

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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6
7 VOLUME II

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9
10 Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
11 Bethel, Alaska
12 February 26, 2015
13 9:00 a.m.

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15
16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18
19 Lester Wilde, Chairman
20 Robert Aloysius
21 John Andrew
22 David Bill
23 William Brown
24 James Charles
25 Annie Cleveland
26 Dorothy Johnson
27 Raymond Oney
28 Michael Peters
29 Greg Roczicka
30 Dale Smith
31 Anthony Ulak

32
33
34
35 Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson
36 Adrienne Fleek

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

2
3 (Bethel, Alaska - 02/26/2015)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting to
8 order. The time is now 9:00 o'clock. First on the
9 agenda this morning is usually we have at the beginning
10 of the we have public and tribal comments on non-agenda
11 items.

12
13 Is there anyone here besides I think we
14 have one. Mr. Alex Nick.

15
16 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
17 members of the Council and the Staff. Audience.

18
19 I appreciate this opportunity to
20 provide some comments on behalf of myself, my family
21 who lives here in Kuskokwim area and also in Yukon
22 area, as well as elsewhere within the area.

23
24 What I would like to speak about this
25 morning is, as you know, last fall during the October
26 meeting you were given overview of rural determination
27 process, and also at the time you were given I believe
28 a report on recommendations from other Council members.
29 I mean, not Council members, but other Councils within
30 the State.

31
32 I think what the Council needs to do is
33 to focus on the next steps that were provided to you
34 last fall, and that the next steps were included as
35 meeting materials in your meeting book in October 2014.
36 One of the things that I would like to speak about is
37 when we look at rural determination process, we need to
38 not only think about ourselves. We need to think about
39 the future, because rural determination process at one
40 point in time maybe in the future will adversely affect
41 subsistence hunting and fishing in the region.

42
43 As you know, last fall -- not only last
44 fall, and if I remember correctly also in April of last
45 year, you were listening to comments from people from
46 Bethel as well as neighboring villages. I think what
47 needs to be done is there needs to be some homework
48 done by the Council, not only by the Council, but
49 people who live in a village like, for example, in my
50 Village of Russian Mission, in the Village of Marshall,

1 in the Village of Aniak, Akiak, elsewhere in the
2 region, because when we look at will impact subsistence
3 activity in the future, it's not something that we
4 should set aside and forget about. It should be
5 something that we should do something about.

6

7 This morning I was listening to the
8 news, and I heard in the news that only one person
9 provided public comment from Bethel. Bethel has a
10 population of approximately 6,500 plus. And that's
11 Bethel only. And what about neighboring villages like
12 Kwethluk, like Akiak, Akiachak. When they talked to
13 you about aggregation last fall, they also talked about
14 possibility of putting together the population of other
15 villages and include them in the future. That's
16 possibility. Like, for example, if there's a road
17 system between here and Akiachak, between here and
18 Oscarville and Napakiak, and road system elsewhere,
19 that will also be part of this process in the future.

20

21 I would like to recommend that the
22 Council do its homework. I would like to recommend
23 that the Council revisit some of the characteristics
24 that were presented to you, some of this is like
25 population threshold.

26

27 (In Yup'ik)

28

29 INTERPRETER: What is it, what is
30 population threshold. And it's based on the number of
31 people.

32

33 MR. NICK: Population of the area. And
34 I kindly ask the interpreters to interpret the terms
35 that people need to understand, like aggregating
36 populations or transportation, for example. We think
37 nothing important about transportation. Now we have
38 ice roads. In wintertime probably from around November
39 through maybe April sometime, we have ice roads.
40 People have access to Bethel. These are the things
41 that we need to think about when we think about our
42 future.

43

44 I am in no way criticizing the Council
45 and its Staff or the Department, but in the future we
46 must be aware that some of us will say, oh, we didn't
47 know about that. We didn't know this is going to
48 happen.

49

50 Let's take a look at, let's take a very

1 hard look at legislation of Alaska National Interest
2 Lands Conservation Act of 1980. It's called ANILCA.
3 Under ANILCA .805 OSM is operating and so is the
4 Council. When I traveled during that time on behalf of
5 YKHC, at the time I was a board member for YKHC, and we
6 were trying to establish clinics in the villages. I
7 noticed ANILCA legislation on the tribal council's
8 office -- rather in the tribal council's office in the
9 table without being opened. And now we hear complaints
10 about why we did not inform the villages when ANILCA
11 was being legislated.

12

13 Now the -- you know, after the passage
14 of ANILCA there's some amendments that is impacting us,
15 and it is going to affect some of our future as well.

16

17 I am not here to tell the Council what
18 to do. I am not here to recommend what the Board may
19 do, but I want to make sure that down the road sometime
20 people will be awakened by something. What I mean by
21 that is they will realize, why didn't we do this or
22 that before the rules are in place.

23

24 What's going to happen is very exactly
25 Federal Codes of Regulations that you operate under.
26 Rural determination will also be in the Federal Rules
27 and Regulations. And commenting nowadays, unless it's
28 written like this and given to the Staff, commenting
29 nowadays is a very hard thing to do, because you have
30 to go to www. I believe it's regulations.gov. It's
31 called erulemaking, electronic rulemaking portal.
32 That's where all of the comments are entered.

33

34 So I am hoping that you'll give us
35 opportunity to be -- or rather to provide input in the
36 future when some of the things that were in your books
37 in the past, as well as today, I mean, you know, the
38 last couple of days, are revisited.

39

40 I thank the Council for this
41 opportunity to provide you comment. I am not an
42 expert, but I appreciate that I was given an
43 opportunity to be part of your staffing in the past. I
44 learned a lot. I'm not an expert. I'm not a
45 professional. I'm not an educated person. But I know
46 what I see in the books like this, because I've seen
47 them in the past. I'm not going to say on line or in
48 record, I'm not going to say that we could do this, we
49 could do that. But we do have some avenues that we
50 should take in order to make certain that we're dealing

1 with in this case, rural determination process,
2 something that will benefit the future of our children.

3

4

5 I thank you very much for your time. I
6 thank you very much for allowing me to provide this
7 comment, these comments. And thank you very much, Mr.
8 Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.
11 Any questions for Mr. Nick. Mr. Aloysius.

12

13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

14

15 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. I want.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hey, Bill, he's got
18 the floor.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Alex Nick,
21 you know as much information as has been handed down
22 for over the years, like you said, most of it is just
23 put on a table and forgotten. We cannot police the
24 people. They have an opportunity to come here like
25 everybody else for input. Unfortunately, yesterday
26 there was only one person -- last night, I mean, there
27 was one person, but it's open to everybody.
28 Information has been handed down for days, maybe weeks
29 about what is going on, what would go on yesterday,
30 last night, and today. We cannot force people to do
31 what is good for them. It's like everything else. The
32 opportunity is there. They don't show up, and then
33 they moan and groan about it. Well, that's the way it
34 goes.

35

36 I'm not going to say any more. Thank
37 you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bill.

40

41 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

42

43 INTERPRETER: I'm going to say it in
44 Yup'ik regarding the population of rural communities
45 now. Does this include all the population in the
46 villages? How is that going to -- how did you mention
47 it?

48

49 MR. NICK: Because you have
50 interpreter, I'll wait for a minute to answer your

1 question in Yup'ik, but I am going to speak on what Bob
2 mentioned about people not showing up last night.

3

4 Unfortunately, people like Russian
5 Orthodox people, this is the first week of Holy Week --
6 or not Holy Week, the first week of Lent. During the
7 first week of Lent, some of the Orthodox people go to
8 church every evening and some come in just morning and
9 evening throughout the whole week of first week of
10 Lent. And I understand that maybe Catholics and
11 Moravians do the same. And maybe that's why there was
12 not much people last night.

13

14 I was on my way back from church, I
15 went to church with Father Martin Nicolai last night.
16 As soon as he recessed for dinner I went to church, and
17 I came back. As I walked in, people were going out.
18 They were telling me they were done. I was hoping that
19 I would have opportunity to provide some comments last
20 night as well.

21

22 And to respond to Mr. David Bill, Mr.
23 Chair, with your permission, I'll respond in Yup'ik.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.

26

27 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 David, (In Yup'ik).

29

30 INTERPRETER: David, the question that
31 you had asked, the gist of that, during the falltime
32 this was discussed with you, and in April. And you
33 have foreseen what the events may be. But at that time
34 -- at this time I'm not able to tell you about that,
35 because you have Staff right here. You can ask the OSM
36 Staff directly regarding this situation that you were
37 asking, because I don't work for OSM any more.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
42 for Mr. Nick. Mr. Peters.

43

44 MR. PETERS: You know, coming from the
45 Yukon and Marshall and Russian Mission and upper part
46 of the Yukon, I think, you know, one of the -- like
47 what Alex Nick was saying, there's lots of information
48 that needs to be brought out to the public. And I
49 think by doing this, you know, since I'm a
50 representative from Marshall, and also on the Yukon, I

1 think with this information, like what he stated, was,
2 you know, what it could be more meaningful is, like I
3 know the public could comment on any public
4 information, but coming from the tribal governments and
5 stuff like that to let them know what's going to be
6 affected and stuff like that, coming to them in the
7 future. I think just like what he said, someone need
8 to do a follow up or to work with the people. And by
9 doing this -- you know, all of us Council come from
10 different areas, and I think when someone is really
11 trying to stress out what they need for the a area, I
12 think by courtesy and by right, I think they have that
13 right to voice their opinion. And if there needs to be
14 follow up from Staff and stuff like that, the
15 information would be out for the -- what I'm saying is
16 to the tribal governments and to work with Staff in how
17 could, you know, they could make changes at the time.
18 That's the only reason why I would like to make the
19 statement.

20

21 I'm not criticizing anybody, but the
22 thing is on the table. When the people have the floor,
23 you know, we should always have respect and listen to
24 what they got to say, because in each area is
25 different. People have different opinions, but always
26 for the same cause for the information that's going to
27 be brought out.

28

29 I'm not going to talk too long, because
30 I think what he's trying to say is that someone should
31 do a follow up, not just from our Board, but for the
32 whole Yukon Delta/Kuskokwim region, and how it's going
33 to affect us. That's my feeling.

34

35 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair and Mr.
36 Nick.

37

38 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I would like to
39 conclude this and say that I am providing these
40 comments not to make anything emerge criticizing what
41 you did last few years, including what we did when I
42 was working for you and what the Staff is doing, what
43 the Board is doing. But I want to make certain that in
44 the future something that's going to be adversely
45 impacting subsistence way of life in the region should
46 be dealt with carefully.

47

48 And one of the reasons why I wanted to
49 say that is because in the new steps that was listed
50 in your last fall's booklet, in one of your materials,

1 it says that if no new rulemaking is completed by March
2 1, 2017 specifying rural/nonrural determinations, then
3 the 2007 rule will become enforceable. I want to
4 conclude with that. Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nick.

7

8 Next we have Jackson Williams.

9

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. And Jack
11 Williams, Akiak.

12

13 And, you know, a lot of things that
14 Nick mentioned, I will just review coming from Akiak.
15 Things that we say and what I say are really hard. But
16 in order for someone really to understand even their
17 heart, I straight them out.

18

19 Just listening to Nick, you know,
20 either ANILCA or ANCSA, and already Bethel was being
21 told no more subsistence. I don't know if I understood
22 him correct. I know ANCSA and ANILCA. We heard of
23 this, if Bethel become maybe around 10,000 people,
24 they'll close the subsistence. I know that much. Why
25 are we being handed out things like that. I think the
26 departments are utilizing that because it's there. To
27 me that's not right.

28

29 You know, I appreciate all of you,
30 because you're Yup'ik, you're working for us. At least
31 we're all together on this.

32

33 And listening to the Chairman report, a
34 lot of the proposals or things that were being
35 mentioned, and, you know, they passed. I was really
36 glad.

37

38 And things that Nick mentioned also
39 I'll share it. You know, from Akiak, the IRA Council,
40 I ask them, like example, Board of Fish, Board of Game,
41 anything to do with fish and game, I ask them, aren't
42 you guys going to go? Aren't you guys going to voice
43 us out from Akiak? You know what their reply is?
44 Yeah, we voice out our concern, and the end part, they
45 tell me, they never do nothing.

46

47 It's somewhere -- I appreciate what
48 Nick mentioned. We Native people got to work harder,
49 like outside of the -- you know, when I go around like
50 a lot of people, he mentioned discrimination. It is

1 going on. And this summer or past summers I've been
2 hearing people complaining to the Department of Fish
3 and Game things that needs to be corrected, and they're
4 not being corrected.

5
6 I'll give you one example also that was
7 being mentioned yesterday from Kwethluk. Working
8 group, yeah. I know this much, the working group was
9 put out for commercial fishing only to me at the time
10 when commercial fishing was going on.

11
12 And to this very glad I'm glad that the
13 Department of Fish and Game went up to Akiak when they
14 wanted to put a weir, and asked the villages to put the
15 weir in Kisaralik. Automatically those leaders in
16 Akiak, I was young, I was involved, in my 20s I think,
17 they tell them, and I heard this in some of the
18 testimonies, and I was born in that -- not born, I grew
19 up on that river, Kisaralik, and I know the fish. You
20 go alongside the river, it will disappear. They're not
21 going to stick around once they see something.

22
23 And I brought this in the past, and
24 it's something for you guys to think about. These
25 weirs, Kwethluk and Tuluksak, when it first started, I
26 think it did a lot of damage. Why? How many years ago
27 we had a meeting, around maybe 10 years or less, in
28 Kwethluk with the Department of Fish and Game. They
29 mentioned when it first started, when they go bed, they
30 close the weir. No fish pass.

31
32 I used to have quite a bit of
33 complaints from Kwethluk, but maybe Tuluksak did, too.
34 But one person from Tuluksak, he's about my age, a
35 little older than me, when that weir first start
36 operating, or how many years after it start operating,
37 he told me like this. Before the weir was put, I go
38 up, way up Tuluksak River. Holy cow. There were fish.
39 I can see them. But after that weir was being
40 operating, I don't know how long, he went up there
41 again, and he knows the river. He told me, he never
42 see that many fish now. That's something, you know.
43 That tells me the damage has been done. It has been.

44
45 I can challenge the Department of Fish
46 and Game, study Kisaralik this summer or any future.
47 There are a lot of fish compared to Kwethluk, Tuluksak.
48 I challenge them, and I hope they bring me along. I
49 know that river upside down. And I got the farthest.
50 I bring my wife to upper falls to go pick blackberries.

1 But, you know, these things, they need to be looked at.

2

3

4 And this past summer and past summers
5 before this, it seemed that from '07 when the
6 Department of Fish and Game report no fish, they're
7 using Kwethluk, Tuluksak. There's no more king salmon
8 there hardly. And AVCP, how many years ago one of the
9 people in AVCP know the George River up there. That
10 got a weir. They say something like what I'm talking
11 about. These are hard, but you guys got to hear them.

12

13

14 And my main concern, you know, on the
15 moose population. I'm in the lower advisory committee.
16 I brought this up in our last meeting. If we can have
17 a winter hunt or something like that. They replied
18 hardly snow in the past that Department never make an
19 accurate count. That's why we never have a winter hunt
20 around here.

21

22 There's so many moose Akiak. Last year
23 a teacher waved at me so hard I thought there was
24 something wrong, stopping me. He opened the door, hey,
25 what's going on? He asked me, just before I got to the
26 treeline, he asked me, did you see three moose? Where?
27 They were just right on the road. And two years ago,
28 they were calling Akiak people not to walk around by
29 clinic. There was a moose going downtown in Akiak.
30 That's how many -- there's so many now.

31

32 And the reason why I bring this up, all
33 of you practically all over Kuskokwim, Yukon might have
34 heard, we had three accidents this year. And they
35 never been found right away, at least this -- and we
36 never found the other third. And what we do when
37 something like this happened, in my family we did our
38 best cook, bring it to the house that lost their loved
39 one. And I know this much, way back in Akiak when
40 something like this happen, they'd call the Department
41 of Fish and Game, if someone in Akiak can hunt moose.
42 And they used to be granted, you know. They should
43 include someone, so those family, they always, like
44 people, like when I go to their house, they always
45 offer us. That's our custom. They always offer us to
46 eat, and they're really glad when we eat, because, you
47 know, it's our custom. And hopefully, you know, we'll
48 start doing something like that.

49

50 And one thing I know, I heard this when

1 I was young, and I keep hearing it in my age right now,
2 way back I don't know how many years ago, the moose
3 went down, caribous, whatever, and reindeer, and they
4 kind of get really low. And I was wondering if it will
5 happen to us that way again.

6

7 But anyway I was really glad, one time
8 Aloysius in the Fish and Game telling them, I back him
9 up, there should be more Natives in that Board of Fish.
10 And hopefully we will do that some day, Bob, you know.
11 And we need to have better co-management.

12

13 I'll just give you a hint. Tribal
14 leaders all the way from Kuskokwim and Yukon, tribal
15 leaders, you know, should start working with Fish and
16 Game. They're the leaders of our community. And
17 hopefully if something like that, we, like me from
18 Akiak, I listen to my leader that came to work with the
19 Fish and Game, because they're our leaders. They know
20 what is going on in the land, in the river, you know,
21 something like that.

22

23 Thank you so much, and, you know,
24 hopefully we'll get something going. I know one thing,
25 we need change. And the change is that we Natives are
26 being recognized, and not just voice out any more.
27 When we voice out, they listen and help us. That be
28 really good. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
31 Williams, for your comments.

32

33 Any questions for Mr. Williams.

34 Mr.....

35

36 MR. ULAK: Anthony.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, you've got the
39 floor.

40

41 MR. ULAK: Yeah. Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

42

43 (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I'm going to say this in Yup'ik.

47

48 Perhaps two years ago the issue that
49 you were just talking about regarding the salmon weir,
50 I did bring this issue up, because we don't need to set

1 up weirs in the rivers for the salmon, because when we
2 put up weirs for the salmon, they do not go through the
3 weirs, because they are skittish, and they go back out
4 into the river, because the fish weirs do more damage
5 to the population of the salmon than -- I mean, it
6 backfires, because if we want to grow our salmon stock,
7 let's take the fish weirs off the rivers. As the RAC
8 committee -- or the Kuskokwim Working Group can make
9 their own proposals, to make a resolution to remove the
10 fish weirs in the rivers, and that's one of your
11 abilities, the powers that you can do. Because if we
12 want to grow the salmon stock, let's remove all the
13 fish weirs from the rivers.

14
15 And that's all I wanted to say. Thank
16 you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you, Mr.
23 Williams, for your comment.

24
25 Next is Mr. Phillip Peter.

26
27 MR. PETER: Good morning. Quyana.

28
29 (In Yup'ik)

30
31 INTERPRETER: Yesterday the person that
32 was commenting regarding customary and traditional use.
33 I'm going to be commenting in Yup'ik, because I'm a
34 Yup'ik man.

35
36 Us people, our way of life from our
37 forefathers, they reminded me of their way of life.
38 This land is owned by nobody, but according to the
39 people that live on them is the caretakers, and that's
40 how the old forefathers say the regulations, laws, the
41 words of wisdom and the way we have lived before. And
42 our way of life has rules and regs, and I'm using them
43 the way how I was brought up as I was a child.

44
45 In other words, in the past, behind our
46 village when people used to hunt, my uncle and my
47 grandma used to tell me stories. They are, if I should
48 come into a village while I'm hunting, that I should
49 ask if it's okay to hunt, if I hunt in their area.
50 Hunting and trapping, or any other type of outdoors

1 work. And if they respond yes, they'll tell me that to
2 not touch other catches that are being caught by other
3 traps that do not belong to me. But if they see them
4 and the catches are alive, to kill them and hang them.

5
6 The boundary that we're talking about,
7 we already have a boundary. When the State and Federal
8 and the corporation all have boundaries. And there's
9 no addition to that. Especially these that are given
10 to us that are the western way of life, and when people
11 are working on us and we pay them. And on the other
12 hand they kind of keep us to be complaining of.

13
14 In addition, I went moose hunting not
15 too long ago, on Monday, to the Yukon where I mostly
16 hunted to hunt moose. I was watching and I was
17 surprised that the moose on the Yukon were kind of
18 skinny. I caught four, since we were four individual,
19 and I caught a female. All the moose that we catch and
20 all the moose that I've seen are not fat, and the
21 droppings that have are kind of strange, and they look
22 pretty skinny this year. Because it's food, but it's
23 okay.

24
25 And there's numerous of wolves. We
26 arrived to the Yukon and the places that we hunt, we
27 checked those areas, but they didn't have no moose.
28 But we hunt Kwiguk and the big hills, that's where we
29 caught our moose. I don't understand and I ask a
30 question how these moose -- why these moose are being
31 so skinny on the Yukon area, the ones that used to be
32 really fat and tender and nice to eat, but now they
33 look pretty skinny, and the wolves are numerous.

34
35 Since we're Yup'ik people, we
36 understand this, because we like to hunt. We cannot be
37 idling at some moments, because according to the
38 seasons that are brought up in front of us. It's
39 restless every season and look forward to -- and right
40 now I try to eat from the land, what I catch.

41
42 Our young generation, I think about
43 them, my kids, my grandkids as well as my great
44 grandchildren. I think about them, because our
45 forefathers took care of us the way we should then.
46 Most importantly was what we eat to fill our stomach
47 was the most important thing, and that was being told
48 on us. And we're told not to be idle when hunting
49 comes around. We're promised, you know, through our
50 forefathers that before we sweat and before we prepare,

1 before we cry, nothing will be caught, and that's
2 true. And I'm okay with that. I'm pretty sure it's
3 something that you guys don't worry about either. And
4 I'm not worried about it, although I'm living it like
5 that. But always thankfully we are provided -- or
6 whether I catch or not catch anything, especially the
7 breath that I'm given, and that's what I'm always
8 thankful of, even though I'm the way you guys look at
9 me.

10

11 In addition, the fish that are swimming
12 on the river, especially Chinook, on our Kuskokwim
13 River and on the Yukon, it's our hardship right now.
14 And for truly that's our hardship that we're living it,
15 especially the people that are from our villages. And
16 being a leader in the community, I have been a leader
17 for many years. It's been 35 plus year I've been a
18 chairman. Although I quit, people re-elect me to that
19 position. And it gives me -- it's very hard to take
20 care of other people.

21

22 And it seems like this generation, it's
23 pretty worse, harder through our kids, through me, but
24 through our wisdom and telling our kids the way of
25 life, made them like this, some -- do other things that
26 are not very acceptable, because they want to go
27 hunting and they talk through weapons. Our kids are
28 not like the way we were brought up. They're kind of
29 different. If you guys look at them, they're a little
30 different. They're not the way we were brought up.
31 Even though when they're told things that are in
32 Yup'ik, they understand them in a wrong way. But it's
33 best to explain to them, they understand clearly.

34

35 So it's very important according to
36 fish with a small mesh size, the Kuskokwim River is
37 being depleted by fish with these small mesh size nets,
38 with the use of those materials.
39 Way back when they used the eight-inch mesh size, and
40 we were use -- we used to use that eight-inch mesh, and
41 never had to use the small mesh net. So when the
42 Chinooks arrive, they switched to five and a half to
43 six-inch and catch chum and sockeyes, and also silvers,
44 and quit the Chinook catches. It would be best -- or
45 better to work on to remove off the regulations the
46 four-inch mesh size. And that's the only thing that I
47 really don't like, so although we're having a hardship,
48 all of us.

49

50 Yesterday the person that talked before

1 me that stated that he made that although everything
2 that is difficult, if we correct it clearly, the best
3 as we can, I think we'll be much quieter. And that's
4 true. And the way our elders, I feel they're more
5 truly saying some things, because they used -- they
6 lived before, and when they -- because they much than
7 we know. And I believe people that are older than me,
8 and those that live around me even though I don't live
9 around them, but when they talk something that's true.
10 I don't believe in something that's a lie, that's not
11 fact, but when somebody talks of something that's a
12 fact, when I listen to them, I believe them truly.
13 When something good, I choose that part, anything that
14 will keep us quiet. And I also think those, the people
15 that passed that lived on the Kuskokwim, they helped me
16 the past, and they used to help.

17
18 I didn't understand how anything beyond
19 close to the mouth of the river on the Kuskokwim River,
20 I had no knowledge of that, so when I started this,
21 that there's tide and low tide on the lower part of the
22 Kuskokwim. And those people that are from Tuntutuliak,
23 especially the Lupies, I thank those for how they
24 showed me the condition of the Kuskokwim River. And I
25 really thank them people that lived before. And also
26 when I go upriver towards Kalskag, in the area of
27 Kalskag, and I thank their elders up there that are
28 from upriver. I had no knowledge how the upriver
29 conditions were, but through like Sam Parrin, the
30 Levies, the Camareaus, and also the Morgans, they give
31 me the knowledge and teach me how the river system was
32 up there, and also the ones that had the games of moose
33 and bears. So when I went to go get gas or go to the
34 store, the individuals that are respectful, they teach
35 me what they know and what I should be aware of, and
36 that's how I learned. And also the same with the ocean
37 through my father-in-law, how the ocean is like,
38 because I used to go spring hunting at the mouth of the
39 -- or out to the ocean. And I had the knowledge, too,
40 that was given through my forefathers. I understand how
41 it looks on the Kuskokwim River through fish, the way
42 it's being used, and how we can use it in anyway. And
43 I know exactly where the fish may be. With nothing that
44 -- with no problem I could use the Kuskokwim River.

45
46 So I thank you to work on -- to work
47 for our people accordingly, to work at things without
48 leaving anything.

49
50 Quayana.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Mr. Peter.
2 Any questions for Mr. Peter.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
7 thank you very much.
8
9 Next on the list is Lillian Lliaban.
10
11 MS. LLIABAN: Good morning.
12
13 IN UNISON: Good morning.
14
15 MS. LLIABAN: (In Yup'ik)
16
17 I'm going to speak my second language.
18
19 We, the Natives, we talk of our
20 experience, I don't walk on cement; I walk on dirt. I
21 don't take a book from the shelves and read it, and go
22 to the other side of the country and talk about it. We
23 don't. We talk from experience.
24
25 My experience, 45 years ago when I
26 lived, me and my late husband live in Seattle. One
27 afternoon my late husband told me, we're going fishing.
28 What fishing? We don't have a boat, we don't have no
29 gear or nothing. No, like the white man does, you
30 know, cast it out and -- oh, okay. We went to the
31 store. I don't know how to use that stuff, the white
32 man's stuff. I'll get you a boys and girls, young
33 thing. All you have to do is push the button and it
34 will cast out. Oh, good. He got me that and we went
35 to Columbia River, and it was late afternoon. And
36 there was some people here and there fishing, and
37 people were going home. And it was late, late in the
38 afternoon. While we were casting out fishing, there
39 was some like -- it sound like a firecracker from
40 upriver. The river was flowing this way, so I call it
41 upriver. There was some like firecrackers. And I
42 asked my late husband, what's going on? What's today?
43 Is this a holiday for the Indians or what? What's
44 going on? And he looked at me, and he says, listen,
45 and I listened and they sound like firecrackers, (makes
46 sound). And I said, well, wow, maybe some kind of
47 Indian holiday. And he says, no, those are shooting.
48 You mean with a gun? Yeah. Whoa, what's going on?
49 The Natives, the Indians are fishing, and the Fish and
50 Game and the laws are trying to stop them. Either the

1 Indians are shooting, or the Fish and Game and the
2 troopers are shooting at them. And I says, whoa, I'm
3 not going to get killed over fish. Let's go home. I
4 didn't know nothing about subsistence at the time. We
5 went home.

6
7 A couple years ago, maybe last year, a
8 couple years ago, I went to a subsistence something.
9 These guys from State of Washington came up, the
10 people, Fish and Game, and come to find out that those
11 Indians and Natives of the Columbia River, Washington,
12 start -- oh, excuse me -- start handling their own fish
13 and game. And I says, wow, it took 45 years. My
14 daughter's 45 years old. It took -- that's why I know.
15 It took 44, 43, 40 years to take care of that, and
16 finally they got it. Wow. So awesome. So awesome.
17 It doesn't take overnight to take care of something, to
18 resolve something. It takes years and days.

19
20 If I try to correct myself of my bad
21 habits, it's going to take two or three years to
22 correct myself, it doesn't take overnight. The same
23 thing with the problems we have.

24
25 We used to, when I went to grade
26 school, we used to have a book called Think and Do
27 Book. Think and do book. Will you read it, think
28 about it, and do it. They took that away, because it
29 was good. I know the U.S. government.

30
31 Well, anyway this last summer we, I, my
32 family didn't even put up not even one slab of king
33 salmon. I had to buy my king salmon, slabs. That's
34 very, very uncalled for, and it hurts. I have children
35 in Fairbanks and Anchorage. I had to buy my slabs to
36 bring some king salmon slabs to them. It is very sad,
37 and I'm not the only one that went through it.

38
39 This is not supposed to be happening to
40 me and my people. It's supposed to be vice versa. I'm
41 supposed to be asked before they put out something.
42 They make laws and rules and regulations before they
43 even get the people gathering and get their input.
44 That's very, very unconstitutional. If you know what
45 constitutional is. Very much unconstitutional. So
46 help me God, this summer if the good Lord gives me one
47 more day, I usually put up 20 slabs and that's all. I
48 don't -- 18 to 20 slabs to share with my children that
49 are not around Bethel and Akiak. So help me God, this
50 summer, if I live, I will and I will do it. I'm going

1 to try my best to put up 20 slabs. I don't care who
2 says what. I don't care if they put me in jail.
3 That's survival. King salmon, silver salmon, chum
4 salmon, they have different taste. They have different
5 oil taste. That's why we crave for king salmon,
6 because the oil is different from chum and silvers. I
7 will not go through this again so help me God.

8

9 My name is Lillian Lliaban. If you
10 want to put it in the computer, on your paper, do it.
11 I'm not going to criminalize myself, I'm going to try
12 my best to put 18 to 20 slabs if the king salmon comes
13 around. And I have told this before.

14

15 45, 46 years ago when I was working
16 down in Unalaska in a king crab cannery. I talk a lot,
17 not to hurt people, at the bars, public places. I like
18 to meet people. The foreman came over to me, I'm not
19 bragging about this. The foreman came up to me said,
20 Lillian, somebody would like to see you. And I says,
21 who? And there was an old man standing and he pointed
22 at him and he says, that guy. Oh, no, what did I do at
23 the bar? I hope I didn't punch his daughter or
24 whatever. Oh, no, I hope I didn't quarrel with him.
25 And I went up to him. And introduced himself, and I
26 introduced myself. And the foreman was telling me, he
27 wants an interpreter. And I says, interpreter? Yeah.
28 How about his own people, his family? They can
29 interpret for him. No, this is different, Lillian. He
30 wants to take you out to Seattle to interpret for him.
31 And I says, wow, hold on. Interpret for what? Hold
32 on. He says, he's telling -- he was saying that his
33 people are having tough time, that the Fish and Game
34 and the others are trying to stop them from getting
35 fish going into the -- to go spawn, and there's lots of
36 them. And I says, I didn't know nothing about
37 subsistence, and I didn't know nothing about
38 subsistence at the time. How about his own people?
39 He's got his own people, he's got his own council. No.
40 He went down to Seattle and Washington, D.C. and they
41 disappear, his interpreters. Oh, well. Finally I
42 says, yeah.

43

44 And then I went to his home. I'm not
45 Aleut, I don't know how to speak your lingo. We'll
46 figure it out. And he was talking as good as English
47 as I was. And I says how can you fool people like that?
48 You talk good English, you can back up yourself. You
49 can talk, you know. No, no, I'm old. The white man
50 doesn't know I speak English. He wouldn't know it

1 anyway. And I says, okay.

2

3 We went down to Seattle. I didn't
4 sleep all night, he didn't sleep all right. He was
5 saying -- I was putting down what he was saying. And
6 he says, okay. If we go up -- if you're going to
7 interpret for me, I will say it in Aleut and you take
8 your pad and say this, that I said this. And I says,
9 whoa, okay. We'll do that.

10

11 The next day we went to this big
12 building, and there was guys all over. A big building.
13 And there was a microphone on the middle of that, and
14 we went there, and I introduced him and I introduced
15 myself, that I was the interpreter, And we were from
16 Unalaska, and we were Aleuts. And every time he speak
17 Aleut, I looked at this pad and testify for him,
18 interpret for him every time. And I was sweating, and
19 I was scared, and thinking that they're going to come
20 and ask me -- and then we quit and we went out. And I
21 says, let's go back to the hotel, and he says, no,
22 we've got to talk some more. We have to. And I says,
23 no. And this guy came over with a suit, and he says,
24 thank you very, very much for interpreting for this old
25 man. And I says, you're welcome. Are we done? Yeah.
26 Whoa.

27

28 We went back to the hotel, and I says,
29 let's go home. Let's go back. And the next day we
30 went home, we went back to Unalaska, and I forgot all
31 about that, the testimony and all that. Weeks went by
32 and then he came into the cannery while I was working,
33 and the foreman came over to me and he says, he wants
34 to see you. And I went over and I shook his hand, and
35 hugged me, and he says, we made it. You made it, I made
36 it. I said, what do you mean, we made it? It passed.
37 My testimony and whatever we -- my testimony went
38 through and it passed, and we can subsist. We can fish
39 now, but certain amount of silvers or that was going up
40 to spawn at the lake, into the lake. The Natives can
41 do that. The Aleuts can do that. And I says, wow.
42 Just the one man, person, and me being interpreter.
43 That was something. That was something. No argument,
44 no nothing. He just said it the way that -- and I
45 didn't -- so help me God at the time I didn't know
46 nothing about subsistence. I did not know. On a quiet
47 way, not working against the State and the Federal, he
48 just -- all we do want is the fish to survive in the
49 wintertime. We don't have that kind of money, and it's
50 good for a body, mind, and soul to keep us healthy.

1 I thought about that once in a blue
2 moon, but lying? Whoa. Aleut. But it passed. I
3 passed as an Aleut, so that's some stuff, there is
4 things that we can work together. We don't have to,
5 you know, hate each other because of subsistence,
6 because of animals, because of this and that, fish and
7 game. There is some way to get together and work
8 together and accomplish something together. Let us
9 bloom. Let your work bloom, don't let it fade. If we
10 work together and understand each other, I think we'll
11 let something bloom, not let it go fade. If we work
12 against each other, nothing is going to be
13 accomplished. But if we work together, understand each
14 other, we'll let the flower bloom.

15
16 You guys have a nice day. Don't
17 question me, I don't have the answers.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Lillian.

22
23 (Applause)

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next, Mr. Tim Andrew.

26
27 Mr. T. ANDREW: Good morning, Mr.
28 Chairman, members of the Council.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning, Mr.
31 Andrew.

32
33 MR. T. ANDREW: I hope you all had a
34 wonderful night of sleep, and I know you have a lot of
35 issues that you have to work with today and throughout
36 the remainder of the day. And a lot of these are very
37 important issues that our people are facing.

38
39 My name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the
40 director of Natural Resources for AVCP. I've been in
41 this position since 1996.

42
43 And over the years I've seen some
44 disturbing trends. But first I'd like to mention what
45 I'm going to be talking about is the rural
46 determination process, but I'd like to start with a
47 quote from one of the people that used to be very
48 active in our AVCP conventions in the past. Her name
49 is Marianne Emmonak from Emmonak. And what she said in
50 the Village Journey, and this is a quote from the

1 Village Journey, because my roots are from Alaska, I'm
2 the heartbeat of Alaska. I breath, I walk, I eat what
3 it offers from the land and the sea. I guess I want
4 people in general to respect all the tribes of Alaska
5 Natives, because we were the very roots of Alaska. And
6 over the last 20 years people have been driving it into
7 me that we are Alaska Natives. It doesn't matter where
8 we live; it doesn't matter where we choose to work at.
9 It doesn't matter how much money we make. It doesn't
10 matter if we have no money a million dollars or
11 whatever. It doesn't matter what we -- or how much we
12 make, where we live. We still crave our food.

13

14 You've heard from Ms. Lliaban and from
15 Mr. Phillip and Mr. Nick, and many other people that
16 have testified before you that we crave our food. And
17 now with the modern technology that we have, we're able
18 to connect with people from -- Alaska Natives that live
19 in Anchorage, Seattle, it doesn't matter where in the
20 world. But each and every one of us crave the food
21 that we were raised with.

22

23 And this dangerous trend I've seen is
24 with the rural determination process. You know, we've
25 -- and the Community of Bethel skirted that issue a
26 couple years ago. Unfortunately we've seen other
27 communities fall, because of rural determination. You
28 take a look at the Native Village of Eklutna, the
29 Native Village of Kenai, Native Village of Nikolski,
30 and others across the State that feel victim to the
31 rural determination process. And you've seen in the
32 proposals that the people, I can't quite remember which
33 community it was, but in the Kasilof River, one of the
34 tribes were able to set one net for the entire tribe.
35 And that currently exists on the Kenai River. The
36 Kenaitze, the people that live in Kenai, the Native
37 people, can only set one net to feed -- what they
38 inherently grew up with to feed that hunger, to feed
39 that craving. Ms. Lliaban put it quite eloquently that
40 this is what people depend on for their sustenance, for
41 their food.

42

43 And over the years we've experienced
44 shortages of Chinook salmon both on the Yukon and
45 Kuskokwim Rivers. It's occurring everywhere. You
46 heard from Ms. Cleveland yesterday that the shortage of
47 king salmon is starting to occur in the Kanektok River.
48 And it's been like that for the Chinook salmon up in
49 the Unalakleet River as well. And we've seen shortage
50 of chum salmon up in the Norton Sound, communities of

1 Nome and White Mountain, Elim, and Golovin, in the
2 Norton Sound area, and how devastating it is to the
3 people of those communities. They no longer -- I mean,
4 when we were up there in the 2010 for the North Pacific
5 Fisheries Management Council meeting, we took a tour of
6 what used to be (interference on teleconference).

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Would whoever is on
9 the teleconference please mute your phone. If not, you
10 can press 0-6 and that will mute your phone.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: Star-6 I believe it is.

13

14 MR. T. ANDREW: But we've seen the
15 devastating impacts of shortages of chum salmon in that
16 area. What used to be a thriving fish camp, families
17 coming together to harvest, to process chum salmon, the
18 Nome fish camp area, I can't remember what the name of
19 the area was, but it's totally devastated. I mean, all
20 the buildings are starting to fall apart. All the fish
21 racks that they used to have are starting to fall
22 apart. Nobody goes there any more. And what areas
23 that are surviving, there's very little. And we're
24 facing that situation here.

25

26 And how will rural determination help?
27 The only objective of rural determination that we see
28 is that it limits people from harvesting the resources
29 that they need.

30

31 And the disturbing trend that I'd like
32 to point out that I've been seeing is the amount of
33 fish that people are able to get to get that taste.
34 Last summer I believe it was -- there was a cultural
35 permit, or a cultural education permit, or social
36 permit that is being issued for each community along
37 the Kuskokwim River. You know, 100 for Bethel, and
38 perhaps 50 for Akiachak, and 36 for Napakiak and
39 Napaskiak. And some of our villages within the
40 Kuskokwim River did not participate in that. They did
41 not go out and get their 36 or 100 allocation, because
42 it was too devastating. It hurt them. It hurt them
43 inside, because people were starting to fight. People
44 were starting to talk about, you know, I need this
45 much, I need that much, and it could not satisfy the
46 needs of the entire community. We have the elders
47 fisheries that is starting to go on as well, too.

48

49 And those are little bits and pieces of
50 various laws that our regulators, our managers have

1 available to them. Like, for example, Tier II.
2 Starting to skirt around those issues as far as Chinook
3 salmon management. And moving more and more toward the
4 rural determination process of eliminating our
5 dependence on the resource.

6
7 You know, what Marianne Emmonak says,
8 because we are the very roots of Alaska. You know, our
9 people have been here even prior to the establishment
10 of Alaska, prior to the establishment of the Territory
11 of Alaska, before the Russians. And then one of the
12 quotes that I've heard in the past is that my ancestors
13 are buried here; therefore, I am Alaska.

14
15 We can never take away our dependence
16 from our resources, for moose, for bear, for caribou,
17 for fish, for blackfish, for whitefish. Those are the
18 foods that we grew up. Muskox perhaps. And food from
19 the sea as well.

20
21 And I say this, because I also have a
22 brother that lives in Kenai. He's a Russian Orthodox
23 priest, that he's stationed there by orders from the
24 bishop. So he basically has no choice in his work that
25 he does. He still craves the birds, the fish, the
26 moose, and things that he grew up on the Yukon River.
27 And because of the rural determination process he's not
28 able to come out and actively participate getting -- or
29 harvest the food that he grew up.

30
31 So, you know, in my eyes, I see it as a
32 dangerous process to eliminate the Alaska Native
33 dependance on our resources. You know, unfortunately
34 it's a law that our managers have to abide by. It's
35 regulations that they have to abide by.

36
37 You know, I may say things that are
38 scathing to some of our managers, but I say these
39 things because it's reality. It's what we depend on
40 for our food. And I say this, I say things that might
41 be scathing and might be hurtful for people in our
42 management system, but it's for the people that I work
43 for, for you, for many of you in our villages, for our
44 future, for our grandchildren, great grandchildren,
45 future generations of the Yup'ik and Athabascan people
46 of the AVCP region. And if I had ever offended, it's
47 my apology, and I hope that we be forgiven in the
48 restaurants and tradition that I'm in. But the rural
49 determination process in my opinion, it's a dangerous
50 road that we're going down.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for sharing
4 your comments, Tim, and we appreciate all the work that
5 you've done for us in the past and you will be doing in
6 the future.

7

8 Any questions for Mr. -- go ahead, Mr.
9 Smith.

10

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

12

13 Tim, is AVCP working with ONC, because
14 I know I heard a testimony from Greg Roczicka yesterday
15 regarding the process. And is AVCP working with other
16 Native organizations regarding this issue.

17

18 MR. T. ANDREW: We try our best to work
19 with other Native organizations. We try to work with
20 all of our villages. We also work with the Alaska
21 Federation of Natives, which a composition of regional
22 and village corporations for tribes and also other
23 regional nonprofit organizations. In addressing some
24 of these subsistence issues, we try and develop
25 supporting resolutions, supporting letters. Whenever
26 our fellow brothers and sister tribes get into this
27 situation, we try to get them out of it whichever way
28 possible.

29

30 And, you know, unfortunately the
31 Federal management system, subsistence management
32 system works for what they call the national interest.
33 It's part of ANILCA, Alaska National Interest Lands
34 Conservation Act. And for much of the decisionmaking
35 process, the Secretary of Interior has the final say.
36 You know, we make various trips, I'm not saying myself,
37 but the Alaska Native contingent makes a lot of trips
38 to Washington, D.C. and try to talk with the Secretary
39 of Interior, to talk to our Congressional delegation
40 and other delegations. I've been on one of those trips
41 and provided testimony before the Senate Committee on
42 Oceans. They do listen and they -- at some point they
43 do listen, and it's really important that if you feel
44 strongly about an issue that you write letters to your
45 Congressman or send emails or make comments whenever
46 you have the opportunity.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

49

50 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman and Mr. Tim

1 Andrew. Now with AVCP, I know you work with AVCP, and
2 I would like to thank you for all your work, because,
3 you know, when we do have a meeting and stuff like
4 that, there's always a follow up from you, and you
5 always give out good information to the communities,
6 not just Marshall, but Russian Mission and all over.
7 And I know that you travel in the Kuskokwim and the
8 coastal villages, and when you do, you know, you always
9 give out information to the local residents and help
10 them quite a bit.

11
12 And I would like to thank Alex Nick,
13 too, because he, you know, help out the Native villages
14 over there on the Yukon. Not just the Yukon, but, you
15 know, for helping and giving the right information.
16 And like with Staff, there's always like a follow up,
17 you know. And that's all. I want to thank you and
18 AVCP and Alex Nick, and, you know, the people that you
19 work with over there. Not just over there, but what I
20 mean by over there is on the Yukon, with the Kuskokwim
21 and the coastal villages on the Yukon Delta. And
22 there's always a follow up all up on what -- that when
23 we do request for something, you know, there's always
24 an answer. And I just want to thank you, Mr. Andrew
25 and Alex Nick, you know, to let the people know.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
30 comments, Mr. Andrew.

31
32 Did you have something to say?

33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Next on our
37 list -- well, let's take a five-minute break and then
38 we'll come back -- okay. Ten minutes, and then we'll
39 come back in. We've got three more people that are
40 going to be testifying on different subjects here, and
41 then after that.....

42
43 (Off record)

44
45 (On record)

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And can I ask that the
48 people that are going to be testifying, we have a
49 number of them, about or five more people that are
50 going to be coming up to speak and make comments to us,

1 and we would like to ask that if something is being
2 said -- or has been said, that if you don't repeat what
3 was already been said, we'd appreciate that, because
4 there's a number of us that will need to leave prior to
5 5:00 o'clock this evening. So if we can move this
6 meeting along, we'd appreciate it.

7

8 Next on the list of people who would
9 like to testify is Paul Jenkins. After that will be
10 Adolph Lupie. After Mr. Lupie will be Mr. Martin
11 Nicolai. After Mr. Nicolai will be James Nicori.
12 After James Nicori will be Dorothy Johnson. So you see
13 the amount of people that want to testify, but if
14 you're going to come in front, please pay attention to
15 what is being said.

16

17 Thank you. Yes, Mr. Aloysius.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Five-minute talks, you
20 know, because we'll be going all day.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I think if you
23 could keep your testimony within 10 minutes, it would
24 be good. If not, then we'll listen to whatever you
25 have to say.

26

27 Mr. Jenkins, go ahead.

28

29 MR. JENKINS: Yeah. (Microphone not on)
30 As Toshi (ph) said about yesterday.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You could speak in
33 Yup'ik.

34

35 MR. JENKINS: I want to approach
36 because it's important, really important for the whole
37 Alaska. And you talk about the wolves yesterday. In
38 McGrath there was one person, Kweth is not far away
39 from here. They went upriver with their snowmachine.
40 Good thing their snow machine was running. And then
41 four wolves, they go after him. He continued -- this
42 is about 20 years ago or maybe 19 years ago. They had
43 enough snow to run their snowmachine, try hard to
44 escape from the wolves. It would be the same thing for
45 a bear bothering the people in the Yukon River. That
46 was good. Because your soul and my soul is going to
47 live forever, it's important to me and important to all
48 the people. It's better to kill the bear, what I heard
49 yesterday. And this guy try hard to escape the wolves.
50 It would be better for him to kill the wolves, because

1 your soul is important. You brought everything to
2 Alaska, because you live. And then finally go away
3 from the wolves. He finally reached that house way over
4 there, the last one. He reached that house and he got
5 into it. It would be better for him to kill all the
6 wolves. Escape from the wolves.

7

8 Oh, there's another one I want to
9 brought it to you. I told you about people when they
10 fill their rack, that that means they killed the
11 winter. Eskimos.

12

13 And then last year after the king
14 season, I went upriver. Nothing happening in the fish
15 camps. There used to be lots of king salmon hanging
16 and drying up. Last year there was nothing. Nothing
17 hanging. When we save just two of them match each
18 other.

19

20 I was in Portland, Oregon, biggest
21 garden I ever seen in United States. When they starve
22 in the spring time, when it gets -- they put the sage
23 in the garden. Nothing is going to hide (ph) for
24 Alaska. I heard the people say they shoot all the
25 geeses when they start eating the garden. Shoot all
26 the geeses and gather them together and burned them.
27 They blame it on Alaska. That was about five or six
28 years ago.

29

30 They limit Alaska only for five geeses
31 in the summer. Me and my friend, we didn't listen to
32 it, because five geeses, it wouldn't last very long.
33 We had another for other kid (ph). You see, the
34 Eskimos like to get all fat ones. Fat geeses. We
35 don't shoot -- I don't shoot skinny geeses. I killed a
36 black one, little fish, smaller than geese. That's the
37 kind, there were lots over in my old, old place.
38 That's the kind I like them. When we don't have
39 freezer that time, many years ago, I had to get the
40 ground, frozen ground, fixed about one foot, and put
41 down what I like, birds put them together, cover them.
42 That was my -- old man Wassillie, he taught me too
43 many, some important things. I stored them in July -- I
44 mean, in January when the Russians have Shavik (ph). I
45 told my wife, I'm going to take the geeses so we can
46 feed the people.

47

48 The best I ever eat. Store them in the
49 ground, frozen ground. That's the kind I used when I
50 was able to do anything. Before I got into second

1 world war, I do that. And after I'm discharged from
2 the second world war, I do it again. That makes me
3 happy. I heard about the biggest garden, it match with
4 the Eskimo way. You say biggest garden in Portland,
5 Oregon, when they growing up, that means they killed
6 the winter.

7

8 Eskimos, when they're hanging up, dry
9 them for their dogs and for themselves, we killed the
10 winter. They're going to live in the winter, all
11 winter. Use those what they dry. It is important for
12 us to know each other.

13

14 (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: We always need to
17 recognize each other, and it will be the best way
18 according to our Yup'ik way of life. It's been a long
19 time since I was born, many years.

20

21 MR. JENKINS: Many years. A long time
22 ago, there was no religion for me. I asked my oldest
23 brother, do we have a church, or go to church? He
24 said, one only -- once in a whole year, one time only
25 go to church. And I didn't know anything about God.
26 I didn't know anything about everything, about the
27 Bible, don't have Bible, old time, long time ago.

28

29 And if we understand, we met United
30 States in the biggest garden, when they grow enough,
31 they killed the winter, And then Eskimos, when they
32 dry enough, hang the fish, they will kill the winter.
33 The same match with each of them. I don't want anybody
34 go against the Eskimo's way, because the way we stand
35 up, we live, live what we store in Alaska.

36

37 (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: We need to understand the
40 way we live. My ears.....

41

42 MR. JENKINS: My ears, nobody will
43 close it. What I understand I keep in my way. I use
44 the law, Eskimo law, old people they taught me (In
45 Yup'ik) many years when I was a boy. And then I used
46 them. No trouble, when you follow the order, the
47 Eskimo way, no trouble for me.

48

49 It is better for us to -- I heard the
50 people were in the Lower 48 kill all the geeses and

1 gathered them and burned them in the biggest garden
2 place. That's not right. They blamed it on Alaska,
3 which I didn't follow, because five geeses, it won't be
4 enough for me in the whole winter.

5
6 I forgot what I tell you yesterday, it
7 is better for me, better for us to love each other.
8 Let the people -- let them get something that they can
9 use for a whole winter. It will be best.

10
11 (In Yup'ik)

12
13 INTERPRETER: I'm making comment
14 because I didn't make any comment. I thank these two
15 individuals.

16
17 MR. JENKINS: I'm glad you guys come
18 over and have meeting here. And you understand Eskimo
19 way now, I hope so. That's all I have.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
24 Jenkins.

25
26 (Applause)

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next is Adolph Lupie.

29
30 MR. LUPIE: Good morning. My name is
31 Adolph Lupie from Tuntutuliak, representing Qinamiut
32 Corporation. It's a Native village corporation.

33
34 On the first item, there was a concern
35 about only one testimony concerning the customary and
36 traditional use. I just want to elaborate to the
37 advisors here that when one speaks and when we agree,
38 we don't come up and speak for it.

39
40 The other one, if we don't really
41 understand what the issue is, we don't come up and
42 speak for it, because it needs to be understood and do
43 new research. And if we really understand the issue,
44 we will come up and really speak for real concerns.

45
46 So I just wanted to tell the advisors
47 here that even one testimony was brought up yesterday
48 that most of us people agree with that testimony was.

49
50 And the next item, last year Qinamiut

1 Corporation suggested to have a triple management.
2 Dual management is not meaningful, Federal and State.
3 It's not real meaningful, because the tribe do not
4 involve on the issues that are brought up. On triple
5 management, Federal, State and tribe, they'll get help
6 from the tribe, those managers will get help from tribe
7 instead of disagree. They will have unity in a
8 management.

9

10 We've been having -- Our next item,
11 we've been hearing about this sustainable fisheries,
12 and also wildlife. One of the things in the Magnuson
13 Act, I've been reading, I understand it doesn't really
14 affect in this area. It affects all the way to the
15 east coast, Maine, where they have lobsters, tuna fish,
16 even down in New Orleans somewhere do fish are being
17 affected, too, by that. You know, some of them are not
18 sustaining.

19

20 So some of the professionals today,
21 they need to upgrade their method of studying fish.
22 The technology is available right now. They need to
23 use more effective technology to monitor our fish and
24 wildlife.

25

26 And these statistics, the way their
27 study last, they're being -- they randomly put a check
28 place along the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River. There
29 are some spots, they don't really give sound data. To
30 improve these decisions and minimize error, they need
31 to have more -- the way they're saying is that, you
32 know, we put weirs, these are useful, and soar, and all
33 those things are useful for those scientists. But for
34 the Natives, which they're not really relying on those,
35 when we speak as Natives, we don't bring any data.
36 It's brought from our own mind, and it's passed down to
37 the generations. And we have science, All four seasons
38 have a science that will tell the amount of fish and
39 wildlife that will be doing for the summer. I hope you
40 guys understand this. Our Native way of management is
41 more -- we've been around here, so we know the science,
42 what kind of fish and how they will be sustained.

43

44

45 And my last -- there's -- we understand
46 that, right now I'm speaking to the Council and they
47 are advisors to the Federal Subsistence Board, they are
48 called Board. And the Board, they report to the
49 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. And the way
50 I'm sitting here and telling you guys that how far does

1 our voice go. Does it stop here at the Council, not
2 brought up to the Board, or the Board receives it and
3 they don't address those concerns to Secretary of
4 Interior. If you shoot an arrow, how far does it go?
5 Does it come to the -- fall short, not going to the
6 distance.

7
8 And my last comment right now, that
9 lady, Lillian, already reaching the law enforcements
10 that are -- they're speaking, it's the law, and we will
11 use law enforcements to enforce our rules and
12 regulations. And Paul Jenkins just mentioned we
13 Natives have our law that's been passed down, so when
14 we exercise our own law, we become outlaw, that's how
15 they see us.

16
17 And I think this meeting. It's my
18 second meeting. I start participating since last year.
19 Thank you for attention, Chairman. Quyana.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Lupie.
22 As far as your question concerned about how far our
23 work goes, we work, as you stated, as advisors to the
24 Subsistence Board. And they take our proposals, the
25 proposals you guys presented, that if we adopt them or
26 support them, then they work on them, and whenever they
27 adopt any of our proposals, it then becomes law and
28 goes into this book. Every proposal that we worked on
29 ends up in this book if it's passed by the Subsistence
30 Board. Okay?

31
32 MR. LUPIE: Yeah. Quyana.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
35 comments.

36
37 Next on our comment list is Mr. Martin
38 Nicolai.

39
40 MR. NICOLAI: Martin Nicolai from
41 Kwethluk. Thank you for opportunity to speak to you.

42
43 We've heard that the moose population
44 is growing here in the Lower Kuskokwim. And for the
45 past several years, we've had only quota of 100 moose
46 to take. And we were hoping last fall to have the
47 quota raised, but that never happened. So this is a
48 message from my hometown to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 and the Fish and game that we'd like to see a raise i
50 the harvest quota, maybe even up to 150. And that's

1 all I have to say about that.

2

3 And the next one is since we are very
4 restricted in taking Chinook, and we will be this
5 summer most likely, I hope to see an allocation for
6 each village of taking at least some Chinook for just
7 to have them taste, but at the same time there is still
8 a lot of activity of sports fishermen going up to the
9 rivers and that never stops the whole summer. And if
10 they could be prohibited somehow, because when they're
11 sportfishing with rod and reel, they're not only
12 catching the smaller fish like reds and chum, but
13 they're also catching the king salmon. They might
14 release them -- they are releasing them, yes, but, you
15 know, when you play with a fish for a long time, you
16 just take away their strength. And there's got to be
17 some harm in that when you're playing with a fish until
18 it has no more strength, you harm the fish in some way.

19

20

21 And that's what my people don't like
22 about sportfishing. Catch and release. We were always
23 told to -- if we catch something, we don't throw it
24 back. We keep it. We keep it to eat and take home.
25 So another message to these organizations that take
26 care of the stopping of any fishing activity to include
27 the sportfishing up in our rivers.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
32 comments.

33

34 Next on the list is Mr. James Nicori.

35

36 MR. NICORI: Good afternoon. Good
37 morning. Again my name is James Nicori. I'm from
38 Kwethluk.

39

40 And thank you for giving me time to
41 speak on this rural determination. Sometimes it gets
42 to be a touchy subject, especially when it gets to
43 hunting and fishing. As you know, the people with more
44 population in their area gets to take most of the fish
45 and game that is allotted to a unit or the area. And
46 that happened last fall at moose season. Some of us
47 came back from hunting and they told us moose closed
48 two days ago. When we go hunting, we don't bring along
49 a radio or something to listen to. We go hunting, and
50 that's what we go for. And most of the allotted 100

1 bulls in our area I believe went to -- a bigger part of
2 it went to Bethel, because there's more people hunting
3 from here than the other villages. Like us in the
4 villages, as you know, the land around us and the river
5 is our supermarket. That's our Fred Meyer's and Carr's
6 store. We get all our food from there, from the river
7 and the land, our main supermarket. And we depend on
8 it for the winter.

9
10 And if there was to be a season for
11 hunting moose, we would like to see a different number
12 for the populated area, and a different number for the
13 villages, which would balance us for hunting and
14 fishing. As you know, you very well know, that when
15 you put it on the balance, balance weight, one will go
16 higher than the other. And the more moose is going to
17 a different population, populated area, the less
18 populated area - a different populated area the less
19 populated area will have less fish and game. And that
20 is getting to be a problem to the villages where they
21 are starting to -- I don't want to say it, but it have
22 to come out. It's like we are becoming criminals
23 trying to get our food when we couldn't get it in the
24 falltime. And you know that. Everybody knows that.
25 And we don't want to do that, but when it comes to feed
26 our family, we have to make a hard decision like that.

27
28 Rural determination. That's a very
29 touchy subject when it comes to that. And that should
30 be looked on very careful. Don't rush into it. Just
31 study it good. If it's going to work, to it.

32
33 Quyana.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Nicori.

36
37 MR. NICORI: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next person on the
40 list is Mrs. Dorothy Johnson.

41
42 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. I'm
43 Dorothy Johnson from Mountain Village. This is -- I'm
44 doing this on behalf of, you know, all the people who
45 do all the fish catching. And I've been a subsistence
46 user all my life.

47
48 But, you know, last year I had
49 witnessed -- excuse me, I'm nervous -- a BLM plane
50 landing and downstream from my parents' fish camp.

1 They went to this fish camp and I don't know if they're
2 supposed to be threatening people, like if we find king
3 salmon hanging in your fish racks, we're going to take
4 all your hard work and, you know, do what with it. We
5 work hard, you know, trying to subsist in our
6 lifestyle. You know, subsistence, as subsistence
7 users. But if we're going to get threatened by BLM or
8 whoever, Fish and Wildlife, they're come to us and take
9 all our hard work away. You know, we're living in
10 fear. It's hard. Sorry. But this has been on my mind
11 for a while.

12
13 And, I mean, it's a lot of work. We go
14 out, we dipnet, and then we have to use like, you know,
15 some of these people that are doing their testimonies,
16 they say four inches, you know, 60 feet long. You can
17 keep those out all night long, or 24/7, but, you know,
18 that's not going to give us our king salmon. You know,
19 we do -- everybody use that. We've been -- I grew up
20 on it, and it's hard when we have to -- you know, if
21 they tell us, if you catch a king salmon, if it's dead,
22 you could keep it, but if it's alive, you have to throw
23 it away -- I mean, throw it back into the river. How
24 am I -- how -- you know, and then if we caught a king
25 salmon that was like, for instance they say if it's
26 dead, we can keep it, and we cut it and we hang it to
27 dry, how are they going to come in and determine
28 whether this -- oh, yeah, this one's dead, no, this one
29 was alive, and take all our hard word off the racks.
30 And what do they do with them? They say they'll take
31 all the fish from our smokehouses and all the fish from
32 our racks, and they take people's fishing gear, and
33 their boats, and their permits, and we're supposed to
34 live in fear, but yet, you know, we're fighting for our
35 subsistence rights. You know that's -- it's unfair.
36 It's really unfair for us. We live for subsistence.
37 You know, I've done all my life. I'm sorry, I'm really
38 emotional right now, because it bothers me.

39
40 But I don't want to live in fear any
41 more with the wildlife troopers flying around to each
42 -- are they randomly going to every fish camp or are
43 they supposed to go to each fish camp and go through
44 everybody's fish that we caught? Are they supposed to
45 do that? I've never seen that happen. I don't want to
46 work hard, you know, trying to catch all the fish, you
47 know, with dipnet, whether it's dipnet or whether it's
48 a four-inch, you know, or whatever.

49
50 But, you know, it doesn't seem right

1 that I have to work hard to have some wildlife trooper
2 or somebody come in and tell me if I have one salmon or
3 Chinook or jack or whatever it is that we're not
4 supposed to -- you know, if it's regulated, we're not
5 supposed to, but if it's dead and they catch it, you
6 know, they see it in our fish rack or smokehouse, they
7 take all the fish. I mean, they leave us with nothing.
8 And then -- I mean, I just want to point that out.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Did you -- pardon me.
11 Did you know which enforcement personnel that was?
12 From Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife?

13

14 MS. JOHNSON: Well, they fly around in
15 a blue and white plane.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish and Game.

18

19 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. And they're going
20 randomly to fish camps and take -- I don't know what
21 they're doing, you know, but I know they take people's
22 permits, their gear, their boat, their everything. How
23 are we supposed to live? You know, we don't make a lot
24 of money out in the village. Unemployment is very
25 high, you know. We have a high rate of unemployment.
26 But still, you know, we dwell on that. We do it every
27 year. It's our lifestyle. But to have Fish and Game
28 come and take that away from us, you know. Are they
29 going to be giving us food for the winter? I don't
30 think so.

31

32 So I just wanted to point that out.
33 It's hard. Everything's changing. Too many
34 regulations. Y2 I know is regulated really hard.
35 Every summer we get regulated, and like it's getting
36 worse every year. I just wanted to point that out
37 myself, because I know from my parents' camp
38 downstream, we have neighbors and Fish and Game went to
39 their camp and they told them, if they find one king
40 salmon hanging in their racks, you know, they'll take
41 all their hard work. But I don't know what they do
42 with them. But I think it's important to know.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Dorothy.

45

46 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anybody from Fish and
49 Game here?

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm with Fish and Game,
2 but I'm a wildlife biologist, and I can't speak to
3 that.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, I was just
6 wanting to know. The question that Dorothy asked was
7 what kind of authority Fish and Game has to come into
8 the villages or to the camps and randomly take, as we
9 stated.....

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Not Fish and Game. It's
12 the wildlife troopers.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, whoever was
15 there at that -- and if somebody could answer that
16 question for us. Mr. Bue, do you have an answer to
17 that?

18
19 MR. BUE: That would be for the Alaska
20 State Troopers, the wildlife. I can't answer that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, that will Alaska
23 State Troopers?

24
25 MR. BUE: Yeah.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We need to
28 find, to get an answer to what the policy of the
29 troopers are concerning this. If you might answer
30 that, Mr. Bue, we'd appreciate that.

31
32 MR. BUE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. My name's Fred Bue. I'm with U.S. Fish and
34 Wildlife Service.

35
36 I can't speak for the troopers, I can't
37 speak for law enforcement, but to my knowledge last
38 year nobody was cited for harvesting Chinook salmon.
39 We encourage people to avoid Chinook salmon. Like the
40 lady said, I really appreciate her speaking up. We
41 don't -- we try to encourage people just avoid king
42 salmon. Four-inch nets. We're trying to give people
43 an opportunity to fish for something else. We don't
44 want to close all fishing.

45
46 Last year there was an incident further
47 upriver where the troopers visited a fish camp and
48 people were using their four-inch nets in an eddy to
49 catch king salmon, and they weren't trying to catch
50 ciscos or other fish. And so rather than -- no gear

1 was taken away from them, they were not cited, but what
2 happened was that we closed fishing with four-inch nets
3 at that point, because it was an uncontrollable
4 fishery. There was no regulation that says that you
5 can't catch a salmon in a four-inch net. Whatever you
6 catch in there is dead, you can't throw it back,
7 because it's a wasting problem.

8

9 And so when we do try to provide an
10 opportunity to use some other gear, that's the idea, to
11 give -- everybody has a different fishing eddy in front
12 of their area. The water is different. We can't micro
13 manage, you know, how people use their net, you know.
14 On the coast, they have tides, they have winds; upriver
15 they have little sloughs and glacial rivers. And every
16 situation is different. And so we try to leave it up
17 to the fishermen to avoid king salmon. Everybody's
18 relying on each other to take care of those fish.

19

20 But when it seems like if there's
21 something's being abused, then we have to do something
22 about it, because we can't control fishing. So we did
23 do that last year.

24

25 But to my knowledge, I don't know of
26 anybody who's actually had their gear taken away last
27 year, or fish taken off of their fish racks. And I
28 can't control a lot of stories that get passed along,
29 and they seem to take on a life of their own. But I
30 know that it's very real to people out there in the
31 communities, and communication is difficult to
32 understand what each other is saying.

33

34 I hope that helps. Mr. Chairman.

35

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Bue.

38

39 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. I've got a
40 clarification question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

43

44 MR. SMITH: We heard the lady talk
45 about the people coming in and basically threatening.
46 And then I'm hearing from you is that you have no
47 knowledge of any law enforcement doing that. So is
48 there any communication between either the wildlife
49 troopers or Fish and Wildlife regarding these specific
50 cases here.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Bue.

2

3 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 Mr. Smith, again I'm not sure if I'm
6 communicating well. The troopers, the Federal law
7 enforcement people do visit camps to see how they're
8 doing. You know, some people do -- they are catching
9 to see if people are abiding by the laws. When we say
10 no salmon fishing, then people shouldn't have eight-
11 inch nets in the river and that sort of thing. And
12 that's what they check for.

13

14 But as far as communication, we try to
15 speak with the troopers, law enforcement, with the
16 Refuge law enforcement. They try to visit a number of
17 our meetings throughout the year. We try to speak with
18 them prior to the season, let them know what to expect,
19 what the fishing situation might be out there, what
20 gear to expect out there, where the fishing is going to
21 be difficult, when to be there versus when they should
22 be watching the migratory birds and different things,
23 trying to plan their enforcement program.

24

25 I think also, you know, if you have
26 messages for us for the law enforcement, I think that's
27 -- you know, please pass it on to us and we can pass it
28 on to them, or I can give you phone numbers and
29 contacts that make sure that the communication is going
30 both ways.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

35

36 MR. PETERS: Fred, you know, when
37 someone like this lady coming from the Yukon, is there
38 some sort of follow up, just like what you said,
39 there's whatever, you know, when they do give out
40 citations and stuff like that, and the individual --
41 this individual person's trying to put up fish for the
42 winter, and I think somewhere along the line -- you
43 know, I'm not trying to criticize anybody. I think
44 somewhere along the line today, coming from the
45 Department of whoever, or stuff like that, is that they
46 need to do a follow up on this if this is happening on
47 the river, or wherever, because by have it down black
48 and white, there's something, or who -- like what my
49 indication was, who does she report to, or like some
50 kind of protection, or, you know, just like what I'm

1 trying to say or indicate is where do they get some
2 sort of help to see if this -- where do they get their
3 protection in the villages, you see, along with this,
4 because, you know, once they get served a citation, it
5 make it look bad on our people. What I mean by our
6 people is the people that live along the Yukon, and
7 some of the elders don't quite understand English, or
8 the younger people. I think someone need to do a
9 follow up or do a study to where that -- with
10 indication where that they're going to help out the
11 local people, and not be -- you know, to have that
12 burden on them, or something that could affect the way
13 -- what I mean by affect, is not have anything taken
14 away from the way how they -- with the subsistence on
15 salmon and whatever.

16

17 But what I would like to see is someone
18 help out these individuals that are having something to
19 help the people, you know, from your department or if
20 you could get some sort of answers from the Department
21 or whoever, because I know there's availability for
22 follow up.

23

24 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Any other
27 questions or statements. If you could keep them short,
28 I'd appreciate it.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 Last summer up at my village we had
33 four people that had their whitefish nets taken away,
34 and their catches. And maybe a couple of them were
35 asking the tribal officer to get their fishing gear
36 back. They never got them back. And then I had an
37 experience with a couple of the brown coats. They used
38 to -- they'd come when I check whitefish net, they'd
39 come over here and check my boat out and check the
40 gear, but they never do.

41

42 But when I went out hunting for moose,
43 I had the same story. A guy came to check my gear and
44 to look at my crab pots, and he says, where's your
45 license? And I opened my grub box and found I didn't
46 have it. That guy threatened to give me a citation,
47 and he told me to go home. And my home was better than
48 30 miles away. I ran back to the village. By the time
49 I got my license and went back, it was too dark to see,
50 almost too dark to see.

1 Those things are going on, but the guys
2 that are actually out on the river trying to enforce
3 what's on their books and the laws, they'll deny it.
4 We've see it. We hear of it. People that come from a
5 nearby village, they can vouch for that, too.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

12
13 If anyone experiences what this young
14 lady did, date and time, put it down. Write down the
15 date and the time, the number of the airplane, and the
16 name of the wildlife trooper. That's your protection.
17 And what they did. That is what your responsibility is
18 as a person who's affected by something like this.
19 Date and time, what the incident was, the airplane
20 number, and the name of the wildlife trooper. That you
21 can -- if you have it written down, and if there's any
22 witnesses to that, have them ready to testify to that,
23 because it's not right for enforcement to do something
24 like that. So make sure that you write it down, date
25 and time, airplane number, the name of the trooper.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
30 Aloysius.

31
32 Mr. Roczicka.

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

35
36 I'd add onto that, Bob, that if they
37 happen to be in a boat, they'll have a boat number as
38 well. But I find that to be a good concluding
39 statement on this issue.

40
41 And actually we're facing a crunch time
42 here, and one of the most important issues in my mind
43 that we have to deal with, or that is on our agenda
44 right now is that co-management project that's been put
45 into place as a result of the Secretary's announcement
46 to AFN last year, and there is movement on that. And
47 the folks that are here to make that presentation have
48 really gone out of their way to be here, but have to be
49 gone again on the 12:30 plane, so with that, I'd like
50 to move for a suspension of the rules at this point in

1 time to hear that presentation.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We'll suspend
4 the rules at this time.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Bue for your assistance.

7

8 And, Ms. Fleek, do you have.....

9

10 MS. FLEEK: I'm just setting up the
11 PowerPoint.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We have you
14 suspending the rules to have who?

15

16 MR. ROCZICKA: To hear the -- get the
17 presentation on the Kuskokwim co-management
18 demonstration project. It is also being addressed for
19 the Yukon on down the line.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Sky, you've got
22 the floor.

23

24 MR. STARKEY: Quyana, Mr. Chair.

25

26 Maybe you should just.....

27

28 MS. FLEEK: Go to slide show?

29

30 MR. STARKEY: There you go. Okay.

31

32 So my name's Sky Starkey. I'm honored
33 to be here with many of you who are leaders who have
34 been working for many, many years on the subsistence
35 issues in the Y-K.

36

37 And so throughout out those years, of
38 course, many of you have spoken about the need for
39 Alaska Native people and tribes to be more greatly
40 involved in the management of your subsistence
41 resources. And now after many years of talking about
42 it, last year at the Alaska Federation of Natives
43 Deputy Secretary Connor of the Department of Interior
44 announced that indeed the Department of Interior was
45 going to do a demonstration project on the Kuskokwim
46 River for co-management that involves the Intertribal
47 Fish Commission.

48

49 So the Intertribal Fish Commission's
50 were first officially adopted as a priority for AVCP

1 back in 2012, March of 2012 at a salmon summit that was
2 held there. And the tribes on the Yukon and Kuskokwim
3 broke apart and passed a resolution which, if any of
4 you are interested in, you could get from AVCP, that
5 laid out a very detailed process for developing
6 intertribal fish commissions for the Yukon and
7 Kuskokwim, looking for Federal legislation that would
8 establish these commissions and put them into co-
9 management. And so as a result of that, after finally
10 now in 2015, the Secretary of the Interior is willing
11 to do this, and the Kuskokwim River will be the
12 demonstration project hopefully that will then extend
13 over to the Yukon River. So for those of you that are
14 from the Yukon, don't lose heart. It's hoped that this
15 will move over there, too.

16

17 So what I'm going to do today is I'm
18 just going to give you a very, very quick overview.
19 These are all preliminary ideas. None of these have
20 been established.

21

22 We had a meeting, the first meeting of
23 the steering committee for the Kuskokwim Intertribal
24 Fish Commission -- actually we had a meeting last April
25 that was a preliminary meeting, but the first meeting
26 of the steering committee meeting was in February, and
27 several members of the RAC are on that steering
28 committee. Bob Aloysius is one of the co-chairs along
29 with Mike Williams. And so I'm going to go very
30 briefly through what that is, and then how the
31 demonstration project works. I know that we're close
32 to lunch, so I'll try to be brief.

33

34 Let's see. Okay. So first of all, the
35 Intertribal Fish Commission, these are preliminary
36 ideas, but here's what the steering committee has
37 talked about. All the tribes on the Kuskokwim River
38 drainage would be part, invited to join the Intertribal
39 Fish Commission, and would join through the adoption of
40 a tribal resolution.

41

42 In order to participate in the co-
43 management project, the tribe would need to be a member
44 of the Intertribal Fish Commission.

45

46 The tribes would appoint one tribal
47 official to be a commissioner on the fish commission,
48 and the commissioners and the Intertribal Fish
49 Commission would develop management plans. The tribes
50 delegate authority to the commission to do so. And to

1 make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board
2 on fishery management policies.

3

4 And then the tribes would retain their
5 ultimate authority to adopt a tribal management plan
6 that is consistent with that developed by the fish
7 commission, and through the Federal Subsistence Board.

8

9 So that's the general outline.

10

11 So this is just a little schematic to
12 show you what Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish
13 Commission might look like. It doesn't have all the
14 villages, but this is just for example, you know.
15 Commissioners would from each village that's on the
16 drainage would come from the tribes and they would form
17 the Intertribal Fish Commission.

18

19 So here's how the demonstration project
20 is proposed by the tribes at this point in time. This
21 presentation was given to the steering committee, and
22 the steering committee for the Kuskokwim agreed that
23 this was a way to move forward in the negotiations.

24

25 So there are currently -- this RAC and
26 the Western Interior Regional RAC both now have
27 jurisdiction to make recommendations on the Kuskokwim.
28 The whole purpose of the co-management project is to
29 try to unify management on the Kuskokwim, and so rather
30 than having the two RACs, there would be one RAC for
31 fishery management. Wildlife management would not be
32 affected, but just for fisheries. And we're just for
33 the sake of this presentation, we're going to call it
34 the Kuskokwim Fish Management RAC. Okay.

35

36 This RAC would then develop the fishery
37 management recommendations for the Federal Subsistence
38 Board. Now, not only would this RAC develop
39 recommendations for seasons and all those kind of
40 things, but the real purpose would be to develop
41 comprehensive salmon management plans for the river.

42

43 So it would consist of 12 people, the
44 RAC. The Secretary of the Interior would continue to
45 appoint, and would appoint 6 members who are members of
46 the Tribal Fish Commission. Now, in order to insure
47 that every segment of the river is fairly represented
48 on this RAC and in the fish commission, two of the
49 appointees would be from the Lower Kusko, two from the
50 middle, and two from the upper.

1 We want to try to -- the goal is to try
2 to get the State engaged in this management as well, so
3 that we won't have all this divided management. And so
4 the Governor of Alaska would actually now have a role
5 in Federal management and the RAC, and the Governor of
6 Alaska would nominate two members, but those members
7 must be people who live on the Kuskokwim and are on one
8 of your State advisory committees. Okay. So they're
9 going to be local residents, but the Governor is going
10 to select who those people are. The Secretary will
11 have the final nomination, but the Governor will send
12 those nominations to the Secretary of the Interior.

13
14 Two members of this new RAC would be
15 from your Y-K RAC, so you guys would choose two people
16 to serve on the new RAC, and the Western Interior RAC
17 would have two members who would be on this fishery
18 management RAC.

19
20 And this is just a schematic. Again 12
21 members. Six members from the fish commission, and
22 then six other members, two from the Y-K, two from the
23 Western Interior, and two from the Governor. The
24 Secretary of Interior would continue to appoint. And
25 some of the members, as we know, because of the Federal
26 Advisory Committee Act, would need to be those that can
27 also understand commercial uses and sport uses.

28
29 So it would function -- the Kuskokwim
30 Fishery Management RAC work like much like your RAC
31 works right now. It would have the primary authority
32 to make fishery management recommendations to the
33 Federal Board, but it would still consult with the Y-K
34 and Western Interior RACs who would have the
35 opportunity to comment on these fisheries, but the
36 deference to the recommendation would go to this new
37 Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC.

38
39 The RAC again would not only deal with
40 the kind of things that your RAC generally deals with,
41 but would be really engaged in developing comprehensive
42 fishery management plans.

43
44 Some differences. This RAC would have
45 some additional powers that this RAC doesn't currently
46 have. And the two most significant are that your
47 traditional knowledge, the traditional knowledge of the
48 Native people who live on the river would actually be
49 given some weight. So the Secretary and the Federal
50 Subsistence Board would be obliged now when they look

1 at your recommendations, and they look at whether or
2 not they're supported by substantial evidence,
3 recognized principles of wildlife management, or
4 provide for subsistence uses, those are the three
5 grounds as the Secretary can now deny a
6 recommendation, in making that decision the Secretary
7 would have to take into consideration your traditional
8 knowledge.

9
10 The second big change would be, as you
11 know probably,
12 right now the Federal Subsistence Board only is obliged
13 to give deference to RAC recommendations that are --
14 have directly to do with taking, what -- how many fish
15 you can take in your net, and how. And then under this
16 regime, in order to make it more like co-management so
17 that you are actually engaged in real decisionmaking,
18 all your recommendations for fishery management plans
19 would be entitled to the same deference. In other
20 words, if this RAC develops a management plan and moves
21 it up through the Federal Subsistence Board, they would
22 have to take into consideration your traditional
23 knowledge and you would be due deference on that
24 management plan.

25
26 So this is kind of a little schematic
27 how it works. The Kuskokwim Fishery Management RAC
28 would have the primary authority to make fishery
29 management recommendations to the Board, but it would
30 consult with the Kuskokwim and Western Interior RACs,
31 and that consultation and comments could go the Federal
32 Subsistence Board.

33
34 Again, this just shows the three
35 reasons why the Secretary and the Federal Subsistence
36 Board can reject a RAC recommendation. And in this
37 new, what we're proposing, the Kuskokwim Fishery RAC
38 would be due deference for all recommendations.

39
40 Okay. Another big change really. So
41 as you know, the real work starts to happen in-season,
42 right? Right now you guys don't know how many fish are
43 going to show up. So when the fish start to show up,
44 that's when the managers really start to manage in a
45 sense, and things would change. There would be a
46 requirement now for in-season management that the
47 fishery managers, the State and the Feds would have to
48 work with your fish commission and your RAC in-season.
49 And so there would be a committee that would consist of
50 one member from the Y-K Delta RAC, this RAC right here,

1 one from the Western Interior region RAC, one State
2 nominee, and three from the Intertribal Fish
3 Commission, one person from upper river, one from
4 middle, and one from lower, and they would be the group
5 that must be consulted as in-season management happens.
6 So they would be real partners in the in-season
7 management.

8

9 I'm sure this is really scary to any
10 fishery manager that's out there. But hopefully it
11 will be better management.

12

13 Okay. So the other part is there would
14 be a technical committee. So you guys wouldn't be left
15 out there trying to figure out everything without
16 having some help. And so to advise this new RAC, there
17 would be a new technical committee, and it wouldn't
18 just be the Feds and the State. It would be also -- so
19 there would be one member appointed by the Intertribal
20 Fish Commission. It would be a scientist or somebody
21 that knows traditional knowledge. There would be a
22 scientist or a biologist from the Office of Subsistence
23 Management, and one from the State. Now, there could
24 be more, but there would at least be one. And this is
25 all preliminary.

26

27 And then to make sure to make sure that
28 things are kept on a real high level where people
29 aren't just doing what their agency wants them to do,
30 there would be at least two members that would be
31 appointed that would be from the university or some
32 other institution that's not related to an agency. And
33 these would be agreed to by consensus. So everybody
34 would agree that there's two other experts. And these
35 people would be advising both for in-season management
36 and your fishery management plans.

37

38 So this is kind of the way it would
39 work. The technical committee would advise the new
40 RAC. And in-season management would go through the new
41 RAC as well as the recommendations.

42

43 So the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish
44 Commission would continue to play a significant role,
45 because their job, the tribes, are going to get
46 together, and they're going to develop a tribal
47 management plan. How do they think the river should be
48 managed. Their tribal management plan will be moved up
49 through the process, because they have six members on
50 the new RAC. So it will be real important, their plan

1 won't necessarily be the only plan, but at least their
2 plan will be one of the plans that's going to be
3 considered by the new RAC.

4
5 Now, what happens? How do tribes get
6 involved in this? Well, once the Kuskokwim Intertribal
7 Fish Commission's developed their recommendation for a
8 salmon management plan, they'll take it to the new RAC,
9 and the RAC will develop a recommendation for the
10 Federal Subsistence Board for a management plan. And
11 if the Federal Subsistence Board adopts that plan, then
12 a tribe can adopt that plan as well for the tribe. And
13 if the tribe's plan is the same or consistent with the
14 Federal plan, the tribe through a co-management
15 agreement would be able to implement that plan for its
16 tribal members.

17
18 So just for a concrete example, let's
19 just say that next year -- not next year, but some year
20 in the future, there's not enough Chinook salmon for
21 everybody, and the tribes develop a plan that says
22 there should be let's say X amount. We'll choose an
23 amount. You could say 500 could go to a village. So
24 how would, you know -- so everybody agrees that that
25 might be the reasonable thing to do. If a tribe adopts
26 that plan, it will determine through a co-management
27 agreement how to manage the harvest of Chinook for that
28 year. So the attempt is through co-management
29 eventually to bring the tribes to a place where they're
30 implementing management plans. And that's the example
31 that I just talked about.

32
33 So other aspects of the co-management
34 provision funding. There's Section .809 of ANILCA, and
35 one way to fund this is to -- and to make this work, is
36 to make sure that there's capacity and funding for the
37 tribes and their intertribal fish commissions, and that
38 can be done through .809 of ANILCA. Some of the
39 current research and monitoring and test fisheries and
40 restoration and other projects could start to be done
41 by tribes through the Intertribal Fish Commission.

42
43 So the goal is to create a unified co-
44 management structure for the Kuskokwim, State, Federal,
45 tribal co-management. There might be new opportunities
46 with the Walker/Mallott administration to get the State
47 involved. And some of the more -- none of the things
48 that we've just talked about would require Federal
49 legislation, but in order to make it more co-management
50 with the State, that might require Federal regulations.

1 The demonstration project that we've
2 just talked about with the new RAC we think can be done
3 without any changes to existing law. We think the
4 Secretary has the authority to do this. But we are not
5 at a place where we are sure what the response of the
6 Feds is going to be to the proposal.

7
8 And that's it. I can answer any
9 questions if people have them, but I'll do that through
10 the Chair I guess. How do you want to do questions.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are there any
13 questions. William.

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE ON TELECONFERENCE:
18 Hello. Hello.

19
20 MR. BROWN: Yeah. I just want to know
21 when possible date would be maybe for that, the one you
22 talked about.

23
24 MR. STARKEY: Yeah. So for to
25 implement the demonstration plan, what we're shooting
26 for is for next year. Not this season, but for next
27 season. So if everything goes right, we would
28 hopefully have something in place by next season. But,
29 you know, that's -- you know how it works. I mean,
30 sometimes that's not possible, but it's pretty
31 important that we do it before -- while this Secretary
32 of Interior is in office, because we don't know if
33 another Secretary would be as supportive.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
36 for Sky.

37
38 MR. OLSON: I've got a question here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. I'm sorry, I
41 forgot we had people on line. Yeah. Go ahead with
42 your question. Name and -- please state your name and
43 if you do represent anybody.

44
45 MR. OLSON: Yeah, this is -- I'm Bill
46 Olson, a member of Yup'ik of Andreafsky.

47
48 Sky, I've got a question about that
49 meeting up in Fairbanks. Are still going to try to
50 include the Yukon River in the demonstration project.

1 MR. STARKEY: Yeah, thank you, Bill.

2

3 So Bill is -- so we're also -- so some
4 of you are from the Yukon and know that there's also --
5 we're trying to establish the Intertribal Fish
6 Commission for the Yukon. Bill is on the steering
7 committee. That steering committee had their first
8 meeting March 4th and 5th in Fairbanks I think it was.
9 No, February 9th and 10th in Fairbanks. There was a
10 very good showing from the Lower Yukon, and there's a
11 strong desire to have a demonstration project like this
12 for the tribes on the Yukon as well. Tanana Chiefs is
13 very much in support of that as well as AVCP. And, by
14 the way, AVCP and Tanana Chiefs are working in a very
15 unified fashion on all of this since there are TCC and
16 AVCP villages on both the Kuskokwim and Yukon.

17

18 So we're doing everything we can to try
19 and convince the Secretary of the Interior and our
20 Congressional delegation to expand this demonstration
21 project and move it over to the Yukon as soon as it's
22 feasible. But, you know, the Yukon is a little more
23 complicated, because you also have the treaty
24 obligations with Canada and some other things. So it's
25 not quite the same as the Kuskokwim, and I think that's
26 why people are starting -- the Department of Interior
27 is starting with the Kuskokwim River.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Alex Nick, you've
30 got a question.

31

32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Thank you for
33 the opportunity to raise at least a couple of
34 questions.

35

36 I would like to ask Sky how long
37 legislation, if necessary, would take. And another
38 question I have is whether or not if nomination process
39 would be the same as that of the RAC nomination
40 process. Maybe the third one would be if so then would
41 it be combined with the RAC nomination process.

42

43 Mr. Chair.

44

45 MR. STARKEY: Thank you for those
46 questions.

47

48 Okay. So legislation, how long would
49 it take. You know, it depends on how things line up.
50 If you've reached an agreement with the State that the

1 State liked and was supportive of the legislation, it
2 probably could happen quickly. But that all depends on
3 what happens in those kind of discussions.

4
5 Secondly, the nomination process for
6 the Secretary. It wouldn't be really the same, because
7 now that -- you know, the nominations are opened to
8 everyone. This is very specific. Six of the nominees
9 have to be fish commission members for the Kuskokwim.
10 Two of them have to be people that are on your Y-K RAC.
11 Two of them have to be people that are on the Western
12 Interior RAC. And then the governor nominates two. So
13 it would be a little different, but the Secretary of
14 the Interior would continue to be the person that
15 actually appoints.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Johnson.

18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: State your name,
22 please, whoever's addressing me on the telephone.

23
24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, this is Mike
25 Williams calling from Washington, D.C.

26
27 And if I could add to the process. I
28 met with Mike Connors yesterday with the Department
29 Secretary for the Interior yesterday, and I just got
30 through a meeting with Senator Sullivan, and going to
31 be meeting with Senator Murkowski in an hour or so.

32
33 But in speaking with Senator Sullivan,
34 and he's on the Commerce Committee now, and he stated
35 he's aware of the interest between the Kuskokwim and
36 the Yukon fish commission effort that we are
37 undertaking. And he was very interested in what the
38 Kuskokwim is going to be doing. And I just really
39 applaud the efforts that the rivers are taking to start
40 managing, help managing our salmon.

41
42 And thank you, Sky, for that good
43 report on what the RAC can do. And I think we're going
44 to have to move very fast, because summer is coming and
45 the salmon are coming. And I think with the fish
46 commission idea, the intertribal fish commission, then
47 it would have to take legislation to do that. And I
48 think with all the support from the State of Washington
49 and from the Senators, and the support for subsistence,
50 I think we have a great opportunity both for the

1 Kuskokwim and the Yukon Rivers to finally take action
2 in managing our fishery. And when we do that, you
3 know, I think conservation and the rebound of the
4 resource will be realized.

5
6 And again I just wanted to say that we
7 have a real good group of steering committee members
8 that AVCP has assembled, but I think we need more Staff
9 to look into quickly both the State and Federal
10 managers and biologists and scientists. I think we can
11 quickly do that in the short order, but in the long
12 term looking at -- I think in the long run no matter
13 who is in charge, I think we need to put in place that
14 it will be on for a long time, much like the Northwest
15 Indian Fish Commission.

16
17 And I just got through meeting with the
18 Northwest Indian Fish Commission tribal representatives
19 down here, and they're very supportive of what we can
20 do in combining, you know, all the professionals and
21 the traditional knowledge. That is very, very important
22 to implement.

23
24 But I just wanted to thank all of your
25 for all the work, Kevin and Tim Andrew and Myron for
26 just tireless effort to make sure that we have -- and
27 it sounds like -- you know, I spent quite a bit of time
28 with the Secretary yesterday, and then Senator Sullivan
29 now, and it sounds really good to have that support.
30 And I think we need to tell our story, the planning and
31 the effort to really make a difference in the
32 management.

33
34 And right now the Kuskokwim has -- we
35 have to make it really work and demonstrate to the Feds
36 and the State that one management system will work, and
37 we need to work those out for the whole river from
38 Nikoli all the way down. And there's 32 villages
39 identified in .804 analysis.

40
41 But again I really appreciate the
42 strong effort to start the Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish
43 Commission, and I think it's going to take time, but we
44 need to really make it work with this demonstration
45 project.

46
47 And thank you, Sky, for all your work.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
50 update.

1 Mr. Sky, go ahead.

2

3 MR. STARKEY: I wanted to thank Mike.
4 And I also wanted to make everyone aware that Mike
5 Williams is a co-chair of the Kuskokwim Intertribal
6 Fish Commission steering committee. So he's doing some
7 good work back there in D.C. it sounds like.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions
10 for either Mike or Sky. Mr. Roczicka.

11

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

13

14 Sky, one of the main criticisms that
15 I've heard, you know, as this concept was being
16 developed, or concern if you will, people seeing this
17 as maybe not too much difference than what's here right
18 now, being advisory. I personally see a lot of major
19 differences, specifically with the with in-season
20 management involvement. But could you speak a little
21 bit more to that and the difference here? And I
22 understand you're going to be making the same
23 presentation that you're giving here to the Western
24 Interior next week.

25

26 MR. STARKEY: Yeah, thanks, Greg.
27 That's correct. I am going to go up and talk to the
28 Western Interior.

29

30 So what is the difference. So really
31 there are some pretty significant differences. We did
32 just talk about the appointment possibilities for the
33 RAC, so the appointments and the composition of the RAC
34 is very clearly formed. You know, the membership of
35 the RAC is not just left up to the Secretary, but it's
36 very very clear who the Secretary must appoint. So
37 that's one point.

38

39 Second point is please don't
40 underestimate the power of this technical committee.
41 That would be the scientists. You would have your own
42 scientist at the table with the State and the Feds, so
43 having a technical committee that you're represented on
44 is really powerful, plus having one where there are
45 independent people to advise you really would be I
46 think quite an important shift, to have a staff that
47 you could depend on as your own.

48

49 Secondly -- or third, again, the idea
50 that you're going to be developing comprehensive

1 fishery management plans is really an important shift
2 in I think what occurs now.

3

4 The additional power to be involved on
5 a day-to-day basis in in-season management is, I think,
6 another big shift in the power.

7

8 And then, you know, if this thing all
9 works as planned, actually having the tribes implement
10 the parts of the fisheries management plan that the
11 tribes adopt is another big shift.

12

13 And, finally, the idea that all the
14 recommendations that you make in terms of your fishery
15 management plan having deference is a very big shift.
16 That is no longer left to, you know, outside of your
17 authority as RAC.

18

19 And then, you know, the blending of
20 traditional knowledge, and really giving traditional
21 knowledge a firm basis for decisionmaking, so that
22 people can't just go, oh, yeah, yeah, we really
23 appreciated hearing that, but then never paying
24 attention to it when they make decisions.

25

26 So I think those are some of the real
27 places that you advance here. It's not, you know, very
28 honestly the same power that maybe the fish commission
29 that has a treaty base in Washington has, but given
30 what we have to work with, it really advances the ball.

31

32

33 And one of the things that Billy Frank,
34 I've heard him say was that the power of their fish
35 commission doesn't necessarily come from the law, it is
36 because they have developed their commissions in a way
37 that they have the best information. No one has
38 information as good as their information. And you
39 people that live on the river, of course, have the best
40 information. So when you think about being given a
41 real meaningful and equal seat at the table and having
42 that good information, then the hope is that you really
43 get to a place where, you know, your decisions are an
44 important part of the mix.

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Sky, in addition
47 to that, 32 tribes will have a deference and a say in
48 what happens on the river. So I think it's exciting
49 that finally that the tribes have the voice in the
50 process. And just like the Deputy Secretary announced,

1 (indiscernible - breaking up) that these decisions are
2 going to be considered and be weighed in very -- you
3 know, to the greatest extent possible under the law and
4 the regulations. And that was his take in that we
5 finally -- Alaska is finally going to, you know, make a
6 difference in managing the fishery for the first time.
7 And I think it's very exciting, and the support that
8 we're getting from the Great Lakes and from the
9 Columbia River, and they were there in person. And
10 again it's exciting time for the Kuskokwim River, and I
11 think it will really help the process, all the -- you
12 know, the Regional Advisory Councils that have been
13 working on. It really will -- you know, you've done a
14 great job, as well as the Kuskokwim River Management
15 Working Group under the State has done a great job, but
16 I think this will unite the management of the Kuskokwim
17 River, both the Federal, State and the tribal
18 governments will, and have co-management for the very
19 first time going forward. So I think we have to show
20 on the demonstration project that it will make a
21 difference.

22
23 Already Kodiak, the Southeast folks are
24 interested in starting their commissions, but I think
25 this one, we have to make it really work well, and I
26 think it can with the 32 tribes, Fish and Wildlife
27 Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike. You
32 know, we're going to be crunching for time. My plane
33 is supposed to be leaving at 3:15. We have a whole
34 bunch of other items, subjects that we need to discuss,
35 please keep your questions and answers short as
36 possible. Mr. Bob Aloysius.

37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

39
40 Earlier this month I sat through two
41 days of listening, and I left there pretty disappointed
42 simply because there was no mention of how much money
43 and when that money would be available. And the thing
44 that really struck me was that there was, you know, no
45 reflection on the AVCP Staff, but there was no sense of
46 organization. What are you going to do with all of
47 this information? You know, it seems to me that we
48 have to have someone who is knowledgeable about these
49 fish commissions, intertribal fish commissions. And
50 the Staff, one person is not enough. He's an

1 anthropologist, and as far as I can tell, he has no
2 experience in organizing something that is going to
3 have a major impact on the Kuskokwim River. The people
4 and the resource that we're talking about.

5
6 So, you know, those are the questions I
7 have. Is the money available to start this project?
8 And also where are you looking for someone who has the
9 organizational skills to make sure that that project
10 starts in a good way?

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sky.

15
16 MR. STARKEY: Very, very briefly, Mr.
17 Chairman.

18
19 There's a possibility that the next
20 budget, for DOI budget, will include \$300, for the
21 Kuskokwim, so that could happen as early as, you know,
22 the next fiscal year.

23
24 And in terms of, you know, staffing,
25 we're just going forward. If we wait until
26 everything's prefect, then, you know, we're not going
27 to get anywhere. We're going to go forward with what
28 we've got. We're looking for money; we're looking for
29 staff. We're doing the best that we can.

30
31 We think we're doing pretty well
32 actually. We've got a proposal that's well organized
33 and sell structured. We've had a meeting of the fish
34 commission steering committee. So we feel like we're
35 moving forward, but we're going to go with what we've
36 got, and we're looking for more staff and more money.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Sky and Bob, I
39 think with our first meeting and the compilation of
40 information, that I think with the Staff that we have
41 now, I think those were identified in that meeting.
42 And we are going to be looking for more Staff and
43 scientists, biologists, and professional Staff that
44 will help through that process. But I think what we
45 have now, we have to work with what we have and go from
46 there and develop this into a very credible
47 demonstration project. And I think we need to continue
48 to meet with Office of Subsistence and Federal Office
49 of Subsistence program there. And I look forward for
50 the next meeting, and I think we're going to be

1 answering some of those questions and ongoing
2 discussions on staffing and also the timelines.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike.

7

8 Mr. Johnson.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management.

12

13 I just wanted to make it clear on the
14 record that what you've been briefed on today, this
15 demonstration project, is an AVCP/TCC proposal. It's
16 still under review by Department of Interior. It
17 hasn't been fully vetted. And I also want to state
18 that under Section .805 of ANILCA, what is envisioned
19 would not actually be a Regional Advisory Council. It
20 wouldn't be a RAC. At most it would be what .805(a)(2)
21 refers to as a local advisory committee. So I know
22 we're all using the term RAC, and I know we commonly
23 use that term, but I want to make sure that, you know,
24 it's not just a colloquial term. It is a specific term
25 of art that has a legal definition under ANILCA. So I
26 just want to make sure that we're all on the same page
27 with that.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
32 Johnson.

33

34 Sky.

35

36 MR. STARKEY: Well, we're not on the
37 same page. I mean, we've made the proposal, and our
38 proposal is for a RAC. And there's nothing that I've
39 heard of that there's any kind of definite decision
40 coming out of anybody in Interior that's rejected the
41 proposal. So we must have a miscommunication, but what
42 we're proposing is exactly what I've presented.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I'm just
45 saying then under existing law, under Title VIII of
46 ANILCA and also the implementing regulations there are
47 10 subsistence regions and 10 Regional Advisory
48 Councils. So that's what the current law is. And I'm
49 just saying whatever this is being proposed is an
50 AVCP/TCC proposal, and it's still under review. And

1 this vision has not been fully vetted by Department of
2 Interior and is still under review.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments.

5

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

7

8 This is Mike. I (indiscernible -
9 breaking up) demonstration project, it is very clear by
10 the announcement from the Deputy Secretary, and
11 Secretary of Interior. And then, you know, within the
12 provisions, and within the law, you know how far we can
13 go with the .805 provisions, but with the proposals by
14 the Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish Commission, and I think
15 with the, you know, Congressional, you know, I think we
16 need to approach Congress if we're going to make
17 further changes.

18

19 And I have to run, and I really
20 appreciate the presentation, and we're going to have
21 ongoing communication with the Department, and I look
22 forward to working with all of you. And it's exciting
23 times, and we've got to make it work.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments
28 concerning the proposal.

29

30 MR. BARTLEY: Mr. Chair. Kevin
31 Bartley, AVCP Natural Resources.

32

33 I just want to respond to Bob on the
34 staffing, in regards to the staffing, and what we're
35 doing with this information. So it is true, AVCP Staff
36 has one natural resource director, Tim Andrew, and one
37 Staff, a non-fisheries scientist. I hold a master's in
38 anthropology. I rarely say that, because I'm not an
39 expert. I'm learning all the time.

40

41 To get those two meetings off the
42 ground, we held meetings on February 5th and 6th in
43 Bethel, and then back-to-back again on the 9th and 10th
44 in, excuse me, Fairbanks for the Yukon involved getting
45 -- I think it was over -- almost 20 people travelled
46 together. So I'm not just a social scientist, I'm a
47 travel agent. I prepare meeting materials.

48

49 And right now what I'm doing with your
50 information, this wasn't a requirement of me, but I

1 want to let you guys know this. I'm preparing a
2 transcription, a full transcription of everything that
3 occurred at both those steering committee meetings.
4 Involved in that, for every hour or tape, so it you
5 figure there's about six to eight good meeting hours of
6 dialogue for four days of meeting, you have 32 hours
7 give or take. Four eight-hour days, so that's 32. A
8 good transcriber, I don't consider myself a good
9 transcriber, but I've done about 1200 pages. It takes
10 me about five to six hours per hour of tape to do that.
11 So that's, do the math, 32 times 6, about 180, 192
12 hours. 192 hours. I'm working nights and weekends.
13 Get ahold of my girlfriend; she's hating me right now.
14 She'll tell you.

15

16 We're working really hard, because it's
17 important that we document a record of the
18 establishment of the fish commission, and as we go
19 forward the demonstration project.

20

21 Why it was so open-ended and it seemed
22 to be unorganized at that meeting was because one of
23 the goals for the demonstration project was to
24 incorporate our local vision for how this demonstration
25 project would move forward, and not simply just have
26 one handed down upon us. So one of the big goals of
27 that meeting was to nail down an understanding of what
28 the people along the rivers perceived as the purpose of
29 the fish commission, the goals, and the expectations.
30 And I'm working really hard to capture that, and it's
31 my plan, if there's time, and I'm working really hard,
32 and I'll continue to work weekends, so that we can have
33 a summary of that, and eventually a report that talks
34 about our purpose, our goals, and our expectations, to
35 put that on paper. But it takes time and it cannot
36 simply just be created out of thin air.

37

38 And so that's what I'm working on right
39 now. I want to make you guys aware of that, and just
40 to respond to Bob.

41

42 And we do need more Staff. It is
43 absolutely true. And I do not know where the money is
44 coming from. I do know that we're working on it.
45 Sky's helping with that.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.

50 Roczicka.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 In the interest of time that a lot of us are -- a lot
3 of folks are under, maybe to bring this to some kind of
4 conclusion.

5
6 But first off, I just mentioned to Bob,
7 I can give you the name of three biologists right now
8 that are very strong candidates, because I'm recruiting
9 for our Fisheries Partners biologist, and I've got
10 three folks that two of them would be a good fit for
11 something like this if I choose not to hire the. And
12 I'm going to actually mention that this may be
13 something coming down the line for them to keep an eye
14 on.

15
16 But as Kevin mentioned, this is just
17 step one in a
18 very aggressive and perhaps optimistic undertaking. I
19 believe Sky when he started his presentation did
20 address with Mr. Johnson, saying that this is a
21 proposal. It is undergoing review. It is in the
22 process of review. It's gone through several steps
23 already within that process. If it would have
24 completed the process, someone from OSM Staff would be
25 making this presentation and not AVCP.

26
27 But there's a lot of potential here.
28 We've got, as Mike mentioned, the eyes of the rest of
29 the State and Native communities in the other RAC areas
30 are looking at incorporating what comes out here into
31 their regions. And so there's, as I say, lots of
32 potential here.

33
34 And just to wrap it up, maybe to get
35 something on the record, for me this is the next step
36 towards what people perceive as real and meaningful
37 tribal and local involvement. It's specifically stated
38 in Title VIII of ANILCA as the intent under .805. And
39 because it is taking that next step forward of not just
40 being an advisory committee, it involving people in the
41 management decisions. And that I think scares a lot of
42 folks that are in management roles and perhaps have
43 been there a long time in that institution. It brings
44 in, although it doesn't require the State to be there,
45 it opens the door for them to come and be part of this
46 three-legged stool. I think it was Adolph mentioned
47 earlier this morning we need a tri-management. We
48 don't need dual management. All of those are
49 incorporated.

50

1 So with all of that, I mean, I guess
2 I'd like to make a motion, and look for a second, on
3 support, this RAC's support for pursuit of this.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion's been made and
8 second to support this -- what did -- state your motion
9 again. I didn't quite.....
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's to support pursuit
12 of establishment for Kuskokwim fisheries co-management
13 project and the Intertribal Fish Commission.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. There's a
16 motion and a second. Any further discussion.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. CHARLES: Question.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called for.
23 Roll call vote, please.
24
25 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. Roll call vote. David Bill, Sr.
27
28 MR. BILL: Yeah.
29
30 MR. ONEY: Robert Aloysius
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
33
34 MR. ONEY: Greg Roczicka.
35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
37
38 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney. Yes. Dorothy
39 Johnson.
40
41 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
42
43 MR. ONEY: Annie Cleveland is excused.
44 She had to get ready to leave.
45
46 Anthony Ulak.
47
48 MR. ULAK: Yes.
49
50 MR. ONEY: Dale Smith.

1 MR. SMITH: Yes.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde, Sr.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Michael Peters.
8
9 MR. PETERS: Yes.
10
11 MR. ONEY: John Andrew.
12
13 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
14
15 MR. ONEY: James Charles.
16
17 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
18
19 MR. ONEY: William Brown.
20
21 MR. BROWN: Yes.
22
23 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. We have 12
24 yes, one absent. Motion carries.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Thank you,
27 Sky. Thank you for your presentation.
28
29 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, Council.
30 Guyana.
31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If it's all right with
35 the Council members, since we have a time crunch, if we
36 work right through lunch period.
37
38 Go ahead, Mr. Johnson.
39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I do have
41 some cheese and sausage I can put out that could give
42 some people some sustenance to work through lunch.
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. In lieu of
47 the fact that we only meet twice a year, and there's
48 lots of information that has to be given out, and
49 especially taken in, I don't really support this idea
50 of having people taking off early. It does not make

1 sense. We have a two-day meeting. Let's meet for two
2 days. And excusing someone to leave early is not
3 right, even the Chairman. He has a time crunch,
4 because he has to check in at a certain time. That
5 does not make sense to me. He should be the leader of
6 example. We need for two days, and we want to give out
7 all the information we need to, and especially get
8 information back from the people, because we're here
9 for them. We're not here for each individual Board --
10 I mean, Council member. And it's just kind of not
11 going with my train of thought that we can excuse any
12 Board member at any time just so they can go home. You
13 know, you're here for two days. Let's be here for two
14 days. And if we have to go on after 5:00 o'clock,
15 there's evening tonight, too.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So what is the wish of
20 the Council. Forego lunch or take a break for lunch.

21

22 MR. ONEY: Let's go lunch.

23

24 MR. ALOYSIUS: An hour and a half?

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hour and a half.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Be back at 2:00 o'clock?

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we'll be back at
31 2:00 o'clock. And as far as travel is concerned,
32 somebody will have to rearrange our schedule, because
33 I'm supposed to be leaving at 3:15.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call the meeting to
40 order. The time is now approximately 2:00 o'clock
41 depending on whose watch or time we're going on. Mine
42 says it's after two. According to that one up there,
43 it's a little before two.

44

45 At this time we're going on to our
46 regular agenda, back to our regular agenda. Under new
47 business we have guest here that may want to say a few
48 words to us. The head of the Fish and Wildlife
49 Department, also a Board member on the Subsistence
50 Board.

1 Mr. Geoff Haskett.

2

3 MR. HASKETT: Thank you. I'll not take
4 long, because I know that you're a little behind
5 schedule here and you're trying to move along.

6

7 But I was actually able to come here
8 today, and I didn't think I was going to be on the
9 agenda and saw that I was, so I do have a couple of
10 brief comments I'd like to make and maybe a couple
11 comments about some things that I know happened in
12 today's meeting.

13

14 And for those of you that don't know,
15 I'm Geoff Haskett, the regional director for the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service. And as Lester said, I sit
17 on the Federal Subsistence Board as well.

18

19 What I have been doing this week and
20 the reason I'm here is we're in the middle of working
21 on a stellers eider re-introduction project, so for
22 this week I've actually been visiting Hooper Bay
23 earlier in the week, Chevak, and came back from there
24 this morning, and Newtok this Friday, talking to them,
25 and making sure that we have concurrence from the
26 people that could be affected in the villages where
27 we're looking to do that. And we've got a lot of
28 positive support, so that's been really good. We're
29 back here this afternoon, and go off to Newtok
30 tomorrow.

31

32 Another thing I wanted to comment on,
33 and I wish I would have been here for this. I know Sky
34 Starkey did a presentation earlier today on the present
35 -- I'm not exactly sure what he was calling it, but it
36 has to do with Mike Connors, the Deputy Secretary for
37 the Department of the Interior, proposed as a project
38 on the Kuskokwim River.

39

40 I haven't actually seen the
41 presentation that Sky did this morning. We're working
42 really closely with him on that. Gene Peltola, head of
43 subsistence for us, has actually the charge. And we're
44 looking to see what's going to be presented, but the
45 Secretary hasn't seen that yet. So we look forward to
46 seeing it, and I know the Board took some action to
47 vote in favor of that, and I'm sure there's a lot of
48 good things on there, but we actually haven't had the
49 opportunity to say that's the one that's going to be
50 adopted by the Secretary. So I thought I'd get that on

1 the record just to make sure.

2

3 But we are working very closely with
4 AVCP and Tanana Chiefs, and Sky Starkey on that.

5

6 Other than that, I'm glad I have a
7 chance just to sit in here and listen and pay attention
8 today, and learn some things. And if anybody has any
9 questions for me, I'll be here all afternoon if you
10 want to grab me at any point, or any questions now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

13

14 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16

17 Thank you for being here, Mr. Haskett.
18 My question is, I know you probably heard some of the
19 testimony that came before this Council. My question
20 is, how far up the chain does our comments or concerns
21 that come from the public go? It seemed like, you
22 know, we're hearing the same story year after year.
23 And it seemed like whatever testimony comes before us,
24 it seems like it stays with us, and it doesn't seem to
25 be going up the ladder to whoever might need to hear
26 these concerns.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. HASKETT: Mr. Chair. I mean,
31 Lester Wilde is your representative, so they do come to
32 the Federal Subsistence Board. And there are some that
33 actually get to the Secretary. And actually I
34 understand you had a discussion, too, this morning
35 talking about contacting the Secretary having to do
36 with bycatch concerns. So actually one of my folks got
37 me a copy of a letter to make part of the record here,
38 that that's something that come up from here and some
39 of the other RACs as well, where Tim Towarak, who's
40 the Chair for the Federal Subsistence Board, did in
41 fact sign a letter to the Secretaries of Interior and
42 Agriculture on December 9th, 2014, asking for, among
43 other things, to urge the Secretary of Commerce and
44 getting Alaska to appoint at least one subsistence user
45 to the voting membership of the NPFMC. So I think
46 people are in fact listening. And Tim Towarak is a
47 great example of that where just recently he did urge
48 the Secretary of Commerce to listen to some of the
49 comments.

50

1 So I don't think we're always
2 completely successful, you know, in terms of getting
3 back to you all, but there is a definite attempt to do
4 that. And I'll leave this for the record, too, for
5 your proceedings.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions.

8
9 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Smith.

12
13 MR. SMITH: Mr. Haskett, if you look on
14 the map there, you see Nunivak Island. Historically,
15 I myself have hunted sea ducks, common eiders, and
16 common murre. And a majority of the murre, they hang
17 out on the west end of the island. There's major
18 cliffs over there. And in the past few years I've seen
19 a reduction or lack of the murre and the common eiders
20 flying around the ocean. Has there any studies been
21 done or is there -- would this be the first time you've
22 heard of a concern regarding ocean birds there?

23
24 MR. HASKETT: So this is the first time
25 I've heard that specific concern. That island is
26 actually managed out of the Alaska Maritime National
27 Wildlife Refuge, and Steve Delehanty's the Refuge
28 manager there. So I can forward -- no, it's not him.
29 Do you manage it? No. I take it back. So I'll tell
30 you what, I thought that was actually covered out of
31 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, but
32 apparently it's out of Yukon Delta. So I would
33 actually ask the Refuge manager, Neil Lalonde, if
34 that's okay to answer that question, because he'd have
35 more specifics than I would.

36
37 Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

40
41 MR. HASKETT: Our Refuge manager needs
42 some help, too, so I don't feel too bad. He's bringing
43 somebody up as well.

44
45 MR. LALONDE: Correct. So, Mr. Chair,
46 again I have Brian McCaffery to assist in that
47 question.

48
49 MR. McCAFFERY: Through the Chair, I'd
50 like to respond to Mr. Smith's question.

1 One, it's great to hear those
2 observations, not great to hear that the birds are
3 declining, but very good to hear those. Those are the
4 types of information that we like to get from the
5 outlying villages. And sometimes they are in synch
6 with things that we've been looking at, other times
7 they're not. And it's especially important to hear
8 them when they don't correspond to things we've seen.

9
10 It's actually been many years since
11 we've had a chance to go out to survey those plots that
12 we have out there on the island for common eiders in
13 particular. So we don't have yet any evidence to
14 suggest a decline, because we haven't been able to get
15 back there. So your observations kind of help fill a
16 hole for us.

17
18 In terms of common eiders out there in
19 particular, we do not have a survey system to look at
20 them there. We do survey them here on the delta where
21 they're breeding, and there's actually -- some of the
22 surveys show that in some areas, populations are
23 increasing, in others they may be decreasing. Overall,
24 it doesn't look like our common eider population
25 locally is in trouble, but we know that there's a small
26 breeding population out there on Nunivak.

27
28 And if I may follow up with a question,
29 do you happen to know if the birds that you seem to
30 think are declining are the migrants that are just
31 flying by, or the birds that are actually nesting on
32 your island.

33
34 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

35
36 I really don't know, but, you see, I go
37 camp on the south end of the island for fish camp, and
38 we've been seeing -- at least I've been noticing a
39 decline in the amount of seaducks overall. Like I
40 mentioned, the murre and common eiders. So I don't
41 know.

42
43 MR. McCAFFERY: Okay. Appreciate that.
44 I'll get in touch with my colleagues down at Togiak to
45 see what types of patterns they're seeing with their
46 murre populations down there, and given your interest,
47 we maybe thinking of, you know, not this year, but
48 fairly soon trying to get back and look at those plots
49 to see if we could corroborate your observations, and
50 see if there's some real problem there with the murre.

1 MR. LALONDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.
4
5 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. Can I?
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, to ahead.
8
9 MR. BILL: The common eider, whatever
10 you call it there, they're on Nelson Island, too.
11 Three or four years ago there was a great storm, ice
12 storm in the area. And that birds on the island with
13 the ice, jammed up with ice in their mouth. They
14 couldn't do anything. They couldn't see anything, they
15 can't even breathe. They've got ice sores all over
16 them. Maybe should mention you go out, walk around the
17 island, just about the Cape Vancouver, you'll see a lot
18 of them lying on the snow. I guess that's a part of
19 it, that's why some of them are declining visibly.
20 Nobody hunts those things in the island.
21
22 MR. McCAFFERY: Thank you. That's
23 helpful to hear. If I may just ask a quick question in
24 follow up. What time of year was that ice storm?
25
26 MR. BILL: Ice storm, yeah.
27
28 MR. McCAFFERY: But what time of year,
29 Mr. Bill?
30
31 MR. BILL: About three, four years ago.
32
33 MR. McCAFFERY: And what month of the
34 year?
35
36 MR. BILL: In March.
37
38 MR. McCAFFERY: Okay. Okay. So the
39 birds that nest here on the delta are in the offshore
40 waters at that time, so our local birds would be
41 vulnerable, could be harmed by that type of ice event.
42
43 MR. BILL: Okay. Thank you.
44
45 MR. McCAFFERY: Thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
49 Peters, do you have a question? For whom do you have a
50 question.

1 MR. PETERS: I have a question for
2 Geoff.

3
4 You know, I live on the Yukon, a and
5 what I would like to ask about is the boundaries on
6 hunting, and, you know, a lot of times they give us so
7 many -- like give the public so many days to testify or
8 how it's going to affect them. And I was wondering of
9 how could we get feedback to the public or to the
10 tribal councils and stuff like that on the set
11 boundaries, and how it's going to affect like our area.
12 Not just the Yukon, but I live in Marshall.

13
14 And I would like to thank you for being
15 here, but at the same time, you know, with this
16 information, is there a timeframe to have an input on
17 that coming from the local residents out there.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. HASKETT: So actually I'm going to
22 have to bring one of my guys up again, if we can do
23 that. There is a process we go through, but we're also
24 open to suggestion to now we might do that better.

25
26 So, Mr. Chair, could I turn it over
27 to.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

30
31 MR. HASKETT: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Sundown.

34
35 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Michael,
36 through the Chair for your question. Now your question
37 is specific to moose for Unit 18. There's been several
38 boundary changes that have occurred over the last six
39 years or so, most of them involving the liberation of
40 the moose season and hunting opportunity for moose in
41 Unit 18 Yukon.

42
43 There used to be two sections of the
44 Yukon segment. One was called Unit 18 Remainder, the
45 other one was called the Unit 18 Lower Yukon. And
46 there used to be a boundary that went from Cape
47 Romanzof to Kusilvak Mountain to Mountain Village.
48 That is no longer in existence. There is no more
49 differentiation between the Lower Yukon boundary and
50 Unit 18 Remainder. It's all Unit 18 Remainder. So

1 everything east of the Kuskokwim boundary, and
2 everything downriver of Paimiut is now Yukon Remainder.

3

4 And the season is pretty liberal. It
5 begins in August and ends the 31st of March. And it's
6 a two-moose bag limit. It's cows, calves, or bulls on
7 Refuge property. And the State season goes through the
8 15th of March, but the only thing that's really
9 different is you're only allowed to take cows without
10 calves.

11

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Sundown. I
13 think, you know, that's just information that I would
14 like to know, and let the people know that live on the
15 Yukon, you know, because it affect them quite a bit on
16 these boundaries, and I just thought I'd ask this
17 question.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. SUNDOWN: You're welcome. Through
22 the Chair, we went through an extensive consultation
23 process with the tribes on the Yukon from Scammon Bay
24 going upriver through Mountain Village to St. Mary's
25 to Pitka's Point and Russian Mission. One of the few
26 villages that we did not make it to was Marshall. And
27 we made numerous requests to the tribal administration
28 of Marshall with no real results.

29

30 MR. PETERS: Mr. Sundown, I think by
31 feedback, I think the only reason why I ask for
32 feedback, because, you know, that way the people have
33 some kind of consent form or documentation coming from
34 the Department of, you know, this change or whatever.
35 But with this input that you let me know, I think its
36 -- thank you for your information.

37

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

40

41 Are there any questions. If I may,
42 before we get to you, is it all right if I can?

43

44 We have five people on line. Is
45 anybody on line wanting to ask Mr. Haskett any
46 questions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,

1 we'll continue on with Council members. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 Yea, thanks for stopping in. I could
6 probably guarantee you that anything I ask you is not
7 going to -- you're going to have to ask your bosses or
8 anybody.

9

10 But actually, no, I did want to take
11 advantage of this. It's almost kind of awkward.
12 Usually when I'm speaking to you it's to rag on you a
13 bit about something that is being down or is not being
14 done, but in this case, and I did mention to Mr.
15 Lalonde yesterday, but the proposed rule that you guys
16 put forward was vastly improved from the original
17 document that came out. I still have reservations as
18 to its purpose for being there, or even a need to be
19 there, why it's there. Some of the language that's
20 included as far as any kind of potential, I mean, that
21 could be all-encompassing. You could include all human
22 harvest as a part of that. One thing I did miss, kind
23 of stated, that I would still like to see is some kind
24 of a more reasoned definition of what is natural
25 diversity. We have out here the people that have been
26 here since before recorded history could certainly be
27 considered a part of that. How do you work that into
28 your management equation.

29

30 I could bring up the old 9/11
31 resolution that you should be familiar with by now.
32 The focus of this document is towards the State's
33 intensive management activities, but you have to -- it
34 should be incumbent on the Federal management taking
35 into consideration the people under subsistence and
36 other areas that harvest, and should be considered part
37 of that natural diversity. Now are you going to manage
38 for their needs? And so predator management should be
39 part of the Federal management equation. The intensive
40 management I could understand the loggerheads you're
41 going to there.

42

43 And regarding the proposed co-
44 management plan for the Kuskokwim, as you know, that
45 was something that AVCP and TCC were actually
46 approached and requested to put forward to lay
47 something on the table. That's just a first step. We
48 realize that, yeah, there could be changes, there may
49 be limits, there may be other avenues not yet explored
50 under ANILCA, you know. And one thing that was passed

1 along to me was maybe we might look under .808 for
2 subsistence resource commissions that are actually
3 exempt from the FACA. This is just our first step.
4 And so the statement of support that we put forward was
5 on this whole concept. It's where we do need to go,
6 and especially if there's going to be any more movement
7 towards the next step forward of people really feeling
8 like they have that meaningful role for tribal and
9 local involvement. That's what this is all about. And
10 it kind of came out, too, in the overview we had of the
11 Regional Council, that actually Mr. Johnson did a very
12 good job of, and it was really a good refresher course
13 for me, too, even though I've been dealing with it for
14 a lot of years. But the issue that people have is that
15 advisory role that this Council and all the other
16 Regional Councils under FACA right now essentially have
17 to the Board. And, granted, I recognize the deference,
18 but taking it this next step where they're actually
19 involved in the management decisions. And how do we
20 work in this same level of accountability to the
21 management entities such as Fish and Wildlife or, I
22 don't know about the Park Service, but certainly
23 others, that would be more accountable in a similar
24 fashion as the Federal Subsistence Board in a large
25 fashion done. I don't know if there's really a
26 question in there or if anything trigger any thoughts
27 in your mind.

28

29 MR. HASKETT: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Geoff.

32

33 MR. HASKETT: So there's a number of
34 things in there, but I think two main ones. And I'll
35 thank you for probably doing a better job than I did on
36 just making it clear on what was presented by Mr.
37 Starkey today. I wasn't in any kind of way criticizing
38 what was done. I just wanted to make it clear that we
39 are in that process, which you just did as well, that
40 Mike Connors, the Deputy Secretary, had proposed that
41 we do this, and we do need to go through steps. And I
42 know that Gene Peltola is working really closely with
43 him. And I appreciate the fact that the Board said,
44 yes, this is a good first step in moving it forward. I
45 mean, you did it better than I did. Thank you.

46

47 On the first part of what you were
48 talking about, you and I have been having discussion
49 for as long as I've been here. And as far as the rule
50 goes, I'm glad to hear you say that it's gotten better,

1 because the last time we talked one of the things that
2 I told you was that we've been going through
3 government-to-government consultation with the tribes
4 We've taken it very seriously. the rule is very
5 different now than the one that we first proposed, you
6 know, last year sometime. And it hasn't gone through
7 public comment period yet. So, I mean, we're working
8 really, really hard to make sure that we incorporate
9 what the concerns are from the villages and the tribes,
10 and make it clear the reasons we're doing it.

11
12 And also I think it is more a concern
13 about intensive management than it is predator control.
14 But again, I mean, there will still be ways along the
15 way to get additional comments on that and revisions,
16 and we haven't seen the final rule yet that's going to
17 be proposed.

18
19 And as always, I appreciate hearing
20 your questions. It gives me lots to think about and to
21 pursue and go back to talk to people about. So thank
22 you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
25 Haskett.

26
27 Any more questions for Mr. Haskett.
28 Mr. James Charles.

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31
32
33 Is it true that the deadline for
34 proposals is March 25th? Is that for game or
35 fisheries?

36
37 MR. HASKETT: For wildlife.

38
39 MR. CHARLES: It's for wildlife. Okay.
40 I told James that -- James testified this morning,
41 James Nicori from Kwethluk testified this morning, and
42 there was complaining about the time -- when he went
43 out moose hunting, he did not know when the season
44 closed, because it was not deadline. So he got all the
45 people who was hunting moose last year in this
46 moratorium area. They got 100 moose or 75 moose,
47 whatever that number is. And we don't hunt by numbers,
48 because we don't listen to the radio all the tim. If
49 the number of moose is changed to date and time. That
50 would help, because people would know before they go

1 out hunting. Not by numbers.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. HASKETT: So I was just conferring
6 with my colleague here, and apparently we're finishing
7 all that up, but one of the options is to look at a
8 strict date, so we are considering that right now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any further
11 questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.

16

17 MR. HASKETT: May I make just like two
18 very quick final comments.

19

20 So when I talked about going out to the
21 villages this week to talk about the steller's eider
22 reintroduction, I neglected to say that Myron Naneng
23 from AVCP came with us for the first two visits. And
24 one of the things that I promised Myron along the way
25 is that we're not going to move forward unless if we
26 don't get the villages to think it's a good idea. So
27 Myron's been very, very helpful in getting that set up
28 and was with me for the last couple days. And I just
29 want to get on the record that we're doing that in
30 conjunction with working with him.

31

32 And the other quick comment I'd like to
33 make is that, you know, talking about the relationship
34 between the Federal Subsistence Board and this body, I
35 will say that Lester Wilde does an exemplary job of
36 representing you all and making sure that we know what
37 the concerns are. And I've had the opportunity to work
38 with him a number of years, and to watch him in that
39 role, and he very clearly keeps us honest and makes
40 sure we know what the concerns are that are expressed
41 from this group.

42

43 So might as well close with that, and
44 thank you all for letting me sit in, and I'll be here
45 for the rest of the day if anybody wants to hit me up
46 on the side there. Well, not actually -- not hit me
47 up, but just if anybody wants to talk.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you for
2 your time, Mr. Haskett.

3
4 Before we get on to our next subject on
5 our agenda, I'd like to let the Councilmen know that we
6 have a predicted storm coming to my area, so I have a
7 scheduled flight to leave out of here at 4:15. At 3:15
8 I'll be turning over the Chair to my co-chair, Mr
9 Roczicka, and I'll be going back home. The last storm
10 we had out in Hooper Bay lasted 10 days, and my niece
11 Dorothy was caught out there with us for 10 days. So,
12 hey, if that happens again with this storm, it's I'm
13 going to be stuck here in Bethel for 10 days if I don't
14 get the opportunity to get home.

15
16 So at this time we'll go on down with
17 our agenda. Item 11 on the agenda under new business
18 is call for Federal hunting and trapping regulatory
19 proposals, OSM wildlife.

20
21 Yes, Mr. Johnson.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair.

25
26 I do want to point for the Council that
27 while we did address the rural determination proposed
28 rule last night at a public meeting, we deferred that
29 to today for the Council to address. And that's
30 actually under old business, item No. 10(a). So I'm
31 wondering you noticed we skipped over that, and if you
32 wanted to maybe perhaps address that first?

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, thank you for the
35 reminder. Yeah. 10(a) rural determination process
36 review.

37
38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 For the record my name is Pippa Kenner,
41 and I work for Anthropology Division at the Office of
42 Subsistence Management.

43
44 We have a quick PowerPoint for you.
45 Just a minute, please.

46
47 I think -- Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

50

1 MS. KENNER: I think because most of
2 the Council members, if not all of you, were at the
3 public meeting last night, I think I'm just going to
4 review for you some of the things that were in that
5 presentation about the rural/nonrural determination
6 process. I'm going to give you a quick background, and
7 then read about four paragraphs to get to how that --
8 what that proposed rule is asking.

9
10 So on September 23rd, 2009 Secretary of
11 the Interior Salazar announced the initiation of a
12 departmental review of the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program in Alaska. Secretary of Agriculture
14 Vilsack later concurred with this course of action.
15 The review focused on how the program is meeting the
16 purposes and subsistence provisions of Title VIII of
17 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or
18 ANILCA, and how the program is serving rural
19 subsistence users as envisioned when it began in the
20 early 1990s.

21
22 Then on August 31st, 2010, the
23 Secretaries announced the findings of the review which
24 included several proposed administrative and regulatory
25 reviews and/or revisions to strengthen the program and
26 make it more responsive to those who rely on it for
27 their subsistence uses. And one proposal called for a
28 review with Council input of the rural determination
29 process, and, if needed, recommendations for regulatory
30 change.

31
32
33 The Subsistence Regional Advisory
34 Councils, all of them, were briefed on the Federal
35 Register notice during their winter 2013 meetings. At
36 their fall 2013 meetings, the Councils provided a
37 public forum to hear from residents of their regions
38 deliberate on the rural determination process and
39 provide recommendations for changes to the Board.

40
41 Testimonies from members of the public
42 were also recorded during separate public meetings held
43 to solicit comments on the rural determination process.
44 The Board held public meetings in Barrow, Ketchikan,
45 Sitka, Kodiak, Bethel, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue,
46 Nome and Dillingham.

47
48 Government-to-government consultations
49 on the rural determination process were held between
50 members of the Board and tribes, and additional

1 consultations were held between members of the Board
2 and Alaska Native corporations.

3
4 The Board received 475 substantive
5 comments and from various sources, including individual
6 citizens, members of Regional Advisory Councils, and
7 other entities or organizations such as borough and
8 village governments. And based on those comments, the
9 Board developed a recommendation for the Secretaries
10 that would, if adopted, simplify the regulations that
11 guide the process for making rural/nonrural
12 determinations.

13
14 And I'm going to read the proposed rule
15 to you. IT says, (a) the Board determines which areas
16 or communities in Alaska are nonrural. Current
17 determinations are listed at, and they're listed. And
18 then (b) all other communities and areas are therefore
19 rural.

20
21 So instead of using only population
22 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregations of
23 communities, varying information sources, and
24 attempting to apply those standards statewide, the
25 Board would also rely on the Councils and the public to
26 provide any other relevant information for
27 consideration.

28
29 The proposed rule, if adopted, would
30 eliminate the mandatory 10-year review. Instead a
31 review of rural status of a community would be
32 conducted only in response to a proposal submitted
33 similar to the proposals that are submitted to change
34 fish and wildlife regulations.

35
36 The Board would give considerable
37 weight to the input and recommendations of the
38 Councils. The public will continue to be able to
39 provide input at both the Council and Board level of
40 any determinations.

41
42 I think I'm going to stop there. I'm
43 available to answer your questions.

44
45 We did talk about this at the public
46 meeting a little bit last night. And this is an action
47 item.

48
49 Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I should back
50 up. This is an action item. And what we would like to

1 know is if you agree with this or if you disagree with
2 this. And if you disagree, what changes you would like
3 to see.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Any comments
6 from the Council. Questions. Comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any further
11 discussion. Mr. Roczicka.

12

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

14

15 I was going to speak up a little bit
16 earlier. It came up in the public comment period. And
17 I think one of the reasons there wasn't a lot of people
18 here at the hearing last night is because most people
19 felt they had already been through this exercise last
20 year when this whole subject came up as part of the 10-
21 year review. So folks pretty much felt that their
22 concerns were heard, and that the changes that were
23 made here, for those that follow this sort of thing,
24 and generally do come to meetings and speak towards
25 that, felt that their concerns are addressed. I know
26 from my perspective and that of my tribal council, we
27 do.

28

29 I would reiterate the reservation that
30 I still have, and a concern that I have, that until
31 it's actually and on the books, that we can't rest
32 assured of the fact that we're no longer -- that
33 Napaskiak and Kwethluk and Akiak and Napakiak and
34 Oscarville no longer have to be concerned with being
35 aggregated into Bethel. It was quite humbling in many
36 ways when these hearing were taking place, as well as
37 one that was put forward to the State Board of Game --
38 I'm sorry, the joint Boards, to make Bethel a non-
39 subsistence use area under the State law, that people
40 came forward recognizing that their brothers and
41 sisters and mothers and fathers and sons and daughters
42 and uncles and aunts and grandparents make up a large
43 portion of that increased population for Bethel. And I
44 don't think anybody would want to suggest that because
45 they happen to live in Bethel now that their
46 traditional subsistence values are any less important
47 to them.

48

49 So the proposed rule as it stands, I
50 think it was much than actually I think many people

1 expected. It responded to the concerns of the Regional
2 Councils that I heard from across the State that had
3 the same -- many of the exact same concerns that we do
4 have.

5
6 So with all of that, unless anybody
7 else wanted to add to it, I would move to support the
8 proposed rule as written.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motions been made to
11 support the proposed rule as written. Do I hear a
12 second.

13
14 MR. CHARLES: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
17 Charles. Any further discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. BILL: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's called
24 for. Roll call vote, please.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: You've got to repeat the
27 motion.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion was to
30 support the proposed rule on rural determination
31 process. Roll call vote, please.

32
33 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman.

35
36 William Brown.

37
38 MR. BROWN: Yes.

39
40 MR. ONEY: James Charles.

41
42 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

43
44 MR. ONEY: John Andrew. Michael
45 Peters.

46
47 MR. PETERS: Yes.

48
49 MR. ONEY: Lester Wilde, Sr.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Dale Smith.
4
5 MR. SMITH: Yes.
6
7 MR. ONEY: Anthony Ulak.
8
9 MR. ULAK: Yes.
10
11 MR. ONEY: Annie Cleveland.
12
13 MS. CLEVELAND: Yes.
14
15 MR. ONEY: Dorothy Johnson.
16
17 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
18
19 MR. ONEY: Raymond Oney. Yes. Greg
20 Roczicka.
21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
23
24 MR. ONEY: Robert Aloysius.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
27
28 MR. ONEY: David Bill, Sr.
29
30 MR. BILL: Yes.
31
32 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. 12 yes, 1
33 absent. Motion carries.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries.
36
37 Mr. Roczicka.
38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40
41
42 And just a final note on that, and I'm
43 sorry I didn't -- meant to include it in my discussion
44 just prior to making the motion, but what Mr. Nick put
45 on, and others also, put on the record this morning in
46 their testimony regarding this subject, I can't agree
47 more that we always, always have to keep a watch on
48 these sort of things as they come forward. And if any
49 changes, if someone should decide to put in a proposal
50 such as they did on the State side for a community

1 within the area or aggregates of community or uses of
2 that nature. I mean, that's part of dealing with the
3 whole regulatory process. Over the years we've -- I
4 can't stress enough how much in agreement with them I
5 am about that. That's ongoing, that's part of this
6 being part of a Regional Council, or whether you're on
7 the State side and dealing with the Board of Fish or
8 Board of Game or on the Federal with the Federal
9 Subsistence Board, and the manager as well, and what
10 kind of management plans together.

11
12 I didn't want to let them feel like
13 that part was being ignored. It's a really important
14 aspect. It's actually the nut here, that's the life
15 we've got to live with in dealing with it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you for your
18 comments. Excuse me. We are then continuing on with
19 our agenda. Our item under new business is call for
20 Federal hunting/trapping regulatory proposals.

21
22 Mr. McKee.

23
24 MR. McKEE: Good afternoon. Mr. Chair
25 and members of the Council. I'll try to brief.

26
27 We have a fairly simplified list of
28 information needs for submitting proposals now. It's a
29 little bit different than what you see in your reg
30 book, but a lot of the same information.

31
32 Like you've already heard, we're in a
33 current call for wildlife proposals, and that the
34 deadline for that date is the 25th of March. And in
35 order to -- anybody can submit a proposal, as you know,
36 but I'm here before you guys to let you know a little
37 bit about the process. So there's a little bit of
38 information that absolutely has to be in there when you
39 do submit a proposal, so I'm just going to quickly go
40 over that.

41
42 Obviously the name, your name,
43 organization, and your contact information, address,
44 phone, email, fax, et cetera. And then your proposal
45 should include, must include the following information.
46 What regulation do you wish to change. And you want to
47 include the management unit number and species, and
48 then quote the current regulation if known. If you're
49 proposing a new regulation, please state it as a new
50 regulations. (2) How should the new regulation read.

1 Write the regulation the way you would like to see it
2 written in the regulations. And then (3) why this
3 regulation should be changed; why the change needs to
4 be made. And also you should feel free to provide any
5 additional that you think will help the Board in
6 evaluating the proposed change. So that's it now in
7 terms of what we need.

8

9
10 There are several ways in which you
11 could submit the proposals. You can do it by mail or
12 hand-deliver it to our offices in Anchorage, and the
13 address is there in your meeting booklet. I think it's
14 on Page 12 of your meeting materials booklet. You can
15 submit it in person at any Federal Subsistence Regional
16 Advisory Council meeting. And you can also do it at
17 the web at www.regulations.gov. So there's any number
18 of ways to do it.

19

20 But if this Council would like to
21 submit some proposals here, we can certainly work with
22 you. It's not entirely critical that we get every
23 single bit of information down right now. The most
24 important thing is we get gist of the proposal that you
25 would like to submit, and then we can -- myself and
26 Carl and Adrienne can work at a later time to kind of
27 finish it up and make sure that it's reflecting your
28 intent. And then we can get it in before the deadline.

29

30

31 So that's all I really have. I'd
32 certainly be happy to answer any questions if you have
33 any. Thank you.

34

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mr. McKee.

35

36

37

Any questions for Mr. McKee.

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There being none,
42 thank you very much for your presentation.

43

44

MR. McKEE: Thank you.

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're down to
47 item.....
48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I believe this
4 would be the time appropriate for if anybody here on
5 the Council has a proposal that they would like this
6 Council to put forward.

7

8 And I did hear one in testimony this
9 morning, and I've also heard it just from people coming
10 up and talking to me over the course of the last
11 several months. It's arisen at other meetings. And
12 that's raising the current limit for the Unit 18
13 Kuskokwim registration hunt. They recognize that there
14 hasn't been maybe a real good count in quite a while.
15 I missed last fall's meeting, because I was dealing
16 with fish, and I guess moose were talked about
17 extensively. Maybe I would have heard something there.
18 But repeated information we're getting from folks all
19 around, and from the Kuskokwim drainage villages in 18,
20 it's very obvious that the population has grown. How
21 much, we don't know. We know it probably could grow a
22 lot more, so we'd still -- we're probably looking at
23 being able to have twice as many moose right now, and
24 instead of harvesting only the 20 that we used to do
25 every year for the 30-day season back in the 80s and
26 90s, before the moratorium went in place, now we're
27 harvesting 100. We could be harvesting two to three
28 times that perhaps later if the population grew up to
29 not necessarily carrying capacity, but to the higher
30 level that our habitat could sustain. But the
31 possibility of increasing that to 20 or 30 moose.

32

33 I went up for berry picking on Gweek
34 just for an afternoon run last fall, and we saw eight
35 moose altogether, whereas we'd be lucky to see one.
36 Before the snowmachines came around, you used to be
37 able to go up Kwethluk and Kisaralik, too, and see
38 moose track on every bend. But those went away with
39 the Sno-Go's.

40

41 But anyway. back to where the
42 population is right now, I believe it could be, should
43 be looked at that that quota or limit of the current
44 hunt should be increased. The 20 to 30, one was
45 mentioned of 150. Numbers I've gotten from other folks
46 are 20 and 30.

47

48 And just for people in general, too, I
49 mean every village could put in there, people that feel
50 that way even as individuals could put in proposals for

1 whatever they want for that increase. But given that
2 I've heard it from a lot of different directions, I
3 think it would be something appropriate for this
4 Council to put forward also.

5
6 MR. McKEE: Yeah, I'm just informed
7 that that's not a set quota. It's as announced, and we
8 don't -- and we actually have gotten away from actually
9 putting actual numbers in regulation anyway. So is
10 that something.....

11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: And I did try to couch
13 my terms in that, or couch it in that terms. I have it
14 increased perhaps 20 or 30 or whatever. To have it
15 increased from its current quota level by just 20 to 30
16 if possible. And I understand the formulas and how
17 that all works.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is that a proposal
20 that the rest of the Council would like to consider
21 putting in. Council members.

22
23 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Smith.

26
27 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Just
28 reiterating from the testimonies, and just to back up
29 Mr. Roczicka, I do support an increase in the quota to
30 be taken. As you guys all heard this morning, there's
31 major concerns that the people, they want more moose.
32 They want to feed their family. And we heard testimony
33 about they came home and two days later, they didn't
34 know it was closed. So I do support that. It's
35 feeding their family. It is subsistence. And if we
36 could put that in a proposal, then I would support it.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
41 Smith.

42
43 MR. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Peters.

46
47 MR. PETERS: First I have like, you
48 know -- what I would like to see is something that, you
49 know, work out not just the moose population, but for
50 the Yukon also on these proposals. I know there's a

1 timeframe like March 25th to like for -- you know, I
2 support the tribal councils that are in my area that --
3 like with AVCP and TCC, to try to work out something
4 for the local people. What I mean by local people is
5 the people that live out in the villages and have
6 something now with this regulation and proposal of how
7 it's going to affect them or why, and, you know, like
8 sometimes now the weather could be really bad and stuff
9 like that, but, you know, on this population, if
10 there's an increase, was there a follow-up study on
11 that of how much moose in the area is being, you know,
12 upgrading on that count and stuff like that.

13

14 But on this regulation and these
15 proposal, I would like to see more of the Native, like
16 tribal councils giving input and coming from the
17 people, you see. And like as far as any changes in the
18 regulations and proposals, you know, at least, you
19 know, I would like to see the tribal council and their
20 representatives talk on this and see how it could be
21 worked out better you see.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. McKee.

26

27 MR. MCKEE: Yeah. And that's a good
28 point. I mean, I think Greg mentioned a little bit
29 earlier that anybody can submit a proposal for changes
30 to Federal regulations, so that can be an individual in
31 the communities he talked about, the tribal council.
32 Anybody can submit a proposal, and that does happen and
33 oftentimes we'll get more than one proposal for almost
34 exactly the same thing, or very, very similar.
35 Oftentimes what we'll do is we'll combine proposals
36 into one and analyze them together. So that's a
37 possibility.

38

39 But I want you to be aware that under
40 our system, anybody can submit a proposal. So if
41 that's something that you want to communicate back to
42 the people in your area, they're more than welcome. We
43 encourage people to do that.

44

45 And I also want to make a point that I
46 was just informed by the Refuge manager here that he's
47 going to be speaking more specifically to moose
48 surveys, so he might be able to give you some updated
49 information that's not available to me. So I just
50 wanted to let you know that.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Mr. Aloysius.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I wish there
4 was somebody from the Department of Fish and Game here
5 to answer why this September 1 to September 10 every
6 fall is open to any resident in the State of Alaska
7 when it was the people of this area that requested that
8 moratorium so that they would be able to hunt for their
9 families. And it just doesn't make sense to me and to
10 a lot of people upriver that why did they open it to
11 the whole State of Alaska. We had the same problem
12 with our moose area in 19A. They declare that Tier II
13 which made it available for only people in that area to
14 hunt. And why couldn't they do that down here? You
15 know, that is something that just goes against the
16 grain of the people. The people asked for a moratorium
17 so that they can be able to hunt moose. They asked for
18 1,000 moose or five years. And both of those criteria
19 were met. And yet they open it up to the whole State
20 of Alaska to apply for a permit to hunt in this area.
21 It doesn't make sense at all.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. McKee and then
24 we'll get to you, Mr. Roczicka.
25
26 MR. McKEE: Well, just to make a point.
27 I meant to make it clear on the record is that unless
28 Federal lands are specifically closed to non-Federally-
29 qualified users, for people that are not Federally-
30 qualified, State -- well, the State management rules
31 also apply to Federal lands, unless there Federal lands
32 are specifically closed to the hunting of those lands
33 by non-Federally-qualified. So if that closure isn't
34 in place, those seasons and harvest limits under State
35 regulations apply on Federal land.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any additions.
38
39 MR. McKEE: No.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Brown.
42
43 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)
44
45 INTERPRETER: I'm going to be speaking
46 English -- Yup'ik. I'd like to -- I usually
47 understand. The last time I ask a question.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Just a minute. Could
50 you hold on just a minute.

1 Mr. McKee, he's going to be addressing
2 you in Yup'ik. Would you like to have a translator
3 machine over there. It might help for you to
4 understand it.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead. Mr. McKee.

9
10 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Charlie Brown.

11
12 (In Yup'ik)

13
14 INTERPRETER: I'm Charlie Brown. It's
15 been a while that I've been seated in this position
16 with my look over there.

17
18 The moose quota that's being mentioned.
19 I'd like to ask question about that. When was the last
20 time the moose were counted on the Y-K Delta. And I
21 heard that they were last counted in 2010. And for the
22 counts that were conducted year 10 to current, we'd
23 like to hear a current number as of today, because
24 since it's wintertime, is it time for to count the
25 moose. Is that going to be a fact that you guys are
26 going to count the moose at this time to this current
27 date. That's my question. I'll have comments later
28 on. Moose, comprehensive.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. McKee.

31
32 MR. MCKEE: And the question was when
33 is the last time the moose were counted in the Y-K
34 Delta. And like I already mentioned just before, the
35 Refuge will be covering the latest survey results
36 during their presentation, so I think you'll be able to
37 get the answers you're wanting from them in their
38 presentation.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Mr. Brown?

41
42 MR. BROWN: Last hunting fall (In
43 Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Mr. Brown, Charlie,
46 again. Last hunting fall, we usually hunt at falltime,
47 at the month of September. So last summer or last fall
48 on the Kuskokwim, people from the Kuskokwim that are
49 close to the mouth of the Kuskokwim, we hunted not
50 early, and so they made a justification we don't -- a

1 lot of people don't have radios to hear any
2 communication, and we don't walk around or go in camps
3 with the radios. So some day, one of the guys get to
4 us, because we were out in the wilderness just without
5 knowing we might be given citation by the fish and
6 wildlife troopers that are monitoring. So if we are in
7 the wilderness without radio, how will information can
8 be heard by us.

9
10 So these cell phones that we have, they
11 longer are useful when they're how many miles out of
12 the village. We usually have those in our pocket when
13 we moose hunt, but they're not in good use at the
14 certain point, because a ratio of how many miles they
15 can reach to that antenna, and no use after -- beyond
16 that ratio. So have reserved those that don't have
17 money or have a current income, steady, we cannot go
18 back and forth to our hunting ground to where our
19 village is, through our river.

20
21 And in addition the resolution
22 application was wanted to fill out the application -- I
23 mean, the resolution, because Bethel is too many
24 population, they usually fill the quota at no problem.
25 Those people that are at the mouth of the Kuskokwim for
26 that reason, we'd like to have an individual quota
27 presented only to the Lower Kuskokwim. And if you guys
28 could look at it and see how it's like, and pursue
29 that. And we need to have that determined for only
30 Lower Kuskokwim, and we are told that in three days at
31 12 midnight then it's going to close without us seeing
32 big game. That is not very thankful, because we do
33 reserve our equipment as well as gas.

34
35 Thank you very much.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comments to that,
38 Mr. McKee.

39
40 MR. McKEE: If I'm understanding it
41 right, you have some problems with communications and
42 knowing when that hunt is going to be closed, because
43 of the limitations of your cell phones, and being out
44 there in the field, and not knowing when it's been
45 closed; is that part of what you were saying from my
46 understanding? Correct?

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Nods affirmatively)

49
50 MR. McKEE: I'm not sure if I can

1 answer that question without -- you know, I don't know
2 what to do about poor communication. You know, the
3 technology is what it is, and I don't know exactly how
4 they announce the closure beyond what's available for
5 communicating, so radio, cell phone. I'm not really
6 sure that there's any immediate solution to that other
7 than what -- the technology that already exists. So I
8 don't think I'm going to be able to answer that
9 question for you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I don't think
12 you're going to be. It's going to be kind of a hard
13 answer -- to find an answer to that, because if you
14 don't have a radio, it's kind of hard get any kind of
15 messages, whether it's verbal or -- if you don't have
16 the equipment to listen, there's nothing we can do
17 about it. I don't think we're going to be able to buy
18 you all a radio so you can have one if you're out of
19 range. But I don't know what -- I don't really know
20 what the answer is. Maybe the department from the
21 Refuge can come up with something, or some kind of a
22 warning for those closures.

23

24 MR. McKEE: I'd also like to correct an
25 error of mine when Mr. Aloysius was talking about State
26 hunters coming into the area. I was thinking of -- I
27 think in my mind I was thinking of something in the 18
28 Remainder area, but you're correct. For the Kuskokwim
29 area of Unit 18, Federal public lands are closed to
30 non-Federally-qualified users. So the State hunt,
31 people can't come out from outside the communities
32 identified in our Federal regulations and hunt on
33 Federal land. Only those people that are identified in
34 our Federal regulations. So you can see on Page 82 of
35 the moose regulations, it described the communities
36 that are available to hunt on that portion of Unit 18.
37 I hope that helps somewhat. Maybe not.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I was just looking at
40 Mr. Brown to see if what he suggested might be of any
41 help.

42

43 MR. McKEE: I don't think that I'm
44 going to give him a satisfactory answer in terms of
45 communication.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't think so
48 either to tell you the truth.

49

50 Yes, Mrs. Pippa.

1 MS. KENNER: Well, one of the ways to
2 get around the time factor, of course, is to go to some
3 kind of community quota system.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And that can be done
6 by a proposal?
7
8 MS. KENNER: Yes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other suggestions.
11
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's still hand-held
18 VHF. Also VHF in boats. People can transmit messages
19 to each other, from the village to a hunter by VHF. It
20 works.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It always has in the
23 past.
24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.
28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30
31 In putting this proposal forward, and
32 the reason it doesn't have numbers to it, like we don't
33 -- haven't heard what harvestable surplus might be
34 considered to be there, incorporating both moose that
35 are on State lands, or State-managed lands and Federal
36 lands, this is I guess what you would call a
37 placeholder. Many things could be incorporated into
38 that later on once the proposals out for review, we get
39 feedback from the various villages. If somebody wants
40 to put forward a formula once we realize if there's how
41 150 or 200 rather than 105 or 110, and go to a
42 community quota system such as done with -- precedented
43 by the Quinhagak caribou back in 1989 I think it was.
44 '90 and '91. It took a Secretarial order to do it, but
45 anyway things like that are possible, but this is what
46 we would call a placeholder. Kwethluk actually took
47 that all the way to D.C. and got it done for our
48 caribou back in '89 and '90. That's where the
49 community harvest concept was born.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments
2 concerning the call for hunting and trapping regulatory
3 proposals.

4
5 Mr. McKee.

6
7 MR. McKEE: I would also say, just to
8 echo a little more than what Mr. Roczicka said, is that
9 obviously whatever you turn into us now is going to go
10 through a fairly lengthy review process. Information
11 will come into us, we'll be talking with the Refuge,
12 we'll be communicating with the State biologist as
13 well, and getting the most up-to-date information we
14 can possibly get in doing the analysis. And then we're
15 going to come back to this Council at your fall meeting
16 and discussing it with you further. And if there's any
17 further modifications or refinements that need to be
18 made, we can -- that you can communicate that to us, or
19 we'll communicate that to you, depending on how the
20 analysis goes. So it's not like, you know, you bring
21 this into us, submit it to us, and then it just kind of
22 is out there either and it exists of its own. We'll be
23 coming back and reviewing this with you in more detail
24 the next time we meet before you. So it's not over.
25 It's just beginning.

26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: And, Mr. Chairman, if I
28 could follow up, too.

29
30 For Mr. Aloysius' question on why we
31 are a registration hunt here on the State side rather
32 than the Tier II, it's because when we reopened after
33 the moratorium, that was specifically what the advisory
34 committees. It went through a lengthy process. It
35 went through village hearings for those villages that
36 chose to attend. That people did not want to go to a
37 Tier II. They absolutely did not want to go to a Tier
38 II. They wanted something that would be equal for
39 everybody to have the same chance to go out and catch.
40 And that was specifically done. Under the State law,
41 to be able to make it more conducive for the local
42 village residents or the local residents of an area, to
43 have a better chance or more certainty of getting those
44 permits, that's why it was -- permits are only
45 available for two weeks to four weeks before the season
46 starts, and also you have to pick them at least 5 or 10
47 days before the season starts. They're only available
48 within the game management unit. They're not available
49 statewide. It makes it very difficult for people that
50 have to by a \$500 plane ticket to make two or three

1 trips to come out and do that. That's why it is a
2 registration hunt within our area rather than a Tier
3 II. It was specifically requested let's not go there.

4
5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

7
8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have a number of
10 hands here. Mr. Brown, did you have something else to
11 say?

12
13

14 MR. BROWN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

15
16

17 INTERPRETER: If you guys can fix it,
18 if you can fix the 10-day issues before next fall, that
19 would be good. Quyana.

20
21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm sure that
23 something can be worked out with by Staff on the Refuge
24 here on that. You might want to work something out
25 with the Staff, pass that through the State.

26
27

28 And we had one more question over here.
29 Mr. Smith.

30
31

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

33 Looking at the map, Yukon River and Kuskokwim River
34 are Unit 18. So is there a quota for the Yukon
35 villages? Why is the Kuskokwim villages have a moose
36 quota, and if I understand correctly, the Yukon
37 doesn't. Yukon villages. That's my question.

38
39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Sundown.

41
42

43 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Smith,
44 through the Chair. There's two distinct populations.
45 The population on the Yukon, there's about 12,000 moose
46 for the entire population from Paimiut, the boundary
47 with 21E down to the mouth of the Yukon River. And I
48 believe we're still -- you know, we're still going to
49 get this survey done here this next week, and we're
50 going to be able to figure out what the population on
51 the Kuskokwim is.

52
53

54 So that's the main difference between
55 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. There's an abundance of
56 moose on the Yukon. And, you know, they went through a
57 seven-year moratorium, and that's paying dividends at
58 this point. So that's the biggest reason, there's a
59 huge difference in the population on the Yukon and

1 Kuskokwim.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Oney.

6

7 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

8 Chairman.

9

10 Maybe just to elaborate a little more
11 on the Lower Yukon moose population. I believe it was
12 in maybe the early 90s when the villages chose to put a
13 moratorium on the moose. And first it was for five
14 years, and after five years they went ahead and
15 volunteered to add two more years to the moratorium, so
16 it came out to a total of seven years. And over those
17 years the moose population just exploded, and now, I
18 mean, there's so much moose down there, you see moose
19 walking through towns and, you know, on the rivers.
20 Just about everywhere you go you see moose. And that's
21 good. And people are really happy about that.

22

23 Before they used to have that
24 moratorium, they used to go long distance, up to 21E to
25 do their fall moose hunting, and a lot of times a lot
26 of people wouldn't get their moose and it was a real
27 big burden on some people, you know, paying for the
28 amount of gas to get that far. And a lot of time, you
29 know, a lot of people wouldn't get their moose and
30 would go home empty. So we're very happy that the
31 moose population is sustaining it for our area.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion on
36 this, Mr. McKee.

37

38 MR. McKEE: I would just like to say I
39 think some of the regulations we changed during the
40 last cycle kind of reflect that, too. I mean, we have
41 an eight-month season with two moose. So, yeah, that
42 was a resounding success I would say. And so we're
43 hoping that it continues to be that way. So I hope
44 that these new seasons and higher bag limits are going
45 to -- harvest limits are working out well for the
46 people on the ground.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any more
49 discussion on the proposals.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you, Mr.
4 McKee.

5

6 At this time I will be turning the
7 chair over to Mr. Roczicka. And I would like to ask
8 for an excuse for this afternoon for Dorothy Johnson
9 and myself.

10

11 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll go ahead
12 an carry on here for a little bit here. Hopefully I
13 got everything scribbled on my agenda that the former
14 Chairman did on his.

15

16 Next I would have then, a report on the
17 funding notification for the Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring Program.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mr. Chair, can you
21 talk closer to the microphone.

22

23 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I'm
24 hoping I have everything on my agenda that the Chair
25 had on theirs.

26

27 MR. WILDE: I made sure that you had
28 everything there.

29

30 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay.

31

32 MR. WILDE: And I leave this into your
33 capable hands.

34

35 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The next
36 agenda item for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
37 Program notifications.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. -- oops. There
40 we go. Hello, Mr. Chair. This is Pippa Kenner with
41 the Office of Subsistence Management.

42

43 Today I'm presenting the call for
44 proposals, or the announcement of funding opportunity
45 for the Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program. This
46 is a program that's been active since about the year
47 2000. Every year we've had between about four and six
48 million dollars to fund projects into subsistence
49 resources, fisheries resources statewide in the
50 different areas.

1 This year it looks like we're going to
2 have about \$2.3 million to fund new projects that will
3 be starting in 2016.

4
5 The announcements have been distributed
6 in news releases. In addition tribal councils and
7 other tribal organizations have been notified through
8 postcards. And the deadline for proposals is March 11,
9 2011 [sic].

10
11 So this is not an action item. We're
12 just letting the Council know that that announcement
13 for an opportunity for funding is current right now.
14 It's been open for about a month, a month and a half,
15 and it will be closing on March 11th.

16
17 And I'll stop there and ask if there's
18 any questions.

19
20 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any questions.
21 Ray.

22
23 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. Did they really write March 2011?

25
26 MS. KENNER: March 11th, 2015. I might
27 have spoken wrong. Thank you for that correction.

28
29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That was all
30 you had then, Ray. James.

31
32 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 So how much is -- how much did you say is assigned for
34 Kuskokwim area?

35
36 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
37 question, Mr. Charles. Through the Chair. We're
38 estimating -- we don't know how much yet, but we're
39 estimating we'll have about \$2.3 million for new starts
40 statewide. That is divided between the regions. There
41 is a weighted percentage for each of the regions, and I
42 believe the Kuskokwim and the Yukon together take about
43 40 percent.

44
45 MR. CHARLES: And is that including the
46 weir operations money.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
49 question, yes, Mr. Charles. Through the Chair. We
50 require that anybody who gets funding through us goes

1 through a competitive process where they give us
2 applications. We do fund a number of weirs on the
3 Yukon and the Kuskokwim drainages, and they are funded
4 for between two and four years, and then at the end of
5 that period they come back and compete again for more
6 funding.

7
8 We don't fully fund any of the weir
9 projects. We'll only fund up to -- usually we fund up
10 to 50 percent of those projects, but no more.

11
12 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mike, go
13 ahead.

14
15 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 mean, I would like to see something for the Yukon side
17 with, you know, this monitoring program, and how much
18 money's available to our communities on the Yukon, like
19 with the percentagewise, you know, of how much money
20 will be available for our communities over there. And
21 that's just a question. Because I know there's --
22 March 11th is kind of coming around the bend, and I
23 would like to have a follow up or draft follow up of
24 where could they get in contact with this funding, you
25 know. And that's a real good program, and it's a
26 monitoring program for the Yukon also.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. This
31 is Pippa Kenner again.

32
33 I actually think we have some
34 information on the back table, and I think it's in your
35 books. I think there's a presentation with all the
36 contact information.

37
38 We have been contacted by a number of
39 tribes, including Mountain Village, and we don't give
40 funding directly to tribes or communities or
41 governments; however, we do rank projects that have
42 collaborative or partnership with rural communities or
43 organizations. We do rank them higher.

44
45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Follow up?
46 Okay. Anyone else.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I just had a

1 quick one for you. You mentioned about the 2.4 for new
2 projects, and that's statewide, so up to 40 percent, we
3 could consider maybe around a million total. And that's
4 new projects, that's not ones that are currently in
5 operation say in their second or third year of their
6 four-year cycle. But how about if it's like a
7 continuation project, does that count as a new project?
8 I think I heard you say that, that once one project
9 period runs out, and somebody wants to -- you know, if
10 you're funding a weir and they want to continue doing
11 it obviously, do they come in as a new project or a
12 continuation? Is there a different level of
13 consideration for a continuation rather than actually a
14 new project that has never been done before.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Yeah. This
17 is Pippa Kenner again.

18

19 Yes. Well, we try to estimate how much
20 money we're going to get yearly, and then that -- most
21 of that money goes to funding projects that are already
22 funded, so we have projects that are approved by our
23 Technical Review Committee, that they're good projects,
24 they should go forward, they're collecting information
25 that we need and that the Council needs to do its
26 business with fisheries. And they're approved for
27 funding year-by-year, but we don't fund them until we
28 actually get the money. So they're actually fund year-
29 to-year. And so we estimate we'll get somewhere
30 between four and eight million this year, and then
31 we'll only have two and some million for new projects,
32 for new starts.

33

34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anybody else.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank
39 you. I'm not sure you're going to be the one to bring
40 forward the review and approval of the annual budget --
41 I mean the annual report.

42

43 Carl, go head.

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: That will be me, Mr.
46 Chair. Carl Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management.

47

48 So I'm just going to highlight two
49 things. First, in Page 13 of your meeting book,
50 there's overview on the annual report format and the

1 content of the format. And this is derived from
2 Section .805 of ANILCA which governs what the Regional
3 Advisory Councils do.

4
5 But the actual draft annual that was
6 prepared based on the discussion at your fall meeting
7 was mailed out to you in your supplemental materials.
8 So you should have that in your supplemental folder.

9
10 And I'm just going to identify for you,
11 there are a total of four issues listed on that annual
12 report. And I'm looking to see if anybody has it.
13 Don't have it?

14
15 MS. FLEEK: In the mailed stuff,
16 because there's two things, they have the mailed and
17 they have the things that I brought with me.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: So you would have
20 received a white envelope in the mail with your meeting
21 book, and then also a folder that had supplemental
22 materials.

23
24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Correct. It's
25 a red folder. It's the one sitting on my desk at work,
26 yeah.

27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, let me just
29 overview with you then what's in your draft annual
30 report.

31
32 The first issue relates to beaver dams.
33 And it identifies the issues that beaver dams cause in
34 clogging up tributaries and hindering the movement of
35 fish. And also impeding access to fish camp sites.
36 And then it asks -- the Council encourages that funding
37 and personnel be allocated to remove abandoned beaver
38 dams in order to enhance and restore fish habitat.

39
40 The second issue is about moose counts,
41 and what is the current status of the moose
42 populations, and also the manner in which the surveys
43 are conducted. And it relates to the Council's concern
44 about whether or not tributaries are included in the
45 aerial surveys, and the importance of conducting
46 accurate surveys, because of the reliance of local
47 residents on moose for food. So it's essentially
48 encouraging whatever can be done to enhance the
49 accuracy of moose population surveys.

50

1 Three, muskox on Nelson Island. And
2 essentially it's urging that a study be done to --
3 first, to assess the current population of muskox on
4 Nelson Island. Next, to study the impact of predation
5 by wolves on the muskox population. And then if the
6 study shows that wolves are affecting the muskox
7 population that the land managers responsible explore
8 predator control measures.

9
10 And then finally, the fourth issues is
11 called communication with communities over new
12 regulations. It's urging that the Board and any
13 applicable agency Staff communicate better with
14 communities about proposed regulatory changes. While a
15 lot of Staff visit villages, there's not always good
16 information shared on what any pending regulatory
17 changes might be. That if they are being considered,
18 that communities should be consulted before any action
19 is taken. And that that is not happening as good right
20 now as it should be. So it's essentially an urge for a
21 better public outreach on proposed changes.

22
23 And those are the four main issues that
24 are identified in your annual report. And now is the
25 time if the Council would like to modify these or add
26 any to them, this would be your chance to finalize your
27 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, several
32 of those reflect what we heard in testimony as well.

33
34 Does anybody else have any other issues
35 they want to add.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
40 then I guess we can move along then to the charter
41 revisions.

42
43 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. That will be me
44 again, Mr. Chair.

45
46 So if you'll turn to Page 15 of your
47 meeting book, that is a draft charter. This is an
48 action item. And why this is an action item is, if you
49 recall from our training we did yesterday, the Federal
50 Advisory Committee Act requires that your charter be

1 renewed every two years.

2

3 And what you will see in your meeting
4 book is a section of language that's highlighted in
5 yellow. And what that reflects is something that was
6 before the Council at its fall meeting. You received a
7 briefing on some proposed changes regarding how the
8 nominations and appointment process is conducted for
9 the Regional Advisory Councils.

10

11 Among those recommended changes were,
12 (1) changing the service term from three years to four
13 years.

14

15 (2) Providing for formal appointment of
16 alternates, so that somebody will actually receive a
17 letter saying that they've been appointed as an
18 alternate to the Council, and that they could step in
19 and fill in case there's either an unexpected vacancy
20 or somebody who could not travel to the meeting.

21

22 And that finally that there be
23 something called carry-over term appointments, and that
24 is if somebody's term is expiring, but an appointment
25 letter has not been issued to either replace them or
26 reappoint them, that they continue to stay in that
27 position until an appointment is issued. And in this
28 case, the language in your charter, proposed charter
29 there suggests an extension of 120 days for that term.
30 And then the reason why it's 120 days is Fish and
31 Wildlife Service personnel in D.C. wanted to limit it
32 to 90 days, but I suggested that 120 days would be
33 better, because that would at least get that Council
34 member through the winter meeting cycle. That way at
35 least the Council could have the benefit of that
36 Council member's presence at the winter meeting cycle
37 if necessary.

38

39 So this Council approved of those
40 recommended changes, so the yellow language is just
41 those changes being implemented in your draft charter
42 for approval. So I will need the Council's action to
43 approve this change for submission to Washington, D.C.

44

45 And then I need to backtrack also, and
46 just while we're doing motions, if we could have a
47 motion to approve of the draft annual report as it was
48 presented.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob, go ahead.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I don't have
4 the colored page. If you'd just give me the paragraph
5 number.
6
7 MR. JOHNSON: Sure. Through the Chair.
8 So.....
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: I got one.
11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.
13
14 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Oney.
15
16 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman.
18
19 I move to accept the letter to the
20 Federal Subsistence Board on the four -- one, two,
21 three, four -- four points as they're written for the
22 annual report.
23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25
26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: There's a
27 motion on the floor. Is there a second.
28
29 MR. PETERS: Second.
30
31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by
32 Mike. Any further discussion on that.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MR. BROWN: QN: Question.
37
38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: No further
39 discussion. All those in favor say aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed
44 same sign.
45
46 (No opposing votes)
47
48 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
49 the annual report approved as submitted with no further
50 revisions.

1 Back to the charter revisions now. Mr.
2 Aloysius, you had the floor on that issue just a moment
3 ago. Do you want to follow up on that.

4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: On what?

6
7 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: On the charter
8 revisions. On the charter revisions, did you have
9 anything further.

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, I was just wanting
12 to know, because I couldn't find it. And that's not --
13 I mean -- thank you.

14
15 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

16
17 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dale.

18
19 MR. SMITH: Yes. So I'm a brand new
20 Council member and I wasn't here for the last -- the
21 charter, but I do have a question. Page 17, right
22 below the highlighted section you have the Chair, Vice
23 Chair, Secretary. They'll be elected every year. Is
24 there any reason why that's -- why do you have to do it
25 every year? That's the question.

26
27 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Johnson.

28
29 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 And, through the Chair, Mr. Smith. So there are
31 certain things that the Federal Advisory Committee Act
32 requires to be in the charter. And then also the Fish
33 and Wildlife Service itself adopts essentially
34 administrative rules on how to implement FACA into the
35 Advisory Committee operations. And one of those
36 requirements is annual elections. So that's something
37 that's just required by the rules that govern this
38 committee.

39
40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And maybe to
41 follow up a little bit on that, is the one-year terms
42 for officers part of the requirements under FACA, or is
43 that one of those administrative discussion that
44 somebody decided to insert?

45
46 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I cannot
47 recall if it's specifically required in FACA or if it's
48 required in the administrative rules adopted by the
49 Fish and Wildlife Service for how FACA committees will
50 operate, but it's in one of those two. And I can

1 research that and get the Council an answer if you
2 like.

3

4 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. I don't
5 know, do you want it immediately? I would like to hear
6 a little more about that. Some of these -- but not
7 necessarily at this meeting now, maybe for a later
8 report.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So being
13 that this is an action item with an amendment changing
14 current terms from three-year to four-year, and also
15 allowing a continued level of service after the
16 expiration, a motion would be in order.

17

18 Ray, go ahead.

19

20 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22

23 I move that we adopt the Charter as
24 written.

25

26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That's with
27 the additions on the membership being the four-year
28 terms and such as on under 12 on Page 17.

29

30 MR. ONEY: Yes, on the highlighted
31 portion also. Thank you.

32

33 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: A motion. Is
34 there a second.

35

36 MR. CHARLES: Second.

37

38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And seconded
39 by Mr. Charles.

40

41 Further discussion.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 MR. CLEVELAND: Question.

46

47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. The
48 question's been called. All those in favor say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed
2 same sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
7 that will go forward for approval then.
8
9 Okay. I've got asked for a break right
10 about this time. We'll take 10 and then be back at it.
11
12 (Off record)
13
14 (On record)
15
16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We'll
17 call the meeting back to order. 3:41 in the afternoon.
18 Still got a fair amount of ground to cover.
19
20 I was informed during the break by
21 Staff that going back to the call for proposals, that
22 that is an action that would require a vote of the
23 Council, so whether we want to put forward a proposal
24 to the Board for increasing the moose quota, that would
25 take a vote and an action of the Board. Or if we want
26 to wait and see if other people put on in. I cannot
27 make the motions any more sitting as the Chair.
28
29 Ray.
30
31 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman.
33
34 I move to that regard in putting in a
35 proposal to increase the moose harvest for this area,
36 for the Kuskokwim.
37
38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: For the
39 Kuskokwim drainage.
40
41 MR. ONEY: Thank you.
42
43 MR. PETERS: Second.
44
45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It's been
46 seconded by Mike.
47
48 Further discussion. Charlie.
49
50 MR. BROWN: Question.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The question's
2 acknowledged, but not heard at this time. There's
3 further discussion.

4
5 Dale, go ahead.

6
7 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Was there a
8 specific quota that this motion's going to include.

9
10 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It concerns
11 the Kuskokwim registration hunt for Unit 18.

12
13 If no further discussion, the Chair
14 will then hear the question at this time. Do we need a
15 roll call vote.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
20 all those in favor say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed
25 same sign.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. And if
30 the Staff needs any further information, they can get
31 ahold of any one of us that they need to for
32 clarification on what's to be included.

33
34 That brings us up then to the
35 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory
36 Council's emperor goose resolution. Carl.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 This is an information item only. This
41 is not an action item for the Council.

42
43 The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence
44 Regional Advisory Council for several years has been
45 advocating to improve the emperor geese surveys to get
46 better, more accurate population numbers, and also to
47 modify the population thresholds whereby a subsistence
48 hunt could be permitted. Right now it has to be at 80,000
49 population sustained for three years before a
50 subsistence hunt is authorized.

1 The Council previously submitted a
2 proposal to the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
3 Council to provide for a subsistence hunt. And that
4 proposal was tabled.

5
6 To bring you up to more recent speed,
7 at its winter meetings, so just two weeks ago, the
8 Kodiak/Aleutians Council received a very detailed
9 briefing from the Migratory Birds Division at U.S. Fish
10 and Wildlife Service regional headquarters, and got a
11 lot of good information about the survey methodology.
12 And they were also informed that the Pacific Flyway
13 Management Council Emperor Goose Management Plan is
14 going to be under revision, and that they were in the
15 process right now of considering revisions to that.

16
17 They were also informed that among
18 those revisions being considered are possibly dealing
19 with the population goals, and also the subsistence
20 hunt threshold. So the Council is very pleased with
21 that, and they want to see what happens with that
22 review process on the management plan before they push
23 the issue any further.

24
25 So at this point in time, they just
26 wanted this Council to receive a copy of their
27 resolution which addresses some suggestions they have
28 for improving survey methodology, and also specific
29 suggestions they have about lowering the subsistence
30 hunt threshold. And just to keep this Council
31 informed. They also did the same thing for the Bristol
32 Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And they
33 just urge this Council to stay in touch and up to date
34 on what is happening with the revisions to the
35 management plan, and that they'll be following this
36 issue and may be in touch with this Council at a later
37 point, but for just now, they just wanted this Council
38 to be aware of what they're doing and what the current
39 status is with the management plan.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank
44 you for that update. And my thoughts when I read this
45 was that this is something for the Migratory Bird Co-
46 Management Council and ought to go through their
47 process first. And as recognized as a co-management
48 council, they would actually I believe supersede the
49 RAC in that regard as a specific charge.

50

1 I do have a blue card here for who
2 wants to speak to this. Mr. Andrew.

3
4 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Timothy Andrew with AVCP Natural Resources.

6
7 This issue has been with AVCP for a
8 number of years since probably pre-existing 1984, and
9 it's been contained within our goose management plan
10 that we've had on the books for a good 30 years or 40
11 years to now.

12
13 And if you were going to take action on
14 this, you know, you heard testimony from Myron
15 yesterday that we are working on trying to get the
16 survey methodology improved, to include other areas
17 that have been excluded, including Kodiak and various
18 parts of the Aleutian Chain. So, you know, I thought
19 this might have been an action issue, and I was going
20 to encourage the Board -- or encourage the Council to
21 not take action on this until the Migratory Bird Co-
22 management Council goes through the works and get
23 things moving forward.

24
25 That's all, Mr. Chair.

26
27 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any further
28 discussion on this one.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
33 then going on to -- we already covered the appointment
34 of representatives on the Kuskokwim Subsistence Panel.
35 And just to clarify on the record that those folks
36 appointed was with the intent that they would be
37 through the Chair's approval and notification. And, of
38 course, given the limitations that they may face for
39 funding, but that they would be available for attending
40 meetings that occur or come up that were unforeseen.
41 So that this Council can have a presence there at other
42 fisheries meetings throughout the course of the year in
43 between meetings.

44
45 The next thing we have, the Yukon River
46 Drainage Fisheries Association on the BLM's Bering Sea
47 Western Interior planning.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

50

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Carl.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: So there have been some
4 revisions to this agenda. The disadvantage of you
5 having to take over the Chair this late in the
6 position. So actually the next item to address under
7 new business will be the Wood Bison Management Plan.
8 After that, under the amended agenda that the Council
9 approved at the beginning of the meeting, was going to
10 be a discussion on the reduction of Chinook salmon
11 bycatch in the Bering Sea; however, I would recommend
12 that the best time to have that discussion will be
13 after the presentation from the folks at NPFMC who'll
14 be your first agency report.

15

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And according
17 to the agenda, I have the wood bison was following the
18 YRDFA/BLM was the next item I have. That is item F and
19 then the wood bison was item G.

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Right. And again though,
22 the Bering Sea issue, the YRDFA issue is a very slight
23 informational item that YRDFA is going to just include
24 in their full report, so that will come later when
25 YRDFA has their regular report.

26

27 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Striking that.
28 Moving to Wood Bison.

29

30 MR. McKEE: Good afternoon, or I guess
31 good early evening maybe. Again for the record this is
32 Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife Division chief for the
33 Office of Subsistence Management.

34

35 And I'm just going to kind of give a
36 brief overview of the Wood Bison Management Plan. I
37 think it was included as a supplemental in your packet,
38 so it's there before you. And there's several goals
39 that are listed in there, and I'm not going to go over
40 all of them. It's a 15-page document, so in the
41 interest of time I'll just kind of hit the ones that I
42 think are kind of going to be the most relevant. So
43 this is an action item for you all.

44

45 Just as a first point of order, I just
46 want to stress the makeup of the working group that
47 worked on this plan. It was made up of a very diverse
48 group of people, some of whom have very different
49 outlooks on the way things like bison and other
50 management issues should go. And oftentimes they're

1 very diametrically opposed on some of those issues. So
2 a big group of people came together, and through
3 several meetings of the course of a couple of months
4 were able to hammer out this management plan that you
5 see before you. And so I think it was a pretty great
6 effort and kind of unique amongst such a diverse group
7 of users.

8
9 So just a little bit of background on
10 wood bison. They did historically roam Alaska for
11 about 10,000 years. And then maybe about 200 years ago
12 they disappeared. So since about the early 1990s there
13 have been some in Fish and Game that have been talking
14 about bringing these animals back onto the landscape.
15 There were several areas that were looked at for
16 reintroduction of the species. And both the Department
17 of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service
18 worked very diligently together to develop a Federal
19 rule that was eventually published in 2014 to designate
20 the wood bison in Alaska as what's called a non-
21 essential experimental population under Section 10(j)
22 of the Endangered Species Act.

23
24 Now, without going too far into the
25 weeds under the Endangered Species Act, I just wanted
26 to highlight a few things that are included under this
27 rule. So when a species is designated as a non-
28 essential experimental population, under this rule,
29 regulated hunting is allowed using sustained yield
30 principles. Activities like resource development,
31 trapping and other forms of recreation are also
32 allowed. Designation of critical habitat under the
33 Endangered Species Act is not allowed. And if
34 reintroduction fails for any reason or in the unlikely
35 event that litigation changes the legal status of the
36 species, the animals can be removed from the landscape.
37 And also the Department of Game is designated as the
38 lead agency for reintroductions for the species.

39
40 So like I said, there are several goals
41 under there. I'll just highlight a few of them very
42 quickly.

43
44 Obviously the first one is to establish
45 a wood bison herd in the Lower Innoko/Yukon River area
46 and manage it for long-term viability. The plan as
47 identified here is to transport between 40 and 100 wood
48 bison to Shageluk starting in March of this year for
49 release into the wild. I think the actual release date
50 is now the 23rd of March. And I'd like to be there,

1 because I'm kind of curious as to the logistics of how
2 you transport bison out to this area, but the idea is
3 to put them in these specially custom-designed pens in
4 a C-130 and fly them out to Shageluk.

5
6 And then we're going to have -- they're
7 having what's referred to as a soft release. So what
8 that means is I believe just about every able-bodied
9 man in the Village of Shageluk participated in creating
10 a pen near the runway where the bison are going to be
11 released. And how long they stay in that pen is
12 depending on several factors, but the idea there is to
13 kind of get them used to the area.

14
15 So you can imagine the logistics that
16 are involved in doing that. But Lynden Transport has
17 donated approximately \$100,000 worth of transportation
18 time for getting the animals out there. A company that
19 is custom-making some of these pens for the animals has
20 also donated I believe five of the six pens that are
21 needed. Greg, you can correct me if you remember
22 differently. But the take-home there is that most of
23 those pens are being provided to this effort free of
24 charge. So there's been a tremendous amount of support
25 from both the transporters and the people involved in
26 the details of getting these animals out there. And
27 it's really something pretty amazing.

28
29 I'm going to skip really quickly on to
30 a point that was probably one of the most talked about
31 aspects of the management plan among all the people
32 that were involved in the working group, and that was
33 the management of the harvest allocation. Obviously
34 it's a pretty hot topic. And Goal 5 is mentioned on
35 Page 9 of the plan, and it says to manage harvest
36 allocation to equitably benefit local residents, non-
37 local residents, and non-resident hunters. Notice we
38 didn't say equally. That word equitably was not there
39 by mistake. It's not going to be possible to give
40 everybody equal opportunity. The most important thing
41 was equitability; that is, allowing everybody that has
42 an interest to have some ability to participate in the
43 harvest of this population when that time comes.

44
45 So with that in mind, you can see under
46 objective 2 under that goal on Page 10, the plan calls
47 for allocating 20 percent of the harvest under a State
48 limited registration hunt to be issued in the
49 communities of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy
50 Cross, and allocate 80 percent of the harvest under a

1 State drawing permit hunt of which at least 90 percent
2 is reserved for residents of Alaska.

3
4 So that first point was something that
5 was driven home by several people, that it was very
6 important that, you know, a tremendous amount of effort
7 and faith is being brought forth by the local people in
8 the GASH communities of having this new species out
9 there. There was a lot of concerns about what the
10 impacts of bison on both the environment in general and
11 to animals like moose was going to be, and whether
12 there was going to be issues and concerns about public
13 safety. And so we all felt it was important that the
14 local people have a realistic opportunity to take part
15 in any harvest that could happen for the species, which
16 is the reason why we left that 20 percent of the
17 harvest under State, a limited registration permit.

18
19 So again I think it was mentioned in
20 some discussion earlier today that technically anybody
21 can go out -- anybody in the State can go out there and
22 try to get one of these permits, but the expense of
23 actually flying -- somebody from say Anchorage flying
24 out there to get one of these permits makes it a very
25 difficult proposition. So the reason for doing it that
26 way was to try to, the best of our ability, under what
27 is allowed, is to give the opportunity for the people
28 in those local communities an opportunity to harvest
29 when that comes.

30
31 Now, nobody can really say for sure
32 when the harvest of these animals is going to be
33 allowed. It's kind of difficult to say, because nobody
34 knows how the animals are going to I guess adapt to
35 their environment, but we wanted to make sure that
36 locals had that opportunity. And I think that if that
37 wasn't -- had that not been part of the plan and people
38 hadn't been willing to do that, I don't think, and
39 maybe Greg can answer this one, I don't think it would
40 have gone much farther. I really don't. And I tried
41 to emphasize the importance from a Federal Subsistence
42 Board perspective was that if you don't get buy-in from
43 the local users, you're probably not going to get buy-
44 in from the applicable, the affected Regional Advisory
45 Councils. And I tried to emphasize to them how
46 important and viable the Regional Advisory Councils are
47 to the Federal subsistence process, and without the RAC
48 approval, then this plan will probably stop before it
49 ever gets going. So I think that was taken, and people
50 really paid attention to that. And I think that it's

1 reflected in this plan.

2

3 And then I just wanted to go over real
4 quickly the final goal in here -- well, the second to
5 last goal, Goal 6, was to minimize wood bison impact on
6 other wildlife species and the ecosystem on which they
7 depend. I kind of touched on that a little bit, but
8 there was some concerns from people, you know, are
9 these animals going to compete for moose? Are they
10 going to bring diseases into the area? Some other
11 people were concerned about them, they're going to be
12 supplemental feeding these animals when they initially
13 go out there, so they were concerned about -- some
14 people had concerns about the feed being brought in
15 there not being weed-free and bringing invasive plant
16 species into the area.

17

18 So you can see under objective 1 under
19 there that we ensure that only certified weed-free hay
20 is used for the supplemental feeding of the bison. And
21 that's not just for once they get out there. These
22 animals are being fed certified weed-free hay for weeks
23 before they go out there, so it's not -- so anything
24 that's still inside of them and let go under their
25 digestive system when they're out there is also going
26 to be weed-free.

27

28 Also, the stock that is being used,
29 it's currently housed at the Alaska Wildlife
30 Conservation Center there outside of Portage. All of
31 those animals are certified as being disease-free. So
32 we don't expect any diseases to be brought into that
33 area as a result of this introduction as well.

34

35 And then be conducting field
36 inspections for the presence of invasive plant species
37 at supplemental feeding sites just to be absolutely
38 sure that nothing's being brought in there.

39

40 And then, of course, to monitor the
41 wood bison interactions with their habitat and other
42 species. It's thought that, you know, wood bison are
43 grazers whereas moose are browsers, so there wasn't any
44 thought that there's going to be any competition.

45

46 Other people had concerns about, well,
47 are the predators just going to nail these animals once
48 their out there. We can only go off of the existing
49 literature for the species in Canada. And according to
50 the Fish and Game biologist that's kind of the head of

1 this program, there seems to be an indication that
2 wolves don't key in, are not capable of kind of
3 figuring how to hunt these animals for up to some 20 or
4 30 years. So we can't absolutely be sure again what's
5 going to happen, because this is a new situation, but
6 based on the existing literature, it's thought that
7 predation is not going to be a major factor on these
8 animals.

9

10 I presented a very -- myself and Greg
11 Roczicka and then Robert Walker from the Western
12 Interior, both presented a similar presentation before
13 the Federal Subsistence Board, and they endorsed the
14 release of the animals, but they also wanted to get
15 buy-in from the relevant Regional Advisory Councils as
16 well. Now, the Western Interior Regional Advisory
17 Council has already endorsed the release of the
18 animals. And what we're looking for from this Council
19 is a similar endorsement.

20

21 So if there's any questions, I'd be
22 happy to try to answer them, and I'm sure also Greg
23 could help, because he was part of this process as
24 well.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Just -- oh, go
29 ahead.

30

31 MR. MCKEE: Sorry. I didn't have the
32 transcripts in front of me before I came, but not only
33 did they ask support the introduction, they also asked
34 each of the RACs to review and comment on the plan
35 itself, then report back to the Board. So I just want
36 to make that point of clarification as well.

37

38 So this is, I hesitate to use the word
39 final plan, because management plans like these are
40 obviously living documents, but right now this is the
41 plan that we have after review from both the local
42 communities taking up not only some of the things I
43 mentioned already, but ideas about access and maybe
44 access fees that would be granted to the land owners in
45 the area as well. So this is pretty much the most up-
46 to-date plan that we have now to work on. So that's
47 kind of what we're -- the kind of information we're
48 looking to from this Council.

49

50 Thank you.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
2 Chris.

3
4 Just to add a little bit of my -- Chris
5 covered it quite well there. My involvement in that, I
6 was very careful as far as agreeing to what goes
7 forward, that I'm speaking for myself, and as a member
8 of the group that it would have to come back to the
9 Council for their -- for all of us here to made any
10 kind of a formal approval. But in cases like this,
11 often where we've only got -- there's four villages,
12 it's a very localized action or it's going to have a
13 very localized effect pretty much only because a few
14 villages for the foreseeable future. Oftentimes in the
15 past it's -- well, every time in the past that I've
16 experienced that, either this Council, or if it's
17 Western Interior for something that's happening that's
18 happening in the Y-K Delta, they generally defer to the
19 local villages when it's not something that's going to
20 be regionwide.

21
22 I believe the main reason the Y-K RAC
23 was specifically asked to be involved is that perhaps
24 20, 30 years down the line as this herd does expand and
25 it starts to go off in satellite groups, that the most
26 likely place for them to go is going to be down into
27 Unit 18 on the south side of the Portage Hills where
28 you've got the steps of the lowlands from the mountains
29 that would also be good bison habitat. So that's
30 something that's down the line.

31
32 The other item that came up, as far as
33 the land use fees, the four villages chose not to
34 charge any kind of exorbitant fees for the ANCSA
35 corporations. They kept it at something that in my
36 mind was quite low. What was it 300 or 500? I think
37 it was \$300, yeah, for a land use fee. But all of
38 those fees they also said is going to be going into a
39 dedicated fund for their young people to get into
40 science and either wildlife or fisheries management,
41 and to build on that. That was I think a really far-
42 sighted move on their part.

43
44 And I can't over-emphasize enough to
45 what Chris started out with, was that I've been dang
46 near 30 years being on the front lines of controversy
47 at various boards and wildlife and fisheries
48 regulations. And to see people from totally opposite
49 sides of the spectrum come and -- I mean, having the
50 Safari Club and the Outdoor Council and some of the

1 advisory committee representatives off the road system
2 working so closely with the village representatives,
3 and the regional Tanana Chiefs and Ganatsu (ph), the
4 village corporations. If even half the level of effort
5 that went into this had gone into maybe fixing the
6 State's constitutional conflict back in 1988, we
7 wouldn't have a dual management system right now. It
8 was just -- the only word I've been able to come up
9 with, it was really impressive. And it was from both
10 sides. It came from all sides. Everybody. It was
11 just a real positive thing to be a part of. Beyond my
12 experience.

13
14 They are looking as I said for an
15 action or a statement of record for our support. And
16 going forward, I think we'd have a chance for further
17 review as it goes down the line. I think they were
18 looking at at least one meeting a year for the process.
19 And we can continue to look at it there as the herd
20 hopefully grows and in the future can expand down in
21 our region, and we can start looking at the possibility
22 for another source of meat. And I have had a couple
23 people actually from -- our Chairman was one, actually.
24 He said, had bison meat once; it's the best I've ever
25 had. I'd love to have another one.

26
27 MR. McKEE: Just to give you an idea
28 the kind of animal we're talking about, they are
29 somewhat larger than the plains bison, but the adult
30 males can be 2000 pounds or more. So we're talking
31 about a big animal. So that's a lot of meat.

32
33 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36
37 Who can hunt wood bison.

38
39 MR. McKEE: Well, right now nobody.
40 This is simply -- right now it's simply a management
41 plan to go forward in the future. Right now what's
42 going to happen, the most immediate thing is going to
43 be the release of the animals out there. So they're
44 going to be flown out sometimes on or about the 23rd of
45 March to Shageluk, and they're gong to be ut in that
46 pen, the pen that I mentioned, and kind of allow them
47 to adjust to their area for a while. How long that's
48 going to be, it's hard to say. Is it Christmas or
49 something? So nobody can hunt them right now.

50

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Alex,
2 you have a question specific or point specific.

3
4 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 For the record my name is Alex Nick. I'm originally
6 from Russian Mission, and also from Marshall.

7
8 I would like to raise a couple of
9 questions on the document, Wood Bison Management Plan
10 document for Lower Innoko/Yukon River. And the reason
11 why I wanted to raise a couple of questions is because
12 the fact that my village of Russian Mission has C&T on
13 Federal lands for other resources like moose. And I
14 didn't see anyone either from Russian Mission or
15 Kalskag or Aniak on the list of the members, management
16 plan, or committee, whatever you call it.

17
18 And I think what I want to say about
19 that area is that there is a lot of hunting and berry
20 picking activities especially from Russian Mission and
21 Holy Cross in the area which is, according to the map,
22 the map is very small and I don't really know exactly
23 what area that is, but people go hunting all the way
24 from confluence of Yukon River up in that area. And
25 also as far as down as Chevak.

26
27 I heard public comments this morning
28 and in the past that animals don't have boundaries.
29 They don't know anything about boundaries. Look at
30 muskox. You know, they were transplanted down in
31 Nunivak and then also in Nelson Island. There's muskox
32 over in Seward Peninsula in Unit 22. And now they're
33 wondering how far their animals have walked away to
34 from their regions. And in Unit 18 only we have at
35 least 1,000 plus animals of muskox that walked to the
36 inland.

37
38 And the reason why I raise this
39 question is because if I was living over in Russian
40 Mission I would probably raise more questions about
41 this for the safety and comfort of my local people,
42 knowing that at least once one dogmusher was attacked
43 by a muskox right in the portage there.

44
45 And I just wanted to know, maybe Mr.
46 McKee could answer this, I wanted to know why there was
47 nobody from Russian Mission in this, or at least be
48 part of the team that was doing some planning for this.

49
50 Mr. Chair.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Chris, do you
2 want to go first? I can answer some of those, too.

3
4 MR. McKEE: Well, through the Chair.
5 I'm not really sure how the members of the organization
6 were particularly picked, so I can't really answer that
7 question myself.

8
9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Well, I
10 had some of the same concerns you do, specifically on
11 the safety issue, and specifically because of muskox
12 and what happened there. And I'm fairly well assured
13 bison are much more territorial. They do not frequent
14 snowmachine trails. They don't wander off. They tend
15 to make their own trails. The chances of conflict and
16 harm for people is at a very low level.

17
18 There was never a meeting -- again, I
19 don't know how also -- they were trying to get a
20 diverse group of -- or the broad representation of
21 groups together, and the team that was putting this
22 planning, that was in charge of this planning effort.
23 In hindsight, yeah, it would have been good to have
24 Russian Mission. I did specifically contact some folks
25 -- and as you know, some of my relatives are over at
26 Russian Mission -- about that, and their response is,
27 bring them over. That will be another -- they're
28 another pile of meat for us. And some of the folks in
29 Anvik and up in that area say, they go out of the area
30 where they're and they come across the river, it's
31 fresh meat.

32
33 MS. ST. LOUIS: Hello. This is Rita
34 from Fish and Game.

35
36 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
37 Rita.

38
39 MS. ST. LOUIS: Thank you. This is
40 Rita from Fish and Game for the record. I've been
41 working on the wood bison planing team. And I'm sorry,
42 I just dialed in again, because I had another call I
43 had to take.

44
45 But to answer the question about
46 safety, for the most part bison will avoid people
47 unless they feel that they are cornered. And so if you
48 leave them alone, they'll leave you alone sort of
49 thing. So that's the safety thing that I wanted to
50 answer.

1 And why we didn't select Russian
2 Mission, there's probably a lot of people who could
3 have been selected. We tried to select as broad a
4 group of people s possible. There were 29 groups were
5 invited, and 28 responded. And we had hoped that --
6 and we realize that these animals would be, for the
7 first few years, around the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk,
8 Holy Cross area. And the plan is for five years. So
9 after that time, when there's a new plan and the bison
10 -- if the bison are spreading, of course, the people to
11 whose backyards they will be spreading, I'm sure they
12 will be involved in this, too.

13
14 We did invite Fish and Game Advisory
15 Committees from both the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk,
16 Holy Cross area and the people on the Kuskokwim side,
17 the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, and then in
18 hopes of getting other Fish and Game people, you know,
19 sort of have a pony in this race so to speak. That's
20 one of the reasons we did invite the Y-K RAC, Greg
21 Roczicka was that representative. And we invited the
22 Western Interior RAC, because those were the two RACs
23 that we felt probably will be most affected, most -- in
24 the nearest future.

25
26 And then, you know, there's a point at
27 which we kind of had to draw a line, because -- not
28 that everybody isn't important, because everybody is
29 important, but it was a pretty expensive thing to
30 include as many people as we did, and we just sort of
31 had to finally say this is -- we hope if these people
32 aren't represented, we hope at least their general
33 interests are. So certainly apologies to anybody who
34 feels that their interest is not being taken care of.

35
36 The other thing I would like to say is
37 any way we can get information to people about wood
38 bison and their behavior and how they spread and how
39 they affect people and how they affect other animals,
40 and the environment, we certainly would love to have
41 anyone send their name and mailing address or email
42 address and that sort of stuff to us, because we
43 welcome questions and that sort of thing.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you for
48 being there, Rita, and listening in.

49
50 So did you have anything else then,

1 Chris?

2

3 MR. McKEE: Yeah, I just wanted to
4 follow up a little bit more on Mr. Nick's concerns
5 about public safety. And, you know, like everything --
6 like I mentioned about predation as well, a lot of what
7 we know about wood bison had been learned about from
8 what's going on in Canada. And they've learned a lot
9 about conflicts between bison and people there. And
10 like as has been mentioned before, wood bison there as
11 least seem -- are much less likely to attack people
12 than moose are.

13

14 In fact, the area where this herd came
15 from in Roans there in Canada is actually close to were
16 a fairly large cross country skiing race is held every
17 year, and they've never had a single report of any
18 aggressive bison, you know, chasing people off of the
19 trail, which we have had actually in Anchorage during
20 some of our ski races there at one of our parks. So
21 the likelihood of a public safety issue, while not
22 absolutely zero, is much reduced just by the nature of
23 the animal. So I just wanted to put that on the
24 record.

25

26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I guess
27 we're getting close to losing a quorum here, so to move
28 this forward, maybe one more comment, but this is
29 something that our local villages that are primarily
30 affected have looked into very deeply and dealt with
31 for over a good year or two now. And they're ready and
32 willing to take it on. And I'd be inclined to support
33 them, but I couldn't make a motion to that effect. So
34 I'd hope for a motion on the floor.

35

36 Bob, you had.....

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The concern
39 that many people people have up here is that, are these
40 bison pen-raised? I mean, they're born and raised in a
41 pen like where they are right outside of Portage,
42 Alaska, and they have no experience being out in what
43 you guys call wilderness with the predators. There's
44 no mom and dad to teach them to keep away from -- you
45 know, be watchful about predators. There's no
46 predators in that pen that they're raised in. So
47 that's one of the main concern.

48

49 MS. ST. LOUIS: Mr. Chair. This is
50 Rita. Should I respond to that?

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
2 Rita, if you want to.

3
4 MS. ST. LOUIS: Through the Chair.
5 Hello, Bob Aloysius.

6
7 These animals have been kept in
8 captivity in pens at Alaska Wildlife Conservation
9 Center, you're right about that. But they are wild
10 animals. And any of these animals, such as these, that
11 have been raised in cap -- have been kept captive like
12 this before, the moment they're turned out into the
13 wild, they know they're wild. And so, you know, it
14 isn't like you're turning cattle out that eventually
15 get feral. These animals have the genes and the
16 genetic background, they know they're wild, so they'll
17 be -- they won't race around people or something like
18 that.

19
20 Regarding predators, once again we go
21 by what is known in Canada, and that is it takes
22 predators roughly 30 years to catch on how they can
23 catch bison, and not that every predator will learn
24 that. But it's unlike a moose where a bear can come
25 after a moose and get her calf and it's just mamma
26 against the bear or mom against the wolves. You have a
27 whole bunch of animals, because they're herd animals,
28 and they stay together. If a bear or a wolf come to
29 these, they've got not just one mamma to deal with, but
30 they have the whole herd to deal with, to chase these
31 animals away. So it takes predators several years to
32 finally catch on, and some of them get techniques that
33 they learn how to catch these animals, and we believe
34 they will eventually, but by that time we're certainly
35 of the belief that the herd will be large and can take
36 care of predators.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Rita.

41
42 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess
43 another way administratively to handle this if folks
44 are not felling comfortable about making a motion and
45 actually stating their support, we could, as I
46 mentioned at the start, and have done in the past,
47 deferred to the Western Interior Council's position.

48
49 Is there a motion. Mr. Oney.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Yeah, maybe a comment if I
2 may. It looks like there's been a lot of work put
3 together in this management plan for the wood bison for
4 the Lower Yukon -- Lower Innoko/Yukon River. And a lot
5 of villages had a lot of input in putting this
6 together. It kind of reminds me of a time back when I
7 was working with Roger Savoy who was the biologist for
8 the ADF&G at time when we learned about a big herd of
9 muskox that was in the mud flats area, the volcano mud
10 flats. Had there been education taught to the villages
11 in that surrounding area, we probably would have had an
12 opportunity to hunt that muskox, but before outreach
13 can be made, we found out that that whole bunch were
14 taken. So I guess that kind of lost our opportunity to
15 have a muskox hunt in the future.

16

17 And I'm very happy that this plan as
18 put together and with villages involved.

19

20 So with that in mind, I'd like to move
21 to support this management plan for the wood bison.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.

26

27 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Motion
28 and second. Any further discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ready for the
33 question.

34

35 MR. BILL: Question.

36

37 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. The
38 question's heard. All those in favor say aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And opposed
43 same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
48 thank you, Chris.

49

50 And it appears we're going to be

1 losing.....

2

3 MS. ST. LOUIS: Mr. Chairman. This is
4 Rita again. I just want to say one more quick thing. I
5 know you're really busy, but if you could collect names
6 and emails and addresses of anybody on your RAC who
7 would like to get any information from us and forward
8 it to us here in Fish and Game, you have my contact. I
9 would be delighted to send anything we have.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
14 Rita. And, yeah, anybody that wants to hear more, and
15 that includes members in attendance in the audience,
16 give your name to Adrienne or Carl, or contact
17 information. They can get you all that stuff.

18

19 And I believe we still do have a
20 quorum.. One, two, three, four -- we have eight.
21 Yeah, we're good to go at seven out of the 13.

22

23 So bring us down to the Bering Sea
24 bycatch was next, but we were going to wait until after
25 the NPFMC presentation because it better fit in there.

26

27

28 So the last one I had on my list then
29 is the clarification of the GMU 18 and 19A boundaries.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I want to
32 pull that out because I'm going to work a proposal
33 basis.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,

38 Bob.

39

40 Which brings us then to agency reports,
41 unless Staff has a more updated -- well, I know they
42 have a more updated agenda to work off of than I do.

43

44 So on agency reports since the NPFMC
45 folks are addressing a very important issue and they
46 also have planes to catch, and it may take a little
47 bit, I'd like to -- well, I'd like to and I am going
48 to, Chair's prerogative, move them up on the agenda and
49 make them first on the agency reports. So, gentlemen,
50 if you'd -- Carl.

1 MR. JOHNSON: And then, Mr. Chair, for
2 this they're going to have a PowerPoint presentation,
3 and so if the Council members would like to see it
4 well, perhaps you'll want to sit over here, and then
5 the NPMFC folks are going to sit up here and just
6 address the audience in that direction.

7
8 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll step
9 down for five minutes while that all gets hooked up.

10
11 (Off record)

12
13 (On record)

14
15 MR. MacLEAN: Good afternoon, Mr.
16 Chairman and members of the Council, everybody who's
17 left. My name is Steve MacLean. I am a Staff analyst
18 with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

19
20 And we're very pleased to be able to be
21 here today to talk about a very important issue both to
22 the Council and we understand an extremely important
23 issue to members of Western Alaska and Southwest
24 Alaska. And that is providing an update on additional
25 actions that the Council is taking to control or to
26 reduce salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock
27 fishery.

28
29 We're very pleased today to have three
30 Council members with us who are also here to answer
31 questions, and I'll ask them to introduce themselves at
32 this point.

33
34 MR. HULL: Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.
35 Chairman and Council members. Again thank you for
36 including us on your agenda. We're pleased to be here
37 to present this information to you.

38
39 My name is Dan Hull, and I am a State
40 of Alaska representative on the Council. I'm one of
41 the five appointed State of Alaska representatives.
42 I've been serving on the Council for six years, and
43 this is -- in October I was appointed the Chairman of
44 the Council, so I'm currently serving as the Chairman.
45 I live in Anchorage, and I've been fishing out of the
46 community of Cordova for the last 30 years. Before
47 that I did spend some formative time in high school and
48 college working in salmon canneries and fishing for
49 salmon and herring in Togiak and Goodnews Bay and
50 Norton Sound. And so that's me.

1 I will turn to Mr. Dersham.

2

3 MR. DERSHAM: Thank you. I'm Ed
4 Dersham. I'm also one of the five appointed Alaska
5 Council members to the North Council. I've lived in
6 Alaska for 38 years. I was a fisherman in the lower
7 Cook Inlet for over 25 years. And for the last 18
8 years I've been involved in fisheries management in
9 different venues. The Board of Fish, working for the
10 Department of Fish and Game, and now seven and a half
11 years on the North Council.

12

13 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
14 Council members. I'm Craig Cross. I'm one of the
15 three Washington representatives on the Council. I'm
16 an appointed member. I've been on the Council for
17 three years, so I'm the rookie of the group, so be
18 nice. I have been on the Council AP, the advisory
19 panel, for 16 years before this three years. And I
20 started fishing in Alaska when I was 17, and have been
21 in fisheries since then, so that's almost 45 years, in
22 almost every aspect of it from seining to gillnetting
23 to buying to crab to longlining. And now I work for a
24 family company that owns catcher/processors that trawl
25 on the Bering Sea, longliners that longline on the
26 Bering Sea, a crabber that crabs in the Bering Sea. We
27 have a cod boat that fishes cod in the Bering Sea. And
28 we fish off the coast of Washington.

29

30 MR. MacLEAN: So again like I said, my
31 name is Steve MacLean. Quyaná for this opportunity.

32

33 Diana Stram is also a member -- or one
34 of the analysts on our Council Staff. She's the author
35 of this analysis and was originally to be here.
36 Unfortunately a family illness has kept her away, so I
37 will be presenting this information. I'm happy to take
38 questions as they come, or if you would prefer to wait.
39 Either of those will work fine for me.

40

41 So we're going to start out talking
42 about the current status of salmon bycatch and
43 management of salmon bycatch in the pollock fishery in
44 the Bering Sea. The Bering Sea pollock fishery, which
45 is a midwater trawl fishery, does catch Chinook and
46 chum salmon as bycatch as they're operating in Federal
47 waters. This bycatch by law is not able to be
48 retained. Retention is prohibited, but the salmon must
49 be counted. Some of the salmon that are caught as
50 bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery are donated

1 to food banks, including food banks were in Alaska.

2

3 In the mid 1990s the Council began
4 managing salmon bycatch by using what are known as time
5 area closures. These are closures in specific places in
6 the Bering Sea for specific times.. Those closures are
7 fixed in regulation, and were not responsive to
8 changing conditions. If salmon moved, those area
9 closures could not move with the salmon.

10

11 So in 2005 the Council started
12 evaluating other ways, and then implementing other ways
13 to address salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea.

14

15 These two maps show the distribution of
16 the pollock fishery in the winter season, which takes
17 place in late January through mid April. And this area
18 here in the dark red is where that fishery mainly takes
19 place. In the wintertime, the fishery is constrained
20 by ice, so it occurs again here, and generally south of
21 the Pribilof Islands.

22

23 The map to the right shows the
24 distribution of the pollock fishing and again the
25 concentration of that fishery in the summer season,
26 which takes place from June through November 1.

27

28 This chart shows the history from 1990
29 to 2014 of both Chinook in blue and chum salmon in pink
30 in that pollock fishery. And what's notable are these
31 large spikes that occurred in 2005 where approximately
32 700,000 chum salmon were caught in that pollock
33 fishery, and in 2007 when 122,000 Chinook salmon were
34 caught in that fishery. Again what's notable with this
35 chart is after those high peaks, bycatch numbers did
36 drop back down to levels that had been seen previously,
37 and have remained at much lower levels than those peak
38 levels. We're currently somewhere around 11,000 to
39 15,000 Chinook salmon in that fishery since 2007.

40

41 In response to those high years of
42 bycatch, the Council took action to put reductions and
43 put restrictions on the bycatch that was allowable in
44 that Bering Sea pollock fishery. And in 2011 the first
45 hard caps on bycatch in the U.S. were introduced.
46 Along with that, in what is know as Amendment 91 to the
47 Bering Sea Ground Fish Fishery Management Plan, were
48 industry incentive programs that were also put into
49 place. These incentive programs were put into place to
50 provide an incentive for the industry to keep bycatch

1 low and lower bycatch as much as possible in all years
2 and all levels of pollock and salmon abundance.

3
4 Amendment 91 established a hard cap, a
5 high end of 60,000 Chinook salmon in that Bering Sea
6 fishery. If that number was reached, then the fishery
7 would be stopped. There also a lower cap level which
8 was known as the target cap level of about 47,000 fish
9 that was available with the incentive program
10 agreements. However, if that lower level cap was
11 exceeded in more than two of any rolling seven years,
12 then that upper cap of 60,000 would be removed, and the
13 sectors would be subjected to only that 47,000 lower
14 number. So that higher number only existed as long at
15 these incentive programs were in place, and the
16 sectors, the pollock fishers did not reach more than
17 about 47,500 Chinook salmon in more than two of any
18 seven years.

19
20 Since that program was put into place,
21 if you remember from the chart, those higher numbers
22 have not been reached at all. Not even close.

23
24 So at these current levels of 11,000 to
25 15,000 fish annually, the incentive programs that were
26 put into place in Amendment 91 are critical to helping
27 to further reduce bycatch.

28
29 Also in Amendment 91 were additional
30 provisions that were put into place. Those included 100
31 percent observer coverage in the Bering Sea pollock
32 fisheries, so every tow is observed. There's a
33 complete census of all salmon species that are caught.
34 So every salmon that is caught in the Bering Sea
35 pollock fishery is counted.

36
37 We've also increased the genetic
38 sampling from all of these salmon that are caught to
39 understand better the stock of origin both in the
40 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area, and in
41 the Gulf of Alaska. We also receive annual reports on
42 the genetic stock of origin from those fisheries so
43 that the Council has a better understanding every year
44 of where the salmon that are caught in the Bering Sea
45 are coming from.

46
47 We also then receive annual reports
48 from the industry sectors on the effectiveness of their
49 incentive programs. And important with that is we
50 receive a third-party audit of those incentive programs

1 as well.

2

3

4 Recently the Council, as everybody is,
5 is aware that the returns of Chinook salmon in the
6 Western Alaska rivers remains low. And as a response
7 to this, even though the bycatch numbers in the Bering
8 Sea pollock fishery have been lower than historically,
9 the Council is still interested in looking at different
10 ways and new ways that they can further reduce bycatch
11 of Chinook and chum salmon in the Bering Sea.

12

13 What the Council is doing at this point
14 is focusing on strengthening those incentive programs
15 to keep bycatch low under all conditions of salmon and
16 pollock abundance, take the incentive programs that
17 were developed previously, and see what else we can do
18 to them to make them stronger. And then also combining
19 bycatch reductions for Chinook and chum salmon.

20

21 A little bit of information in the
22 process required to change management structures in the
23 Bering Sea. The North Pacific Fishery Management
24 Council is one of eight regional management councils
25 that is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
26 Together with the National Marine Fisheries Service,
27 North Pacific Fishery Management Council manages the
28 U.S. Federal fisheries off of Alaska in those Federal
29 waters. And those are from three to 200 miles.
30 Management of these fisheries is coordinated and in
31 some cases jointly managed with the State of Alaska.

32

33 And the Council is also an advisory
34 body making recommendations for management to the
35 Secretary of Commerce. Once the Secretary receives
36 those recommendations, the Secretary can approve, can
37 disapprove, or partially approve those recommendations,
38 but the Secretary cannot change the management
39 recommendations that have come from the Council.

40

41 The Council is composed of 15 voting
42 members, and that number is mandated by the Magnuson-
43 Stevens Act. There are 11 voting members and four non-
44 voting members. The voting members include four
45 designated seats as the head of the National Marine
46 Fisheries Service, and the state departments from
47 Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. There are five seats
48 that are appointed by the Governor of Alaska, or
49 recommended to the Secretary from the Governor of
50 Alaska, and two seats that are recommended by the
51 Governor of Washington. There are also four non-voting

1 members, including representatives from the Coast
2 Guard, the Pacific states, the U.S. Department of
3 State, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

4

5 The North Pacific Fishery Management
6 Council is required to base their management decisions
7 in the context of 10 national standards. Two of those
8 national standards that are most applicable to this
9 action are (1) to minimize bycatch to the extent
10 practicable. In this case, that's salmon bycatch. And
11 then also while preventing over-fishing, achieve on a
12 continuing basis the optimum yield from each fishery.
13 In other words allow -- in this case, allow the Bering
14 Sea pollock fishery to achieve optimum yield while at
15 the same time minimizing salmon bycatch to the extent
16 practicable. So it is a balance that must be achieved
17 by the Council.

18

19 There are a great deal of -- a great
20 number of laws and regulations that do require making
21 changes in these fishery management plans. There are
22 environmental and economic impact analysis that are
23 required by various Federal laws. These are all public
24 documents. And typically the review of these documents
25 takes several meetings before the Council makes a final
26 decision. And through all of these meetings and at all
27 of these stages there's opportunity for public review
28 and public comments. And that is part of what we're
29 doing here, explaining what is going on with this
30 action, receiving some of your questions, and also very
31 importantly to us, receiving comments that might not
32 necessarily be questions that we can take, and I will
33 be compiling into a report for the Council that will be
34 available in April.

35

36 At the time that the Council makes
37 final action, that decision is submitted to the
38 Secretary of Commerce through NMFS, or the National
39 Marine Fisheries Service, and then once that is
40 approved by the Secretary, NMFS will then write the
41 implementing regulations, and again there is
42 opportunity for public review and public comment during
43 that proposed rule stage.

44

45 So, again, information now about how --
46 or what information we've got to make a change in our
47 management. We know that there are a number of factors
48 that affect salmon bycatch. The behavior of the fleet
49 obviously affects the number of salmon that are caught,
50 but there's also temperature affects. There are inter-

1 annual variations. Between years and among years there
2 are changes in where the salmon and where the pollock
3 occur. Seasonal patterns as to where the salmon and
4 the pollock occur. Obviously the location of the
5 fishery, where those big boats are going will have an
6 impact. There are also vessel-specific differences and
7 run size variability.

8

9 The Council is not able to affect all
10 of these. We obviously can't affect temperature,
11 seasonal patterns of where the salmon are occurring,
12 but what we can affect is fleet behavior, the location
13 of the fishery, and vessel behaviors. And so those are
14 the sorts of things that the Council is focusing on as
15 they make recommendations for ways to reduce salmon
16 bycatch.

17

18 In 2014 the Council requested that
19 Staff conduct a number of analysis on the existing
20 structures. They wanted to understand the bycatch
21 rates from Chinook from Western Alaskan origin. Wanted
22 an updated impact analysis on Western Alaskan stocks.
23 An impact analysis of what might have happened in these
24 Western Alaskan rivers if bycatch had reached those cap
25 levels that were established in 2011. What would
26 happen if we required changes in vessel behavior. And
27 what do we need in order to evaluate the effectiveness
28 of the program in years of low salmon abundance and
29 also low salmon bycatch.

30

31 In order to address these questions, we
32 needed to understand where Chinook salmon in the Bering
33 Sea are coming from, and we do that with the genetics.
34 What we can understand is that we've got these specific
35 stocks that are shown here. The large yellow circle in
36 the northwest is Western Alaska stock of rivers. And
37 the genetics does not currently let us break that down
38 any further. So that is one large group that we can
39 see. We've also got a Middle Yukon in green. Upper
40 Yukon there in pink.

41

42 If we look at the bycatch from 2012,
43 this is the breakdown of where the Chinook that were
44 caught in the Bering Sea pollock fishery are coming
45 from. Approximately 63 percent of those fish came from
46 coast and Western Alaskan stocks, 11 percent from the
47 north Alaska Peninsula, 10 percent from British
48 Columbia, 7 percent from the U.S. West Coast, and less
49 than 3 percent from the Upper Yukon. But there are
50 differences seasonally. In the wintertime, the major

1 contributors were from the Upper Yukon, coastal Western
2 Alaska, and northern Alaska Peninsula.

3

4 We can do the same thing for chum
5 salmon, again looking at the genetics to understand
6 where those chum salmon are coming from. And the
7 circles that you see on the map are the stocks that the
8 genetics allow us to break these down into. Again, for
9 2012, the chum salmon bycatch this time was largely of
10 Asian origin. Approximately 60 percent of the chum
11 salmon that were caught in 2012 came from Asia. And
12 it's believed that those are hatchery fish from Asian
13 hatcheries. Approximately 14 percent came from Western
14 Alaska, 7 percent from the Middle and Upper Yukon.

15

16 In order to understand what the impact
17 would be on individual rivers, there's a number of
18 other things that we need to understand. What are the
19 age of the fish that are caught in the bycatch.
20 Currently it looks like the pollock catch is Chinook
21 salmon that are primarily age 3 through 7. We need
22 that in order to account for maturity for the returning
23 fish coming into the rivers. We also needed the
24 genetic information to understand the stock composition
25 of those fish. And then we can only do this sort of
26 analysis for river systems where total run information
27 is available. And all of these data, all of this
28 information are only available basically for the
29 coastal Western Alaska and the Upper Yukon area, and so
30 those are the areas where we focused on these analyses.

31

32

33 If we look at the impact rates for
34 Chinook salmon from 2003 to 2012, for coastal Western
35 Alaskan streams, the impact rates were 1.6 percent of
36 the total runs in 2011, ranging up to 7.7 percent of
37 the total runs in 2008. And that higher number in 2008
38 is reflective of the large Chinook salmon bycatch year
39 in 2007.

40

41 If we look at the Upper Yukon, Chinook
42 impact rates from 2003 to 2012 range from 1.3 percent
43 of the total run to 3.7 percent of the total run in
44 2010.

45

46 If we look at the Amendment 91 years,
47 the years after Amendment 91 had passed, the impact
48 rates were from 1.4 percent to 2 percent for both
49 rivers.

50

1 But the Council also wanted to know
2 what the impact rates would have been if those cap
3 levels had been reached. Doing that same sort of
4 analysis for the years 2011 and 2012, the impact rates
5 in coastal Western Alaska could have ranged from 2.2
6 percent to 6.2 percent of the total run. In the Upper
7 Yukon that bycatch could have resulted in 1.8 percent
8 to 4.6 percent of the total runs.

9
10 Looking at the same thing for chum
11 salmon, the impact rates from 2005 to 2009, which is
12 years that we've got the available data, in coastal
13 Western Alaska less than one-tenth of one percent in
14 2008 to just about one and a quarter percent of the
15 total runs in 2005.

16
17 For the Upper Yukon River, about a
18 quarter of a percent in 2009 to 2.6 percent in 2006.

19
20 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It's pretty
21 difficult following this without having something to
22 (Indiscernible - away from microphones) dealing with it
23 for several -- but you know, you started out in your
24 initial draft here showing 63 percent of the Chinook
25 bycatch being Western Alaska in origin, is that not
26 comparative years, so now you're going down to 1.6 to
27 7.7.

28
29 MR. MacLEAN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. There are two different things there. Of
31 the fish that were caught in the Bering Sea, 60 percent
32 of the Chinook salmon did come from Western Alaskan
33 streams. Then if we look at what impact all of that
34 fish would have had in each of the local streams for
35 which we have information, for which we have the
36 necessary data, the reduction in total run caused by
37 that bycatch would have ranged from 1.6 percent to 7.7
38 percent.

39
40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Of the total
41 return.

42
43 MR. MacLEAN: Of the total return in
44 that river. Did that make sense?

45
46 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah.

47
48 MR. MacLEAN: Okay.

49
50 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I haven't had

1 a chance to really read it through.

2

3 MR. MacLEAN: Well, we're here to
4 answer questions, and we're -- not only today are we
5 here to answer questions. If you've got questions as
6 you read, please feel free to contact us. Our
7 information will be available. So I appreciate your
8 asking these questions now, and we're definitely
9 available for questions as they come up.

10

11 So looking again at the analyses that
12 the Council had asked for, the Chinook bycatch levels
13 have been lower than other years for all sectors and
14 over all since 2011. But that analysis did show that
15 there are incremental improvements that could be made
16 at individual vessel levels, and especially at those
17 vessel levels during the B season, or summer season,
18 when Chinook salmon bycatch rates can be high.

19

20 The annual closures within sectors that
21 the industry put into place, they're evidence that
22 vessels did move away from those areas of high bycatch.
23 Thank you. If the high bycatch areas were know,
24 there's evidence from Amendment 91 that those vessels
25 did move away from those areas.

26

27 Most of the vessels in the Bering Sea
28 are also using salmon excluded devices, which are
29 devices that the industry developed of their own accord
30 and placed into the trawl nets. Some of these sectors
31 are mandating the use of salmon excluders. And salmon
32 excluders are a fairly simple device that allow Chinook
33 salmon in particular, and now also developing the same
34 for chum salmon, to escape these nets while they are
35 still able to retain pollock.

36

37 And the schematic at the bottom shows
38 how this works. There is a flap that covers a hole
39 that's cut into the net, and it was something to get
40 fishermen to agree that they should cut holes into
41 their nets. But what this flap does, it creates a lead
42 in the water flow that's going through that net. So as
43 the salmon and the pollock are initially caught and
44 moving down that net, salmon, the Chinook salmon in
45 particular are much stronger swimmers than pollock, and
46 they're able to swim forward against that flow of water
47 into that's lead that's created by the flap of netting.
48 That allows the salmon to rest, and then once they're
49 ready, as you can see in the top figure here, move
50 forward against that flow of water, and out the hole of

1 the net and escape. And in tests that were conducted
2 by industry, they were achieving salmon, Chinook salmon
3 escapement rates of up to 40 percent. So not perfect,
4 but an excellent beginning to reducing the impacts of
5 that fishery on Chinook salmon.

6
7 Additional management issues include
8 timing of Chinook and chum salmon bycatch. The
9 previous Amendment 91 only addressed Chinook salmon.
10 The Council at this point now wants to also address
11 chum salmon bycatch. Chinook salmon bycatch occurs in
12 both winter and summer, but the chum bycatch occurs in
13 the summer fishery only. Chinook salmon is higher
14 later in the summer season, and the Council is
15 concerned and believes that Chinook salmon and chum
16 salmon bycatch measures should be complementary. They
17 should not be separate actions, but should be
18 complementary actions to reduce by catch of both
19 species.

20
21 So the alternatives that are being
22 considered by the Council fall into three broad
23 measures. We just talked about combining the chum and
24 the Chinook salmon programs, making
25 changes to the incentive plan agreements to make them
26 stronger, and potentially lowering bycatch caps in
27 years of low Chinook salmon abundance.

28
29 Alternative 1 in this analysis is the
30 status quo, and that's required by NEPA. National
31 Environmental Policy Act. Thank you.

32
33 So alternative 2 is the alternative
34 that incorporates chum bycatch management into the
35 existing plans. And there are several provisions to do
36 that.

37
38 Alternative 3, some of the options
39 considered there are to mandate the use of the salmon
40 excluders that we described; introduce closures if
41 weekly bycatch rates exceed a specified threshold; and
42 to introduce penalties or restrictions on vessels with
43 the highest bycatch rates.

44
45 Alternative 4 would change the pollock
46 fishery seasons. There are several alternative or
47 options being considered here. One would move the
48 start date to June 1, which would encourage fishing
49 earlier in the summer when bycatch rates for Chinook
50 salmon are lower. There are provisions that could

1 potentially shorten the B season to avoid the highest
2 Chinook bycatch periods from mid September to October.
3 There's also an option to modify the proportion of
4 pollock that can be caught by season. In other words
5 moving 5 to 10 percent of the quota into the winter
6 season out of the summer season.

7
8 Alternative 5 would lower the bycatch
9 caps at times of low Chinook salmon abundance. And
10 there are a couple of options here as well. One would
11 lower the cap level by year, tied to an index of
12 Chinook salmon abundance in three indicator river
13 systems from the previous year. The low abundance
14 threshold would be about 250,000 Chinook salmon in the
15 Unalakleet, Upper Yukon, and the Kuskokwim Rivers from
16 combined post-season run reconstructions. For example,
17 if in a given year the combined run size for those
18 three rivers was less than 250,000 Chinook salmon, the
19 options would be to reduce that bycatch cap by 25
20 percent to 60 percent. And the threshold was intended
21 to represent historically low run sizes.

22
23 From an analysis that was presented to
24 the Council in December '14.....

25
26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: May I offer a
27 comment before you on from that last slide.

28
29 MR. MacLEAN: Yes, please.

30
31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That 250,000
32 and to give a little perspective from Kuskokwim,
33 250,000 was our average run for the Kuskokwim alone
34 until this recent downslide and that doesn't seem
35 realistic for the concern people have of being able to
36 provide for their subsistence needs on the river when
37 they have these runs that provide you subsistence, and
38 what we have, they just start to run and we're shut
39 down totally. And I know that your pollock fishery is
40 your food on the table to get money to buy your food,
41 but it's, you know, we had people literally in tears
42 and their lives are just totally disrupted. I mean,
43 it's literally having to -- all your life that is your
44 job for those three months to feed your family, and you
45 have to stand on the banks and get nothing. To totally
46 disrupt the culture that's (Indiscernible - away from
47 microphones) for 250,000 for all -- for the Yukon and
48 the Kuskokwim both, and using the historically low run
49 averages. That one I think you need to at least double
50 that so it's something realistic and sharing the pain.

1 MR. MacLEAN: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
2 Thank you for that comment. This 250,000 was based on
3 historical analyses of those three river systems by
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and National Marine
5 Fisheries Service scientists, so I can't speak to that
6 number specifically, but I can bring that comment back
7 to them and suggest that another number could be
8 considered.

9
10 MR. McCAFFERY: But I think Greg's
11 point is not that the number's calculated incorrectly,
12 but that that threshold at which action is taken, or
13 additional action's taken, should not just reflect
14 years of very low abundance, because it should be
15 bumped up so that it takes into account what the
16 subsistence users are actually experiencing all the
17 time, so that they can maintain in reasonable years
18 good harvest levels and not know that a lot of the fish
19 are being (Indiscernible - away from microphones)
20 fishery.

21
22 MR. DERSHAM: I'm just wondering if
23 there's a misunderstanding about whether it should be
24 up or down. Maybe you picked that up, too.

25
26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That wasn't
27 the intent of my question.

28
29 MR. MacLEAN: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
30 Thank you again for that comment. Again it must be
31 kept in mind that there will be restrictions placed on
32 the fishery, on the pollock fishery. These are
33 additional restrictions that would lower whatever cap
34 is put into place in those years of very low abundance.
35 So there are provisions to lower the cap outside of
36 this low abundance threshold. But this threshold was
37 calculated that would then kick in additional
38 restrictions. And again, I can't speak to the number,
39 but I will bring that back to the folks who are doing
40 this analysis and suggest that that is something that
41 they should also look at.

42
43 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Tim.

44
45 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
46 Chairman. We have a lot of -- okay. I'll try. Going
47 back to the AEQ spike that you had up there and the low
48 impacts it has on Western Alaska and Upper Yukon
49 stocks, the adult equivalent quotient, or AEQ is based
50 on a lot of missing data. I mean, it's a very data-

1 poor formula that they came up with. There's a lot of
2 missing information, so they use what they call a
3 parametric bootstrapping method to legitimize the
4 possible impacts on the stream. And at some point they
5 need to show the confidence intervals, and those
6 confidence intervals were pretty tight for a data-poor
7 situation, in my opinion. You know, I'm not a
8 statistician. I'm not a scientist in any way. But it
9 seems like when we get into a data-poor situation, the
10 confidence intervals are way out there. I mean huge.
11 We've encountered that in population estimates of
12 migratory birds, of moose, of any resource that we had
13 up here, have in the region. But when it comes to the
14 adult equivalent quotient, it comes extremely tight
15 confidence intervals. So somebody is really sure of
16 the data that is coming out of there, coming out of
17 that formula. It's a huge formula that I can't even
18 begin to understand.

19

20 But, you know, the bycatch that is
21 occurring with that minimal of impact on streams that
22 are very, very low in abundance like the Unalakleet
23 River, they can never achieve their escapement goals.
24 The Yukon River, we've been in dire straights since
25 1998. The Kuskokwim River, we started in 2010 and
26 could likely continue for years and years and years.
27 And what little impact that it has streams, every
28 salmon is starting to count. We couldn't even make
29 escapement into Canada on the Yukon River despite the
30 conservation measures that the Feds and the State
31 imposed on us, restricting us down to absolutely
32 nothing, still couldn't make escapement. So right now
33 every fish counts, and I really appreciate former
34 Commissioner Campbell in moving in this direction to
35 further address the bycatch issue. That's all I wanted
36 to say.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And your --
41 you had.....

42

43 MR. MacLEAN: Just a point of
44 clarification, that that number that determines low
45 abundance, I think everybody knows how few thousand
46 fish are contributed by the Unalakleet, but that only
47 includes the Upper Yukon, not the whole Yukon River
48 drainage.

49

50 MR. SUNDANCE: I've got a question on

1 pain sharing. You know, all these caps and thresholds
2 represent the industry's ability to adopt -- or adapt
3 to changing low abundances of difference. Has there
4 ever been an instance in which you guys have reached
5 your cap, come near your cap, or taken actions because
6 of getting near a cap?

7

8 MR. HULL: Maybe Mr. Cross wants to
9 add, but, no, under the existing caps the answer is no.
10 And I would say that it's probably due both to the
11 actions by the pollock fleet as well as what we know
12 about he the continued low abundance of Chinook that
13 are out there. And this is why the Council upon
14 request from stakeholders looked into ways to lower
15 those existing caps, which is what we have in this
16 current action. And also to make changes in the
17 incentive programs and all the other actions that would
18 continue to reduce the bycatch.

19

20 MR. SUNDOWN: So would it be a fair
21 statement to say that the industry's never really felt
22 pain in terms of achieving their ultimate cap?

23

24 MR. CROSS: That's not exactly true.
25 Is it the same pain that you guys are feeling in the
26 rivers? No. But it's a financial pain that affects
27 the companies. And I can't speak for every company out
28 there, but for ours, it's family-owned company, and our
29 vessel in the last year or two has spend millions of
30 dollars to avoid salmon. So there is a pain. Is it
31 the same as yours, no. I mean, I don't know how you
32 can -- how we can, or anybody, can really start saying,
33 you know, how do we make the pain equal. That's a
34 really difficult question. But we have felt through
35 the Council process, through testimony of people that
36 have come to the Council and expressed their concerns
37 about it, it's made us sensitive to it. The Council's
38 then put rules in place. And then we in the industry
39 have invested a lot of money in trying to change our
40 nets. We put excluders in it, and that took a lot of
41 work to go to Newfoundland, get into the tanks, put our
42 nets there, try and figure out how to do it. And then
43 the biggest cost that we've seen is we -- when we're
44 out fishing, for instance, even this last year,
45 normally we'd go fish in an area we call the slime
46 bank, which is down from Unalaska. It's off of
47 Mordvinof. That's where we fish, because that's the
48 best fish, and it's the best roe. We get better
49 recovery. We get better roe, which gives us more
50 money. We can't fish there right now, because there

1 was too much salmon. As soon as we started catching
2 salmon, off we go. So we have to go up near the Pribis,
3 get up near the Pribis, and the recovery, instead of 3
4 percent roe, we only get 1.5 percent or 1.8 percent
5 roe. Instead of 750, 800 gram fish, we're down to 600
6 gram fish. It takes us from one area to the other,
7 along with the travel time. And I understand, and I do
8 not mean to lessen the impact that one fish has on
9 everybody here. But we try to avoid every salmon,
10 Chinook salmon we can.

11
12 And then the captains, as all of you --
13 I've listened all day today and all day yesterday, you
14 get -- you express chagrin about moose having -- no
15 knowing where borders are. We have the same thing with
16 fish. The fish don't know where all these lines are.
17 The fish don't care about anything but where their feed
18 is. So we have to avoid the Chinook salmon. We're
19 trying to avoid chum salmon. We're trying to avoid now
20 halibut. The central Bering Sea organizations are
21 upset about halibut bycatch, so now we have to avoid
22 halibut. The crabbers are upset, they want us to avoid
23 crab. And as you as people who hunt and fish
24 understand, pretty soon you're just trying to avoid
25 everything, and there's not much we can do.

26
27 So, yes, we've invested a lot of time
28 and a lot of effort in getting away from all of these
29 species, but it's very difficult and it's very
30 expensive. And I'm not trying to put a dollar value
31 against your not having fish. I'm just answering your
32 question that, yes, there is a cost to us.

33
34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Bill.

35
36 MR. BILL: I heard everything what you
37 said. I was there at the start of the bycatch meeting
38 2009, and I know who was there. The gentleman on the
39 left was there as a -- he was an EP at the time. A
40 Council in question (indiscernible) I've been there at
41 the whole meeting. All the time when they were talking
42 about -- I think it was three possibilities. The
43 industry asked for 60,000 bycatch. The people of the
44 Yukon and Kuskokwim asked for 40,000 ad 30,000. There
45 were people from all over the place, all the way up to
46 Canada. We were there for three days. Finally CDQ in
47 question, CDQ rule in question, came up, bringing all
48 the people that they can bring to the Council meeting.
49 The Council president at that time was Mr. Olson. He
50 said that it was the biggest meeting he ever seen. I'm

1 not going to name the CDQ people that were there, and
2 I'm not going to name the councilman in question (ph)
3 won't argued with me. The councilman in question said,
4 this CDQ group has raised a lot of money to bring a lot
5 of people, so they have to vote with him. His CDQ
6 group has had it with industry, at the vote of -- at
7 the high of 60,000 bycatch. With all the people there
8 from Yukon and Kuskokwim and coastal area, we lost. We
9 were asking for 40,000 and we were asking 30,000.
10 Industry fishermen asked for 60,000, and CDQ in person
11 asked for 60,000 with the industry. I see this
12 (indiscernible) in person, he was from Alaska. You
13 know who it is. Tell me you know who it is and I know
14 who it is, but I'm not going to point a finger.

15
16 This whole -- if councilman person has
17 not said this CDQ group had pushed a lot of money on
18 bringing people for the -- to the Council, I think we
19 would have go with the 40,000 or 50,000 bycatch. And I
20 know that right after the meeting there was a meeting
21 downstairs at the Hilton with the lights off at the
22 bar. I was there.

23
24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David, I'm
25 going to say you're getting off subject.....

26
27 MR. BILL: If there is a way -- if
28 there might be a way that we can save some amendment
29 two rivers here from bycatch or whatever you call it.
30 They take too much of salmon. Let's us, you and me,
31 work together and try to find a way to save the fish
32 that is going our way. You don't know whether we can
33 do it now. I hope we're not too late.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. HULL: Mr. Chairman. If I might
38 briefly. And, Mr. Bill, I think that the primary
39 reason for the Council revisiting the caps under the
40 alternatives that Mr. MacLean will finish with
41 momentarily, is because we know that there is a
42 significant concern about the caps being too high in
43 years when the populations of Chinook throughout
44 Western Alaska are so low. And the concern that those
45 high caps could be reached, that there's nothing that
46 could stop the fleet from catching more Chinook as
47 bycatch. And so that is a driving factor in our review
48 of this -- of our bycatch management program.

49
50 And the 250,000 number as an index is

1 -- I just looked up quickly in the analysis, it's the
2 midpoint of escapement goals for those rivers combined.
3 And so as the midpoint, lowering the bycatch caps when
4 you're considering it the midpoint is a positive
5 direction to go in for the rivers and for the species.
6 So increasing it I think would be worse. That's the
7 point I wanted to make. But I think that some
8 clarification of how that works, I certainly recognize
9 is important, so we'll make sure that it's clear.

10

11 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And again I
12 don't have a whole (Indiscernible - away from
13 microphones) in my mind, but if you're taking it based
14 on the midpoint of the season, well, that provides
15 nothing. The midpoint (Indiscernible - away from
16 microphones) does not take into account
17 (indiscernible). Anyway I think you don't have too
18 much further to go, and you can -- we're trying to
19 finish up on this agenda item.

20

21 MR. HULL: We'll certainly make a note
22 of that.

23

24 MR. MacLEAN: Thank you. Looking at --
25 again, going back to the analysis from December 2014,
26 looking at the potential impacts of alternative 2,
27 would provide greater flexibility in managing chum
28 salmon and Chinook salmon bycatch comprehensively.
29 This would potentially result in greater Alaska chum
30 salmon savings. In other words, reduce chum bycatch,
31 without increasing Chinook bycatch.

32

33 There would be limited, but incremental
34 impacts on Chinook savings under alternative 3, which
35 would be to strengthen those IPA or incentive plan
36 agreement revisions.

37

38 There's a higher potential for Chinook
39 savings under alternative 4 which would close the B
40 season early and start the season earlier. In other
41 words moving that time when they're fishing away from
42 the late summer into the earlier summer when fewer
43 Chinook salmon are generally caught.

44

45 And then alternative 5 provides that
46 explicit mechanism to adjust those performance
47 standards in years when there is low Chinook salmon
48 abundance. The actual impacts of that alternative
49 would depend on how the fleets and the cooperatives
50 respond to those lower caps.

1 In December the Council also included a
2 couple of other provisions. That would include moving
3 more pollock quota to the winter season. And that may
4 provide substantial Chinook savings if you're moving
5 the pollock away from the season when most of the
6 Chinook salmon are caught. Again, the actual impacts
7 would depend on the behavior changes from those fleets.

8
9 Reducing the overall cap by 25 to 60
10 percent in years of low Chinook salmon abundance, again
11 would provide some likelihood of Chinook salmon
12 savings, but those actual impacts would again depend
13 greatly on how the industry responds to those lower cap
14 levels.

15
16 We invite everybody to the Council on
17 these alternatives and any other comments you can
18 choose to send to the Council.

19
20 The analysis is currently being
21 finalized and will be available to the Council and to
22 the public in mid March of 2015. That will be posted
23 on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
24 website, and available for public review and comment.

25
26 The Council will take final action on
27 this on the week of April 6th, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel
28 in Anchorage. And at that point the Council will
29 select a preferred alternative from the range of
30 alternatives that have been analyzed.

31
32 And it should also be pointed out that
33 none of these alternatives are mutually exclusive. The
34 Council could mix and match measures from across these
35 alternatives in order to best meet the objectives.

36
37 Written comments can be sent via fax,
38 letter, or email, and should be received by April 1st,
39 which is the Tuesday before the Council meeting starts.
40 And also public testimony will be taken at the advisory
41 panel and the Council, so you can come and give
42 testimony in person if you have that opportunity.

43
44 These outreach meetings that we're
45 doing right now, this is the third of our area
46 meetings. We met January 22nd in Nome in a meeting
47 that was arranged by Kawerak. On January 29th we held
48 a statewide teleconference where we had opportunity for
49 people to hear this same presentation and ask questions
50 if they were not able to attend any of these RAC

1 meetings. On February 24th we were in Naknek at the
2 Bristol Bay RAC. Here in Bethel. And then on March
3 4th we are going to be presenting this same information
4 at the Eastern and Western Interior joint RAC meeting
5 in Fairbanks.

6
7 The comments and questions that we
8 receive will be summarized and put into a report that
9 is also delivered to the Council before they take final
10 action in April.

11
12 Again, the ways to provide comments,
13 you can testify in person if you're able to get to the
14 Council meeting. If not, you can provide those written
15 comments by post, fax, or email. Our address is listed
16 here. And additionally the NPFMC.comments@NOAA.gov is
17 the email address at which we can receive comments.

18
19 There are a number of links that are
20 available on our website that will provide more
21 information about the background of this action,
22 including the genetic stock identification, and an
23 explanation of the three river index is available on
24 the analysis as well.

25
26 Thank you. Quyana for this
27 opportunity. Diana Stram is the author of this. This
28 is her email address, diana.stram@NOAA.gov. But I will
29 go ahead and leave this screen up for people to take
30 down our address, our email address for comments.

31
32 And with that, that concludes this
33 presentation. Again, quyana for being here, and we'll
34 do our best to answer whatever questions.

35
36 Actually, I'm sorry, before we get into
37 questions, I think the Council members wanted to have
38 an opportunity to make a statement on their own behalf
39 as well.

40
41 MR. HULL: All right. Thank you,
42 Steve. And I know this is a lot of information all at
43 once. The presentation is available for everyone to
44 review again.

45
46 I wanted to point out also that the
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game provided all of the
48 research and analysis for all the salmon parts of the
49 analysis, everything from the run sizes to the AEQ
50 estimates.

1 But I wanted to emphasize for everybody
2 how much the Council values public input, and
3 participation by all stakeholders, whether that's
4 through written comments or public testimony, or
5 through outreach meetings such as this.

6
7 And as I think about how the Council
8 has begun to communicate with subsistence stakeholders
9 in particular, and how the North Pacific Council begins
10 to improve and incorporate participation by subsistence
11 stakeholders and communities into our process is an
12 ongoing endeavor. And I know that it's something that
13 we will continue to work on and develop. This is a
14 part of that process, and I look forward to hearing
15 suggestions that you might have in that regard.

16
17 So thank you very much.

18
19 MR. DERSHAM: I echo Mr. Hull's
20 comments, and we do want to hear your comments today or
21 written or public comments at the meeting in April.

22
23 But I also want to talk about just a
24 brief moment, I know a lot of people in Western Alaska
25 wonder if we really understand on the Council how
26 important Chinook salmon are. And I just want to say
27 that we do. You know, at least twice in the last two
28 years I have personally made comments on the record at
29 the Council that while Chinook salmon are an iconic and
30 the state fish of Alaska, they're iconic fish all over
31 Alaska, in Western Alaska they are direction tied to
32 survival. And, you know, I've heard that comment from
33 public and Council members here yesterday and today.
34 But I just want to say that has already been said on
35 the record by me a couple times at the Council in the
36 last two years.

37
38 MR. CROSS: I just echo what the rest
39 of them have said, and welcome any questions about the
40 process.

41
42 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I think before
43 we go on to further questions, so we can make the
44 record on this, that we need to go back up there and
45 use the microphones and open the public testimony as
46 well.

47
48 (Pause)

49
50 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I had

1 Bob first then, then Martin and then Dale and Tony.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I've got to tell
4 you.....
5
6 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: On the record,
7 Bob, please.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: I was really surprised
10 to see ordinary men like me up here coming to our area,
11 Western Alaska to try their best to explain to us
12 what's going on, and to help us resolve this issue.
13 And I mean it from the inside of my heart. Thank you
14 very much for being here.
15
16 I mention this guy here is just like
17 rough and tumbled guy, you know, like everything else.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, I've been
22 involved consuming salmon for 80 years. And I've been
23 involved in harvesting salmon for 77 years. So you
24 guys have a long ways to go.
25
26 But, you know, I'm going to be pushing
27 for you guys, because now I know. You didn't come in
28 here with big stuffed shirt and \$300 gold rings and,
29 you know, \$3,000 suits. No, you're just ordinary
30 people like us. And that's something that's really
31 important for us to see in person. People who we don't
32 know, just by name. But it's good to see you in
33 person. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart
34 for being here to explain to us what you're trying to
35 do to help us.
36
37 Quyana.
38
39 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go to Martin
40 Nicolai, and then I have Dale and Tony, then you.
41
42 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43
44 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David. Martin
45 Nicolai is next to be recognized, then is Dale.
46
47 MR. BILL: And then is my turn.
48
49 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: No, you're
50 number 4 on the list. You're next.

1 MR. NICOLAI: Okay. Thank you for
2 coming. I'm very surprised that you came here and very
3 grateful. And I know you'll take home, or take over to
4 wherever you go our input from this gathering.

5
6 You understand now that the Chinook
7 salmon is very important to our life and to our culture
8 here, not only in the Kuskokwim, but also in the Yukon.
9 And you know already that we're restricted, especially
10 last year hardly anybody got any Chinook here. And we
11 were under the threat of if we had one Chinook, we're
12 going to be visited by Robert and fined \$250. So most
13 of the people, they followed, even though they really
14 wanted the Chinook, they followed the restrictions that
15 were placed on us last year.

16
17 And, you know, it troubles me when I
18 see, because I'm from a village, it troubles me when I
19 see 60,000, 47,000, even 20,000. That's really a high
20 number for me. You know, 5,000 Chinook can feed
21 several villages along this Kuskokwim River. And there
22 are over -- a little over 20 communities that depend on
23 the Chinook, that used to depend on the Chinook when
24 they come up the river. And we are doing our -- or
25 trying to do our part in following the directives to
26 conserve our Chinook. And I'm glad that the pollock
27 fleet is also doing the same thing in trying their
28 part.

29
30 And I was happy to hear vessel behavior
31 as a possible solution to this problem, or to help in
32 the solutions. During one of the meetings I heard one
33 of the pollock fishermen going up and saying, you know,
34 I was fishing with my boat, I was going two and a half
35 to three knots, you know, pulling the net under the
36 water. He caught a few salmon. A bigger boat was
37 going by at a faster rate, going four to five knots,
38 and he got over 10,000 salmon. So vessel behavior.
39 I'm glad you brought it up and made us all to see. And
40 it will help in conserving our salmon out in the high
41 seas.

42
43 One other thing. More of a question.
44 You say you deliver to the food banks the salmon that
45 you catch. I wondered immediately how hard will it be,
46 would it be if there was an effort to bring some of the
47 salmon to Western Alaska communities to distribute. I
48 wouldn't want it to be a hardship on the Council,
49 because we know hardship already here in the Kuskokwim,
50 because of the high prices here, the gas and food

1 prices. That's why we depend on around our own -- the
2 area around us to feed us.

3

4 So thank you very much.

5

6 MR. HULL: Mr. Chairman. If I could
7 try to answer.

8

9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All right.
10 Respond. Okay.

11

12 MR. HULL: And maybe other Council
13 members can, too. The Chinook caught as bycatch that
14 are donated could be available I believe to Western
15 Alaska. And I don't know right off hand who to contact
16 to find out, but I think it could be available. I
17 think also you have to remember that these are fish
18 that they're not mature fish, most of them, that are of
19 the same size that would return to the river, and they
20 are not always of the same quality, too. And so I
21 think that some other communities in Western Alaska
22 have accepted some, but were disappointed by it. So I
23 think you need to be honest about what the quality is
24 that you might get. But I do want to say that it would
25 be available to you at no cost to the people.

26

27 MR. NICOLAI: Yeah, thank you. Because
28 the salmon that we catch here, they're ready to be
29 eaten. They have the right fat content and everything.
30 I didn't know about that you're catching lesser --
31 salmon with lesser fat than we're used to here. I
32 didn't know about that.

33

34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I appreciate
35 that you brought that up, because from what I recall it
36 was pretty much paste after being in the bottom of
37 trawl net, and having several tons of fish on top of
38 them, and also being small size as he said.

39

40 Ed, you had.....

41

42 MR. DERSHAM: Yeah, it's not -- just
43 to answer the gentleman's question. It's not a matter
44 of the fat content. It's that the highest age of those
45 fish, the highest number are 3-year-old fish, which
46 means they've spent one year in the ocean. And they're
47 not jacks, they're not going to spawn that year.
48 They're immatures. And in my fishing career, I had a
49 lot of experience with immature salmon in that size
50 range. And it's their flesh is so soft that when we

1 caught them sportfishing, you know, if you just laid
2 them in a fishbox with other salmon, or even worse with
3 halibut, they would get terribly bruised by just coming
4 in contact with fish that were flopping around. So,
5 you know, in a pollock net -- that's why probably
6 people felt they were less desirable. It's not the fat
7 content, it's the bruising that occurs with fish of
8 that age.

9

10 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Craig, and
11 then I'll go to Dale.

12

13 MR. CROSS: In my two days here I've
14 noticed that one of the best ways you communicate some
15 of this is with a story. So in response to his
16 question about vessel behavior, a quick story.

17

18 In that if you've known captains of
19 boats, even people that are out hunting a hunter or a
20 captain of a boat is a very -- he's a very in command
21 person, doesn't like to take orders from anybody. He
22 wants to be his own person on the boat. So in my first
23 35 years managing boats, captains never called me and
24 said where to go fish, or I'm doing this and where do
25 you think I should go fish. Now once. Since the
26 salmon issue, I'm at home at night, and the captain
27 calls me. Craig, I just caught six Chinook. What do I
28 do? That to me was the most startling revelation that
29 I had been around in fisheries. For a captain to call
30 me who doesn't know anything about fishing, to ask me
31 how does he react. Does he go north, does he do this,
32 because he's getting salmon.

33

34 What we're doing is having an effect.
35 Is it enough? No. Do we need to do more? Yes. Is
36 every boat doing that? I don't know. But I know that
37 at least my captain and I'm sure others are very
38 sincere about this. And the fact that they're calling
39 me, that's pretty desperate. So I think it's a story
40 that shows you that we are having an effect. We need
41 to do more I understand, but it is having an effect.

42

43 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
44 Dale, you're next.

45

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

47

48 Thank you for your presentation and
49 your willingness to help on the issue.

50

1 If you look on your table there,
2 there's a map of Nunivak Island, and that's where I'm
3 from. Mekoryuk is on the north end.

4
5 My comments and question will be on not
6 salmon, but halibut. As far as I can remember, I'm in
7 my early 40s, so as far as I can remember I've been
8 hunting and fishing as a lifestyle. I hunt and fish
9 and do all that, and try to teach my children how to do
10 the same.

11
12 So within the past few years I've
13 noticed that there's been a decline in the halibut.
14 And the tribal council had a meeting February 12, just
15 a couple weeks ago, about maybe 10 days ago, and they
16 brought up that same concern. We're hearing stories
17 about major halibut by the trawl fishery, and we're
18 seeing a decline in the amount of halibut that we're
19 harvesting for consumption.

20
21 And I guess the question is, has the
22 Council looked into this matter, and at what level, and
23 at what stage are you. There's also a member over here
24 from Toksook Bay, he's along the coast, and I don't
25 want to speak for him, but I'm speaking for my people
26 here. But there's major concerns and we're just trying
27 to figure out what steps is the Council taking to
28 address the issue.

29
30 MR. HULL: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Smith.

31
32 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead. Dan
33 it is, isn't it?

34
35 MR. HULL: Dan. Yes, Dan Hull. At our
36 last Council meeting in the first part of February we
37 spent I think almost four, five days on halibut along
38 and halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea in particular.
39 So we have an analysis that's underway to reduce the
40 caps on halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea/Aleutian
41 Islands area by all sectors. That's for the big
42 freezer longline vessels, the catcher vessels who fish
43 for cod, and the trawl fleet that is harvesting
44 flatfish and pollock. And the alternatives for
45 reduction of halibut bycatch, or PSC, is up to 50
46 percent and in a couple of cases up to 60 percent
47 reduction in the halibut bycatch for those sectors.
48 And we are scheduled to take a final action on that at
49 our June meeting this year.

50

1 I could spend a lot of time talking
2 about it, but to be very brief, that's a summary of
3 where we are. And so the Council is very aware. We
4 are also working with the Halibut Commission, the
5 International Pacific Halibut Commission to better
6 coordinate our management activities so that they are
7 getting the information they need through our observer
8 program on where halibut is caught as bycatch, and then
9 what sizes and sexes. And that they are also improving
10 their understanding of the halibut stock in the Bering
11 Sea.

12
13 And one issue in particular around
14 Mekoryuk and farther north was to have more surveys by
15 the Halibut Commission to understand what is the
16 abundance in that area in particular. And it hasn't
17 been done for a long period of time, but I will
18 certainly make a note of that to try to provide some
19 more information for you on additional surveys.

20
21 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead. If
22 you had a follow up, Dale, go ahead.

23
24 MR. SMITH: Yeah. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

25
26 So clarification. You said you're
27 going to look at reducing the bycatch to 50 percent.

28
29 MR. HULL: Yes, of the current levels.
30 That's upper cap, or the level or limit of our -- or
31 amount of bycatch reduction that we are looking at for
32 all the sectors.

33
34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Tony, you're
35 next.

36
37 MR. ULAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Anthony Ulak, I'm from southwest Alaska, Scammon Bay.

39
40 I thank you. I thought I wouldn't be
41 seeing you folks from North Pacific Fisheries
42 Management Council, but I'm glad that you're here. I
43 appreciate that you're here, and it's good to have
44 information come to us and get feedbacks from each
45 other.

46
47 The main thing that we've always talked
48 about was salmon. And I had an in-law from Lower 48
49 that once told me that the deep sea trawling fishing
50 will wipe out salmon sometime. That's what he told me.

1 And he's a smart -- right now he's an elderly man, and
2 he's been in Bethel for over 30 plus years.

3
4 I like the alternatives. You know,
5 that's stuff I've seen on the screen here. I think one
6 of the alternatives that I looked at was A season, B
7 season, you know. A season is like a winter pollock
8 fishery that most outgoing young people go to. And B
9 season is more like, you know, hardly -- but maybe some
10 do go, you know. But maybe I would like to see A
11 season go and maybe do something with the B season.
12 That's maybe one of the ideas I'd like to see in your
13 program before it's brought up to the Board. That's
14 just my idea.

15
16 Thank you very much.

17
18 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David Bill and
19 then Ray.

20
21 MR. BILL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 I want to thank you guys for being
24 here. When I was with AVCP I kind of had -- I asked
25 the Council before you guys to come down and have one
26 of your meetings here in Bethel. But the answer that I
27 was getting from Alaskan representatives were that
28 Bethel is too small to bring the whole gang of North
29 Pacific Fisheries Management Council crew. He said
30 there's about 90 employees and Councilmen, and that
31 wasn't enough for the -- that was too many for Bethel
32 area.

33
34 But I'm very glad that -- are all of
35 you the Alaskan representative?

36
37 MR. HULL: There are three more Alaska
38 representatives.

39
40 MR. BILL: Just two of you.

41
42 MR. HULL: No, four more.

43
44 MR. BILL: Four?

45
46 MR. HULL: Four more Alaska
47 representatives.

48
49 MR. BILL: Thank you. Thank you for
50 being here. I thank you very much.

1 It seems to me the request that we'll
2 making has been fulfilled from you guys. I thank you
3 for that.

4
5 I'm a halibut fisherman. I've been
6 fishing for halibut since 1978. I used to fish at
7 Etolin Strait, but with four years now there's no more
8 fish down in Etolin Strait. We can't fish there any
9 more. And I moved to south side of Nunivak island,
10 which is where Dale Smith is from. I used to fish in
11 deep waters at 125 feet of water, but for two years now
12 there's no more halibut. Cod fish is taking over. The
13 only time were getting halibut is now at above 70 feet
14 in the channel waters. That's the one I want -- I'm
15 just telling you this before I get to the main one.

16
17 The main one is the bottom trawl
18 fishery down in Kuskokwim Bay, there were nine
19 companies, but I don't know how many boats there are.
20 I've been at this for a long time as from Bering Sea
21 elders. They're catching a lot of halibut. They are
22 yellow-fin sole fishers and they fish in shallow water
23 for yellow-fin. The people from Kwethluk, the people
24 from Kipnuk, has been experiencing dead halibut
25 floating.

26
27 And it seems to me that Kuskokwim is
28 also suffering from salmon fishermen. That fishery is
29 right in front of Kuskokwim Bay, at 20 miles from the
30 shore. Now, we've been that battle for a long time.

31
32 A couple years ago I was told that the
33 halibut bycatch down in Gulf of Alaska or some place
34 down in that area was 10 million pounds. Did you guys
35 hear about that one? It was a requested by -- they say
36 who brought it by, the people that were working with --
37 from Anchorage, which is Alaska Marine Fishery. So it
38 seems to me now halibut fishery in Etolin Strait,
39 Nunivak and Nelson Island is in jeopardy now if the
40 bycatch is that -- if the bycatches don't stop.

41
42 And I overheard somebody say that when
43 you guys had your meeting in Nome, and it might be --
44 there might be some small fisheries closed this next
45 spring. In Nelson Island and in Levelock, there were
46 only 50 fished out of 290 fishermen. Halibut
47 fishermen. There were only 50 fishermen going from
48 that whole area. I don't know how many -- I think
49 there were about 16 people from Mekoryuk, and 10 people
50 from Nelson Island, 3 people from Tununak, 3 people

1 from Newtok, 3 people from Nightmute, 3 people from
2 Kipnuk, 3 people from Chefornak. They were the only
3 ones that could go, and I was one of the 10 people from
4 Nelson Island. I told the people that our buyers when
5 they asked -- when I saw my name, I told them, if my
6 fellow fisherman has to suffer, I'm not fishing for
7 halibut. I will suffer with them. I am not fishing
8 even though my name is there. I did not fish. And
9 again if this year, if that happens again, I'll still
10 be high and dry. We need your help in this one. We've
11 gone too many times impact of the salmon and halibut
12 now.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Ed.

17

18 MR. DERSHAM: Mr. Bill, just on a
19 personal note, I want to say that I've heard you
20 testify before the Board of Fish and the North Council
21 many times in the last 18 years, and I always listen
22 very carefully to your words. And I served on the
23 Board of Fish for five years with the late Dr. John
24 White, and I know he had a tremendous amount of respect
25 for you as well.

26

27 MR. BILL: Thank you.

28

29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan.

30

31 MR. HULL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 And, Mr. Bill, the International
34 Pacific Halibut Commission for 2015, they set the
35 commercial catch limits for the Bering Sea area as the
36 same as they were the previous year I believe, so there
37 were no reductions in this year. And that decision was
38 contingent on the Council taking some action to reduce
39 bycatch in the Bering Sea, and the trawlers making a
40 considerable effort to reduce their halibut bycatch.
41 And I know that it's particularly important in the
42 yellow-fin sole fishery, because of the way that the
43 calculations are made from what is bycatch, the
44 reductions in bycatch can translate more directly into
45 increases for the commercial fishery. And obviously
46 reduction in bycatch will help the stock and
47 subsistence users as well.

48

49 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ray, you're
50 next.

1 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 Thank you all for being here again.
4 Raymond Oney from the Lower Yukon River.

5

6 We've heard a lot of testimony since
7 yesterday, and again this afternoon or this morning for
8 almost maybe a total of maybe two and a half, three
9 hours of testimony on salmon. And as you know, our
10 aboriginal hunting and fishing rights were extinguished
11 in 1971. You could correct me if I'm wrong. They took
12 away a lot of what we depended on, what we lived for
13 hundreds, if not thousands of years. We relied on the
14 land, the water, the air to sustain who we were and
15 still are today.

16

17 We're still here today, even though the
18 Federal Government extinguished our hunting and fishing
19 rights. We'll still be here today. I mean, we'll
20 still be here tomorrow and we'll still be here well
21 into the future.

22

23 But we still need what has sustained
24 us. We still need that as you heard from many of the
25 people that have testified, that we don't have nowhere
26 to, you know, get what has sustained us. We live off
27 the land, the waters, and the air. That's who we are.
28 We are a unique people in this part of Alaska. And
29 we'll continue to be that way.

30

31 It seem like the salmon, as you heard,
32 since 1998 on the Yukon, it seems like we go two steps
33 in making progress, and then fall back one step. And
34 it's pretty hard in hardship. It's really hard when
35 you depend on it, on the salmon as your way of life.

36

37 Not only that, but we have to make sure
38 that the fish go all the way up to Canada which is
39 2,000 plus miles. And a lot of the closures are a
40 result of that. We can't -- when we know there's
41 salmon that's coming into the mouth of the Yukon, it
42 automatically closes, and we can't fish until a
43 majority of the salmon pass through, and that's --
44 maybe it could take maybe two or three weeks, maybe a
45 month before a majority of the fish go by. And then we
46 could harvest maybe the chum, but again we don't take
47 the Chinook salmon. We have to release them.

48

49 From what I've heard and what I've
50 learned just from people talking that come to our

1 meetings, there's lots of damage to the ecological
2 environment as a result of trawl fishing. That may be
3 some of the reasons why there's a decline of halibut.
4 As you know, from what I've learned also is that the
5 Yukon River is like a feeding station for the young
6 rookery, if you know what I'm trying to say, are
7 feeding the small species of halibut or crab that feed
8 off what come out -- what spills out into the Bering
9 Sea.

10
11 I've learned a lot from being on this
12 Council, from people that come forward and testify.
13 And there's still lots of hardships going on. And I'm
14 glad that you guys are here to hear some of that. And
15 I'd appreciate if you would take note of that and move
16 forward, and listen to our concerns and our cries, that
17 we're trying to plead to you, even to put one Chinook
18 salmon on the table will make me happy. And that's
19 what we're trying to do. Every time we come here we're
20 hearing the same cries. So we ask you, take our
21 comments, take our concerns seriously.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mike, you
26 haven't spoken yet.

27
28 MR. PETERS: I'm Mike Peters. I'm from
29 Marshall on Upper Yukon.

30
31 And I'm glad that you guys are here,
32 because I was interested in the percentage that you
33 guys gave on your screen. And, you know, one of the
34 things like what Mr. Oney indicated, like he's from the
35 lower part of the Yukon, but, you know, people's
36 comments are pretty valuable, because, you know, what
37 the elders and everybody that are in our area on the
38 Yukon. I think like from Russian Mission all the way
39 down to the mouth of the Yukon, you know, we might have
40 different concerns, but I'm glad that your body finally
41 -- I mean, your group finally came to this meeting and
42 hear from all over, like from Mekoryuk, and I can't
43 talked for them people in the Kuskokwim, but I'm glad
44 that they have representatives, which is similar needs
45 that we have. And by working together, you know, and
46 by hearing us, you know, I appreciate that you guys
47 hear what the concerns the people have. Not just --
48 and I'm talking not just for myself, but for the people
49 that can't come to this meeting, like from Russian
50 Mission, Marshall, all the way down to the mouth of the

1 Yukon.

2

3 But I'm very fortunate that we have
4 someone from Mountain Village and also Alakanuk.

5

6 But I would like to say, you know, with
7 these tribal governments and organizations, like with
8 TCC or AVCP, you know, I can't speak up for them, but
9 they got their own representations that bring
10 resolutions and stuff like that for a board like for
11 you guys to hear. And I'm glad that you guys this into
12 some sort of consideration.

13

14 And another thing is what I would like
15 to see is, not just for myself, but for my tribal
16 council, is to have some sort of follow up, you know.
17 Like if there's an increase on the salmon or decrease
18 on the percentagewise.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We've
23 had you up here for almost two hours now, folks. And
24 it's really good to see you coming out, and not just
25 one token person or send your Staff person. It really
26 does show the good faith effort that cannot be found
27 any other way.

28

29 I believe we did have a Council I think
30 come to Mountain Village, to one of our RAC meetings
31 about 10 years ago maybe that showed up. It was way
32 towards the end of the meeting. He didn't get to
33 really lay things out perhaps as he would have liked.
34 It's good to see you here. And I'd like to see it
35 continued in the future. Actually I think if perhaps
36 you guys would have piggybacked on the public hearing
37 that the Fish and Wildlife was having last night, you
38 might have brought a lot more people out. That is
39 something as a specific meeting, you could have spent
40 the whole night dealing with that. And actually that
41 may be a good thought, rather than come as report for
42 the meeting, or specific for the meeting, maybe the day
43 ahead or something like that have your group come and
44 have one meeting, you know, announce it for a public
45 hearing of the Council and lay some of this out,
46 because a lot of it people are not really aware. You
47 know, I'm probably more involved than most, and all of
48 us sitting up here are, and a lot of this is -- you can
49 only be focused in on so many things at a time, so you
50 don't get the insight.

1 And I sure appreciate it and thank you
2 for coming.

3
4 MR. MacLEAN: Mr. Chairman. Thank you
5 very much. We certainly appreciate this opportunity to
6 come and speak. It has been a long time coming, and
7 we're always available for comments and questions. The
8 coordinator's got my contact information. I'm sure she
9 can send it to all of you. If you do have questions
10 that come up after we're gone, or at any time, please
11 feel free to call. We will do our best to answer your
12 questions the best we can, and if we can't, we'll be
13 sure to take that information to the Council to make
14 sure that they are addressed. So please feel free to
15 use us as a resource as much as you can.

16
17 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

18
19 MR. HULL: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
20 And on your comment about other ways that we can engage
21 with you and the people in the community, we are
22 interested in ideas of that kind. Like you, we are
23 constrained by budgets and time; however, as I said
24 previously, communication and participation by
25 subsistence stakeholders is very important to us, and
26 so we are interested in your ideas about how to improve
27 that.

28
29 So thank you very much, and appreciate
30 you having us on your agenda.

31
32 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We're not shy.
33 We'll call you. Okay.

34
35 Next up, we had shuffled on the Bering
36 Sea bycatch presentation from AVCP to follow this.
37 Tim, are you ready to go. Mr. Andrew.

38
39 MR. T. ANDREW: Pardon me?

40
41 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We had moved
42 you down to have the presentation for Bering Sea
43 bycatch from AVCP following this if you're ready. Or
44 do you want to wait. We could move into the next
45 section of the agenda and say -- well, you're not a
46 tribal government, you'd be a Native organization.

47
48 We're going to step down here for, I'm
49 sorry, Tim, but be back at a quarter after.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Back on
6 record here. We're at 6:20, and closing in on the end.

7

8 Mr. Andrew.

9

10 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman. I'm Timothy Andrew with AVCP Natural
12 Resources.

13

14 In front of you you should have a
15 resolution calling for the reduction of Chinook and
16 chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

17

18 And first of all I'd like to thank the
19 Council members for coming up and giving their
20 presentation before the RAC and before the audience as
21 well. I really appreciate the outreach, and good to
22 see. Several of them I've known for quite some time,
23 and I thank them for being here to listen to some of
24 the public testimony that we've had for the last few
25 days, or the last couple days, from people that are
26 severely affected by the downturn in our Chinook salmon
27 resources, and hopefully the Council members will take
28 it to heart and take these experiences back to the
29 Council, their first-hand experiences with the people
30 that provided testimony, including the Council member
31 earlier.

32

33 For a number of years as you very well
34 know that we've
35 been experiencing downturns in our Chinook salmon
36 resources along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, and
37 also into the Unalakleet River and Noatak/Kanektok
38 River, in Nushagak, and various other locations all
39 throughout Alaska. And we've taken extreme measures in
40 trying to conserve our salmon, from closures to
41 restrictions. And it has impacted a very wide swath of
42 people from the 1200 miles of the Yukon River on the
43 Alaska side, and also further up into the Canadian side
44 as well. We're failing to meet escapement. We're
45 failing to provide for subsistence, for people's
46 sustenance throughout the winter. And it's becoming
47 more and more controversial. And now we're into
48 developing our own intertribal fisheries commissions.

49

50 But I just want you to focus on the

1 resolution that is before you, the proposed resolution.
2 And this is the work of various agencies, including the
3 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. I wish
4 Wayne was still here, I don't no.

5
6 MR. BUE: No.

7
8 MR. T. ANDREW: No. Okay. Wayne is no
9 longer here.

10
11 But they've taken the lead in
12 developing this resolution after consultation with
13 AVCP, TCC, Kawerak, and many other agencies. And I'm
14 not going to read through the entire whereas clauses,
15 because they cover quite a bit of the issues that
16 you're very much aware of. But as Council Staff had
17 indicated on the presentation that they had, we would
18 -- the preferred alternative that we're stressing for
19 is alternative No. 5, option 2, which should stress
20 that 60 percent reduction to their performance
21 standard, and so an option to apply 60 percent
22 reduction to the overall hard cap. With alternative 2,
23 alternative 3, and option 1 through 5 to be selected
24 as well.

25
26 Although the pollock fishery has been
27 performing very well in comparison to their minimum
28 standard, 47,591, they're never exceeded that. They've
29 never gotten close to it, but they have continuously
30 harvested between 11 to 15,000 Chinook salmon in the
31 fishery. And we feel that that can be further reduced,
32 because, you know, for the Unalakleet River, for the
33 Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, every Chinook salmon
34 counts.

35
36 So we would encourage the Y-K RAC to
37 endorse and adopt the resolution, and carry it forward
38 and send it over to the North Pacific Fishery
39 Management Council.

40
41 And that concludes my testimony on the
42 resolution. And if you have any questions, I'd be more
43 than happy to answer.

44
45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
46 Tim.

47
48 Questions, Council members, your
49 pleasure on adopting this resolution or not.
50

1 Bob.
2
3 MR. BILL: Oh, go ahead.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we support
6 this resolution.
7
8 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Actually maybe
9 you ought to phrase that a little better, and that the
10 Council would.....
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: All right. I move that
13 we support the resolution titled reduction of Chinook
14 and chum bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery as
15 presented by Mr. Tim Andrew.
16
17 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Just to
18 clarify that we would submit it under the Council name
19 as well along with.....
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes, sir. Thank you.
22
23 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Is there a
24 second.
25
26 MR. ONEY: Second.
27
28 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by
29 Mr. Oney. Discussion on the motion.
30
31 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.
32
33 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dale, go
34 ahead.
35
36 MR. SMITH: Okay. Were it says,
37 therefore, it be resolved, you're asking for 60
38 percent. What was -- refresh my memory. What was the
39 Council's percentage.
40
41 MR. T. ANDREW: I'm not sure if I
42 understand the question.
43
44 MR. SMITH: Well, you ask -- Oh, Mr.
45 Chair. Sorry.
46
47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.
48
49 MR. SMITH: You're asking 60 percent
50 reduction to the performance standards. That's 60

1 percent reduction in bycatch, correct?

2

3 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. 60 percent
4 reduction to the performance standard. The performance
5 standard at the moment is 47,591.

6

7 MR. SMITH: Okay.

8

9 MR. T. ANDREW: And a 60 percent
10 reduction would reduce that down to about 20,000 or so.

11

12 MR. SMITH: Okay. That's my question.

13

14 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Further
15 discussion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Then we're
20 ready for the question.

21

22 MR. ONEY: Question.

23

24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. All
25 those in favor say aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed
30 same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We can
35 send the resolution as is with the Y-K RAC in the
36 blanks there.

37

38 Okay. And then since you're here, next
39 on the agenda is for organization, if you'd care to
40 give AVCP's.

41

42 MR. T. ANDREW: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chair.

44

45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Or do you have
46 one for AVCP, or do you want to give one.

47

48 MR. T. ANDREW: I don't really have
49 one, but I just would to make the Council aware of what
50 AVCP's activity, or the Natural Resources Department

1 has been since the last Council meeting. And the last
2 Council meeting was back in October.

3
4 But Kevin Bartley has been hired and
5 has been working primarily on the development of the
6 Yukon-Kuskokwim Intertribal Fisheries Committees. We
7 had a meeting here in Bethel of which some of you
8 Council members are part of the effective committee.
9 We've also had another one more recently on the Yukon
10 River to establish the steering committee there. And
11 Kevin has been working extremely, extremely hard as you
12 had heard later in developing the organic documents.

13
14 We are going to have a series of
15 meetings throughout the spring and into the summer as
16 well. It's going to be extremely intense as we move
17 forward. It's a long drawn out process in developing
18 fisheries commissions as you have heard from various
19 testimony to how long it took the Columbia River and
20 also the Northwestern Indian Fisheries Commission, the
21 Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commissions to develop.
22 You know, this process may take years, but at least we
23 are moving in the direction of where tribes have a
24 meaningful seat in the management of our fishery
25 resources in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

26
27 The other issue that we have been
28 working on in relation to your area of -- it's been a
29 long day -- your area of oversight would be the Lower
30 Yukon moose. There's been a lot of controversy or a
31 lot of issues that are being brought up by our member
32 villages, from Marshall all the way down to the coastal
33 areas where we have this abundance of moose, and it's
34 drawing attention from people all across the state, all
35 across the nation, and they're wanting to come up and
36 partake in the harvest of moose. But we, or the people
37 in the villages are having conflicts with a lot of
38 these people coming in apparently under the State
39 guiding regulations and laws. They do not have to have
40 a guide to bring them out moose hunting. So they're
41 coming into these airports, they're coming into these
42 communities. They're participating side by side with
43 the subsistence hunters.

44
45 And over the years we've also had
46 experiences with some of the transporters that are
47 bringing people out to hunt moose in various areas.
48 The Andreafsy is one river in particular where people
49 have -- the local people have gone way up in the
50 Andreafsky River where they normally hunt and run into

1 transporters there.

2

3 We've adopted convention resolutions to
4 try and express to the Fish and Wildlife Service to
5 conduct tribal consultations in placing guides -- or in
6 placing transporters camps in the near proximity of
7 their villages. Like, for example, if they were coming
8 into around the Marshall area, which I'm most familiar
9 with, and if they were to come to the community, talk
10 to the tribal council, we would -- and express to them
11 that they would like to place these people away from
12 where they are -- where they normally hunt, because the
13 know best. They know their area the best. And St.
14 Mary's does, too. Mountain Village, and so on. But if
15 they were to fly out and talk to the councils with a
16 map and everything else, you know, consult with the
17 councils saying, this is where the council hunt -- or
18 this is where the tribal members hunt. We would like
19 to place these camps in this location, this location,
20 that location, to avoid user conflicts with the amount
21 of moose that we have there.

22

23 And currently -- the current numbers, I
24 think there was like, within a five-year average,
25 between 2008 and 2012, they were getting about 500
26 moose. A little bit over 500 moose that were being
27 harvested. The Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife
28 Conservation, would like to see a harvest of 2,000. So
29 we have 1500 moose that aren't being harvested.

30

31 And one of the concerns that I have was
32 expressed earlier by one of the hunters that went up to
33 the Yukon River, Mr. Peters, from Akiachak indicated
34 that four of the moose that they caught were extremely
35 skinny. And it's setting an alarm within -- inside of
36 me, being concerned about the population that we have
37 up there, the feed conditions that exist.

38

39 I took a snow machine trip in 2013
40 between here and Mountain Village, and going down the
41 river, all the sand bars, it was just like somebody
42 took a chainsaw and just cut straight across the
43 willows, all the young growth.

44

45 And, you know, back then the moose
46 would probably -- the moose were likely fatter than
47 they are today. And apparently Mr. Peters indicated
48 that they were pretty thin. And that tells me that
49 there could be a couple of conditions. Either (1)
50 they're eating themselves out of food; No. 2, they're

1 stressed by some activity to let them burn away their
2 fat as fast as they are, perhaps being chased by wolves
3 or chased by human beings.

4
5 But if it's a feed situation, I'd like
6 to know about that. You know, I don't have the money,
7 I don't have the resources to go out and do browse
8 surveys and whatnot. Maybe that's one thing that the
9 Council ought to request the managers to go out and do,
10 to do the browse surveys, to do the habitat
11 assessments, to do whatever study to see where our
12 moose populations are at.

13
14 I'd hate to see us go back to ground
15 zero again, which in moratorium and one moose, and a
16 season 20 days, because, you know, this is a very
17 precious resource for the people in the villages. We
18 worked so hard to build their populations up to where
19 they are today, and if we can possibly find ways to
20 reduce the population to sustainable levels, to where
21 they're able to continuously provide a food source for
22 any of our people in the region. That would be the
23 greatest thing.

24
25 Next week I will be attending an ICO
26 committee meeting. That's going to be held in
27 Anchorage. And this is an annual thing that I've
28 attended.

29
30 We also have the Indigenous People's
31 Commission on Marine Mammals coming up in the month of
32 March, and a bunch of fishery meetings between now and
33 the fishery season.

34
35 We also have -- we also work with the
36 migratory bird issues. Currently we are working with
37 Oregon to try and address some of the cackler issues
38 that we have. We've done so well in building the
39 cackler geese populations that they are wrecking havoc
40 on the farms in Oregon as they're migrating up here to
41 Alaska. In fact, they just go out -- when the farmers
42 plant their seeds, they get about that tall and the
43 geese come and eat them. And that's why you have such
44 fat geese during the spring, thanks to the farmers.
45 But they're becoming an issue to where they're
46 affecting their income, so we're having to work with
47 them to try and address some of the ways to reduce the
48 cackler populations.

49
50 And as Myron had indicated, we're also

1 working with emperor geese. We're also working with
2 black brant, and the Pacific white front. That
3 population have gone way beyond the population
4 objective. So, you know, we're seeing successes, we're
5 seeing some areas where we're stagnated, and we're
6 focusing our efforts to where we're stagnated on
7 migratory birds.

8
9 We're continuously concerned about
10 muskox, but it seemed like nobody else wanted to take
11 on muskox, mainland muskox where we see these muskox,
12 they come into town, outskirts of the communities.
13 They're in portages. In various locations herds of,
14 you know, 10, 12 and perhaps a loner being out there.
15 It really indicates that this herd is growing, and that
16 we need to develop some sort of strategy in building
17 that population and a management plan. And I don't
18 know how the Refuge views muskox, but once the herd
19 establishes, it would seem like it provides an
20 alternative and very valuable, very delicious
21 alternative to moose and caribou for the table.

22
23 And that is basically it for me. And
24 I'd be more than happy to answer any questions.

25
26 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
27 Tim.

28
29 Any questions. Bob.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: What is the estimate of
32 beavers in the Y-K Delta.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. T. ANDREW: That would be a good
37 question for the wildlife people. I don't know what it
38 is, but it's up there quite a bit.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, I bring this
41 up year after year after year. And they're a pest.
42 They used to be a food source and furbearing animal,
43 but now they're a pest, because they're blocking
44 migratory routes of our native fish. Whitefish, pike,
45 sheefish, lush. And they're a nuisance. And I hate to
46 say that, because we're not supposed to criticize our
47 food source, but they have become a nuisance all the
48 way from Kalskag down to the Bering Sea. So, you know,
49 are you guys doing anything to help us to eradicate
50 some of the over-population of beaver.

1 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. We've been aware
2 of this for quite some time, and thought about how we
3 can possibly address the population, or reducing the
4 population of beavers. We've advocated, and we've got
5 the most liberal beaver hunting seasons. I don't think
6 there's any limits, there's no seasons at the moment.
7 And they used to be an extremely valuable fur resource
8 in the past, but we were restricted by season. But now
9 that we've done so well in complying that we've gotten
10 so many dang beaver we don't know what to do. All I
11 can say is encourage people to hunt beaver. And beaver
12 meat, you know, dogmushers like the beaver meat. I
13 don't know about the beaver pelts, I don't know what
14 they're worth now. But the only way that we can do it
15 without wreaking havoc within the Refuge and also with
16 Native corporation land is -- the only way that we
17 could possibly have an impact on the population is to
18 hunt the daylights out of them.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, one suggestion
21 that came from upriver is to put a bounty on them like
22 they used to have wolves and wolverine. And see if
23 AVCP can be authorized to hire people to blow up the
24 abandoned dams, because the abandoned dams are the ones
25 that are really wrecking havoc upriver. The beavers
26 moved down from the mountains down to the ocean, and as
27 they progress down, they leave their beaver dams
28 behind, and there's no way -- because we don't have the
29 water we used to for the water to flush down those
30 beaver dams, and we need some way to, you know, get rid
31 of those beaver dams.

32
33 MR. T. ANDREW: All I can say at the
34 moment is we share your concern. You know, beavers are
35 going to be beavers. There's limitations as far as
36 what the Refuge can do, as I'm aware of, and there's
37 limitations what the State can do as well. The only
38 real viable solution is to go out and hunt them.

39
40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
41 Tim.

42
43 MR. BILL: Mr. Chair. Is there an open
44 and closed season for beaver?

45
46 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I believe that
47 there's no closed season for beaver and no limit.

48
49 MR. BILL: Like he said, they're all
50 over.

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: There's an
2 open season for beaver. There is no closed season for
3 beaver.

4
5 MR. BILL: They're breaking up -- on
6 Nelson Island they're breaking up our Black Fish Creek.
7 They can't fish any more because of the beaver.

8
9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. So just
10 for the record, I didn't call anybody for tribal
11 governments. I go not blue cards for them, and I
12 scanned the audience here. There's nobody here
13 representing formally for a tribal government. I mean,
14 a lot of us are tribal members, many of us are probably
15 even officers on it, but since no one was here, I kind
16 of skipped over that into the to organizational
17 reports.

18
19 Anybody else from a Native organization
20 here that wanted to.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If not, I'll
25 move on then to the Fish and Wildlife, the Yukon Delta
26 Refuge.

27
28 MR. LALONDE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 the Council. It's good to be here this evening. My
30 name is Neil Lalonde. I'm the refuge manager of Yukon
31 Delta. And I have here with me Mr. Robert Sundown, our
32 subsistence resource specialist.

33
34 So you have a couple of handouts that
35 we provided. One of them has United States Department
36 of Interior at the top. And then there's also a news
37 release that has two logos on it. So we'll be talking
38 about those two. They should have been passed out this
39 afternoon.

40
41 So before we get into those, I'd just
42 like to say a few words. I've been here for two full
43 days along with several of our Staff members. We're
44 actively listening, we're actively taking notes. We
45 understand your concerns. We hear complaints, and we
46 also understand the sacrifices that our subsistence
47 users have sustained over the last few years.

48
49 So part of our job as an agency in Fish
50 and Wildlife Service is to manage fish and wildlife

1 populations in a sustainable level, and also to be able
2 to provide harvest opportunity. So our job is really
3 easy to do when there's a lot of fish and there's a lot
4 of wildlife on the landscape, and in our rivers. Our
5 job becomes very difficult. We have to make tough
6 decisions when escapement, or runs are low on fish, and
7 population levels become at a level where they may not
8 be sustainable.

9

10 So I just wanted to state that we do
11 hear your concerns. We have some very smart and
12 hardworking people. We take our jobs very seriously,
13 and we're here to help you and to make good decisions.

14

15 So this evening I'd like to talk about
16 -- it says four main topics, but there's actually five.
17 And, Mr. Aloysius, one of those is beavers. And so I
18 know we've been here a while, and we'll try and get
19 through this as quickly as possible. But first those
20 five topics are big game updates, Chinook salmon
21 updates, waterfowl updates, beavers, and Refuge
22 information technician updates.

23

24 So we'll talk a little bit firstly
25 about Kuskokwim moose. So I'll kind of start -- I
26 wasn't going to go into the season, because there were
27 so many questions today we'll lay and make sure
28 everyone understands what the current season is for the
29 Kuskokwim moose area in Unit 18. So currently we
30 operate under a registration hunt that has a quota
31 limit that is set annually by the Department of Fish
32 and Game on corporation lands and State lands, and the
33 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Refuge lands. Of
34 that hunt area, primarily it's about two-thirds of
35 State land and about one-third of Refuge lands.

36

37 On Refuge lands, that hunt is limited
38 only to Federally-qualified users.

39

40 So the quota is set for a specific time
41 period, and it is set for a specific number of moose.
42 The last few years specifically it's been open from the
43 State season of 15 days to a Federal season of up to
44 30, but a 100 moose quota. And that's based on prior
45 surveys.

46

47 And just so everyone kind of has a mind
48 set of how popular or how many people want to
49 participate in this moose hunt, the first time this
50 registration hunt opened on the Kuskokwim, there were

1 1800 registration permits issued for 100 moose. So
2 there a whole lot more people that want to take moose
3 than moose are available.

4
5 And with that, you know, we take the
6 surveys very seriously. So the survey for the
7 Kuskokwim unit was scheduled for 2013, which I
8 mentioned in the previous meeting. That survey could
9 not be conducted because of the lack of snow. So we
10 then focused all of our efforts here again in 2014, not
11 moving to a different unit on the Yukon, knowing that
12 we need to complete a survey for the Kuskokwim. So to
13 date in 2014, both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
14 the Department of Fish and Game, we have utilized four
15 planes, two of our own and two of theirs through
16 contract, and we have 64 of 90 blocks that we intend to
17 survey for this survey, to complete this survey. We
18 are temporarily on hold because of lack of snow,
19 because last weekend as you all know with higher
20 temperature and the rain we have, it melted the limited
21 amount of snow we do have.

22
23 In addition to that, we will be doing
24 30 -- I'm sorry, in addition to that, we will also be
25 surveying the tributaries along the Kuskokwim with a
26 helicopter next week. We put out by contract, it will
27 be our observers from Fish and Wildlife Service, but to
28 get the upper end of the tributaries. So that can be
29 done with less snow, and there is still additional snow
30 up in the tributaries where we don't have around Bethel
31 on the main stem right now.

32
33 We also listened to your concerns and
34 we added 30 additional survey blocks, and they have
35 been incorporated into the initial 90 blocks that I
36 mentioned earlier, downriver of Bethel. So we had a
37 lot of folks saying that downriver they were seeing a
38 lot more moose, and although our survey took into
39 account, it doesn't count every moose. It's a survey.
40 It's an index. However, we did expand our survey area
41 to include this area south of Bethel. It goes a little
42 south of the Johnson River and then it does survey from
43 Kuskokwim coming up from the Johnson River.

44
45 As soon as all the surveys are
46 complete, we will be assessing the data as fast as
47 possible with the State of Alaska, and looking to see
48 what we can do with the quota.

49
50 Was there any questions on the moose

1 survey effort or the quota hunt. Or did I leave out
2 anything, Mr. Sundown.

3

4 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any questions
5 on the moose or we're going to have him move along.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We may have
10 covered it earlier with earlier questions that you
11 provided with Mr. Haskett. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. LALONDE: Thank you. Next we just
14 wanted to report some population estimates on the
15 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. These may have not been
16 previously released. These population estimates have
17 been released by the Department of Fish and Game. And
18 I just wanted to share with you the 2014 population
19 estimate was just over 26,000. The 2013 population
20 estimate was just over 18,000. And the 2012 population
21 estimate was just over 22,000.

22

23 Moving on to Kuskokwim Chinook
24 fisheries. If you would refer to the other document
25 that I have, the news release. I would just summarize
26 this for you. This news release was a joint news
27 release that was issued on February 24th. And it has
28 three major topics. It talks about the 2014 season. It
29 also talks about the 2014 need for protection. And it
30 talks about our preseason outreach strategy.

31

32 So the preliminary run reconstruction
33 estimate for 2014 season, the estimate was 130,000
34 Chinook salmon. This is considerably smaller than the
35 25-year average run size of 243,000. The preliminary
36 subsistence harvest estimate was 12,000 Chinook salmon,
37 which is the smallest estimate for Chinook harvest on
38 record. This is also well below the average harvest of
39 84,000 Chinook by subsistence users.

40

41 Drainagewide escapement was met and was
42 estimated at 118,000 Chinook. The escapement goal
43 range is from 65 to 120,000 fish. Achievement of the
44 drainagewide escapement goal was only possible through
45 the sacrifices made by subsistence users in reducing
46 harvest. Those sacrifices allowed adequate numbers of
47 Chinook salmon to reach the spawning ground and
48 provided a necessary investment in the long-term
49 sustainability of Chinook salmon and subsistence
50 traditions.

1 And I just want to stop for second. So
2 there's a few main things to consider there. So we met
3 escapement; however, it wasn't a stellar run by any
4 means. It is still well below average. But the one
5 thing that really stands out is that the harvest
6 estimate of 12,000 Chinook is the lowest on record. It
7 means that there were tough decisions that had to be
8 made last year, but it also means that a lot of
9 subsistence users understood, and they did not fish,
10 and they made sacrifices, and they fished for different
11 things, or they focused their efforts at another place.
12 Those sacrifices made escapement possible. Without
13 those sacrifices, there would not have been a
14 drainagewise escapement for Chinook salmon in 2014.

15
16 For 2015 the need for protection. The
17 2015 forecast is between 96,000 and 163,000 Chinook
18 returning to the Kuskokwim. If that run comes back at
19 the low end of the forecast range, there may not be
20 enough Chinook to provide for escapement and
21 subsistence needs. 2013 -- I'm sorry, 2012 and 2013
22 were both record low returns, as well as two of the
23 three weir projects in 2014 did not meet their
24 escapement goals. Because of these reasons and
25 additional reasons, conservations for 2015 are still
26 warranted. So although our run was better, it's still
27 not stellar, and we're still looking at having to make
28 additional conservative measures for this coming
29 season.

30
31 Our preseason outreach strategy is that
32 there are three meetings that will be held here in
33 Bethel. Department of Fish and Game is preparing for
34 an interagency meeting that will be here in Bethel on
35 March 25th. There's also a fishermen's meeting that is
36 scheduled for March 26th, and we're looking to get
37 input from stakeholders and villages and tribal
38 leaders. And the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
39 Working Group will meet here also in Bethel on March
40 27. The refuge as well as the Department of Fish and
41 Game will also begin conducting village and tribal
42 meetings in March. I talked to Greg earlier this week.
43 We will likely meet sometime after Monday, and then we
44 will begin also contacting and visiting villages up and
45 down the Kuskokwim to discuss their needs, and also to
46 discuss the importance for conservation measures.

47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

49
50 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Aloysius,

1 go ahead.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: For the benefit of us on
4 the RAC, could you please notify each RAC member where
5 you're going to be respective to their area, so that we
6 could be there too, because, you know, a lot of people
7 always say, well, you're never there when we need you.
8 So please notify us about where you're going to be so
9 we can try our best to be there as their
10 representatives. Yeah. Thank you.

11

12 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair. Yes, Mr.
13 Aloysius, we can do that, and we will. And we've taken
14 note of that.

15

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And just to
17 clarify, when you did talk to me, it was specific to
18 having the tribal consultation with ONC, for the tribal
19 council of Bethel.

20

21 MR. LALONDE: Are there any questions
22 on the 2014 run, or 2015 forecast and the outreach,
23 pre-season outreach strategies.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I see none.
28 Go ahead and proceed. We're going to be diving into
29 that in pretty heavy detail a lot of us in the next
30 couple weeks anyway.

31

32 MR. LALONDE: Yes, we will.

33

34 So I'll talk about maybe little less
35 controversial species, and that would be waterbirds and
36 waterfowl. So we have some very good data for both
37 waterbirds and waterfowl in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
38 Most of our coastal waterfowl populations are monitored
39 by annual aerial surveys. Among these, the 10 eider
40 species monitored during these surveys, six of them have
41 been declining significantly over the last 30 years,
42 and/or over the last decade. These species include
43 mallard, American wigeon, northern shoveler,
44 canvasback, greater scaup, and the long-tailed duck.

45

46 The picture is very different if we
47 look at other waterbird species. Combined aerial and
48 ground surveys allow us to monitor populations of an
49 additional 14 species, including swans, geese, eiders,
50 loons, cranes, gulls, and terns. Only one of these

1 species as shown a decrease in the population. The
2 number of nesting red-throated has declined
3 significantly over the last 10 years. The numbers of
4 nests for the other 13 species have either been
5 increasing or stable in both long-term, 30 years, or
6 over the last decade specifically.

7
8 I know Brian talked about some of these
9 specifically earlier when Mr. Smith had a question from
10 Mekoryuk.

11
12 These data suggest that these waterbird
13 populations in the coastal zone of the Yukon-Kuskokwim
14 Delta are general healthy. And we'll go into a few of
15 these specifically.

16
17 Spectacled eider which are a threatened
18 species. Aerial and ground surveys along the coast of
19 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta indicate a stable or slow-
20 growing population. The three year running average for
21 the Delta breeding population estimated is about 5700
22 pairs. That population size remains below the
23 threshold at which Fish and Wildlife Service would
24 evaluate possible removing the spectacled eider from
25 the threatened species list.

26
27 Emperor goose. The spring aerial
28 survey for emperor geese along the coast of southwest
29 Alaska is the traditionally accepted survey for
30 determining the status of this population. In 2014, the
31 spring surveys counted a total of 79,000 plus emperor
32 geese, which was higher than the last in 2012 and also
33 above the long-term average of 65,000. The most recent
34 three-year average is just above 73,000. This average
35 is still below our management threshold of 80,000,
36 above which a resumption of harvest could be
37 considered. On the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, combined
38 ground and aerial surveys indicate that the nesting
39 population of emperor geese continues to grow at a slow
40 rate.

41
42 Cackling geese. Combined ground and
43 aerial surveys on the Delta indicate that cackling
44 geese populations have been growing since the mid
45 1980s, although the rate of increase seems to have
46 slowed over the last decade. The 2014 estimate, based
47 on a three-year running average indicates a cackler
48 population of over 265,000. This is the first three-
49 year average since 2010 to be above the management
50 threshold of 250,000 birds.

1 Pacific white-fronted geese. Like
2 cackling geese, the Pacific white-fronted good
3 populations have been climbing since the mid 1980s then
4 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan was
5 first implemented. From 1985 through 2006 the
6 population grew at about 11 percent per year. Since
7 then, the population has continued to grow, but at a
8 slower rate of about two percent per year. The 2014
9 population estimate was 637,000 birds. The three year
10 running average is 627,000 plus, the second highest
11 total ever. The current population is more than two
12 times higher than the population objective, which is
13 300,000.

14
15 Black brant. For many years most of
16 the brant breeding on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta nested
17 in five major colonies. The number of brants nesting
18 in those colonies has declined significantly over the
19 last two years. Although all five species have
20 declined, the decline has been particularly dramatic in
21 two of them. Although the number of colony-nesting
22 geese has declined, the overall population on the
23 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta does not seem to have dropped.
24 Combined aerial and ground surveys on the Delta
25 indicate that the brant population has been stable for
26 the last three decades, suggesting that a larger
27 fraction of these geese are now nesting away from main
28 colonies. At flyway levels, Pacific brant, black brant
29 declined between 1997 and 2005, but numbers have
30 rebounded over the past decade, and the population has
31 been near the flyway population objective of 150,000
32 for the last few years.

33
34 So we share some of these numbers with you as
35 some things that are being -- you know, that we are
36 surveying, and data we are collecting on the Delta.

37
38 And, Mr. Aloysius, I think this is
39 maybe some information that you requested, what are we
40 counting and what aren't we counting. But we thought
41 it would be important to include some of this for you
42 here this evening.

43
44 Were there any questions on waterbird
45 or waterfowl surveys.

46
47 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
2 James.

3
4 MR. CHARLES: Guyana. Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. What do you think is happening to these
6 birds that are declining? Some birds we don't even
7 hunt. And back in 80s, I was RIT that time, and we
8 were -- the Natives were blamed that they over-hunt
9 these cacklers. And even NRA from Washington, D.C. was
10 blaming Eskimos taking too much birds. And my question
11 is what's happening to these other birds that we don't
12 hunt any more, or why their numbers are going down.

13
14 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair.

15
16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. LALONDE: So, Mr. Charles, the
19 majority of these species are actually increasing as we
20 just went through the numbers. Their populations are
21 rising. The ones that we discussed earlier that are
22 decreasing, a majority are the waterfowl, or are
23 migratory birds that nest here, but also fly to many
24 other different flyways. And some of those are subject
25 to harvest, most of them are. But I guess the gist of
26 what I was trying to get is that our nesting
27 populations here are healthy, and they are doing well.
28 And the ones that are in decline are being looked at
29 very closely to figure out what is the cause of these
30 declines.

31
32 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Robert, go
33 ahead.

34
35 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you. Through the
36 Chair. Maybe to answer some of the questions for James
37 as well. You know, we still have persistent issues
38 with lead shot and eiders. And that has really never
39 gone away. You know, if you still go to VF Grace and
40 you still go to the stores, and you still go to the
41 airlines, you still see a large shipment of lead shot
42 that continues to go to the villages, particularly in
43 the coastal districts of the Refuge. And, you know,
44 the persistence of lead shot does not help the species
45 that are low right now. And as we all know that lead
46 shot is a toxin that is not helping certain species of
47 eiders.

48
49 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any follow up.
50 I just offer the observation, too, on the specs there,

1 spectacled eiders, I think it would be kind -- actually
2 kind of -- I mean, I'm glad to see the numbers up
3 where they are right now, but I'm recollecting back
4 when they were first proposed for listing, and I think
5 it was around I think 2300 breeding pairs seems to come
6 to mind right at the moment as to the trigger point
7 where the former biologist from here -- from up in
8 Barrow put in a request for their consideration on
9 threatened or endangered. But that still seems kind of
10 a slow growth rate. And maybe what you just said about
11 the lead shot has a lot to -- has some bearing on that.
12 But, you know, looking at the amount of recovery in
13 some of these other populations, it doesn't seem to be
14 reflected here where formerly they were recorded in the
15 neighborhood of 100,000 breeding pairs I believe it
16 was. Well, maybe they all moved to Russia.

17

18 Go ahead, Bob.

19

20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Jut on a lighter note,
21 several years ago I walked into a community hall and I
22 looked, it says spectacled elder, threatened species.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. ALOYSIUS: I was wondering what the
27 heck, so I put my glasses on and I looked, it says,
28 spectacled eiders. Well, I better start keeping my
29 glasses on so I won't be threatened.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Anyway, just a little
34 lightness there.

35

36 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Carry on to
37 the beavers.

38

39 MR. SUNDOWN: Fourth topic. Beavers
40 and season/bag limits. So we added this to this
41 specific list to share with you tonight, because of
42 previous concerns, specifically at the last RAC meeting
43 and previous years.

44

45 So Unit 18 has a very liberal beaver
46 season, both trapping season and hunting season are
47 open 365 days a year. There is no closed season for
48 beaver. There is also no daily bag limit and there is
49 no annual limit.

50

1 Beaver dams may be removed by hand
2 tools land motorized tools no larger than a chainsaw,
3 and that is by regulation. Beaver houses may not be
4 destroyed or tampered with by regulation. Again, as
5 Mr. Tim Andrew indicated, one of the best ways to
6 control this population is to encourage hunting and
7 utilizing this wide open season for beaver. We
8 understand that fur prices are down; however, beaver
9 meat is very good to eat whether by humans or by dogs.
10 And we encourage everyone to work with their villages
11 and encourage the take of beaver.

12

13 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Bob.

14

15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Now, does
16 this beaver dams are off limits for destruction or
17 tampering, does hat also include dead or not live
18 beaver house?

19

20 MR SUNDOWN: Thank you. Through the
21 Chair. Yeah, that is correct, because an unoccupied
22 beaver houses is transient. I mean, that changes from
23 time to time. That is not a permanent occurrence. And
24 certainly there may be permanent occurrences of
25 unoccupied beaver houses. So that's the reason it's in
26 regulation.

27

28 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead and
29 follow up if you.....

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: When it says beaver dams
32 may be removed by hand tools and motorized tools no
33 larger than chainsaws, is that spring, summer, fall,
34 and winter? Year around?

35

36 MR. SUNDOWN: That is correct, and you
37 may get a permit from the Department of Fish and Game
38 if you would like to do something greater than that.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greater than a chainsaw?

41

42 MR. SUNDOWN: Like if you wanted to use
43 dynamite or something larger than a chainsaw.

44

45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Anybody
46 else on that?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. The

1 last subject there.

2

3 MR. LALONDE: The last subject I'd like
4 to mention here tonight is our Refuge information
5 technicians. So historically Yukon Delta National
6 Wildlife Refuge was the first refuge that had Refuge
7 information technicians. And historically on Staff we
8 had had up to nine positions within the structure of
9 the Refuge. Currently we have six positions. Of those
10 six positions, we lost several RITs last year, a
11 majority of them through retirement. And currently we
12 have one Refuge information technician, Mr. David
13 Therchik who is still here with us in the back of the
14 room. David is from Toksook. But I wanted to let you
15 know that we have selected four additional Refuge
16 information technicians, and they should begin work
17 within this month. We think they're very important to
18 the Refuge. They're also very important liaison
19 between us and our Native communities, and essentially
20 the Refuge would be divided into little small zones and
21 each Refuge information technical would be responsible
22 for X-number of villages for both communication and
23 outreach and education.

24

25 So in the near future we'll be
26 contacting villages to let you know who our Refuge
27 information technician will be.

28

29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Bob.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You already
32 selected four additional RITs. When was that
33 recruitment period and where was that recruitment done?

34

35 MR. LALONDE: We use a local hire
36 authority, which is unique to Alaska in the Federal
37 Government. So we can select anyone that's currently
38 living in Alaska and then has a tie to the Refuge. So
39 we didn't open the -- we made the announcement very
40 general. They could in or around the Refuge, which is,
41 as you know, quite large, they could come from any of
42 the coastal villages, any villages on the Kuskokwim, or
43 any up along the Yukon River. So we did not
44 specifically target areas where we wanted to get people
45 from. Because we're in a rebuilding status, we thought
46 it was more important to get the best people possible,
47 no matter what villages they were from within the
48 Refuge.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I ask that is

1 because several years ago there was a big recruitment
2 drive for Aniak to Tuluksak, and then, you know, it
3 went on for a few years, and then all of a sudden it
4 dropped out and never saw the recruitment again. I
5 know there's a lot of people up there who qualify to be
6 RITs, because that is one area that is always pretty
7 much left out, because it's always further up, and it's
8 always upriver, upriver, upriver. And we get the
9 dredgings of any opportunities for employment. The
10 population is basically the Bethel area always. I
11 mean, the majority of the population is always in the
12 Bethel area. Upriver we have probably 2,000 people,
13 you know, and it's kind of frustrating that, you know,
14 the population -- I mean, the recruiting is not spread
15 out further upriver and you seem to recruit only from
16 the major population areas, which is Lower Yukon,
17 coast, Lower Kuskokwim, Bethel.

18
19 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Did you want
20 to respond?

21
22 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair.

23
24 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. LALONDE: So one of the Refuge
27 information technicians is from Aniak, and of the four
28 that are selected, only one is from Bethel, so they are
29 coming from diverse parts of the Refuge.

30
31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James, next.

32
33 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 When I was an RIT, we had assigned
36 areas or villages. There was a bunch of us at that
37 time. When the cackling Canadian numbers were down,
38 and we worked hard to try to build them back up at that
39 time. And there were people going to Yukon, Lower
40 Yukon, Upper Yukon, and I don't know how far up they
41 went, but from Kuskokwim we worked all the way down to
42 Platinum. And that time we were assigned areas, and
43 that worked out good. And sometime -- a lot of the
44 times we need RITs to work with this RAC, too. And I
45 think about that, I think about how we used to do years
46 ago when I was RIT. Even Greg's wife, Josie, was one
47 of them. Alex was one of them. And I was one of them,
48 too. And there was a whole bunch of people that time.
49 And that worked out that time, and build the cacklers,
50 no problem. And even we were called Canadian goose

1 sometimes. One guy reported to our group, cried,
2 because he was called a bird or something.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Charles.
7 That concept hasn't changed, it is the same concept.
8 We will be covering all of the villages within the
9 Refuge.

10

11 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Any
12 others. Ray.

13

14 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16

17 Thank you for the updates. On the RIT,
18 I know we just had a presentation on the wood bison for
19 the Innoko and Yukon River. Lower Yukon I believe.
20 Are they going to be reaching out to villages and let
21 them know what the regulations are, you know, for -- if
22 that season's going to be opened, because I'm sure like
23 we heard, that it won't be until five years, you know,
24 before something happens, I think that would be a good
25 opportunity for them to go out to those surrounding
26 villages i that area to let them know if there's any
27 regulations so they don't have to be cited for, you
28 know, maybe shooting a bison out of season. You know
29 what I'm saying.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anybody else.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seeing none,
38 thank you, Neil. I'm going to do a little bit of a
39 Chair's prerogative right now, too, and ask your boss
40 to come to come back up here. There was something that
41 just through the course of this conversation that got
42 missed when he was here last. So since he called you
43 up, I could ask you and have you call him up, too. But
44 it is Fish and Wildlife on the agenda here.

45

46 Yeah, Geoff, what I missed asking you
47 last time, you know, you laid out about the situation
48 we have with the coming season and so forth. Well, you
49 didn't speak directly to that, but the reason I didn't
50 ask Neil is I was wondering if there had been any

1 special action requests submitted yet for implementing
2 Federal management similar to last year that you're
3 aware of.

4

5 MR. HASKETT: I'm expecting some. I'm
6 not sure if we've actually received any yet. It looks
7 like you should have left the guy who rally knows here
8 before you called me up.

9

10 MR. LALONDE: Mr. Chair. Council.
11 There was one special action request submitted to the
12 Board and OSM on the Yukon River. There has not been
13 any submitted to date for the Kuskokwim.

14

15 MR. HASKETT: Although as I said, I'm
16 expecting that we will receive some.

17

18 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, and we'd
19 gotten word of that, and at the beginning of the
20 meeting we also had testimony from Quinhagak that they
21 were going to -- they were looking to submit one as
22 well for Kanektok, which would bring up the Togiak.

23

24 Go ahead.

25

26 MR. HASKETT: And as long as you're
27 giving me this opportunity, you'll remember that you
28 came to see me early last -- probably about this time
29 of year maybe to talk about the special request that
30 we'd be receiving, and remember, we just kind of looked
31 at how that was going to work. And I think as you see,
32 it worked out pretty well. I remember you telling me
33 we'd get pretty much a uniform response pretty much all
34 across the river. I don't know if it was completely
35 uniform, but it wa -- there were a lot.

36

37 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. And I
38 did have another purpose for calling you up here, was
39 that as you'll recall last year when those were put
40 into place, given the magnitude of it and a first and
41 so forth, but I would still, I think I'd ask and the
42 rest of the Council might agree that when you do get
43 those requests, if and when you do, that this Council
44 would be consulted on that, on further actions.

45

46 Carl.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 And I can answer this one. Actually I was going to
50 bring this up when we were talking about future

1 meetings, so we need to just have a discussion on the
2 record to note that there has been one special action
3 request received as noted. We expect others. So in
4 order to meet our public notice requirements, we'll
5 just need to note on the record that we do plan to
6 convene a meeting of this Council to provide this
7 Council an opportunity to comment on those special
8 actions like we did last year, and also to provide for
9 a public input on that. There would also be tribal and
10 ANCSA corporation consultation in connection with that.
11 We don't know for sure exactly when the meeting would
12 be held, but I would guess there would be a similar
13 time to last year, so perhaps sometime in late March to
14 early to mid April. So if the Council agrees to that,
15 then we could note on the record that the Council will
16 convene a meeting in the future to address that issue,
17 and then we can more quickly meet our public notice
18 requirements.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yea. And that
23 would be prior to any board action that may result,
24 and leave it open like that, but just -- okay. Thank
25 you. I wanted to get that in. Like we said, maybe I
26 didn't have to call you up to ask for it, but you're
27 here.

28

29 MR. HASKETT: Through the Chair. I
30 will say that the people who work for me always know
31 more than I do, so it's probably best to always bring
32 that up instead. Because they're great and do a good
33 job.

34

35 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yep, many of
36 them are.

37

38 MR. HASKETT: Thank you.

39

40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I do agree.
41 Okay. So that's it. Thank you, folks.

42

43 Okay. I believe the Togiak refuge
44 generally submits their reports in written form. I did
45 see one in the supplemental packet today, so it's there
46 for the information.

47

48 MR. WALSH: I wanted to as well, Mr.
49 Chairman.

50

1 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Oh. Who have
2 we got?
3
4 MR. WALSH: This is Pat Walsh. I'm the
5 lead biologist from Togiak Refuge, and I've got about
6 an hour's worth of material to present to you.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. WALSH: But I'll do it in five
11 minutes.
12
13 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I was
14 going to say you'd be talking to yourself by the time
15 you're done.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Pat.
20
21 MR. WALSH: All right. I will keep
22 this very short.
23
24 First I'd like to respond to the
25 question asked earlier by Mr. Smith concerning the
26 common murre on Nunivak Island. We've monitored
27 common murre at Cape Peirce on Togiak Refuge since
28 1990, and we have documented a significant decline in
29 their numbers. So we may be seeing the same thing that
30 Mr. Smith is observing there on Nunivak Island. I'd be
31 kind of cautious of that, because we're 200 miles away
32 from where he is, so it could be something different.
33
34 The Alaska Maritime Refuge does a more
35 comprehensive survey on common murre, and so I'll
36 check with them to see if there's any broader pattern
37 and let you know at the next meeting.
38
39 The next thing on my list, I want to
40 give you an update on moose management activities on
41 Togiak Refuge. First, the fall harvest of moose in the
42 Goodnews River drainage of Game Management Unit 18 was
43 14 bulls for this last year. And that's consistent with
44 harvests that have averaged 13 bulls since this season
45 was first started in 2008. Now, this may not seem like
46 very much of a harvest, but when you consider the fact
47 that the number of hunters participating in this hunt
48 has just averaged 38, this harvest is pretty well
49 scaled to the level of interest.
50

1 Concerning population surveys, we
2 performed our most recent population count in the
3 Goodnews drainage in 2012. We found a population of a
4 little over 200 moose at that point in time. When you
5 compare that number with previous surveys, you get the
6 sense that that population is slowly growing. We
7 expect it probably still is slowly growing, but as I
8 said, we haven't surveyed the moose since 2012. We
9 intend to do that this year if snow is sufficient.

10
11 Relative to the Kanektok drainage, our
12 last population count was in 2013. At that time we
13 counted 50 moose. And based on previous surveys, we
14 suspect that this population is growing rapidly. I'm
15 going to say that with caution, because 50's a small
16 number. We're planning to do moose population surveys
17 on all of Togiak Refuge, but our highest priority is
18 the Kanektok drainage. So if we get snow, that will be
19 done this winter.

20
21 Okay. The last topic I'm going to
22 mention is not listed in the written report. It's a
23 water quality monitoring project that we've been
24 involved in since 2010. This project took place on the
25 Salmon River near the Village of Platinum. As you
26 probably know, there's a platinum mine upstream of
27 where the Salmon River flows through Togiak Refuge.
28 All five species of salmon, including Chinook, spawn
29 there, even though this a very small river.

30
31 Mining operations had taken place in
32 that river for about 50 years, but they've been
33 inactive since the late 1970s. Mining recommenced in
34 2010, so we established a water quality monitoring
35 program to determine whether that mine was affecting
36 the water. And we found that water was abnormally high
37 in turbidity downstream of the mine when mining
38 operations were taking place. When we reported this to
39 all the regulatory agencies in Alaska in 2012, that
40 resulted in notices of violation from the Alaska DEC,
41 the BLM, and the Corps of Engineers. This was followed
42 by a criminal prosecution under the Clean Water Act,
43 and five of the individuals from the company were
44 indicted this last November. This case hasn't gone to
45 trial yet. The mining company has ceased operations
46 there.

47
48 The Council packet I've given you
49 includes a written report that covers everything else.
50 So if there's any questions on any of that, I'll be

1 glad to answer that, but that's all I have, Mr.
2 Chairman.
3
4 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
5 Pat, for hanging in there.
6
7 Council members.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I don't see
12 any hands raising there, Pat, so again our appreciation
13 for your updates.
14
15 MR. WALSH: All right.
16
17 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okey-dokey.
18 Moving on, do we have anything from National -- anybody
19 from National Park Service.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: BLM.
24
25 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. This
26 is Dan Sharp with BLM just letting you know I'm
27 listening, but no presentation from my end.
28
29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Not in
30 the audience this time.
31
32 Fish and Game. I don't see any of the
33 State employees here that were around for a while
34 today.
35
36 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair.
37
38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.
39
40 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.
42
43 I just have a brief report here for you
44 regarding earlier in your meeting there was testimony
45 by Dorothy Johnson regarding concern about citations
46 and confiscation of gear and fish at fish camps. I
47 checked with our area management biologist, Stephanie
48 Schmidt regarding this. She's the Yukon River summer
49 season area management biologist. And she said that
50 she had spoken with the troopers, and only one person

1 had a kings and that's since last year. They were
2 fishing with king gear and had kings in the boat and
3 their net, so the troopers seized their net and their
4 kings. All other citations were just for minor offense
5 like safety regulations, gear markings, and no one else
6 had any fish seized or gear taken.

7
8 After that, Stephanie contacted the
9 fish and wildlife trooper stationed in Bethel named
10 Brandon Forst, and he indicated that he was involved
11 with patrolling the Lower Yukon River for about three
12 or four weeks last summer, and only issued minor
13 citations, mostly for safety regulations such as life
14 jackets and gear regulations. He said that when they
15 initiated the fishing closure on the Lower Yukon River,
16 they were flying around near Mountain Village and saw a
17 net in the water, so they landed and spoke to people at
18 the fish camp. They measured the net and said it
19 wasn't an illegal net, but since the fishing was closed
20 had gone into effect. So no salmon net should have
21 been in the water. They found that this particular net
22 was four inches which was legal gear type for that
23 time, so they didn't seize it, and they didn't seize
24 any of the fish.

25
26 As far as the state troopers are
27 concerned with their enforcement on the Yukon River,
28 they did not seize any fish or nets in the Lower River.
29 No whitefish nets were seized by state troopers in the
30 lower river, and again the only fish net in the upper
31 river that seized was in the Tanana area.

32
33 We also did a search of the public
34 court system records, and there shows no fishing-
35 related citations for Dorothy Johnson for 2013 or 2014.
36 Over.

37
38 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you for
39 that update. And actually it kind of triggered my mind
40 that perhaps we ought to add enforcement, both State
41 and Federal, as one of the agency reports for future
42 meetings, certainly for the next fall meetings and
43 maybe include it. So if you guys could put that on
44 your radar. And I see there's Staff over there taking
45 note of it as well.

46
47 Any questions for -- I'm sorry, sir, I
48 didn't catch your name at the beginning.

49
50 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford. I'm with

1 the Fish and Game Federal subsistence liaison team.
2 Over.

3
4 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Any
5 questions anybody have or further comments.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
10 again thank you, sir, for that report.

11
12 MR. CRAWFORD: You're welcome.

13
14 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Are there any
15 other Fish and Game hanging out on line. State.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none,
20 next up we have OSM. Mr. Johnson. He's here.

21
22 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Mr. Chair, our
23 next report would be the Joint State/Federal Yukon
24 salmon report featuring Fred Bue and Stephanie Schmidt
25 who was just referenced on the phone by Drew Crawford.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. My
30 apologies. I don't have that updated agenda. I'm
31 working off of -- I knew you guys were staying here for
32 something. So, Fred, go ahead, you have the floor.

33
34 MR. BUE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. Good evening, everybody. Just to check,
36 even though she didn't speak up, Stephanie Schmidt, are
37 you on the line.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. BUE: Okay. That's kind of where I
42 thought we were at by now.

43
44 Thanks again. I appreciate you guys
45 hanging in there for me instead of telling me to go
46 home. Gerald just handed out an update. Part of my
47 job is just to brief you. I don't have any action
48 items for you this evening, but I want to make sure
49 that you have as much current information as we can
50 provide you.

1 I guess the most important thing on
2 this document is the front page, our contact
3 information. My name, phone number, but also Dr.
4 Stephanie Schmidt, she's ADF&G's summer season manager.
5 She's new. And she was previously a research
6 biologist, now she's the manager, so that's somebody
7 who.....

8
9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Excuse me,
10 Fred.

11
12 Pippa, can you guys take your
13 conversation outside, please. You're getting a little
14 loud.

15
16 Go ahead. I'm sorry, Fred. Continue.

17
18 MR. BUE: Okay. so anyway she's new a
19 manager. You'll be hearing her name come up this
20 season. She's not entirely new to the Yukon. Like I
21 say, she's been the research biologist for several
22 years now, three maybe. And so she is very
23 knowledgeable, and now she is stepping over into the
24 management position.

25
26 The other name on there, Jeff Estensen,
27 he's the fall season manager, he's been around for a
28 number of years. You folks in Bethel maybe are
29 familiar with him from when he worked on the Kuskokwim.

30
31
32 I guess I'm just going to skip through
33 this really fast, but Page 2 is really a brief summary.
34 I know you have a lot of Council members that are new.
35 Some of them have already left and so are missing this,
36 but the overall message here is the top of this graph
37 shows you the commercial fishing harvest, and like
38 everybody knows, since '98, you know, it wasn't just
39 Chinook that dropped. Chum and Chinook dropped in '98.
40 We went through a really tough four years there. The
41 chum came back, but the Chinook didn't do so well. It
42 came back a little bit, but they didn't do so well.
43 And so essentially commercial has really been closed
44 off and actually since -- well, 2007 was the last time
45 that we really harvested anything, so it's been a
46 number of years. Commercial was just plain closed in
47 other words.

48
49 The reason we did that was to protect
50 subsistence. We did pretty well on maintaining

1 subsistence for that timeframe, even though the runs
2 were poor. But you can see by 2012, you know, we were
3 starting to get into really restrictive subsistence.
4 You know, around 2001 we started windows, and a lot of
5 restrictions manipulating people, but we still managed
6 to maintain subsistence harvest here. But 2012 is when
7 we really started tightening the screws on subsistence
8 fishermen, and it was pretty painful. Down to 2014, I
9 guess that's what everybody's talking about,
10 essentially a closure.

11
12 The result of that is the bottom graph,
13 the total run reconstruction. You have the -- what we
14 did was stack the harvest on top of escapement so that
15 darker bar on the bottom is what we ended up with
16 escapement drainagewide.

17
18 So, you know, we took a really cautious
19 approach this year, and it wasn't a great run. It was
20 a little bit better -- it was certainly better than
21 last year, better than 2103. But with that, we failed
22 miserably in 2013, so we were really cautious 2014.
23 And we kept that subsist -- commercial was gone,
24 personal use, sportfishing was gone. And subsistence
25 essentially gone. And, so, yeah, we did make
26 escapement there. It was pretty good actually, but
27 that's what it cost was the no harvest of essentially
28 anything.

29
30 I'll just skip over the next. Pages 3,
31 4, 5, 6 are all the escapement projects, and you can
32 look at those. Essential what they're showing is that
33 we did pretty good on escapement, and that reflects in
34 the total run reconstruction in that graph. But
35 individual projects you may be interested in.

36
37 Page 7, I think the top graph, what we
38 did was this is the Pilot Station sonar, and the daily
39 abundance estimate as fish passed by there. And you
40 can see the red portion of the graph is summer chum,
41 Chinook is blue. And this is really demonstrating our
42 challenge that we have. We have very abundant summer
43 chum and very few Chinook salmon. And for our manager
44 and the fishermen out there, how do you take advantage
45 of that abundant resource while protecting the Chinook.
46 And that's a really difficult thing. We have two
47 mandates, provide access to abundant resource, but on
48 the other hand we need to protect the other resource
49 that's in jeopardy. Again you can see the timing is
50 they overlap. I think the Kuskokwim is a little bit

1 different. They're staggered a little bit more, but
2 Chinook and summer chum, they're right on top of each
3 other.

4

5 The bottom graph is more of a chart.
6 This is from our telemetry study. Actually NOAA did
7 the study, and 2004 was the report. And it gives you an
8 idea of where the fish go to throughout the drainage.
9 And like everybody knows this, the Yukon River is a big
10 drainage, and the fish go a long ways, and everybody in
11 the lower river knows how happy they are to try to get
12 that first fish of the season. Well, that first fish
13 of the season is a prized fish all the way up the
14 river, as they go up. And everybody wants that first
15 fish. So, you know, that's been our management is to
16 try to spread the harvest out so we don't just hit the
17 same fish over and over. And so essentially.....

18

19 I guess the other thing to point out on
20 this graph is there's the green polygons. Those are
21 essentially the Federal management units on that chart.
22 And what that shows is that there's a lot of Federal
23 management units, and it's discontinuous with State
24 water, Federal waters. Seven management units,
25 Refuges, within the Yukon River drainage, which is a
26 little bit different than the Kuskokwim. You know,
27 there are a lot of users, and fish go in and out of the
28 different areas, and so it's a multi-jurisdiction
29 management scenario. And so like the entire -- we work
30 very closely with the State of Alaska Fish and Game,
31 because we have to coordinate these actions. They
32 can't be just Refuge only oriented or State waters only
33 oriented. In order to be effective, they have to be
34 well coordinated throughout the river.

35

36 And so I guess that leads me to --
37 well, I think

38 -- maybe I should back up. There is a little bit of
39 new information that Stephanie Schmidt was going to
40 provide, but the subsistence harvest last year, we
41 didn't have it this fall yet, but last year the total
42 harvest for the Yukon River was 3,400 Chinook salmon.
43 A very low number. Districts 1, 2, and 3, combined
44 harvest was, out of those districts was 2,100. And for
45 full disclosure, that's not all actual subsistence
46 harvest. They were not targeting Chinook, that was
47 incidental to the chum fishing.

48

49 But 855 of those fish were actually
50 test fish related harvest. They were given to the

1 communities. And there was a lot of effort by Fish and
2 Game to release as many fish as they could, but
3 gillnets don't always -- you can't always release them.
4 Alakanuk, a few of the different test fisheries, they
5 were able to cut the net as soon as they got a fish if
6 they were in the drift fishing, but the setnets they
7 couldn't.

8
9 The same with Pilot Station sonar,
10 there were holding the net close, maintaining really
11 quick drifts, and they'd release as many as they could,
12 but they couldn't always. Those fish, of course were
13 sampled and then given to the communities. So that was
14 -- yeah, it may be 2100 attributed to the lower river,
15 but out of that there was 855 that were actually test
16 fish.

17
18 Also, another question the last couple
19 of years is the emphasis on what's happening to the
20 other species. If you take people and don't let them
21 catch Chinook, what's going to happen. Are we going to
22 over-harvest or put too much pressure on the other
23 fish. Well, the subsistence survey also said that
24 there were about 20,000 less summer chum salmon
25 harvested this year than last year, which is pretty
26 interesting. I think there may be a lot of reasons for
27 that.

28
29 Some of it may be that it wasn't worth
30 while for people to go fishing, because they didn't
31 have the Chinook to catch with their summer chum. A
32 lot of it was people couldn't go to fish camp. They
33 decided to continue their day job, and make money and
34 help their family that way.

35
36 But a lot of it was just the mechanics
37 of management. We pulled people through knotholes, and
38 it made it really difficult for people to harvest that.
39 So I think that it's necessarily that people don't want
40 summer chum. I think it was more just a very difficult
41 fishing situation for fishermen.

42
43 And that held true for fall chum as
44 well. Although fall chum isn't overlapping with
45 Chinook, I think what happens is a lot of the fishermen
46 -- like a fishwheel is a very large investment. If
47 they can't operate it during the Chinook season, they
48 don't bother to put it in for the -- to continue
49 fishing in the fall for fall chum.

50

1 So the Chinook away has an impact on
2 the other species, and it's not necessarily increasing
3 the harvest on those. It may be actually decreasing
4 them is what we're seeing.

5
6 Outlook for 2015. We're still in the
7 process of working through the Joint Technical
8 Committing with Canada DFO. They meet middle of March,
9 and they'll finalize their biological estimate, what
10 they're going to expect coming in, because we have to
11 combine the Alaska data and the Canadian data together.
12 And then the Yukon River Panel meets right after
13 Easter, I guess mid April, 11th or something I believe
14 is where we go to Whitehorse, and that's where we
15 finalize what the escapement objectives will be in
16 Canada. And from that point, then we can formalize
17 management plans. But it requires us to work with the
18 Canadians to finalize those.

19
20 But as a -- our feeling right now,
21 looking at the data that we do have, we figure the run
22 is going to be very similar to what it was this year.
23 A little bit -- total numberwise. A little bit
24 different is that this year we saw a lot of five-year-
25 old fish, five-year-old Chinook I'm talking about.
26 Those tend to be males, probably 65 to 70 percent
27 males. So next year we're expecting, you know, a
28 stronger six-year-old age class, which tends to be a
29 lot of female, the larger females. So that's
30 encouraging on the one hand, but also if you're going
31 to protect a portion of the stock, this coming season
32 will be a good opportunity to rebuild from. If you're
33 going to increase, that's probably those fish that
34 you're going to need in the spawning grounds.

35
36 Conversely this year we saw three-year-
37 old fish. We don't see those, they're very rare.
38 They're no smolt, but they're not the normal jacks that
39 people talk about. They're the tiny trout kings.
40 Three-year-olds. And so if that holds true with the
41 increased Bering Sea bycatch in the -- well, it's the
42 close, near-shore basis -- it's not really a basis
43 study, but they're studying the trawl catch near shore.
44 It's not the commercial, but it's the -- it's not basis
45 either. It's a trawl survey that they do, and that's
46 what they've been seeing is an increase in those fish.
47 So this year we were expecting those to be four-year-
48 olds, the jacks that people are familiar with. So
49 managementwise we're thinking how can we go about
50 harvesting those, which tend to be primarily males,

1 almost 100 percent males with the four-year-old kings,
2 while protecting those six-year-old females.

3
4 So that's kind of the biological
5 scenario that we're up against. So anyway, a run of
6 that size would be sufficient for escapement. But the
7 question is we don't plan on targeting Chinook. People
8 should not plan on using large mesh nets. The question
9 that we're going to be -- the real gray area will be
10 how many kings can we incidentally harvest while we're
11 trying to provide opportunity to harvest summer chum.
12 That's going to be the real challenge.

13
14 Work with people up and down the river,
15 because we know everybody is in a different situation.
16 What net works in one place isn't effective in another
17 place. And so it's -- and it can never be absolutely
18 fair or equal, because like I say, the District 5
19 doesn't even have summer chum salmon, so that's
20 completely off the table. And they don't even expect
21 to have any chum openings, because they don't have
22 chums.

23
24 The other thing, this RAC is very
25 important to us to get your input on, but we also have
26 two other RACs on the river that we need to listen to.
27 And I think it's really important I -- I guess Tim
28 Andrew is gone, but I want to make sure and pass on to
29 AVCP, TCC, the work they did last year, what we're
30 seeing is a lot of cooperation up and down the river.
31 It didn't use to be that way. People are doing a lot
32 more working a lot closer with each other. Everybody
33 on the river is a subsistence fisherman. It's very few
34 people from other places. The Yukon is really remote.
35 And you know how difficult it is to get to the
36 Kuskokwim, well, the Yukon's even farther out. And so
37 the only people left are the ones that need those fish.

38
39 So I think I want to let everybody know
40 that we really appreciate the cooperation that people,
41 fishermen, had a resolution last year to not fish. I
42 know it's really difficult for them to do that, and we
43 really appreciate that. And we really appreciate AVCP
44 and TCC taking the leadership and organizing that,
45 because communication up and down the river is really
46 difficult, and they brought people together to talk
47 about that, how to do that. So we really appreciate
48 that.

49
50 I guess it was Page 9 that I listed out

1 the different options that we have for management
2 tools. Again we already spoke to some of this, about
3 four-inch nets today, and things, and the idea is not
4 to use four-inch nets to catch kings, but to catch
5 other things. And so that's what we want, we want to
6 give people other tools.

7
8 And so if there's -- we're going to
9 have a meeting April 29th. The Yukon River Panel is
10 funding a meeting like they have the last several years
11 since 2010 I believe it was, to bring fishermen up and
12 down the river together. There has been -- OSM I
13 believe has funded some of the RAC membership to attend
14 the meetings and helped out some. But we also give
15 invitations to all the tribes on the river. And then
16 there's some additional -- people find additional
17 monies. TCC, AVCP, CDQ people help sponsor somebody
18 else. Village councils actually sponsor additional
19 people to come to this meeting. And it is
20 stakeholders. It's not just Federal users, it's not
21 just State users. It needs to be everybody there. And
22 so it's important.

23
24 What you do is help give, you know,
25 fishing gear, management plans, but those are really
26 broad and important tools. In-season we have to
27 respond to what actually comes into the river. And a
28 few people on the coast know that you may know 12 hours
29 ahead what the tide's going to bring, because you have
30 to match it up with the wind and what direction the
31 fish are coming. The lower river has the highest
32 fishing effort, or the fishing force there. But we
33 only know what's coming on the tide. And so it's
34 really -- we have to be listening to the people and how
35 cautious they want us to approach the season. So we
36 try to work with that.

37
38 Then I guess also to plug that, we'll
39 have the YRDFA teleconferences weekly. Everybody
40 should be tuned into those. And again -- I better
41 close quick, because you're getting tired of me. But
42 my phone number here, let know what our concerns are,
43 and I know you all have unique situations, so I
44 appreciate your time. Mr. Chair.

45
46 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you,
47 Fred.

48
49 Questions. Ray.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3
4 Thank you, Fred, for your presentation
5 and the outlook for the 2015 Chinook fisheries that's
6 coming up this summer, this spring.

7
8 As you know as for me and as far as
9 many subsistence users, you know, don't have dipnets
10 because of the cost. You know, I had to wait until the
11 six-inch gear was allowed, and that was well after 4th
12 of July. And it's a really short season to try and dry
13 fish when you're well, you know, past that portion
14 where the summer begins. Like we always say we're
15 always trying to get the first run of fish so that we
16 -- and get as much as we can, you know, right at the
17 first run, because of the seasons that you know about,
18 too. And I'd like to still see that happen, you know,
19 right at the beginning, because we only take what we
20 need, and it doesn't affect anybody further up the
21 river. And we'd like to make that recommendation right
22 at the bat that we get what we need with the gillnet
23 that is allowed, which is the six-inch, because we've
24 already heard already what four-inch can do, the
25 smaller mesh that is allowed, the four-inch, and like
26 we say we may be doing more damage, more harm than
27 good. You know, I'd like to see an opening right off
28 the bat, because there's a lot of fish that come in.
29 We know that from people that fish, especially for
30 subsistence.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Do you want to
35 answer that, Fred, and then we'll go to Mike.

36
37 MR. BUE: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman.

39
40 Mr. Oney. Yes, with this sort of run
41 we do have in regulation that we have to keep that
42 first pulse of Chinook closed. But like maybe remember
43 2013, we -- depending on the timing of the Chinook and
44 Chum, it may be possible that we could have an opening
45 in between the Chinook pulses when Chum are very
46 abundant. Another thing we have done when maybe the
47 Chinook are coming in the middle of North Mouth, maybe
48 we have a six-inch in the South Mouth. I know it's
49 frustrating, because maybe it helps Nunam Iqua or
50 Alakanuk, but leaves Kotlik out. But those are -- you

1 know, in some ways we have to hope that people can work
2 together and maybe share some of that if that's the
3 only opportunity we have.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
8 Mike.

9
10 MR. PETERS: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 Fred, you know, I feel the same way
13 like Ray on the lower part of the Yukon since I'm from
14 Marshall. I think, you know, to do away with the
15 dipnet, because in some areas it work and in my area it
16 wasn't working, but to go back to the setnet
17 regulation. And by doing this, it would -- like what
18 some people indicated, they bought dipnets and it
19 didn't work. And that's something that management need
20 to look at, and from my own opinion, I would like for
21 us to go back to setnet.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead,
26 Fred.

27
28 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 Mr. Peters, that is something that we
31 haven't tried in the past. Usually we try, if we've
32 limited it to gillnets, either dipnets, and haven't
33 allocated between one or the other. When we say
34 gillnet, we say it means both setnets and driftnets.
35 In your area, maybe that is good to know if you do have
36 setnet sites. We hear from a lot of the other areas
37 that there aren't that many setnet sites, and so that's
38 why we've avoided set nets. But there some biological
39 information, some people believe that if you can put
40 your net close to the beach, you'll catch more chum,
41 and the kings will stay out farther. AND so that maybe
42 an option to target chum and avoid kings.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Follow up. Go
47 ahead.

48
49 MR. PETERS: You know, for just like in
50 my area, coming from Marshall, there's some people

1 setnet, and also they would like to drift. And that
2 would be something to take into some sort of
3 consideration. On the other hand, you know, probably
4 for to bring back the fishwheels instead of using
5 dipnets, it would be more consuming to our subsistence
6 people, you know, but we'll have to really look at it,
7 about putting a resolution to have a fishwheel. But
8 that's just something I'd throw at the tables here.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any others.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, just an
17 observation again. This is only Kuskokwim side, of
18 course, but you know, you mentioned about the four-inch
19 gear, and the jacks that they are supposed to be
20 targeting. But it's kind of really a mixed bag with
21 four-inch. I get a lot of feedback both directions on
22 it.

23

24 The only ASL information we got off the
25 river this year, other than perhaps what was maybe
26 collected at the weirs and from the test fishery, and
27 this is by people that did have four-inch mesh out. I
28 think Fish and Game got zero in their efforts. We did
29 have one person out of the 15 to 25 that we usually
30 through our program would participate, and one agreed
31 this year, but they got 52 fish through the course of
32 the season, and it was spread out through the whole
33 season, because four-inch was allowed pretty much all
34 the way through. They started like -- I think it was
35 like the 10th through the 25th or 27th of June. So it
36 was fairly spread out. In other words, 52 fish, only
37 two of them were females. The largest was 648
38 millimeters, but of the females, one was 490 and one
39 was a 540 of the two females out of the 52 fish.

40

41 But the other concern that has been
42 brought forward to and we'll be talking about it at our
43 fish meeting, I'll be bringing it up there, what some
44 folks -- down here within the area where you've got
45 tidal influence that quite possibly a lot of the large
46 ones that do get caught or maybe get tangled enough,
47 you know, unable to pull out and continue on like the
48 intent of a four-inch mesh is supposed to do, but that
49 the ones that do get tangled up, if they're not checked
50 very often, you know, every six hours or so, that every

1 time you have a tide shift, any larger fish that are
2 caught in there are going to get flushed out. And so
3 if somebody's going to check their net, if they only do
4 it twice a day, they might end up being missing. Or if
5 they lose their net over that shift, they could be
6 getting a lot of dropouts, and causing increased
7 morality.

8

9 MR. BUE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. Yeah, those are really small female. That's
11 not very common, and so they would be kind of an
12 oddball, and we wouldn't expect that to happen.

13

14 But I think the other point is, is that
15 a good fisherman always know how to catch a fish no
16 matter what. Any size gillnet will catch any size
17 fish. I've caughten a lot of little dollies in an
18 eight-and-a-half-inch king yet.

19

20 You know, one of the concerns is we had
21 four-inch nets -- you know, if people use that, they
22 certainly can target kings. They just -- you know, and
23 especially in the intertidal areas, they can hang them
24 really loose and make them really baggy, and it becomes
25 entangled in that. And it's really effective. You
26 know, where it's the wasteful and dropout is if, you
27 know, you don't modify it. But you can make it really
28 effective.

29

30 I think the idea is to work with
31 people. The information knowledge and get their buy-in
32 on this is that it's -- we're not managing the
33 resources for ourselves. We're managing it for people
34 and that's what we're charged to do. So, you know,
35 we're trying to make it work for people I guess is what
36 I'm saying. And that's -- the Yukon is a very large
37 river, and people are really going to do what they want
38 to do in the middle of nowhere, and so the idea is that
39 we need their support, and we need their buy-in and
40 that's why we try to work with people as much as we
41 can.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
46 Any other questions.

47

48

49

50

VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I'd just offer

1 the observation about the eight-inch mesh, I used a
2 seven-seven-eighths and I used to catch smelt in it.
3 Anyway. Okay.

4
5 Any other reports, Carl, that you've
6 got that I don't.

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Just the OSM report, Mr.
9 Chair.

10
11 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: You have the
12 floor, or whoever is going to be doing that has the
13 floor.

14
15 MR. MCKEE: Good evening, Mr. Chair.
16 For the record, Chris McKee with OSM.

17
18 All I have to do here is give you a
19 staffing update. So just real quickly, Orville Lind
20 was hired as our Native liaison. He's worked for 23
21 years in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge
22 information technician, refuge manager, and Native
23 liaison in the Bristol Bay region. And he is the
24 former village chief for Chignik Lake and Port Heiden.

25
26 Katherine Deatherage was hired as our
27 Subsistence Council coordinator, and has worked
28 previously with the National Park Service and Bureau of
29 Land Management as an interpretive ranger, and in
30 various aspects of public affairs, and she is currently
31 assigned to the Kodiak/Aleutians Region.

32
33 Adrienne Fleek over here was hired as
34 Subsistence Council coordinator. She came to OSM from
35 the Environmental Protection Agency where she's
36 assisted tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region in
37 developing environmental programs and obtaining grant
38 funding. She is assigned to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
39 and Seward Peninsula regions.

40
41 Jennifer Harden has been hired as our
42 anthropology division chief. She's coming to us from
43 Yosemite National Park, and she'll be leading a staff
44 of four anthropologists and social scientists and
45 filling a position that's been vacant for over a year
46 and a half.

47
48 Kayla McKinney was hired as our
49 administrative records specialist, and she comes to us
50 after serving nine years in the U.S. army as an IT

1 specialist where she's been stationed at Fort Campbell
2 and Fort Richardson, and she'll be assisting our
3 regulations specialist in record compilation and
4 organization.

5 Of interest to me, we hired two new
6 wildlife biologists. Lisa Moss was hired, she's coming
7 to us from the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife
8 Refuge where she's been since 2011. And Suzanna Worker
9 is the other wildlife biologist, and she was hired from
10 the Western LCC here in Alaska. She's been there since
11 2012, and she will be starting with us at the end of
12 March, and Lisa will be coming on towards the end of
13 April. So after that the Wildlife Division will be
14 fully staffed.

15
16 So as you'll remember OSM had some 13
17 or 14 vacancies at one point, and so we are will on our
18 way to getting close to fully staffed. So that's good
19 news for us.

20
21 So that's all I had.

22
23 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Questions or
24 anything on the OSM report.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Just that the
29 one you started with, her name is not Katherine
30 Deatherage, it's Karen.

31
32 MR. McKEE: Karen Deatherage, excuse
33 me.

34
35 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Deatherage.
36 Yeah.

37
38 MR. McKEE: And I messed up the other
39 name last year, so.....

40
41 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Back in 1996
42 and '97, she was the lead person for the State of
43 Alaska for Defenders of Wildlife.

44
45 Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. McKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ready to move
50 on. No further reports. We've got date and location

1 of the fall 2015 meeting. And I'm looking for the
2 calendar here.

3
4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. That
5 calendar can be found on Page 24 of your meeting book.
6 Currently this Council had selected October 7 and 8 for
7 it's fall 2015 meeting, but had not set the location.

8
9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess that
10 would beg the question, are you still under the
11 stricture of having to have hotels that are only
12 registered and recognized under some kind of national
13 registry of the U.S. Government that we ran into before
14 with doing St. Mary's, or trying to get our meetings
15 out to some of the more sub-hub areas if you want to
16 call it.

17
18 MR. JOHNSON: That previous restriction
19 is no longer the place, Mr. Chair. But when meeting in
20 non-hub communities, your Council coordinator will
21 still have to get approval from Mr. Peltola, which will
22 involve the cost analysis and kind of an explanation as
23 to why the Council wants to meet in that location.

24
25 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Members,
26 what's your pleasure. Dale.

27
28 MR. SMITH: Yes, as a new member I
29 really appreciate the exposure and the places here.
30 I'm a full-time employee of my tribal council, and it's
31 pretty hard for me to -- and I know I've volunteered
32 for this, which is really good. But I guess the
33 question is, is it hard to schedule meetings on a
34 weekends, Friday and Saturday. I mean, would that be a
35 possibility.

36
37 MR. JOHNSON: I cannot answer whether
38 or not that's a possibility, but as a general rule we
39 do not meet on weekends. I know there are a variety of
40 factors that go into why that's the case, but as a
41 general rule the Councils do meet on week days.

42
43 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob.

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I don't want to
46 interfere with the Staff's weekends.

47
48 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, the
49 dates have already been set and published, so we're
50 kind of stuck with them for this time around. It's the

1 location. Location. Where we'd like to try to have
2 it. And whenever they go into the cost analysis, and
3 we've been around this for a couple of years now, you
4 know, it's always Bethel, because it's the central
5 point for, you know, both coast, Yukon, upriver,
6 downriver, whatever is involved to fly into. And, of
7 course, a central one for the -- the Staff would have
8 to come out from the regional office as well. Or
9 others maybe coming from the State. So, I mean, that
10 is why Bethel gets chosen a lot of times. Aside from
11 the funding. And in the past when things were better,
12 we did try to get out more to the -- you know, hold our
13 meetings out in whether St. Mary's or Mountain Village
14 or down at Hooper Bay. Hooper Bay I think was the last
15 one, about four or five years ago. But it's something
16 that whether a village would feel comfortable hosting
17 that, too, is another item.

18

19 It's almost our last item.

20

21 MR. PETERS: You know, I would like to
22 see it scheduled some place where it will be
23 centralized and everybody be -- because another thing
24 is the Staff or management always look at the budget,
25 if they have money available to go out to the villages.
26 You know, that's a question. But I'll go along with
27 the Chair wherever he want to meet, you know.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James, go
32 ahead.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: I don't mind Bethel, but
35 Bethel would have place -- I mean, have plane center or
36 airplane center or Bethel -- or people who's running
37 the airlines would bring us to Bethel and not have to
38 go some other place. And another thing I like Bethel
39 is because people from Kwethluk, Akiak, or other
40 places, if they want to come, they can come here, too,
41 on snowmachines or cars or whatever. Boat. So I don't
42 mind Bethel.

43

44 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Make that a
45 motion or recommendation. David.

46

47 MR. BILL: I don't mind Bethel, too,
48 because you have some hotels here which the village
49 don't have, and the airplanes are right there when --
50 on the days that you'll be home. And you'll be safe

1 from the storm.

2

3 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Well,
4 that's three so far. Anybody else want to weigh in or
5 just want to call it consensus. Enough? Bethel.

6

7 Bob, go ahead.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Bethel's great,
10 except please do not -- I mean, our coordinator, please
11 do not -- no Bentley Porter House, please. Please.
12 Please.

13

14 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, we're
15 done with that one then. Winter 2015, all Council
16 meeting. Hey, that's a new one to me.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. If you
19 recall, you were briefed on this concept at your fall
20 meeting about having an all-Council meeting where all
21 10 Councils will meet together under the same roof at
22 the same time. And this Council along with all the
23 other Councils approved that, so we're moving ahead
24 with the planning of that.

25

26 Following the Federal Subsistence Board
27 meeting, all of the Chairs who were present, as well as
28 the Council coordinators, and our Native liaison,
29 Orville Lind, met to plan the meeting, kind of begin
30 the process of planning it. Based on that, we've
31 selected the date of March 7 through 11 of 2016, which
32 will be the meeting dates for this. And it will be a
33 five-day meeting. It will be your winter meeting for
34 2016. So it would start with day 1 on a joint session
35 where all 10 Councils would meet together, and the
36 agenda topic will be kind of a compilation of common
37 issues that are raised by all the Councils in their
38 annual reports. And we'll flesh out the detail on this
39 as to what those are as we continue planning with our
40 committee that's doing this work.

41

42 And then the rest of the week each
43 Council will have an opportunity to meet for a day to
44 address its own issues. And then while you're not
45 meeting, you'll have the opportunity to attend agency
46 reports, training, panel discussions on topics ranging
47 -- on reports, for example, on Yukon and Kuskokwim
48 salmon. There might be multi-regional reports, so you
49 could have two or three Councils getting the report at
50 the same time. Or Western Arctic Caribou for, you

1 know, the northern Councils.

2

3 Training would be on everything from
4 cross-cultural communication to Federal Indian law,
5 ANILCA, dual management, Robert's Rules of Order.
6 Things that will be useful to not only the Council, but
7 also the public, because one of the things you want to
8 accomplish with this meeting, is one of the objectives
9 of the tribal consultation policy is to provide
10 training for tribal Staff and Federal Staff to better
11 understand each other and to better work together in
12 dealing with common issues through the tribal
13 consultation process.

14

15 So that's kind of a quick overview, but
16 we'll provide you a much more detailed briefing as to
17 the specific agenda, topics, and the schedule at your
18 fall meeting.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Okay.
23 Let's see what -- yeah, he said that would cover for
24 the winter meeting.

25

26 Alrighty. We're down to the closing
27 comments. We'll start from that end. Mr. Bill.

28

29 MR. BILL: No comment.

30

31 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: No comment.
32 James.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Like I said last time, I like the Fish and Wildlife
36 Service managing the subsistence fishing last summer
37 downriver, or all the way on the Kuskokwim. I don't
38 know about the others, but I've had people talk to me
39 that they didn't mind the Fish and Wildlife Service
40 managing the subsistence fishing on Kuskokwim. In the
41 past the State has been managing the subsistence
42 fishing.

43

44 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The only
47 comment I would have is that, and like I said earlier
48 during the day before we broke for lunch, that we meet
49 twice a year for two days, and let's make it two days,
50 not anybody go whenever they want. And make sure that

1 the flights are scheduled the day before our meeting to
2 come here and the day after the meeting is concluded to
3 go home.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hear. Hear.

8 Ray.

9

10 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

11 Chairman.

12

13 First of all I'd to thank the Staff for
14 putting this meeting together. I think it was a well-
15 run meeting. And I thank you for inviting Geoff
16 Haskett and also the people from the North Pacific
17 Fishery Management Council. I think it was very, very
18 good that they hear our concerns, you know, for the
19 last how many times we keep bringing up this same
20 subject time and time again. And I'm glad that they
21 came in a bunch rather than one person, because, you
22 know, we always say two heads are better than one. So
23 I'm glad that they're absorbing what the concerns and
24 the comments that came from the Council, and also from
25 the public. And I thank you for that.

26

27 And again I thank the new members that
28 were brought in as our Council, the new members. I
29 remember when I first came in, you know, I was nervous
30 myself, too. But I've learned a lot over the years
31 since I've been on this Council, and it's still with
32 me, you know, of those elders that have passed on,
33 especially the late John Hanson, John Thompson. Those
34 were the people that I was first introduced when I went
35 into this Council, and I still have a lot of memories
36 of those times, the concerns that they brought up that
37 we're still facing today.

38

39 And again I want to thank and welcome
40 Adrienne Fleek as our regional coordinator. We look
41 forward to working with you to continue the work that
42 we do for both the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

43

44 And all of you that are staying up this
45 late, I think this is probably the latest meeting we've
46 had since the time that I've, you know, had meetings
47 before.

48

49 But I'd like to recommend also maybe
50 for the people that are testifying, I don't know if we

1 should have them at the beginning and limit them,
2 because I think we may have overdone it, but again it
3 was good to hear them bring up their concerns and
4 comments. And maybe in the future we can maybe limit
5 them to a timeframe, and not hear the same person, you
6 know, repeat what he already testified. So we could
7 keep that in mind.

8

9 And again thank you all for putting up
10 with this. Thank you.

11

12 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dale.

13

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
15 everybody knows, I'm a first time board member -- I
16 mean, a Council member. And I expressed interest in
17 serving my community and being part of this group here.
18 And I'm sure I'll learn a lot, and it's been a very
19 good exposure for me to hear all different aspects of
20 subsistence. And I look forward to that as the years
21 come by.

22

23 Just to reiterate what Ray was saying
24 earlier about public testimony, I didn't know if you
25 had time limits for that. Like Ray was suggesting,
26 that it would be good to have at least time limits for
27 people expressing their concerns.

28

29 And also I'd like to reiterate what Bob
30 was saying about coming to a meeting. I think that if
31 a board member or a Council member comes here, I think
32 they should be here from the beginning to the end.

33

34 And lastly, I don't know the history
35 behind what time you guys start the meetings. Maybe
36 8:00 o'clock or 8:30 as opposed to 9:00. Maybe that
37 would give more time to go through the agenda. I don't
38 know. But that's just my personal comment.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana. Tony

43

44 MR. ULAK: Quyana. I want to thank the
45 Council. I want to thank the Staff and the people that
46 were here. I've had two good meetings. I'm still
47 learning. And I welcome the new member.

48

49 And I want to elaborate a little bit on
50 our Council members that left the meeting early. I

1 think sometime in the future we need to amend the RAC
2 policies and procedures to insert that issue, if it can
3 be done.

4

5 Other than that, quyana.

6

7 (In Yup'ik).

8

9 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Michael.

10

11 MR. PETERS: You know, this is my
12 second meeting here. I'm from Marshall, but you know I
13 would like to thank Bob also for reminding the people
14 -- I mean Bob Aloysius for reminding the people to be
15 on time, because they're representing their village.
16 And just like any other place, you know, by doing this
17 they'll have a content vote when we do work with very
18 important issues, you know.

19

20 And I would like to thank the Staff and
21 the Federal Subsistence Board, and I would like to
22 thank Carl and, what's her name, Adrienne, you know,
23 for -- you know, there are a lot of discussion and a
24 lot of homework to read up on, and I would like to
25 think Fred and his Staff, not just Fred, but also the
26 Fish and Game, and all the people, the Federal
27 agencies. And I would like to thank those bycatch
28 people, you know, for.....

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. PETERS: I don't know what they
33 call them, but that's the first time they ever come to
34 our meeting. I don't know what kind of agency they
35 call them, but, you know, that's all I know they were
36 talking about, bycatch. But anyway, you know, I'm not
37 too familiar to what they're heading it, but, you know,
38 I would like to thank them.

39

40 But I would like to let the Board know
41 and Carl possibly in the future if we could have
42 alternates, you know. If we can't make the meeting, if
43 we could have someone from the village that could come
44 in our place.

45

46 And I like this orientation, that what
47 they brought out, it cut down on a lot of the time on
48 discussion. And I look forward for more orientation.

49

50 I would like to welcome the new board

1 members.

2

3 And, yeah, thank you very much.

4

5 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Finally. I
6 like to go last, everybody's already said all the good
7 stuff and expressed appreciation to certainly the Staff
8 and then the other members.

9

10 I think we got a lot done for what I
11 was kind of considering more of a housekeeping type of
12 agenda. There was some good issues brought out and
13 some good actions made.

14

15 One thing I did want to mention that
16 kind of got me a little bit, and maybe I should have --
17 I try not to respond too much like when people are up
18 giving their testimony, because you don't want to make
19 them feel like they're being challenged or so forth,
20 but you often hear people say nothing ever gets done,
21 nobody ever listens to us, they never hear what we're
22 trying to say. And I don't think a lot of people
23 really realize how much progress is made over time.

24

25 And pardon me, Bob, but I think I'm
26 going to mention about -- I want to talk about beavers,
27 because that's kind of what we kind of have to emulate
28 and be like to be productive in a management realm,
29 whether you're talking about Federal, or whether you're
30 talking about State. A beaver takes on a tree one
31 little bite at a time. Have you ever seen one go in
32 there and take it out in one chomp? It don't happen.
33 They build their dam one little stick at a time. That
34 dam stays for a long time when they build it. And
35 sometimes they've just got to be pests to get you to
36 notice them.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So that's my
41 little thought for the day. I think we had a decent
42 meeting. And I wish everybody could have stayed all
43 the way through, and I especially wish Becky could have
44 been here to hear the response from Fish and Game. But
45 again that's something that comes with time.

46

47 And I don't think this is the latest
48 we've ever gone. I know there's been a couple after
49 9:00 o'clock, and I think was one until 11:00 at one
50 time or another I remember, James.

1 And with that, we're ready for adjourn.
2 Ray, do you want to do a benediction for us, please.

3

4 MR. ONEY: (Gives benediction)

5

6 VICE-CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And we stand
7 adjourned. 8:30.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

