'd
36 bring this up right now. In your recommendation in the
37 draft annual letter, there is also a recommendation to
38 the Board that we work to extend the moose moratorium
39 in the lower Kuskokwim for another year or two. You
40 may want to reconsider that also from what I heard at
41 this meeting yesterday.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Council members, we
44 have a suggestion by Greg. Do you have the working or
45 the section that is omitted from this report, Greg?

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: No, Mr. Chairman, I
48 don't. And I beg apologies. I didn't get to do the
49 level of homework that I like to do prior to this
50 meeting in general. And last month I've been serving

1 as an acting director with our organization, with our
2 tribal council due to the illness that occurred with
3 our executive director having the aneurism.

4
5 But what I would look to do is restate
6 the issues that we brought out at the -- during the
7 last annual report and update it with the intents of
8 the Federal Subsistence Board that were stated from
9 their spring meeting. And at our fall meeting we were
10 still expecting that some of those meetings that they
11 said they were going to conduct over the last year
12 would still occur. And so we had to wait until the end
13 of the year, and the year of the year has gone and none
14 of those have taken place. So just to remind them of
15 the issues there and state that this is something that
16 we feel definitely has to be addressed by the Board in
17 order to fulfill their responsibilities.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

20
21 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
22 Roczicka, would it be too late to include that in your
23 -- your issue in 2009 annual report.

24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, it would for the
26 2008 report, because this is an on-going issues that
27 we've faced every year. The Board did address it last
28 year, but they did not -- got no further action out of
29 it, so we're still in the same position, that they said
30 these were going forward, and we want to remind them.
31 This is a priority matter.

32
33 And I appreciate, Tom, you just gave me
34 the report, and I'll read it into the record right now.

35
36 The Council requests the Federal
37 Subsistence Board provide guidance to the Federal land
38 managers to develop a strategy or policy guideline to
39 maintain subsistence resources, and in parentheses it
40 references populations of moose herds, when a
41 subsistence harvest opportunity is restricted or closed
42 due to low wildlife population levels. And the
43 management agency of each conservation unit, in this
44 case it would be the Y-K Refuge, should have in place a
45 management strategy to maintain and rebuild if
46 necessary subsistence resources of concern to maintain
47 and provide for subsistence harvest opportunities for
48 all Federally-qualified users on Federal public lands.

49
50 And we could add a sentence on the end

1 of it, this has not yet occurred and the response that
2 came down from whoever drafted it, I don't know at what
3 level, but it was no response whatsoever. It
4 referenced what I just told you, the management
5 programs that were developed back 20 or 15 to 20 years
6 ago for the upper Yukon. And that is in my mind and I
7 think in that of many others across the State is not a
8 proper -- it's an interpretation. It's a matter of
9 choice.

10
11 And we went into it at length where
12 they require that a full environmental impact statement
13 go out on a nationwide level, and that is absolutely
14 not true. I said that yesterday. It can be done by
15 the individual management agency, in this case it would
16 be the Refuge Staff, with an environmental assessment.
17 It does not require a full-blows EIS that would bring
18 in the environmentalists' concerns of the Lower 48 that
19 have again no -- other than philosophical concerns, do
20 not have to deal with any of the negative consequences
21 and it doesn't take food off their tables.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bob.

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
26 that we reinsert this particular issue in our 2008 --
27 add it to our 2008 report again.

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You've heard the
30 motion. Do I hear a second. Do I hear a second. One
31 more time, do I hear a second to the motion.

32
33 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I'll second and
34 offer a friendly amendment if I may to include within
35 that to reference the actions expressed when the issue
36 was addressed at the Federal Subsistence Board last
37 spring and the failure of the response, that we didn't
38 get back until late in the fall last year, until late
39 in 2008, that did not address the issue, and just
40 essentially brushed the main points aside and did not
41 address them.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Bob.

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: As the originator of the
46 motion, I concur with the friendly amendment.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
49 discussion. Any discussion. James.
50

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. So this
2 annual report is going to be like this with adding that
3 to this report, or is it going to be changed to what
4 the recommendation.
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, it's going to
7 be added.
8
9 MR. CHARLES: Oh, it's added.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: He wants it added
12 to this report.
13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)
15
16 MR. CHARLES: Okay. Good. Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
19 discussion.
20
21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Alex.
24
25 MR. NICK: So it's my understanding
26 that this issue number 2 from 2007 annual report, I do
27 have current copies of this, will be number 5 in your
28 2008, right?
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: For the record, yes.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes. Any further
35 discussion.
36
37 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
40 Manumik.
41
42 MR. MANUMIK: Yes. I don't see in the
43 annual report here, I don't see any indication of any
44 wolf control of any kind that has been discussed. I
45 think that we should include that. Plus another brown
46 predation and black bear predation on moose population
47 and caribou. I think those should also be put in there
48 so that in the future we could work on -- research and
49 work on wolf control. Bear control.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Robert, did you
2 have a comment.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Just to clarify,
5 we have a motion on floor that has to be discussed, and
6 I don't want you to wander off from this particular
7 motion, because there's always a tendency to go off on
8 something else that has no bearing on the motion.

9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.

11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Paul. That's actually what's incorporated right at the
14 heart of asking the Federal managers and the Office of
15 Subsistence Management -- or actually the Federal
16 Subsistence Board to make these recommendations, and in
17 accordance with their predator management policy that
18 they have, that they would forward these concerns and
19 work actively to get the Regional Councils' concerns
20 addressed by their management agencies. And that is
21 right at the heart of what I'm trying to get to, or
22 that's included, that they need to have management
23 strategies to management their populations to provide
24 for subsistence needs. And that includes predator
25 management. It's habitat issues need to be done, if you
26 need to, you know, controlled burns or willow crushing
27 or whatever it might be, or keeping a balance of your
28 predator/prey ratios. That's all that's directly
29 included in here. And that's actually what was the
30 cause of this going forward.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Alex.

33
34 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Roczicka.
35 Is it my understanding that what you stated could be
36 used as justification for the motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sorry. I
39 missed something. Alex.

40
41 MR. NICK: What I said was -- well, my
42 question relates to justification of the motion to
43 support your motion including 2007 issue to your 2008.
44 I thought maybe that might be part of the justification
45 for a motion. Each motion has justification to support
46 what the intent of the motion is.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Absolutely, yes. The

1 purpose of the motion, that purpose of including this
2 in the annual report for the last several years and
3 bringing this issued ever since I've been on this
4 Council to the Board is that they need to fulfill their
5 responsibilities under their policies. They need to
6 carry out their policies. They shouldn't just be there
7 for lip service. And they're supposed to be giving due
8 deference to our concerns, and they're not being done.
9 And they're being done for you'd almost call it
10 frivolous reasons that do not apply to Alaska. And
11 it's -- I'm sorry, I just end up restating myself over
12 and over and over. Yes, it's a justification that --
13 for the Federal Subsistence Board to fulfill its
14 mandate for the Fish and Wildlife Service and
15 Department of Interior to carry out its
16 responsibilities it was given under Title VIII of
17 ANILCA. They should be fulfilling that Congressional
18 intent in there and not running off and saying we
19 manage for natural diversity when it's specifically
20 stated in the Congressional record that natural
21 diversity does not preclude management of your
22 populations to provide for human harvest needs. And
23 the Service and the rest of them have consistently said
24 that is not something that we will do without a
25 national environmental policy review, and done at the
26 national level with a full-blown environmental impact
27 statement.

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
30 discussion on this, on this motion. You're going to
31 wait until you vote.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
38 called for. Roll call vote, please, Alex.

39
40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'll just go
41 through the list and not say whether they're present or
42 not, just listen for vote. Would that be okay?

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's okay. Go
45 ahead.

46
47 MR. NICK: James Charles.

48
49 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. Can I get a
50 clarification on the vote. Ray Oney here.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.
2
3 MR. NICK: Yeah, they called for a roll
4 call vote for Bobby Aloysius' motion. And the motion
5 is to add 2007 issue to 2008 annual report.
6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Updated.
8
9 MR. NICK: Updated to include or insert
10 issues not addressed, is that how you put it, by FSB.
11 Clarify that, please.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll try to say it
14 short. To reinsert the issue of providing proactive
15 management strategies of subsistence resource
16 populations to provide and maintain adequate resources
17 to meet subsistence need. And at the heart of that is
18 the predator management issue that the Federal managers
19 have consistently refused to address, and was not
20 responded to in their response from last year, and
21 update it with the actions of the Federal Board and the
22 intents expressed by the Federal Board at their meeting
23 in 2008.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that clear now,
26 Mr. Oney.
27
28 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead,
31 Alex.
32
33 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. James
34 Charles.
35
36 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
37
38 MR. NICK: John Andrew. Raymond Oney.
39
40 MR. ONEY: Yes.
41
42 MR. NICK: William Brown.
43
44 MR. BROWN: Yes.
45
46 MR. NICK: Harry Wilde.
47
48 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
49
50 MR. NICK: Edgar Hoelscher. Mary

1 Gregory.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
4
5 MR. NICK: Elias Kelly. Elias Kelly.
6 Lester Wilde.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
9
10 MR. NICK: Paul Manumik.
11
12 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
13
14 MR. NICK: Joseph Mike.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Yes.
17
18 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka.
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
21
22 MR. NICK: Robert Aloysius.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
25
26 MR. NICK: I have 10 yes.
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carries.
29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. If I
31 could be excused, and I'll try to be back by 11 if I
32 can at the latest.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Greg, we'll
35 excuse you.
36
37 Do you have any more discussion on this
38 draft annual report, Alex.
39
40 MR. NICK: Excuse me?
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Tom.
43
44 MR. KRON: Yeah. The only issue, Pippa
45 already raised it. Issue 1 on Page 99 is the Kuskokwim
46 moose moratorium. There's discussion in there about
47 the success on the Yukon and, you know, the need to get
48 survey data. But it goes on to say that you're
49 recommending that it be extended. And that's not what
50 you voted on yesterday. So I don't want to draw out

1 the discussion, but it seems like somebody needs to
2 work on this to update it based on what you did
3 yesterday.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Robert.

6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. This is
8 2009, so it's -- why should we alter what we presented
9 in October of 2008. That's a simple question I have.
10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yep. That's a
12 point there. So I guess we'll just leave that as is,
13 because of the -- unless you want to pull it. What
14 does the Council feel.

15
16 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary.

19
20 MS. GREGORY: Since I made that motion
21 to extend it, and I'd like to keep it in there. And
22 then for our 2009 report then whatever happened
23 yesterday can be reflected.

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Mary.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. You've got
28 your marching orders. That good enough, good and
29 clear. Okay.

30
31 Any further discussion on the annual
32 report. Bob.

33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Indiscernible, away
35 from microphone). I'm beavered out.

36
37 MR. MANUMIK: Question on the motion,
38 please.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
41 already -- it's already passed. There's no motion.
42 Okay.

43
44 The next item is to confirm date and
45 the place for fall 2009 meeting. Alex Nick.

46
47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Last fall
48 Council chose October 1 and 2 meeting for fall meeting
49 in Bethel. That needs to be confirmed.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any -- Council
2 members.
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: When is.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: October 1 and 2 you
7 said.
8
9 MR. NICK: October 1 and 2.
10
11 MR. H. WILDE: Lester.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, go ahead,
14 teleconference. Go ahead.
15
16 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
17 Alex, we were just about -- in like Regional Council
18 meeting here in Mountain Village, because we never have
19 meeting from long time I think, or never been. I'm
20 here in corporation office with the board of directors
21 and our manager is here, too. And we have a big
22 meeting place and others -- I think one of these days
23 it would be good to have a meeting here.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You've got a
28 response to that, Alex.
29
30 MR. NICK: The only response I would
31 have as a coordinator is that what we are hoping for
32 the Council to do is to meet in the hub like St. Mary's
33 or Bethel, because of the reasons that we face every
34 time, you know, like with sometime we pay for the
35 meeting place, and vendors have to be registered under
36 CCR in order for us to pay those people.
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What exactly is
39 TCR?
40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute. Let
44 Alex finish and then go ahead, we'll recognize you. Go
45 ahead, Alex.
46
47 MR. NICK: CCR is a government
48 requirement. I think it's called Central Contractual
49 Registration. All of the vendors that government
50 agencies, not only Fish and Wildlife, but other

1 agencies like BLM, when they deal with any vendor,
2 those vendors would have to be registered under CCR.
3 So what I'm saying is if we have to pay for a meeting
4 room and Council lodging in Mountain Village or
5 anywhere, like in Russian Mission, we would have to
6 channel the payments with a business that's registered
7 under CCR requirement.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead,
10 Robert.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, let's get
15 that -- go ahead, teleconference. I'm sorry, Bob.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. This is Vince
18 Mathews, the coordinator for Eastern and Western
19 Interior.

20
21 And, yes, we are to encourage you to
22 meet in hubs, but the assistant Regional Director, Pete
23 Probasco, made it clear that if you desire to meet
24 somewhere else, you can request that. You need to
25 provide justification as to why you need to meet
26 somewhere else, and then there needs to be a cost
27 analysis completed, comparing it to a hub. So you need
28 justification and then it would go through the process.
29 And, yes, part of the process is they need to be in
30 that Central Contractor Register, by I just completed
31 getting several businesses in CCR for my region. So
32 your concern is where would you like to meet and do you
33 have good justification to meet outside a hub.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Vince,
38 Alex. Bob.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: My question is, how did
41 you manage to meet in Lower Kalskag? That's not even a
42 hub.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That was prior to
45 the time. Go ahead, Alex.

46
47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Bob. It was my
48 understanding that Kalskag was registered under CCR,
49 and we found out by the time we were meeting that
50 Kalskag was not registered under CCR. And as a result

1 of that, the Kalskag community did not get paid for up
2 to maybe over six months until they were able to
3 register their organization to pay for the Council
4 lodging as well as the meeting place. And that the
5 meeting place was able to be worked out, and they were
6 paid, because they waive ACH I think is what it's
7 called.

8

9 And to Vince Mathews' comment about
10 providing a justification, Pete Probasco made it clear
11 to all the coordinators that if you need to meet
12 outside of a hub, you need to provide a strong
13 justification for that so that when he review the
14 justification, he will make a decision whether or not
15 the meeting should take place in that community you
16 choose.

17

18 Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bob and then Anaan.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute. We
25 have Bob. Go ahead, Bob.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: A point of
28 clarification. The meeting was not in Kalskag, it was
29 in Lower Kalskag.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And, Mary, go
32 ahead.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: I would like to say that
35 for justification we can make that Mountain Village
36 qualify to be a hub. And my reasoning for doing that
37 is when we go to villages to meet, the villagers come
38 and tell us what their problems and what they want, and
39 we get more information from the villages than we get
40 from anybody, because if we keep meeting in Bethel or
41 St. Mary's, they don't come. But, like I said, when we
42 go to Emmonak, Emmonak people came out and gave us
43 their input, and what we want is input from the other
44 people. And I'd like to support my elder nephew, Mr.
45 Harry Wilde, and I'd like -- I wouldn't mind going to
46 Mountain Village for our fall meeting.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bob, did you have?

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, I'm done.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry.
2 There's a guy on the teleconference. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Since I'm in my
5 office and computer connected, there are three
6 businesses within Mountain Village that are in CCR. So
7 billing can be worked through one or more of those.
8 But, Mr. Chairman, that's something we work on and it
9 shouldn't be a factor until later on in your, you know,
10 review of this, now the billing would go. But there
11 are three in Mountain Village.

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Mathews. Alex, go ahead.

15
16 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 stay with OSM's wishes, you know, that the meeting be
18 in a hub. And there are only two hubs recognized by
19 OSM at this point, which is Bethel and St. Mary's, for
20 your information.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
23 further discussion on the meeting place, and the dates
24 were confirmed for 1 and 2 for Bethel. Go ahead, Bob.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: If Emmonak is not a hub
27 and Lower Kalskag is not a hub, how did we manage to
28 meet in those two places? Please explain that to me.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Tom.

31
32 MR. KRON: Those were meetings that
33 were held in the earlier years. Basically we've got
34 budgets have been cut significantly, and that was the
35 primary driving force for the implementation of this
36 request. And again as Vince pointed out, there's still
37 the opportunity to meet in some of these other areas,
38 but you need to do the cost -- you know, Alex would
39 need to do the cost analysis and provide the Council's
40 justification for that. But the hope was to try to
41 meet in the hubs because it ends up making everybody's
42 travel more difficult, particularly if the weather is
43 bad, so they're gone away from home longer and there's
44 more cost.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.
49 Anaan.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Mary
2 Gregory.
3
4 There's nothing impossible if you put
5 your mind to it and if you work hard at it, you can get
6 it.
7
8 MR. KRON: Yes, we can.
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So but for now, are
11 we going to confirm our place for our next fall meeting
12 in Bethel. Mary.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) I'd like to
15 go to Mountain Village, because we get lots of input
16 from the Yukon people.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I guess we'll need
19 to have another motion to that effect. Go ahead, Bob.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
22 that we reconsider our place for the fall meeting and
23 move it from Bethel to Mountain Village.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: Second.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
28 made and seconded. Any discussion.
29
30 MR. MANUMIK: Question.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown.
33
34 MR. BROWN: In my experience when
35 there's some Council have different ideas, we choose
36 secret ballot vote.
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What is that?
39
40 MR. BROWN: We voted secret ballot.
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You want it on --
43 well, we have those people that are on the
44 teleconference, so there's not -- it's not going to be
45 too secret. So we have a motion and it's seconded.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: There was question
48 called on it already. I mean the teleconference.....
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question was

1 called. I think we'll need a roll call vote on this
2 one, too, Alex, please.
3
4 MR. NICK: Okay. Mr. Chair. Are you
5 ready to vote?
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
8
9 MR. NICK: Okay. James Charles.
10
11 MR. CHARLES: No.
12
13 MR. NICK: John Andrew. Raymond Oney.
14
15 MR. ONEY: Yes.
16
17 MR. NICK: William Brown.
18
19 MR. BROWN: No.
20
21 MR. NICK: Harry Wilde.
22
23 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
24
25 MR. NICK: Edgar Hoelscher. Mary
26 Gregory.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
29
30 MR. NICK: Elias Kelly. Lester Wilde.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
33
34 MR. NICK: Paul Manumik.
35
36 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
37
38 MR. NICK: Joseph Mike.
39
40 MR. MIKE: Yes.
41
42 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka. Robert
43 Aloysius.
44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
46
47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We have seven
48 yes, two no.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carries. So

1 the next meeting, we'll try and have it in Mountain
2 Village if possible. And our alternate is always
3 Bethel, right? Okay.

4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Bob Aloysius,
8 go ahead.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Do we have to vote on
11 the new dates, too, or just leave the dates as is?

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, I thought you
14 just wanted to change the venue and not the dates.

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, it said
17 confirmation of date and place.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Is October 1
20 and 2 dates okay with the Council.

21
22 MS. GREGORY: It's fine with me.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bob. Kind of no
25 matter? Go ahead, Mr. Brown.

26
27 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Some of us, we got
28 booked up for, you know, like those big meetings in
29 Anchorage in falltime, like AFN, BIA conference.
30 Sometimes I'm involved with those meetings.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We all are.

33
34 MR. BROWN: The month of October is
35 tied up for some village.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was that? I
38 didn't hear you.

39
40 MR. BROWN: Some villages, they get
41 booked up for traveling for like fall meetings, so
42 sometimes we let someone take our place, you know, when
43 we can't attend a particular meeting.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are there any
46 objections for the October 1 and 2 dates. Council.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, the chair

1 will rule that those two dates are okay if it's all
2 right with the rest of the Council.

3

4 MR. MANUMIK: No objection.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Somebody's
7 -- we're carrying on too long. We need to get this.
8 So October 1 and 2 in Mountain Village.

9

10 We're down to item 14. OSM. Reports
11 and updates and briefing. Mr. Tom Kron.

12

13 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
14 Members of the Council. We've got a number of items
15 listed there under section A for OSM.

16

17 Included in your Council book is the
18 recently signed memorandum of understanding. I can
19 provide information for you if you want, but it's there
20 for you to read for your information. Greg talked
21 about it. In the interest of time, you know, I can
22 move on. It's your call. Do you want me to provide
23 more details or just want to read it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Does the Council
26 feel that they need some more detail, then we'll go
27 into details. What is the feeling of the Council on
28 the memorandum, MOA -- MOU I guess. Robert.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, could we just get
31 highlights in a couple minutes.

32

33 MR. KRON: Sure.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

36

37 MR. KRON: Yes. Mr. Chair. Bob. The
38 memorandum of understanding was signed by all parties
39 in December of 2008. They included the Chairs of the
40 Alaska Board of Fish and the Alaska Board of Game, the
41 Commissioner of ADF&G, and the Chair of the Federal
42 Subsistence Board and its members, including BLM, BIA,
43 National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA.

44

45 The purpose of the MOU is to provide a
46 foundation and direction for coordination, interagency
47 fish and wildlife management affecting subsistence user
48 on Federal public lands, while allowing Federal and
49 State agencies to continue to act in accordance with
50 their respective statutory responsibility.

1 The Federal Subsistence Board's
2 authority and charge and obligation to rural residents
3 comes only from Title VIII of ANILCA and any other
4 Federal statutes. The MOU does not change that.
5 ANILCA still is the foundation for the Federal program.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions from
10 the Council.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none,
15 let's go to item 2, Bering Sea chinook salmon bycatch.
16 And Tom has kind of changed a little bit. It says Tom
17 Kron. Go ahead, Rich.

18
19 MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
20 going to give Tom a break on this one, and I'll give
21 you the briefing on this. I'm passing out a letter
22 from the Federal Subsistence Board to the North Pacific
23 Fisheries Management Council concerning this issue.

24
25 As you know, Mr. Chairman and Council
26 members, Councils from Western Alaska have been
27 following this issue for a number of years concerning
28 the bycatch of chinook as well as chum salmon in the
29 Aleutians, Bering Sea islands pollock trawl fishery.

30
31 And a draft environmental impact
32 statement was released by the National Marine Fisheries
33 service in early December of 2008. That documented the
34 following management measures to limit chinook salmon
35 bycatch in the pollock trawl fisheries. It evaluated
36 caps on the amount of chinook salmon that would be
37 allowed in the fishery. The caps that were under
38 consideration range from annual amounts of 29,300 to
39 87,500. That would be divided between the winter and
40 summer/fall pollock fishery. Seasonal closures of the
41 pollock fishery when the bycatch caps are reached
42 and/or seasonal closures of areas where high salmon
43 bycatch has traditionally occurred were also
44 considered.

45
46 North Pacific Fishery Management
47 Council's preliminary preferred alternatives were to
48 have an annual hard cap of 68,392 chinook salmon with a
49 pollock industry self-regulated incentive based
50 program, which was at that time in development, in

1 place to avoid the salmon bycatch, or they would enact
2 a hard cap of 47,591 chinook if no such program is in
3 place.

4
5 Now, this is -- I should have referred
6 you to your Board books, or your Council books. It's
7 on Page 111. So you can look at the material that I'm
8 going over.

9
10 The timeline for taking action on this,
11 there was a 60-day public comment period on the draft
12 environmental impact statement, and it closed on
13 February 23rd, 2009. The week of February 2nd and 8th,
14 the North Pacific Council met in Seattle to review the
15 effectiveness of conservation measures proposed by the
16 pollock industry. And we've got Don Rivard and Becca
17 from YRDFA who I believe were both at that meeting, so
18 if you have any questions about that part of it, they
19 could probably answer them for you.

20
21 By the week of March 30th through April
22 3rd, the North Pacific Council will meet in Anchorage
23 to review comments on the draft environmental impact
24 statement and to decide on a final preferred
25 alternative to be recommended to the Secretary of
26 Commerce. So this is when they're going to make their
27 decision in Anchorage in the last part of March/first
28 part of April.

29
30 The Office of Subsistence Management is
31 planning to provide funding so that the Chairs of
32 affected Regional Advisory Councils or their designees
33 can attend this meeting. And OSM will also attend the
34 meeting.

35
36 It's important that we got the letter
37 that I passed out to you to the North Pacific Council
38 before their deadline, and that was done. So that was
39 the -- and I'll go through the letter in a minute.

40
41 By December 2010, the National Marine
42 Fisheries Service will review the North Pacific Fishery
43 Management Council's preferred alternative, whatever
44 they decide on in March, or the end of March/first part
45 of April, and then they will write regulations to
46 implement the preferred alternative. These then would
47 take effect in January 2011.

48
49 So the letter that I handed out
50 basically states that -- and this was based on input

1 from the Councils, that they recommended that hard cap
2 at the lower limit of 29,323 be enacted. And then they
3 go through and state the reasons why. And the impact
4 it would have in Western Alaska on fisheries.

5
6 So that basically brings you up to date
7 on what's happened.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Rich.
10 Becca or -- who was that?

11
12 MR. KRON: Don Rivard.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Don Rivard. Do
15 either one of you have any further comments on this
16 bycatch.

17
18 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Lester, this is
19 Becca Robbins-Gisclair with YRDFA.

20
21 I just have one minor comment, that
22 there still opportunity to submit written comments to
23 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council as well.
24 The February 23rd deadline was just to comment on the
25 environmental impact statement. But the Council itself
26 accepts comment on which action it should take. And
27 those needs to be received by March 25th of 2009. So
28 there is still an opportunity to written comments as
29 well.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Don, do you have
32 any further comments.

33
34 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. I would
35 second what Becca just said, and then there's an update
36 a little bit on the upcoming North Pacific Fisheries
37 Management Council meeting. Speaking with some of
38 their staff this past week, it's most likely that the
39 salmon bycatch issue is going to be taken up by their
40 Council Friday, April 3rd. And they expect they're
41 going to probably get maybe up to two to three days of
42 public testimony during that time. And their meeting
43 is going to go through Monday, April 6th. So the
44 meeting is a full eight days from Monday March 30th to
45 Monday April 6th.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll be glad to
48 answer any questions if anybody has any.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for

1 Mr. Rivard.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Bycatch.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead,
6 teleconference. I'll get you next, Alex. Or are they
7 just talking. Go ahead, Alex.

8

9 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
10 and Becca, as some of you -- well, there was a draft
11 letter that's supposed to be sent to North Pacific
12 Fisheries Management Council from this Council.
13 Rather, from this RAC. It has been agreed -- it is my
14 understanding from the Chairman that it has been agreed
15 between the Chairman and Roczicka I think and myself
16 that the draft letter that was not sent to North
17 Pacific Fishery Management Council will be used a
18 comment by this Council and will be handcarried by a
19 representative.

20

21 It is my understanding, Mr. Chair, that
22 both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, elected
23 Chairman, agreed that if Ray Oney agrees, he will be
24 attending the North Pacific Council meeting. I haven't
25 contacted Ray yet. Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.
28 And since -- excuse me. And since we've got Ray on the
29 teleconference, Ray, would you agree to that?

30

31 MR. ONEY: I don't know at this time.
32 I wouldn't say yes or no at this time. I'd have to
33 wait and see how my schedule is.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. But in the
36 -- we'll keep your name in, but give us -- make sure
37 that you let Alex or I know prior, in enough time so we
38 can pick an alternate if you're unable to make it.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. This is Don
41 Rivard.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
44 Rivard. Just a minute.

45

46 Ray, did you hear me?

47

48 MR. ONEY: Yes. Yes, I did, to get an
49 alternate, I'll let you know in time.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes. Thank you.
2
3 Go ahead, Mr. Rivard.
4
5 MR. RIVARD: Well, I would suggest that
6 your Council kind of determine again what your
7 recommendation is as far as hard caps if you have any,
8 because your draft letter from last fall mentioned a
9 couple of numbers. The 68,000 and the 47,000. There
10 was also a statement in your letter that you were
11 supporting both AVCP and YRDFA and their
12 recommendations. And both of those organizations, and
13 Becca can confirm this, both of those organizations
14 have recommended now a hard cap of 32,500 with
15 subsequent years being lower than that. So if you
16 continue with your recommendation of either 68,000 or
17 47,000, then you're not in line with those two
18 organizations any more.
19
20 Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for that
23 information.
24
25 Council, what do you feel on the
26 recommendations. We might as well take care of this
27 right now.
28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Harry.
32
33 MR. MATHEWS: If the Council desires --
34 sorry.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
37 Mathews.
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. If the Council
40 desires, we can give you a summary of what neighboring
41 Regional Councils have recommended on this. It's at
42 your call. Staff there should have a summary. If
43 not, I can cover it from here.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Why don't
46 you go ahead and give us that information.
47
48 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

1 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
4 Wilde.
5
6 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I would like to
7 give a chance for corporation manager. These three
8 villages here in the villages, they have a meeting and
9 he would like to present what they have been done
10 concerning bycatch, salmon bycatch, if that's possible.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yep, we could
13 recognize him right now. Let him go ahead.
14
15 MR. H. WILDE: Give your name and who
16 you represent.
17
18 MR. BEANS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
19 I'm Paul Beans from Azachorok, Incorporated.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Good morning, Mr.
22 Beans. Go ahead.
23
24 MR. BEANS: Thanks for the opportunity.
25 The City of Mountain Village and Azachorok Tribal
26 Council and Azachorok, Inc. has been very active in
27 recent years to protect our salmon resource. We hold
28 joint meetings every once in a while throughout the
29 year to address concerns over our salmon resources on
30 the Yukon. We have had representatives address issues
31 to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council at
32 their meetings regarding chinook bycatch since 2007.
33
34 On another note, the body has had a
35 joint resolution drawn up to the State of Alaska to
36 declare a fishing disaster on the Yukon River on July
37 3, 2008.
38
39 A couple of weeks ago we held a joint
40 body, and the body wanted a joint resolution drafted to
41 address the chinook salmon bycatch by the pollock
42 fishery to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
43 Council for their April meeting at Anchorage. I will
44 read only the pertinent information on the resolution
45 which is as follows.
46
47 Whereas the pollock fisheries is out in
48 the Bering Seas at least six months out of the year
49 fishing for pollock. The bycatch of king salmon caught
50 by the pollock boats are not able to be kept or sold by

1 the boats, so it is thrown out. King salmon that is
2 thrown overboard by the pollock boats should have been
3 able to return to the Yukon River unmolested to be used
4 by the people that live along the river.

5
6 Whereas there is a number of possible
7 factors of why king salmon are diminishing in recent
8 years. Global warming, predation by animals out in the
9 ocean, harsh winters at the spawning grounds, and
10 bycatch. King salmon bycatch is one of the known
11 factors and must be controlled immediately.

12
13 Therefore be it resolved that North
14 Pacific Fisheries Management Council place a seven-year
15 moratorium on pollock fisheries immediately. This
16 action is necessary for the Yukon king salmon to
17 rebound to acceptable levels along the Yukon River.

18
19 This is just a draft and it will be
20 refined and mailed into North Pacific within the next
21 few days. And if any of you want a copy of this
22 resolution, you could call me at 591-2527 or 591-2528.

23
24 Quyana.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Paul, could you
27 send a copy to Alex Nick so he can distribute it among
28 the people that need to get that? Would you send a
29 copy to Alex Nick, our coordinator, in Bethel?

30
31 MR. BEANS: Yes, we can. Once it is
32 signed, we can do that by the chairman and also the
33 tribal chief and city council mayor.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Ales, what's
36 your mailing address for them to make sure that they
37 got it right.

38
39 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.
40 Beans, my mailing address is Alex Nick, care of Yukon
41 Delta National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 346, Bethel,
42 Alaska 99559.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.

45
46 MR. BEANS: Fax number?

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Have you got a fax
49 number, Alex.

50

1 MR. NICK: Yes, I do. Fax number is
2 543-4413, and my phone number is 543-1037. My email
3 address is alex_nick@fws.gov.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.

6
7 Any more questions for us over here
8 from teleconference members out there.

9
10 MR. ONEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ray Oney
11 here.

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Ray.

14
15 MR. ONEY: Yeah. I would like to ask
16 Mr. Beans, Paul Beans there, how does he feel about the
17 low cap of 29,000 and also the hard cap of 68,000. You
18 know, people that are doing pollock fishing out there,
19 you know, they're allowed to catch 29,000 and if they
20 go over that, their 68,000. I want to know how he
21 feels about those numbers.

22
23 MR. BEANS: Ray, this is Paul again. A
24 couple of years ago we had a joint resolution that went
25 into North Pacific. We wanted a hard cap of 47,500.
26 That was a 10-year average. And then in '07 I think
27 the bycatch was over 120,000. And then it alerted us
28 here, that's why that resolution went into North
29 Pacific. The lower the number of that bycatch would
30 help us on the Yukon and elsewhere like Kuskokwim and
31 Bristol Bay and Nome region as well. Canada.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Ray? Ray,
34 are you still there.

35
36 MR. ONEY: Yeah, I'm still here. Thank
37 you. Thank you, Paul.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. I think this
40 letter that we're discussing already has already been
41 sent with a recommendation of 29,325; am I correct, Mr.
42 Kron?

43
44 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's
45 correct. As Vince Mathews pointed out, and I've got
46 information, summary information that Vince faxed to us
47 yesterday, that we can provide. But I think we want to
48 make sure that the letters that go in from the Federal
49 program, from the Councils and the Federal Board, we
50 want to make sure that there's some consistency. You

1 know, Don Rivard point out some concerns about the
2 various numbers. We've got more input now from
3 Mountain Village. And, you know, it's your letter, you
4 can decide what you want to do, but we want to make
5 sure that the North Pacific Council, you know, doesn't
6 have all these letters spread out, and say, well, we
7 can do whatever we want. They don't agree. You know,
8 we can do anywhere from zero to 80,000 kings, you know.
9 Anyway it would be good to have some thought in the
10 process, but it's your call. Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll
13 probably need some more Staff work on this letter, so
14 what is the feeling of the Council. Do you think that
15 the cap I think that was suggested by YRDFA, the low
16 cap -- what that 34,000, Becca?

17
18 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah. YRDFA is
19 recommending a hard cap of 32,500, which is basically
20 the 10-year average for the years preceding the signing
21 of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Becca.

24
25 And, Mr. Nick, go ahead.

26
27 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Becca, I have a
28 question. I thought what YRDFA was recommending last
29 fall was around 29,000.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Becca, you've got
32 an answer for that.

33
34 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: No, that wasn't
35 us. I think most of the western Alaska groups are
36 either recommending the 32,500 or the 29,000. We were
37 recommending the 32,500.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you,
40 Becca.

41
42 And, Vince, could you give us the
43 numbers of the other Regional Councils that they're
44 putting out.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And
47 if there's difficulty hearing, similar information Tom
48 Kron has.

49
50 And I'll start with Bristol Bay

1 Regional Council. Again Becca can explain this better
2 than I. These are western Alaska salmon stocks, so
3 they affect multiple drainages, and they do affect the
4 Bristol Bay Regional Council area.

5
6 I won't read their whole resolution.
7 I'll just give an excerpt of it. So basically the
8 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council requests the
9 North Pacific Fishery Management Council to adopt
10 regulations designed to significantly minimize the
11 bycatch of all salmon species in the Bering Sea pollock
12 fishery. The same Council continues to support a
13 chinook salmon bycatch not to exceed 38,000 annually.
14 The Council supports hard and other regulations that
15 are conservative and err in the favor of salmon stocks.
16 The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council supports the
17 North Pacific Fishery Management Council, NOAA and
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's efforts to conduct
19 additional data collection and analysis to refine
20 regulations that minimize salmon bycatch in the Bering
21 Sea trawling fishery. Bristol Bay for the cap is
22 looking at 38,000.

23
24 There's a whole bunch of stipulations
25 with Eastern and Western, and I think I'll focus mainly
26 on the cap part.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that's all we
29 need is the cap part.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: And maybe one other
32 feature. Yes, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead. I said,
35 all we need are the numbers.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Right now it's
38 38,000 for Bristol Bay. For Western Interior and
39 Eastern Interior, they both went with 29,323 without --
40 because due to time and et cetera, the other
41 requirements that they requested were that the bycatch
42 that is caught in the Bering Sea fishery return to the
43 streams of origin and that would be used by subsistence
44 users and both Councils made it clear that this
45 returning of these salmon would not substitute for the
46 normal subsistence fishing. And I'm trying to think.
47 I mean, they had like eight or nine different
48 requirements on their requests. And also that I
49 believe it was Eastern Interior, if I can find it here
50 quick enough, that the North Pacific Fishery Management

1 Council should recommend to the fishing industry that
2 it bear the cost of improved sampling methods and the
3 cost of analyzing these samples for genetic studies on
4 the chinook salmon stocks impacted by this industry's
5 bycatch. This should also be tied to the economic
6 incentive to improve the overall commercial fishery.

7
8 And again there's more requests they
9 made to the Council, but -- the demands for Council,
10 and those are present in the room there, but to save on
11 time, those two Councils, 29,323 hard cap.

12
13 I don't know if Seward Peninsula has
14 taken action on this. Don may have some information on
15 that or may not. We're not sure if they took action on
16 this.

17
18 But that is the other Councils'
19 actions. Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Mathews.

23
24 Any further discussion on this from the
25 Council members out in the cyber world and here.

26
27 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Ray
28 Oney here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Ray. Go
31 ahead, Ray. You're recognized.

32
33 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. Yeah. I feel that the 68,000 hard cap is
35 way too high. I feel that, you know, it's still too
36 high, because, you know, we're still having hardship as
37 far as, you know, getting our needs, subsistence needs
38 along the Yukon, and I feel that, you know, that 68,000
39 should be lower, because we're still in the rebuilding
40 stages of the salmon on the Yukon. And, you know,
41 people are still having a hard time, you know, today as
42 you heard, you know, from the villages on the Yukon and
43 on the Kuskokwim that, you know, rely on these salmon
44 for their subsistence needs. And I feel that, you
45 know, that's still way too high, 68,000.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ray.

50

1 The other two Councils that we usually
2 work on are recommending the same hard cap as our
3 Subsistence Board of 29,323. I think maybe that would
4 be a good idea to stick with that number and support
5 each other, the other two Councils with this number. I
6 think if it's all right with the Council, we'll just to
7 ahead and keep this number of 29,323.

8

9 Bob, go ahead.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. Does that mean we
12 have to change what we had earlier suggested in
13 October?

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. The number is
16 the same as -- it's the same, right?

17

18 MR. NICK: The letter is in draft
19 stage, Mr. Chair, so it could be change, yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Bob.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
24 move that we draft our letter to the Federal
25 Subsistence Board regarding the salmon bycatch,
26 especially for the chinook salmon with a hard cap of
27 29,323 salmon for the pollock fisheries in both the
28 Bering Sea and in the Aleutian Island fisheries.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You don't mean the
31 Office of Subsistence Management, you meant National
32 Marine Fisheries. The letter that's going out to
33 National Marine Fisheries Service. Is that what you
34 meant?

35

36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any problems with
39 that, Council.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: No second yet.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, do I hear a
44 second to the motion.

45

46 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute. Do
49 I hear a second to the motion.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mary
4 Gregory.
5
6 Now go ahead. Discussion. Whoever's
7 on the line, go ahead.
8
9 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
10 This is Paul Manumik at Nunam Iqua.
11
12 I support the 29,323 hard cap. And I
13 also support the resolution from Mountain Village. If
14 the pollock fishery out in the Bering Sea continues to
15 go over 30,000 chinook salmon bycatch, that we go into
16 a moratorium of seven years or more to rebuild the
17 salmon stocks that are bound for Western Alaska.
18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Paul.
22
23 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
24
25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further comment
27 on this.
28
29 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde, go
32 ahead.
33
34 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
37 Wilde.
38
39 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. We do support
40 29,023 hard cap.
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 323. Okay. All
43 right. If there's any further discussion on this. Any
44 further discussion.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: Question.
47
48 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Ray
49 here.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
2 called for. Go ahead, Ray.
3
4 MR. ONEY: Yeah, that will put us in
5 line with our neighbors further up the Yukon with the
6 hard cap. That way, you know, we send a message to the
7 North Pacific Management Council that, you know, we are
8 concerned about the chinook salmon on the Yukon
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. The
13 question's been called for. A roll call vote for a cap
14 of 29,323. Alex, please give us a roll call.
15
16 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. James Charles.
17
18 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
19
20 MR. NICK: John Andrew. Raymond Oney.
21 Ray Oney. Ray Oney.
22
23 MR. ONEY: Yes.
24
25 MR. NICK: William Brown.
26
27 MR. BROWN: Yes.
28
29 MR. NICK: Harry Wilde.
30
31 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
32
33 MR. NICK: Edgar Hoelscher. Mary
34 Gregory.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
37
38 MR. NICK: Elias Kelly. Elias Kelly.
39 Lester Wilde.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
42
43 MR. NICK: Paul Manumik.
44
45 MR. MANUMIK: Yes.
46
47 MR. NICK: Joseph Mike.
48
49 MR. MIKE: Yes.
50

1 MR. NICK: Greg Roczicka. Robert
2 Aloysius.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

5
6 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I have nine yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Nine yes, with the
9 rest excused. Thank you. The motion's carried.

10
11 We're down to item 3, tracking the
12 handicrafts made with brown bear claws. Tom Kron.

13
14 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Members of
15 the Council. The briefing on that is included in your
16 Council books on Page 113. And I'll condense and
17 summarize what's provided there for you.

18
19 The Councils may assign a member to
20 work with a State-sponsored working group. The Council
21 participation is optional if you choose to do that.

22
23 In the May meeting in 2008, the Federal
24 Subsistence Board addressed a wildlife proposal, and
25 their decision was that it could be helpful to refine
26 the Federal bear handicraft regulations. The Federal
27 Subsistence Board deferred the proposal to the next
28 wildlife cycle, which would be this coming next year in
29 January 2010, pending the formation of the group. The
30 Federal Subsistence Board directed that a working group
31 include representation from the Regional Councils.
32 They wanted to hear from the Councils that wanted to be
33 involved.

34
35 State and Federal Staff met on this
36 issue on January 21st and clarified the intent of the
37 working group. The meeting participants discussed the
38 issue and felt that an effective mechanism for tracking
39 legally harvested bear claws that were incorporated
40 into handicraft would help to protect this legal
41 practice. Participants explored various options for
42 tracking with the discussion mostly focused on some
43 types of paper documentation rather than something more
44 technologically sophisticated such as microchips.

45
46 Development of a method to recommend to
47 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Game for
48 tracking brown bear claws made into handicraft that is
49 enforceable, culturally sensitive, commensurate with
50 the needs to provide conservation of the wildlife

1 resource was the intent of this exercise.

2

3 We are presenting this issue to all of
4 the Regional Councils during these winter meetings.
5 Interested Councils may name a person that they would
6 like to represent them on this group if they choose to.
7 You know, it hasn't been decided if it's going to be
8 in-person or telephone, but basically it's an option
9 for this Council, if you'd like to have someone
10 participate in this process. And, if so, just let us
11 know who that is.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes. I think we
16 worked on this before, and the person that usually has
17 been taking our wildlife -- I'm looking for a word.
18 But all the -- anything to do with wildlife usually
19 Greg goes in.

20

21 Go ahead, Bob.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: It would make more sense
24 to.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Excuse me. It would
29 make more sense to me if we had somebody who actually
30 does arts and crafts with bear claws.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you know of
33 anybody?

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. I'm just, you know,
36 saying, because Greg is already over his head with all
37 kinds of different things, you know. And if we had
38 somebody who's handy with arts and crafts and who
39 actually does these things on our Council, it would be
40 more effective than somebody who knows it by paper.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, do we have
43 anyone on the Council that does actually work with bear
44 parts. Unless Mary does. Mary.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: I don't do arts and
47 crafts with bear, but I do arts and crafts with other
48 things. And if you appoint me, I'll be glad to serve
49 on that capacity.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Robert.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I would
4 endorse -- I mean, I would recommend the Council
5 endorse Mary Gregory as the person to be involved in
6 the working group representing the Yukon-Kuskokwim
7 Delta Regional Advisory Council.
8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are there any
10 objections from the Council that Mary Gregory be
11 appointed as that person to go to the working group.
12 Any objections.
13
14 MR. ONEY: No objections.
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No objections there
17 for.....
18
19 MR. H. WILDE: No objections.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So be it. Mary
22 Gregory is the person.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Aloysius.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let's have a 10-
31 minute break before we get to the next item.
32
33 (Off record)
34
35 (On record)
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Meeting back to
38 order. We're down to item 4, two-cycle projected
39 regulatory schedule. Tom.
40
41 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. On
42 Page 114, it's included in your agenda, and it's just
43 for information to let people know where we are. Again
44 at this meeting it's an opportunity to submit wildlife
45 proposals. You'll review all the proposals that come
46 in for your region next fall, and then the Board will
47 look at them in January of 2010. And it goes on beyond
48 that. But we just -- it's information. I don't need
49 to spend any more time on it.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you,
4 Tom.
5
6 We're down to item 5, Ninth Circuit
7 Court.
8
9 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Pippa Kenner, OSM.
11
12 A summary of the Ninth District Court
13 of Appeals decision on the Chistochina customary and
14 traditional use determination is being handed out. For
15 the sake of time, I'm going to abbreviate my
16 presentation, and if anybody has any questions, I'll be
17 happy to answer them.
18
19 The Chistochina case was a challenge
20 from the State to the Federal program C&T
21 determinations. There's nothing in the Chistochina
22 decision that requires the Federal Subsistence Board to
23 change any of its practices or procedures.
24
25 That's the end of my presentation. I'd
26 be happy to answer questions.
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
29 Pippa.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Could we just take a
32 couple minutes to read this.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. Take a
35 couple minutes.
36
37 For the -- it's kind of lengthy. For
38 the people that don't have it, Pippa, could you go
39 through this. Read the memorandum, please.
40
41 MS. KENNER: I have a short
42 presentation that goes through the main points of the
43 memorandum.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Because we
46 have that don't have this, so we need to give them the
47 information.
48
49 MS. KENNER: Yes. In 2004 the Cheesh-
50 Na Tribal Council of the Village of Chistochina

1 submitted a proposal requesting a C&T use determination
2 for moose throughout Unit 12. Both the Southcentral
3 and Eastern Interior RACs recommended that a C&T
4 determination be granted to Chistochina for moose
5 throughout Unit 12. ADF&G expressed reservations about
6 the proposal.

7
8 The Federal Board supported the
9 recommendations from the Councils and granted
10 Chistochina C&T for moose throughout Unit 12.

11
12 The State of Alaska submitted a request
13 for reconsideration, which the Board denied. The State
14 filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court challenging the
15 Board's Chistochina decision. The State alleged that
16 this decision was made without substantial evidence, is
17 inconsistent with ANILCA and would cause unnecessary
18 restrictions on non-subsistence uses.

19
20 In 2007 the U.S. District Court found
21 in favor of the Federal Management Program. The State
22 appealed that District Court's decision to the Ninth
23 Circuit Court of Appeals.

24
25 Last fall, just this last fall, the
26 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals validated and vindicated
27 the Federal Board's Chistochina C&T determination on
28 every point. And there's nothing in the Chistochina
29 decision that requires the Federal Board to change any
30 of its practices or procedures.

31
32 And we just wanted to bring you an
33 update on that.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Pippa.

38
39 We're down to customary trade, item G.
40 J.

41
42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I've got
43 another handout which is a summary of the customary
44 trade regulations we put together to hand out to the
45 Council members. And a couple key points, and I'll
46 just touch on this, this has become an issue of
47 concern.

48
49 Also there is a letter, I think, Alex,
50 it's in the packet. It's a letter from Chairman Fleagle

1 to the Yukon Panel in response to their earlier request
2 on this issue.

3

4 The Federal regulations governing
5 customary trade can be changed through Federal
6 regulation process. The next window for accepting
7 proposals to change fishery regulations will begin in
8 January 2010 and run through April of 2010. Any
9 proposals leading to change of Federal subsistence
10 regulations would take effect July 1, 2011.

11

12 We've received a temporary special
13 action request to change regulations governing
14 customary trade throughout the Yukon drainage from June
15 1st, 2009 through April 1st, 2010. The reason given
16 for the requested change was for conservation concerns
17 being raised for Yukon River chinook salmon for this
18 coming season. This request is being reviewed
19 currently, and the Federal Board will make decisions on
20 this special action request.

21

22 If the Board determines that the
23 special action request to change customary trade
24 regulation is acceptable, then Staff analysis will be
25 developed, public hearings will be held and the
26 affected Regional Councils and State of Alaska would be
27 consulted consistent with the Federal special action
28 regulations.

29

30 But again you've got a summary of -- or
31 should have a summary of the customary trade issue, but
32 also a letter from Chairman Fleagle to the Yukon panel.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The letter is not
35 included in this.

36

37 MR. KRON: You have the pile -- it was
38 on the bottom. There were this and the letter. Alex
39 is going to check. They were both together in the
40 packet.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
45 Kron. Any discussion on this, Council, on customary
46 trade. Cyber space. Anybody on teleconference have
47 any comments on customary trade.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not -- Tom,
2 could you give us the numbers on that proposal that was
3 put in on customary trade, or the, whatever, the meat
4 of it.

5
6 MR. KRON: Okay. Mr. Chairman. Give
7 me a minute. I've got it here, and I need to find it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. And that
10 proposal was put in by Mr. Umphenour? Is that the one?

11
12 MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That's
13 correct. I'm looking at it here. I've got it in front
14 of me.

15
16 And, again, I touched on the key
17 points, but it's basically requesting -- let me see.
18 Current regulations. New. For the Yukon northern
19 area, customary trade transactions between rural and
20 others for chinook salmon harvested in Federal public
21 waters of the Yukon drainage would be prohibited from
22 June 1st through April 1st. So rural residents could
23 conduct customary trade under this request with other
24 rural residents, but being able to basically conduct
25 that trade with non-rural residents would not be
26 allowed if this were adopted. And that's the basis for
27 the request. But I've got a copy here if you'd like to
28 look at it.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.
33 James.

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
36 Mr. Chairman. So in the case if even this is passed,
37 the local people still can use that customary trade in
38 the area; is that right?

39
40 MR. KRON: Yeah. If this were passed,
41 that is correct. And again customary trade is
42 basically the exchange of fish for cash.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
45 questions or discussion on customary trade.

46
47 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde, go
50 ahead.

1 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. We have a problem
2 with customary trade even around here. And we -- some
3 of us -- well, right now it's even fishermen this
4 summer king salmon, a little over 4,000 kings tried to
5 make money out of fishing, commercial fishing. But
6 when I went over to AFN convention I see one of the
7 person, he's got three, four boxes of king salmon.
8 It's people here, they're not supporting anything to
9 take away from their village or while they couldn't do
10 nothing themselves. I think it's -- this is one that
11 we've been talking about up here in Mountain Village
12 and in the Yukon River. And teleconference that we're
13 not supporting it. We want to get rid of this, because
14 it's not helping any people, not helping subsistence
15 fishermen, and all that, because we try to go by law
16 and people that -- some is not with the law and not
17 supporting, causing us to blaming ourselves, what we
18 do. So support that, get rid of that customary trade.

19

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry.

24

25 Go ahead, Tom.

26

27 MR. KRON: Yeah. Harry. Mr. Chairman.

28 What I just passed out is a summary of the current
29 regulations. You know, I think as a number of the
30 Council members know, it was about five years ago the
31 Chairs from all 10 Regional Councils participated in a
32 process to put this together. And, you know, I think
33 in practical terms, the only customary trade allowable
34 would be for those who do not process the fish in
35 accordance with the State food safety regulations, and
36 that would be basically to sell fresh, uncut processed
37 fish.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In the round.

40

41 MR. KRON: In the round. The minute
42 you cut them, basically you need to meet the DEC food
43 quality standards which include things like stainless
44 steel tables, cement floors, purified water,
45 certification by DEC. And I'm not aware of any
46 subsistence camp on the Yukon that meets those kind of
47 standards.

48

49 That being the case, the only thing
50 that's legal is the sale of fish in the round. So the

1 reality is on the strips, the smoked products, the
2 steaks, the headed and gutted fish, if they're being
3 sold, it's not legal under either State or Federal law.
4 So we've got some enforcements issues here as well
5 wrapped into this.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.

10
11 Any further discussion on customary
12 trade.

13
14 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. Ray Oney
15 here.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Ray.

18
19 MR. ONEY: I was going to ask Tom if he
20 knows any operations that do have license to process
21 these salmon rather than -- you know, since we are, you
22 know, trying to rebuild our stocks, mainly the salmon
23 stocks. I know the Yukon Delta is one, and I don't know
24 if there's any further up the Yukon, above Holy Cross.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done. Go
27 ahead, Tom.

28
29 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. There
30 are commercial operators that have met these DEC
31 standards. And they have authorization to process fish
32 that come in via an authorized commercial fishery.

33
34 But I guess the point I was making was
35 that I'm not aware of, and Rich Cannon talked to DEC
36 and we've looked at all the requirements that have to
37 be met, but we're not aware of any subsistence camps
38 that meet these same standards that the commercial
39 operators have to meet. And what we're talking about
40 under customary trade is subsistence caught fish. You
41 know, these aren't fish that come in via the commercial
42 fishery. They're subsistence fish.

43
44 So that being the case, the only legal
45 sale would be the sale of fish in the round under the
46 Federal regulations. All this other stuff that people
47 hear about and see and have been mentioning is
48 essentially illegal sales.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.
2 And it seem like that the only problem that we've
3 always ever had with customary trade that I could
4 remember is just exactly that There's been people that
5 have been selling chinook in the round or have been
6 shipping chinook in the round from our area, and that
7 was the cause of the -- all of our problems, or all the
8 discussion that was coming out on customary trade.

9
10 Mary.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: So round, can you explain
13 that?

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: A round, when you
16 say a salmon in the round, it's salmon that hasn't been
17 touched. It's just as caught from the net.

18
19 MS. GREGORY: Raw fish.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. With
22 everything intact.

23
24 Any other discussion on customary
25 trade.

26
27 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Who is.....

30
31 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, go ahead.

34
35 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, Alexie Walters is
36 going to say something.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
39 Walters.

40
41 MR. WALTERS: Mr. Chairman. I'm Alexie
42 Walters, Sr., Mountain Village. I'm with the
43 corporation board and the city council.

44
45 You know, a lot of us had a problem
46 facing this customary trade issue, because it's
47 ongoing. It's been ongoing for a long time. I don't
48 mind it for people that really need it, but at one
49 point there was a cap, I think it was \$1,000. You
50 couldn't go over 1,000. But at the time that was

1 passed, who really monitors all this? Although it's in
2 paper. It's ongoing, it just seems to be a big topic
3 now from people around that gather subsistence, not
4 only fish, I believe other things now, too. Things are
5 getting harder, jobs are scarce and people are trying
6 to make things meet, you know, bills to pay and
7 whatnot. And they're going over that \$1,000 the way I
8 kind of look at it from back when it was first
9 discussed.

10

11 But my main concern is although we
12 discussed this, who monitors, making sure that
13 everybody's following that \$1,000 cap.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Tom, you got
18 an answer?

19

20 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
21 Currently there is no cap, dollar amount cap for the
22 Yukon River. The Southcentral Council implemented a
23 5,000 -- or \$500 annual household cap for the Copper
24 River. It's in the fish regs. Bristol Bay implemented
25 a \$500 cap for Bristol Bay. But all of the Councils
26 were given the option to implement these kinds of
27 things through the regulatory process, and the only two
28 that have are the Southcentral and Bristol Bay
29 Councils.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.

34 Alex.

35

36 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Just a
37 point of clarification. I thought this RAC recommended
38 a \$500 cap on the customary trade for salmon when that
39 was brought forth, what was it, two, three, four years
40 ago or so.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that was
43 brought up, but it was never initiated.

44

45 Tom, do you have any more? Okay.

46

47 Mary. Anaan.

48

49 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. I thought it was
50 \$1,000.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, I don't
2 remember anything on the cap. Because when we started
3 up -- I'm sorry. When we started up, we didn't have a
4 cap on the customary trade on the Yukon if I could
5 remember. I was on the task force when we were forming
6 that, but we -- it seemed like we didn't have a cap on
7 the Yukon. I could be wrong.

8
9 MR. KRON: You don't.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Tom says no, so I
12 think I'm right now.

13
14 But any more discussion on this. Go
15 ahead, Alex.

16
17 MR. NICK: That brings up a question.
18 Maybe Eric from Fish and Game might be able to answer.
19 The State of Alaska do not have a law for anyone
20 subsistence fishing for salmon. They don't limit that.
21 Anyone can subsistence fish on State waters, and they
22 can ship them out to anywhere in Alaska.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Tom.

25
26 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Sales
27 of subsistence-caught salmon on the Yukon River under
28 State law is illegal. It's not allowed. Has not been.
29 But again I think we all know that there's been some
30 going on. There hasn't been enforcement on that issue.
31 But this practice is illegal under State law.

32
33 What the Federal system did was
34 essentially to, and it sounds like you were the
35 representative for Yukon.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: At the beginning,
38 yes.

39
40 MR. KRON: At the beginning. What it
41 did was in practical terms, it allowed people to sell
42 fish to their neighbor when they come in with their
43 boat to cover gas costs. You know, it didn't allow,
44 you know, strips, it didn't allow sale of smoked fish,
45 cut fish, that kind of thing. It did not allow those
46 things, unless you met all these commercial food
47 quality standards, which subsistence camps don't.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.
2
3 Any further discussion on customary
4 trade.
5
6 Oh, yeah, I was going to tell Harry, if
7 your group there would like to put in a proposal on
8 customary trade, I think the proposal packet -- you
9 should have one. If not, you could request one from
10 Alex Nick.
11
12 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Yeah.
13 Corporation and city and tribe, we're getting --
14 they'll put the proposal.
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. That's good.
17 Then we'll be looking forward to it.
18
19 Any further discussion on customary
20 trade. If not, we're going to go on down.
21
22 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Ray.
25
26 MR. ONEY: Yeah. thank you. I'd like
27 to ask Becca from YRDFA if they discussed C&T in any of
28 their teleconference or at their meeting.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Becca, you got
31 answer for Ray?
32
33 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Sure, Mr. Chair.
34 I was going to give an overview of the teleconferences
35 when you get to the report from YRDFA later on your
36 agenda. And customary trade was raised as an issue I
37 think on all of the teleconference in the lower river,
38 the middle river and in the upper river. So it was
39 discussed. They were just discussion teleconference
40 without any sort of position or conclusion at this
41 point.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Ray?
44
45 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you. I don't
46 have my meeting packet. That's the reason why I asked.
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And, you know,
50 YRDFA will be meeting in Hooper May on the 2nd, 3rd,

1 and 4th, so if any of you people are interested in
2 going down there, you're always welcome.

3
4 We're going on with our agenda down to
5 item B of 14, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
6 update. And that will go to.....

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Go to Tom.

9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Tom.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tom Doolittle, Yukon
13 Delta, supervisory biologist. I'll be sitting in for
14 Gene who apologies for not being able to give you the
15 manager's status part of the report.

16
17 I think we've talked enough about
18 moose, if everybody agrees. So we can move on from
19 there.

20
21 I'll be asking Dan Gillikin to talk
22 about the fisheries aspects of some of our cooperative
23 programs, so folks will know what the Refuge is doing
24 in a brief way.

25
26 And also that we have a number of
27 waterfowl projects. If you look at the very end of the
28 booklet that we have, there's the other Refuge research
29 on Page 16. And it looks like this year we will be
30 doing avian influenza sampling for another year. So it
31 looks like we'll receive funding for that.

32
33 We also as you know monitor the
34 waterfowl populations intensively on the coastal areas,
35 and we'll be doing the aerial videography survey. And
36 again this looks at the goose populations, eider
37 populations through digital camera. It's taking
38 pictures of birds in transects along the ground.

39
40 We'll also be looking at the breeding
41 biology of black brant, and incorporating some fox
42 removal at some of the locations where some of the
43 colonies have declined almost by 50 percent. And we've
44 also asked, looking at the Pacific Flyway Council in a
45 few weeks to redo the Goose Management Plan in order to
46 essentially facilitate some action triggers for when we
47 would remove fox and then when we'd stop killing fox
48 also essentially to recover goose populations and
49 spectacled eider populations. And that we can go into.
50 If people want more information later, I can talk to

1 them about that.

2

3 We'll be working with cackling geese
4 and banding of cackling geese. And we'll still
5 continue at Kgun Lake with banding and AI sampling
6 primarily of pintails, mallard and greenwing teal. And
7 again as I mentioned, the removal of arctic foxes on
8 Kigigak Island.

9

10 Landscape-level variation, we're
11 looking at the rearing habitat of emperor geese and
12 black brant.

13

14 And this year -- this is a little
15 dated. We've already done our cliff nesting seabird
16 colony surveys.

17

18 And this year we'll be continuing also
19 to look at the annual survival of spectacled eiders and
20 productivity of black brant on Kigigak Island.

21

22 If we're funded, which we probably
23 should be, we'll be looking at the breeding ecology of
24 gyrfalcons on the Refuge along with other birds of prey
25 throughout the Refuge as part of that gyrfalcons
26 survey.

27

28 The specific AI projects are Kgun field
29 Lake project, the Kigigak field Island camp looking at
30 common and spec eiders, black brant and emperor geese
31 for sampling. The tundra swan banding, and again
32 pretty intensive sampling of tundra swans on the delta
33 for AI. And then we will not be doing the Baird Inlet
34 camp this year to do that.

35

36 On another note is that we will be
37 doing, with partnering with the State and Lake Clark,
38 Togiak Refuge, doing surveys for caribou. Again
39 there's a number of those animals that are radioed, and
40 so we participate in the surveys of the Mulchatna herd
41 to denote the composition both of the bull/cow/ calf
42 ratios, and then also on the population counts for that
43 particular caribou herd.

44

45 And if people don't have any questions,
46 I'll turn over the report to Dan Gillikin, the fishery
47 biologist for the Refuge.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
50 Tom.

1 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This
2 is Stan Sheppard, Mountain Village.

3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Stan.

5
6 MR. SHEPPARD: Yes. I have a question
7 for -- I forget his name that's giving the report.
8 Every year when the birds come in, there's -- after a
9 bird season hunt is over, when the birds start nesting,
10 they do a calendar survey on the birds caught for
11 subsistence use. We never hear of the total amount
12 harvested out here on the lower Yukon Delta, although
13 they predict -- I hear people say out of people
14 participating if I hear results, the outcome of this
15 survey.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, that's a good
20 point, and thank you. We can make sure that when those
21 reports are coming in that we get them to the proper
22 officials in each of the villages. And I'll talk to
23 Louie Andrew who coordinates that particular program
24 for the Refuge, and we can supply that information.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom.
27 Dan.

28
29 MR. GILLIKIN: This is Dan Gillikin,
30 fisheries biologist, Yukon Delta. Thank you, Tom, for
31 that introduction.

32
33 In your packet there on the Refuge
34 updates, there's a bunch of fisheries projects listed
35 in there. And it's a suite of pretty much the same
36 projects that I presented last fall to the RAC. And
37 I'd suggest if you want to get more detail, look at
38 those summaries there.

39
40 What I'd like to talk about is, rather
41 than what I've done, what I plan on doing for this
42 upcoming year. And some of that is going to be a
43 repeat of long-term projects that we've been conducting
44 out here on the delta.

45
46 You folks are probably all very
47 familiar with the SaRON project, the Salmon Rivers
48 Observation Network project that we do in conjunction
49 with Flathead Lake Biological Station. It's an
50 ecological study of the riverine habitat and salmon and

1 how all those factors play into the productivity of
2 salmon. We're taking a little bit different approach
3 with that study this year. Hopefully we'll get AYKSSI
4 funding to expand that study out to a couple of other
5 drainages.

6
7 Here on the lower Kuskokwim we're
8 looking at the Kisaralik system, and then we'll be
9 looking at the Tuluksak system. And we are
10 particularly interested in those two systems because on
11 the Kisaralik we have potential mining impacts from a
12 lot of the claims that have been established in the
13 headwaters of the Kisaralik. So the idea there is that
14 we would collect baseline information on the Kisaralik
15 that we could compare to the years of data that we have
16 from the Kwethluk system, so that if there were some
17 impacts associated with future possible mining
18 activity, we could quantify those impacts. I think it
19 will help us a lot in the future if we start monitoring
20 these indirect and direct effects on our fisheries
21 resources related to management.

22
23 We're moving over to the Tuluksak to
24 conduct similar studies like what we've done on the
25 Kwethluk, because what we want to do there is we want
26 to look at impacts association with past mining
27 activities from the NYAC system. Or from the NYAC mine
28 that's up in the headwaters of the Tuluksak.
29 Everybody's probably very familiar with the activity
30 over the years that has occurred up there. And so what
31 we want to attempt to do is have a baseline of a system
32 that has not been disturbed, but potentially could be,
33 the existing condition of a system that has had mining
34 activity for 50 years in its headwaters, and then
35 compare all that to the Kwethluk system, which is kind
36 of our reference condition, so that we can start
37 quantifying these impacts associated with mining
38 activity. So that's the SaRON project.

39
40 I'll be conducting the coho salmon
41 outmigration work again, or the, I'm sorry, the coho
42 growth work again in the Eek and Kwethluk and Kisaralik
43 system. That's looking at the condition of juvenile
44 coho salmon related to various geomorphological
45 features that are associated with each of those
46 drainages. Hopefully this will be the last year I'll
47 need to collect information on that.

48
49 We have conducted chum salmon
50 outmigration work on the Kwethluk River over the last

1 two years in partnership with USGS out of Anchorage.
2 And this year, after discussing the project plans with
3 the principal investigator from USGS on that, we're
4 thinking now what we would like to do is move that
5 operation over to the Tuluksak system again so that we
6 have some comparison data to the Kwethluk that may
7 potentially tell us some of the story of what's going
8 on in the Tuluksak System, and why those escapements in
9 there are not necessarily tracking with escapement
10 levels on the rest of the salmon streams in the lower
11 Kuskokwim. It's all part of this puzzle we're trying
12 to put together related to that system.

13

14 We're changing the emphasis areas of
15 our program a little bit, which does my heart good.
16 We're focusing more -- we're going to be focusing a lot
17 more on water quality and quantity as directed in our
18 establishing purpose for the refuge. We're going to be
19 conducting surveys looking at the things like pH,
20 dissolved oxygen, temperature monitoring, discharge
21 flow regimes, things like that, the quality of the
22 water that's out here on the Refuge and what that means
23 to fisheries and how that potentially is changing.
24 It's kind of starting out as a baseline study work, and
25 hopefully in the future we'll be able to establish some
26 type of long-term monitoring related to water quality
27 and quantity so that we can evaluate things such as
28 climate change that are occurring out here on the
29 Refuge and what that means to subsistence resources.

30

31 We're assisting USGS also this year in
32 our fisheries, aquatic resources kind of department,
33 with some coastal erosion studies that have been going
34 on now for two years out on the coast. As many of you
35 are probably aware, erosion of that coastline, that
36 outer coastline is happening at a phenomenal rate
37 depending on where you're at, and were losing a lot of
38 habitat. We have one small study area out there that
39 they've been looking at, and it's pretty scary how much
40 coastline is actually eroding away. Not only that, but
41 lakes are being tapped. As that coastline recedes
42 back, it taps into an entire freshwater or brackish
43 water wetland or lake and pond system, and the entire
44 system will drain out. We call that tapping. And so
45 you convert it from a freshwater/brackish water
46 wetland, highly productive for some species, into
47 basically a muddy coastal slough, which may benefit
48 some other species, but we don't really understand what
49 the effect of that is overall.

50

1 So we'll be assisting USGS with some of
2 that work this year. There's a spot out on the coast
3 that we've identified that looks like it's going to
4 undergo one of these events. It's a very narrow
5 isthmus piece of land that's separating it before it's
6 going to be tapped, and it could happen at any time, so
7 we'd like to collect baseline information on that
8 before it happens so that when it does happen, we can
9 go back and do a survey again and compare the before
10 and after kind of conditions.

11
12 I'll be doing the science camp project
13 again this year. My favorite project. We'll get a
14 dozen kids from various villages all across the delta
15 and we'll spend 10 days with them up on the Kwethluk
16 River, floating the river and stopping at the science
17 camp, stopping at the weir, teaching them about aquatic
18 ecology and salmon and moose and having a really good
19 time floating. It's one of our highlights of the
20 summer.

21
22 And we are always helping out various
23 other fisheries folks out here, in particular the Kenai
24 Fisheries Field Office and the Fairbanks Fisheries
25 Field Office with some of their weir work. We're going
26 to get a little more involved with some of the weir
27 work on the Andreafsky this year, which I'm looking
28 forward to.

29
30 And with that I think I'm going to turn
31 it over to Steve Miller, because he's got several
32 projects out here on the Refuge that he would like to
33 discuss, unless you guys have any questions for me.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
36 Dan.

37
38 MR. GILLIKIN: Oh, I do have one more
39 thing I wanted to mention. And hopefully it doesn't
40 open up a huge can of worms here. At the request of
41 the Council and my Refuge manager yesterday, I did
42 contact a fish biologist with the Habitat Division,
43 State Habitat Division, concerning removal of beaver
44 dams. And the response I got back is essentially you
45 do not need a fish habitat permit from the State to
46 remove beaver dams, nuisance beaver dams, with hand
47 tools. If you use a chainsaw, you need a permit. And
48 I have copies of this email and contact information.
49 And contact information, and they request that you
50 contact them. He says in the message, you should

1 contact us and let us know where it's at, blah-blah-
2 blah, you know, but it's not a requirement. So
3 basically you're legal if you remove a beaver dam with
4 hands tools. Okay. And they would like to know where
5 these issues are. I have a bunch of copies of that
6 message that you guys can distribute very widely if
7 need be. And so this is, you know, kind of an official
8 statement from the State regarding that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that would be
11 good. Make sure that we get enough copies so we can
12 pass them around wherever we go, because beaver's
13 always been an issue with us.

14

15 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. I emphasize.
16 Will Frost who is a habitat biologist that I talk with,
17 he emphasized hand tools.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Hand tools.

20

21 MR. GILLIKIN: No dynamite, no chain
22 saws, no backhoes, things like that.

23

24 MR. CHARLES: What's wrong with an
25 anchor. Mr. Chairman.

26

27 MR. GILLIKIN: Well, that's a hand
28 tool. That's a hand tool. Now, you could also use
29 your boat and, you know, slam a couple of times, but
30 that would be a power tool, wouldn't it.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Dan,
35 before you go, please.

36

37 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Dan.
40 There's a question for you before you leave.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: A question. Yeah. I
43 came in late, you might have spoken to a bit, but
44 regarding your water quality studies that you said
45 you're putting in as far as the siltation. And as you
46 may recall, has it been two years maybe now with the
47 Salmon Working Group where we were asked to identify
48 issues of concern regarding Donlin. And are you -- is
49 any of your work going to be able to address that issue
50 that was raised about the disruption of the water table

1 from the increased barge traffic with the different
2 temperature degrees in the water strata within the
3 mainstem river? Is there something that you can do
4 along those lines?

5
6 MR. GILLIKIN: I do not have any
7 specific study designed for that. We are so behind on
8 just basic water information, you know, discharge,
9 temperature, you know, hydrographs, flow regimes within
10 these systems, you know, water chemistry, basic water
11 chemistry.

12
13 I would recommend that you contact
14 Donlin and request that information. They are the
15 folks, they are funding a lot of study out here related
16 to water quality. In fact I just got a call three days
17 ago from a lady who's looking at hydrocarbon releases
18 as baseline in the Kuskokwim related to some of that
19 activity.

20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, just to let you
22 know now, we did make them aware of that at the working
23 group meeting, the interagency meeting back -- it's
24 been almost two years ago, and reasserted it to them
25 when they met with our tribal council here in Bethel
26 just it's been only two weeks ago now. But whether
27 you're aware or not, there was a -- we were informed
28 that they had stated they were going to initiate the
29 NEPA process, file all their letters of intent. It was
30 supposed to occur actually this February. We were
31 informed at that time that they're on their last series
32 of meetings and they -- although it's been said many
33 times in the past for how many years, that that letter
34 is forthcoming, that they are planning now for May to
35 start the NEPA process. And it looks like probably the
36 Corps of Engineers is going to be the lead coordinating
37 agency on it. All right.

38
39 Just I was hoping that there's
40 something that you have that could help steer them in
41 some of those.

42
43 MR. GILLIKIN: No, I do not have any
44 specific study designed to address any of that, but
45 I'll just let you know that this kind of an issue
46 that's come up within the region as far as our role in
47 addressing these indirect effects from these types of
48 activities on the Refuge resources. And so it is a
49 point of discussion. There is a recognition that at
50 some level we should be addressing some of these

1 issues, which is a much better situation than we were
2 in the past.

3

4 So I'll just have to leave it at that.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: And just to follow, you
7 know, part of that, too, is that if we're looking at
8 two barges a day minimum, if not two to three or five
9 times that, that -- how sensitive are the outmigrating
10 smolt to those different temperatures in the water
11 strata. And I put them on notice that those are
12 questions that we're going to want answered.

13

14 MR. GILLIKIN: Hopefully that's all
15 stuff that will get fleshed out in the NEPA process.
16 Hopefully.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
19 questions for Dan.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
24 Dan.

25

26 Steve, go ahead.

27

28 MR. MILLER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
29 Council. Steve Miller with the Fish and Wildlife
30 Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, and I'm
31 associated -- I live here in Bethel. And I have a few
32 handouts.

33

34 Basically I was just going to give you
35 a brief overview of some of the projects we did. Some
36 of the projects we did, there are two weir projects
37 that you're aware of on the Kwethluk and the Tuluksak
38 River. This is the last year of funding. Under the
39 last round of proposals we put in for continuation of
40 the Kwethluk and the Tuluksak weir.

41

42 We also put in proposals to look at
43 some whitefish habitat here on the Kuskokwim. We want
44 to look at a whitefish population estimate on the Swift
45 River. We have a study in the proposals for otolith
46 microchemistry to look at stock separation on top of
47 the genetics work that's been done. That's some of the
48 stuff we have in the works in the proposals for 2009.

49

50 I handed out a handout on our OSM

1 chinook subsistence project at Tuluksak. We did that.
2 Last year was the first year of that one. And the
3 project continues this year. And that's just looking
4 at the harvest of subsistence fishery at the Village of
5 Tuluksak and comparing that to the migration, the
6 escapement at the weir upriver to see if there is a
7 difference or not a difference.

8

9 The two weir projects, if you'll look,
10 the Kwethluk weir was the only weir that we actually
11 had escapement in coho and sockeye I believe that were
12 above the average. Other than that, all of our
13 escapements were pretty well down.

14

15 Outside of that that's about all I have
16 as far as projects.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
19 Steve. Mr. Charles.

20

21 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 It's not a question, but a comment. I like the Federal
23 Government helping the research in this area so
24 everybody doing research on life for fish, that helps
25 our area, because the public used to hear that when we
26 over-harvest something, they decline, so the research
27 on other things is helping our people. Like the water
28 quality and other stuff that the animal don't come back
29 to, because were -- we used to be blamed for over-
30 harvesting all the time. It's not that, not seeing the
31 other factors. So that helps the people to learn why
32 things don't come back or why animals or fish don't
33 come back. I like the Federal Government keep funding
34 the researches on all fish and Game.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, James.
39 Go ahead, Robert.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I just want to
42 commend the photographer for that Tuluksak portrait.
43 This is really powerful compared to a lot of the other
44 pictures that we see of how salmon are dried. This is
45 something that is -- and you can see the amount of work
46 and the dedication that person puts in to make sure
47 that that fish dries properly. So my hat to the
48 photographer. Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further

1 questions for Steve. Any further questions for Steve.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
6 Steve.

7

8 MR. MILLER: Thank you. One thing I
9 would like to add though is I would like to personally
10 thank the Village of Tuluksak for opening up their
11 villages and opening up their fish camps to let us do
12 that study. I mean, it was truly the village that was
13 the biggest component to that. So thank you to them.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We are down
16 to Togiak National Wildlife Refuge update, 2009
17 information bulletin. Alex Nick.

18

19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
20 Council. The bulletin was handed out to you yesterday.
21 It should be among your piles.

22

23 I did contact Togiak, and I think
24 they're supposed to call in, but this morning they had
25 to go to a meeting or something. I reminded them that
26 you were going to be listening to the Refuge update
27 between about 10:30 to noon today, so they're aware of
28 the updates that other refuges are giving. Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.

31

32 And I just wanted to make a comment
33 before I lose my thought. You know, the work that you
34 people, our Staff have done, and the information that
35 you give us, you know, you might think that we don't
36 read it, but we really do sit down and take time to get
37 all this information that you supplied us with. And we
38 want to thank you for -- like James says, thank you for
39 all the work that you've done in order to help us in
40 the decisions that we make in our daily lives. Thanks
41 a lot.

42

43 We are down to item 3, the U.S. Fish
44 and Wildlife Service/ADF&G report, 2009 preseason
45 outlook. And who has the report. Okay. Go ahead.

46

47 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Chair.
48 Council. The handout that's being handed out to you is
49 the 2009 Yukon River salmon season outlook.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just for the
2 record, please state your name.

3
4 MR. MASCHMANN: I am Gerald Maschmann
5 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

8
9 MR. MASCHMANN: And I assist Russ
10 Holder with the Federal in-season management. And I'm
11 going to provide a -- instead of reading the whole
12 thing, I'm just going to summarize for the Council.

13
14 The 2007 and 2008 chinook salmon runs
15 were below pre-season run projections. The 2007 run
16 was approximately 75,000 fish less than anticipated and
17 the 2008 run was approximately 65,000 to 75,000 fish
18 less than anticipated. Despite good parent year
19 escapements, the 2007 and 2008 runs were poor and the
20 escapement goal to Canada was not met.

21
22 In light of the poor production which
23 has been experienced in recent years, managers believe
24 the 2009 Yukon River chinook salmon run will likely be
25 below average to poor based on anticipated low
26 production. It is therefore prudent to enter the 2009
27 season with the expectation that the subsistence
28 conservation measures beyond those used in 2008 will
29 likely be required in an effort to share the available
30 subsistence harvest amount and meet escapement goals.
31 It is unlikely that there will be a directed chinook
32 salmon commercial fishery.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute.

35
36 MR. KRON: It sounds like we've lost
37 our teleconference.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 MR. MASCHMANN: This is Gerald
44 Maschmann with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out
45 of Fairbanks, and I work for Russ Holder and I assist
46 him with Yukon River salmon management.

47
48 The chinook salmon run the 2007 and
49 2008 chinook salmon runs were below pre-season run
50 projections. The 2007 run was approximately 75,000

1 fish less than anticipated and the 2008 run was
2 approximately 65,000 to 75,000 fish less than
3 anticipated. Despite good parent year escapements, the
4 2007 and 2008 runs were poor and the escapement goal to
5 Canada was not met.

6
7 In light of the poor production which
8 has been experienced in recent years, managers believe
9 the 2009 Yukon River chinook salmon run will likely be
10 below average to poor based on anticipated low
11 production. It is therefore prudent to enter the 2009
12 season with the expectation that subsistence
13 conservation measures beyond those used in 2008 will
14 likely be required in an effort to share the available
15 subsistence harvest amount and meet escapement goals.
16 It is unlikely that there will be a directed chinook
17 salmon commercial fishery in 2009 on the mainstem
18 river, but there may be opportunity to commercial
19 harvest less than 1,000 chinook salmon on the Tanana
20 River terminal fishery. We believe subsistence fishing
21 will need to be reduced at the beginning of the season.
22 Managers are trying to develop a pre-season subsistence
23 management approach which would be used until in-season
24 information could be used, likely near the half-way
25 point of the chinook salmon run.

26
27 For summer chum salmon, the managers
28 are anticipating an average run of summer chum salmon
29 for 2009 which should provide for escapements, support
30 a normal subsistence fishery and provide for commercial
31 harvest.

32
33 The 2009 fall chum salmon run size is
34 expected to be near average with a preliminary
35 projection of approximately one million fish.

36
37 The 2009 coho salmon run is anticipated
38 to be near average based on the parent year escapement
39 in 2005 since coho salmon primarily return as age 4
40 fish.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Gerald.

43
44 Any questions for Gerald. Any
45 questions for Gerald.

46
47 MR. MANUMIK: What is the return
48 chinook salmon to the Yukon for '09?

49
50 MR. MASCHMANN: At this point it's

1 anticipated to be below average to poor.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
4 questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
9 for that -- go ahead, Greg.

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Just a little bit of follow up on what Paul -- can you
13 characterize below average to poor in the terms of
14 numbers?

15

16 MR. NEWLAND: I believe that -- oh,
17 excuse me.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. NEWLAND: This is Eric Newland with
22 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River
23 salmon management biologist.

24

25 I believe we'd consider about 160,000
26 or so basically we're able to cover all our escapement
27 and subsistence needs.

28

29 This year we were below the escapement
30 goal at Canada by about 28 percent. And primarily
31 we're most concerned right now with our Canadian stock.
32 The Canadian stock is weak. By genetic standards
33 they're testing, we were thinking that we had about a
34 55,000 run of Canadian stock last year, and that is
35 considerably down. That's about 30 percent of what it
36 probably should be.

37

38 So I don't have the exact number of
39 what an average run would be. I would think it's
40 somewhere in the neighborhood of about 200,000 total
41 run. I hope that helps.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did that help you,
44 Greg.

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. So an average run
47 would be escapement plus what an average of what the
48 commercial harvest used to be?

49

50 MR. NEWLAND: An average run would,

1 yeah, incorporate some kind of small commercial.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: So we're looking at less
4 than 160 at best.

5

6 MR. NEWLAND: Similar to last year,
7 yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's for the
10 Yukon River.

11

12 MR. NEWLAND: Yes. And I think the
13 important thing to remember is that the reason why
14 we're kind of going in this hedging for the lesser of
15 things is because we are on the year of the return, the
16 fish returning this year are those fish that were
17 caught in the Bering Sea in 2007, the highest catch.
18 So we have issues with ocean production. We have
19 issues with bycatch. But I think the biggest thing we
20 have to look at as managers on the Yukon is how do we
21 control in-river harvest. That is the one thing we do
22 have control over at this point. Those things that can
23 happen with the bycatch are not going to happen until
24 2011. So we have to figure out what we can do now.

25

26 And I think that's kind of where we're
27 at with the process with YRDFA. I'm sure most of you
28 guys are aware that YRDFA has been facilitating these
29 teleconferences to get the word out that we do have an
30 issue. We have a problem. We have a chinook run that
31 doesn't look good. And so if it isn't good, we need to
32 be prepared.

33

34 Last year in 2008 in-season we had to
35 make decisions to go with restrictions to the
36 subsistence harvest and we reduced time and we made
37 restrictions with gear. This year we want to be better
38 prepared and want people to be better prepared, and so
39 at this point we're communicating with the folks along
40 the river through these YRDFA teleconferences. At this
41 point there's been six total teleconferences
42 regionally, and in April they're planning to have one
43 that brings all those separate regions together for a
44 meeting in April to discuss these.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And that's by
47 teleconference?

48

49 MR. NEWLAND: Actually this will be an
50 in-person meeting in Fairbanks.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
2 questions for Eric. Mr. Aloysius.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. It kind of
5 doesn't seem right for me again that the lower Yukon
6 River people have to sacrifice, so that subsistence
7 conservation measures will be tighter than they were
8 last year, and yet in the same breath you turn around
9 and say, well, they're not going to have a commercial
10 harvesting in there, but they can have 1,000 chinook
11 salmon commercially harvested in the Tanana River. It
12 doesn't make sense to me at all.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: An answer to that,
15 Eric. Or make some sense out of it.

16
17 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. We'll try. This is
18 Eric Newland again with the Department of Fish and
19 Game.

20
21 I think that the idea with the Tanana
22 River is that we look at that as a separate stock of
23 chinook, and that if there's a harvestable surplus of
24 Tanana River stocks, and there is a commercial market,
25 we'll try to make that available. We have put that out
26 in front of the YR DFA teleconferences as a point of
27 issue with are people comfortable with that. Are we
28 going to ask the rest of the river to basically forego
29 subsistence harvest and then at some point have a
30 commercial harvest on the -- I think that is something
31 that will probably be talked about at the in-person
32 meeting. None of these things have been finalized.
33 The final management plans will be made after the
34 meetings that are going to be held in Fairbanks, the
35 YR DFA meeting as well as the meeting conducted by TCC.
36 That should be piggybacked right with that meeting.

37
38 But, yes, there is a potential for
39 fishing on the Tanana. But that would only be made in-
40 season after an assessment has been made that there is
41 a harvestable surplus. Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
44 more questions for Eric.

45
46 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Ray.

49
50 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, I

1 have the same concerns that Bob has. You know, the
2 burden of conservation will fall on the lower Yukon
3 River. You know, that -- it don't sound right to, you
4 know, have the subsistence users sacrifice, you know,
5 so that the upriver people in different tributaries
6 have a commercial opening. And it don't make -- and I
7 have concerns for that. If we can't catch chinook down
8 here, then, you know, why have a commercial fishing for
9 the upper Yukon. It should be all one proposal, one
10 thing, one, you know, everybody abide by one issue that
11 all the users on the Yukon had to abide by.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What you are trying
16 to say is one rule for the one river.

17

18 Go ahead, Mary.

19

20 MR. ONEY: Yes.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory.

23

24 MR. ONEY: If the people on the lower
25 river can't commercial fish, then no one should be able
26 to commercial fish all up and down the Yukon.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ray. I
29 think that's Ray. Mary.

30

31 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde, go
34 ahead.

35

36 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
37 What we've been hearing and reading, this coming summer
38 is going to be really poor on the king salmon. Fish
39 and Game and Fish and Wildlife, they should treat the
40 Yukon alike from the coast to upriver. They should be
41 treated alike, because king salmon come into Yukon, and
42 if we cannot use them for subsistence, upriver has to
43 have a -- do the same thing. I think Yukon River is
44 -- the first king salmon come in here and sometime we
45 have to set aside to let it go upriver. If there's a
46 problem, it's going to be the problem on subsistence
47 for king salmon. Treat the Yukon alike. If we cannot
48 get them, let upriver cannot get them either.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry.
2 Any other comments.
3
4 Eric, I guess you got that.
5
6 MR. NEWLAND: Yeah.
7
8 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, just a
11 minute. Go ahead. Eric is going to respond to Harry.
12 Go ahead, Eric.
13
14 MR. NEWLAND: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
15 wasn't going to make so much a response, but as much as
16 that those comments have been heard, and we'll take
17 them back. Thank you
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Other
20 person. Mary.
21
22 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. I'd like to make a
23 comment that if the -- on the paragraph which is that
24 lower Yukon fishing would be reduced in the beginning
25 of the season. And when we -- if we don't catch those
26 fish and dry them in the beginning of the season, then
27 we lose our sunshine and stuff like that. If we catch
28 them and prepare them for our winter use, then we are
29 using them in a non-wanton waste method. I just want
30 to stress that. If you're going to reduce the first
31 run, catching them, subsistence, they're not going to
32 make it.
33
34 MR. MILLER: I guess the idea with
35 reducing time on the front end of the run is that the
36 Canadian portion of the run is strongly on that front
37 end. So if we were to protect any portion of the run,
38 it would probably be more likely that we would want to
39 protect that front end of the run. And we understand
40 there's going to be hardships with trying to get fish
41 on the front end of the run, but especially in the
42 lower river we feel that there's other opportunities
43 for fishing with the use of summer chum. And we're
44 hoping that people can look to other fish, too, as
45 well.
46
47 But like I said, none of these
48 management plans have been finalized. We're still
49 trying to figure them out, and like I said, these
50 meetings will be coming up, and we'll be having more

1 conversations about this sort of thing. Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Eric.

4

5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: Because we -- I lost the
10 train of my thought, but I was going to say that now
11 you've regulated us and regulated us. Now you're going
12 to tell us when and how to catch our fish.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.

15

16 MR. MANUMIK: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That sounds like
19 Mr. Manumik. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. MANUMIK: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank
22 you. You know, I totally agree with Ray Oney and Mr.
23 Wilde in Mountain Village. And I am totally against
24 this pollock fisheries out in the Bering Sea. Their
25 bycatch impacts the Yukon bound salmon; therefore
26 causing hardship on the subsistence fishermen in the
27 lower Yukon River. Not only in the lower Yukon, but
28 all up and down the Yukon River. Subsistence fisheries
29 supersedes the commercial fisheries. So commercial
30 fishery has to stop before subsistence fishing can be
31 stopped anywhere in any tributary in Alaska. So
32 therefore the pollock fishery needs to be stopped. You
33 know, they're fishing commercially. We're not fishing
34 for pollock out there. The mainstem Yukon subsistence
35 fishermen, we need that salmon for our mother's dinner
36 table. We need to stop the commercial fishing that's
37 taking our subsistence priority needs for chinook
38 salmon.

39

40 And also the Alaska Department of Fish
41 and Game have test nets in the Yukon River, lower Yukon
42 River. They should man those nets so that every time a
43 king salmon gets caught, they should release so it will
44 go upstream to spawn, not letting it hang on the net
45 for 24 hours before they clean their nets out. They're
46 killing our spawning salmon heading upstream, so they
47 should man their nets, test nets 24 hours a day.

48

49 And I'm in total agreement with Harry
50 and Ray Oney to treat the Yukon as one mainstem Yukon

1 so everybody abides by one rule. No fishing for
2 chinook salmon.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Manumik. Anybody else.

8

9 I can see one thing right now. If you
10 do open commercial fishing in the Tanana, you're going
11 to have an uproar on that lower river. And I can
12 almost guarantee it.

13

14 MR. HESS: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead. Mr.
17 Manumik? Who was that?

18

19 MR. HESS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Please state your
22 name so we can get you on record.

23

24 MR. HESS: Mr. Chairman. Francis Hess
25 from Mountain Village. I'm with the village
26 corporation.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Francis.

29

30 MR. HESS: We've been following the
31 bycatch for some years out here. Y-1 and Y-2 on the
32 Yukon is most bearing -- they're more allocated than
33 any other place. We get more regulations in Y-1 and Y-
34 2. And yet we put the least amount of dent on the fish
35 that's going upriver. That's subsistence and
36 commercial.

37

38 The ones that are doing the damage is
39 out in the ocean. And I hope Fish and Game or somebody
40 sees that sometime, because it just hurts everybody on
41 the Yukon. And some of the families have a long way to
42 get commercial. And if they don't open it, they wait
43 until the fish pass, then they open it for subsistence.
44 Because way back then, Harry knows it, you know it,
45 when the fish get here, that's when we go get our fish
46 for subsistence. They should -- we only take what we
47 need.

48

49 Doi. Quyana.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.
2 Any other comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
7 for your comments, and, Eric, thank you.

8
9 MR. WALTERS: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes. Mr. Nick.
12 Alexie. Go ahead. Walters.

13
14 MR. WALTERS: Yeah, Alexie Walters,
15 Mountain Village.

16
17 You know, I'm a subsistence fisherman
18 here, majority of my life. There's areas when the fish
19 arrive, we have limited time to put up our fish so
20 they'll dry right. And as rich as these fish are when
21 they arrive here, it takes good weather and more time
22 to dry them than further up the river. So I just
23 thought to bring that up. The majority I believe that
24 put up fish in all the mouths of the river know that.

25
26 We're fighting time, because there's
27 windows. I know it's not on the agenda, but those
28 windows hurt us too. But the priority of to support
29 subsistence ahead of commercial. (Indiscernible,
30 interference on phone line). We live with subsistence
31 all our lives, and to get regulated more and more on
32 subsistence issues is kind of burdening everybody.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alex.
37 Anybody else.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sure that this
42 is going to be discussed at the YRDFA meetings, so if
43 any of you that are listening out on the telephone
44 line, come on down to Hooper Bay and make all your
45 wishes and -- not necessarily wishes, but your.....

46
47 MS. GREGORY: Concern.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Make sure that
50 you're heard. Okay.

1 At this time we're going to go on down
2 to the Bureau of Land Management update.
3
4 And thank you, Eric.
5
6 Alex, go ahead.
7
8 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I don't think
11 BLM is going to be giving any presentations. They
12 haven't contacted me.
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. I heard
15 somebody calling on the teleconference. Go ahead.
16 State your name, please.
17
18 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. We
19 are, there's quite a few of us, we're planning to go
20 down to Hooper Bay when the Yukon River Drainage
21 Fishermen's Association going to have a meeting down
22 there.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That sounds good.
25 Okay.
26
27 MR. H. WILDE: I thought I could let
28 you know.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry.
31 That was Harry Wild for the record.
32
33 Anybody else.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, let's go on
38 down to item D, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
39 update.
40
41 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chairman. Council
42 members. This is Eric Newland with the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game.
44
45 I don't have much to present as far as
46 anything further that we haven't discussed with the
47 joint presentation.
48
49 I would say that right now we are busy
50 planning and the YRDFA teleconferences and the TCC

1 meeting will be good platforms for us to get the
2 information out and receive input back regarding these
3 management strategies that we're trying to come up
4 with. So do what you can to show up and be heard, and
5 we'll be there to listen. And I believe someone, maybe
6 Jason, maybe Becca, was going to be on for the YRDFA
7 portion on the agenda item.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, they will be
10 on.

11

12 MR. NEWLAND: So I'll let them discuss
13 what has gone on as far as the YRDFA teleconferences.

14

15 And as far as the Kusko Staff, I don't
16 believe anybody was planning on attending today.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Eric.

19

20 The Association of Village Council
21 Presidents. I'll give them a call, but I guess there's
22 nobody here for the record.

23

24 The next on the line is Becca with
25 Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association update on
26 salmon bycatch and the 2009 planning process for
27 chinook salmon. Let's take those two together. Becca.

28

29 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Hi, Mr. Chair
30 and Council members. I think I'm going to skip the
31 salmon bycatch portion since we already covered that
32 pretty thoroughly this morning, and just talk about the
33 2009 season planning process.

34

35 And what I wanted to just kind of
36 provide you with an overview of the process itself, and
37 mostly focus on just going over what some of the
38 recommendations have been from the various portions of
39 the river.

40

41 And our basic purpose in doing these is
42 to provide a forum for sharing information, ideas, and
43 building understanding and strategies among all the
44 user groups on the Alaskan portion of the river,
45 knowing that it's projected to be a poor 2009 chinook
46 salmon run, and wanting to be prepared for that ahead of
47 time. And we are fortunate enough to have the Yukon
48 River Panel see the value in this, and they provided
49 the funding for us to be able to do this.

50

1 So we basically so far have had two
2 series of teleconferences, and we did a separate
3 teleconference for the lower river, the middle river
4 and the upper river. The first set of calls was in
5 January, and we had a number of recommendations from
6 there.

7
8 I'm going to focus on more specific
9 recommendations that came out of the February calls,
10 the second set of calls. And on those we had eight
11 villages on the lower river on that call, nine villages
12 for the middle river call, and seven for the upper
13 river call.

14
15 And the participant recommendations,
16 which is what I want to focus on, and just I want to
17 preface this with these aren't anything that's been
18 decided on. At this point we're just throwing out
19 ideas, and these were the ideas that people came out
20 with.

21
22 In the lower river one was to address
23 customary trade first. Further to establish mandatory
24 measures with clear enforcement strategies as opposed
25 to voluntary measures. Another was to establish time
26 limits for fishing, like windows that follow the run up
27 the river. And there was some debate about whether or
28 not to fish on the first pulse. Those who wanted to
29 lay off that pulse sought to get more fish to Canada.
30 Those who wanted to fish evenly throughout the run were
31 concerned about being able to dry fish in the rainy
32 season and over-harvesting the Alaska portion of the
33 run in favor of the Canadian portion. Also timing of
34 windows should take into account whitefish harvests.
35 Another ideas was to install more sonars or give
36 additional attention to assessment projects to be sure
37 that fish are not being illegally harvested.

38
39 Then on the middle river, the ideas
40 were to establish voluntary reductions, hold community
41 meetings to decide what each village can do, close the
42 entire fishery, both in-river and in the Bering Sea for
43 at least one salmon life cycle, five to six years.
44 Another thought was do not rely on limiting fishing
45 time. It does not work. Fisher buy-in is critical.
46 They also identified a look at customary trade, but
47 remember rural to rural customary trade is very
48 important in many villages. Another idea was to
49 establish harvest quotas based on a past percentage of
50 harvest. Another was to consider limiting gear size,

1 but remember that in the middle river some fishers do
2 not have the gear, and there's concern over harvesting
3 poor quality chums, and large kings may drop out of
4 smaller gear.

5
6 Finally, on the upper river, some of
7 the ideas were to establish community-based management
8 plans as opposed to district-based plans, to hold
9 community meetings to decide what each village can or
10 should do. Establish mandatory measures with clear
11 enforcement strategies as opposed to voluntary
12 measures. Close the first pulse of each salmon run, or
13 close the entire run, and be careful with any part of
14 the run not closed. Allow Eagle to fish only on the
15 first pulse to get small males. Do not focus on
16 customary trade. Establish true windows that do not
17 get interrupted for commercial harvest. Do not allow
18 the sale of commercially caught chinook salmon.
19 Establish harvest quotas based on past percentage of
20 harvest.

21
22 So those are the ideas that were thrown
23 out so far. And the next step for us is we're going to
24 be holding, as I think somebody already mentioned, an
25 in-person meeting on April 10th in Fairbanks. And
26 we're coordinating that with the Tanana Chiefs
27 Conference meeting which is going to be held a couple
28 days before that on the same topic. And we're in the
29 process of developing the participant list, but we'd
30 really like to have a representative from each of the
31 Regional Advisory Councils. So we're hoping that the
32 Yukon-Kuskokwim Council will choose someone who can be
33 in attendance at that meeting on April 10th.

34
35 And additionally, as I think Lester
36 mentioned before, we will be talking about all these
37 things at our annual meeting next week as well. And
38 it's all part of an on-going discussion.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Becca.

43
44 Mary, you have a question.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Becca, can you define for
47 me what you mean by illegal fishing on the lower part
48 of the Yukon? Is that what you said?

49
50 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I'm sorry, I

1 couldn't hear what you said.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: In your report you
4 mentioned something about illegal fishing. Can you
5 clarify that for me?

6

7 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I think their
8 concern was that if there was fishing that wasn't being
9 done legally, that it wouldn't be reported under our
10 harvest numbers, and so it would be in addition to what
11 we know is being taken.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: You still didn't satisfy
14 my curiosity. What do you mean by that?

15

16 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: I'm sorry, I
17 didn't hear you again.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. Becca, she
20 wanted to know what you meant by illegal fishing on the
21 lower river.

22

23 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Actually it
24 wasn't talking about illegal fishing on the lower
25 river. It was one of the concerns raised in the lower
26 river teleconference call by people from the lower
27 river that perhaps if there were fish being harvested
28 illegally, that they weren't being counted.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that was just
31 assumed, a guess.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. Joe Mike.
34 I've got a question for her.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: For Becca? Go
37 ahead, Joseph Mike.

38

39 MR. MIKE: What do you mean by illegal
40 fishing on lower, do you mean subsistence or commercial
41 fishing?

42

43 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: To clarify
44 again, it's not talking about illegal fishing on the
45 lower river. It was a concern raised by people in the
46 lower river about if there was some kind of illegal
47 harvest occurring in the river.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That was just a
50 summation that there may be?

1 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Yeah. And I'm
2 not sure if there's anyone in the room there who.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. Eric will
5 have -- Eric has a statement, too, he's -- go ahead.
6
7 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR:could have
8 more information.
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Eric.
11
12 MR. NEWLAND: This is Eric Newland,
13 Department of Fish and Game again.
14
15 I believe, if I remember correctly from
16 that teleconference, the concern was by the lower Yukon
17 River people that if they were going to be facing
18 subsistence restrictions, that they want to be assured
19 that those fish that were being passed upriver were
20 going to be protected not only by restrictions faced in
21 the upper river districts, but that also enforcement
22 was going to be available so that those fish would be
23 unmolested to pass up river. I think that's what that
24 bullet point might be referencing. Okay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Does that
27 answer your question. Hello.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'll take it that
32 that answered your questions, so any further questions
33 for Becca.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
38 Becca.
39
40 MS. ROBBINS-GISCLAIR: Okay. Thank you
41 very much for the opportunity to speak with you. And
42 again I hope that you'll be able to pick someone to
43 attend that in-person meeting so we can have advice
44 from the -- or representation from the Council. Thank
45 you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. We have one
48 more question, Becca. Did you have.....
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Bob.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I would recommend to the
4 RAC that we endorse Harry Wilde to go to that April 10
5 meeting in Fairbanks.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Members, what do
8 you feel?
9
10 MS. GREGORY: No objections.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any objections.
13 Any objections.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, Harry
18 Wilde, are you willing to go to that Fairbanks meeting
19 whenever it occurs?
20
21 MR. H. WILDE: I'm always willing,
22 yeah.
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. You're it
25 then.
26
27 We're down to tribal -- no river, there
28 are no Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
29 members here.
30
31 There's no Tribal representation.
32
33 Is there any representation -- there
34 are no representations from the municipal government.
35
36 ANCSA village corporations, none.
37
38 Other organizations.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No hands raised.
43 So we are down to closing comments. We'll start with
44 Mary Gregory.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: Quyana for having the
47 meeting and not canceling it. And I'm very happy that
48 we decided to have it here, that you guys give us
49 flexibility to not close doors for us. And I'm glad
50 that we had this meeting, because I think we got a lot

1 of things done. And I'm glad to be a part of this
2 Council.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Anaan.

5

6 Let's go out to the cyber world, and,
7 Harry Wilde, do you have any comments.

8

9 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. This is
10 Harry Wilde.

11

12 I want to thank especially corporation
13 here in Mountain Village they're helping me to --
14 feeling there's a lot of work to do here in the office
15 and they gave me this opportunity to help me to
16 teleconference. And we appreciate hear in village what
17 they done to open the door, even there's time to close
18 and also thanks for Chairman and rest of the people
19 that gave us a chance to teleconference, even though we
20 cannot able to travel due to weather. This is the
21 first time today I wake up that it was sunshine. Still
22 sunshine over here.

23

24 Thank you very much.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry.
27 That's what always happens anyway when we have bad
28 weather. It always seems to get better at the end.

29

30 Joe Mike, do you have any comments.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Yes. On the next meeting,
33 on the agenda, I would like to have unwritten law on
34 the agenda. That's Yup'ik law, so we could talk more
35 about subsistence with the unwritten law and Yup'ik
36 law. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Uncle Joe.

39

40 Ray, you have any closing comments.

41 Ray Oney.

42

43 MR. ONEY: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chairman. Yeah. Over the years, you know, we're
45 talking about a lot of hardships that are going on, you
46 know, in the villages, people not meeting their needs.
47 Many of the people in the lower river where they have
48 to rely on commercial fishing to continue their
49 subsistence way of life. And that's the only resources
50 that they have in this area. We have no other

1 resources to depend on to substitute salmon, the
2 commercial fishing that they use down in the lower
3 river. You know, it's been ongoing, and it's still
4 ongoing as we -- even though we meet. You know, always
5 seem to come up with excuse that affect the lower
6 river, you know, it's -- and, you know, that's
7 something that hopefully people are starting to wake up
8 and realize that, you know, we are having a hard time
9 down here. Mainly, you know, the recent help that the
10 surrounding village received, you know, that's
11 indication of, you know, the hardship that we're
12 facing. And the organizations like the ADF&G, all
13 those State and Federal departments, that you realize
14 that, you know, it affects us, too, in the lower river.
15 And they need to make known that if we're going to talk
16 about fish, we need to look at the whole picture, which
17 means the complete cycle of the salmon.

18
19 And again I'd like to thank the new
20 members, welcome aboard, and I look forward to working
21 with you. Quyana.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ray.

24
25 Last, but not least on the
26 teleconference, Mr. Manumik. Do you have any closing
27 comments.

28
29 MR. MANUMIK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
30 Members of the Board.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are not the
33 Board. We are Council.

34
35 MR. MANUMIK: You know, over the years
36 I've been talking about these test nets down in the
37 lower Yukon. They affect the salmon going upstream.
38 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game gives out daily
39 reports of their catch in the north mouth, middle mouth
40 and south mouth. Sometimes the report is over 200
41 kings per day that they catch. Those salmon could be
42 going upstream to spawn. And if the net's out -- if
43 their test nets are being manned 24 hours a day,
44 releasing each time a king salmon gets caught on their
45 nets. I don't know what they do with the salmon, if
46 they're giving it to the families or is that being
47 counted as subsistence. I don't know what it is.

48
49 So thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I
50 welcome the new Board members, new Council members and

1 hope to see you soon in the near future. And have a
2 good trip back. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Paul.
5 Mr. Aloysius, do you have any closing comments?

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: You're going this way,
8 right?

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, okay. In that
11 case, Mr. Roczicka, do you have any closing comments.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Quyana, Mr.
14 Chairman. Thanks to the Staff and thanks to you again
15 for the meeting, getting it pulled off. And I
16 appreciate it, especially some of your comments this
17 time around. As ever, you know, it's always almost
18 scary some of the things that we deal with, and having
19 to face as we do.

20

21 I would ask one thing, that in the
22 future we don't have to request to amend the agenda to
23 put on regulatory proposals that are going to be under
24 consideration affecting our regions. If you guys could
25 try to pay a little bit more close attention to that
26 and them out. At least have the notice there, reserve
27 a space on the agenda and people can bring forth
28 proposals that perhaps you haven't identified. That is
29 part of our mandate as a Regional Council to address
30 those issues.

31

32 Also I'm hoping as well, reflecting
33 back on some of the comments that I've made earlier
34 concerning the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA
35 and hoping that perhaps with a new administration we
36 can see some more positive addressing of those issues
37 as far as specifically the wildlife management that I
38 reflected on. I'm hoping and maybe expressing it as an
39 intent here that those letters actually get to the
40 Secretary of Interior. That's where this report is
41 supposed to go to, and whatever can be done to assure
42 that the Secretary actually sees them.

43

44 About two months ago when I was down in
45 Washington, D.C. and I spoke to some folks regarding
46 that, they knew what ANILCA was, but they had no idea,
47 they had not clue what Title VIII was. And so making
48 people aware, if we can follow up on that as much as we
49 can, and getting the Federal Board to back us in our
50 concerns.

1 Again, thanks to everybody for bearing
2 with us, and especially the guys on teleconference. I
3 know how rough that is. A lot of times I wonder if you
4 guys have got the handouts that we get here even, if
5 those are sent forward, or if you've just got to deal
6 with verbals. So thanks to you guys for being here and
7 having the meeting be able to happen, too.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Greg.

12
13 Mr. Bob Aloysius, do you have any
14 closing comments?

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: No more rubber stamping.
17 Simple as that. Because year after year we send in our
18 reports with concerns and the same reply always comes
19 back as a rubber stamp. I don't want to hear that any
20 more.

21
22 Thank you very much.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Bob.

25 Mr. Charles.

26
27 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I'm glad that we had this meeting and not cancel,
29 because we have a lot of other stuff to do. And I
30 thank Staff here who make this meeting possible and
31 proceed with meeting even when we were weathered out.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, James.

36
37 And with my closing comments, I just
38 want to thank the Staff for all the information that
39 you gathered and made sure that it was in a presentable
40 and easy to get at in reference to the work that we
41 need to do in our Council book, and all the information
42 that's gathered. I know it doesn't come easy and I
43 know it takes a lot of work.

44
45 And we want to thank you for the
46 patience that you've shown to us in the past, even
47 though we do get a little bit uptight on some of these
48 subjects. I know that it's mainly because of the way
49 we live and the way our people that we represent live.
50 And if we offend you in any way with our actions, we

1 apologize, but we feel that our -- we were entrusted to
2 do -- to this position and we try to fulfill it as
3 Council members to the best of our abilities.

4
5 And thank you for all your patience.
6 Thank you.

7
8 At this time the Chair will entertain
9 a motion for adjournment.

10
11 MR. CHARLES: I move to adjourn.

12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Bob Aloysius.

16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
20 by Mr. James Charles to adjourn the meeting, seconded
21 by Robert. All in favor say aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
30 Meeting's adjourned at it looks like 12:22.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of March 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
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