

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center
10 Bethel, Alaska

11
12 February 28, 2013
13 9:00 a.m.

14
15
16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18
19 Greg Roczicka, Acting Chairman
20 Robert Aloysius
21 Noah Andrew
22 David Bill
23 William Brown
24 James Charles
25 Mary Gregory
26 Evan Polty
27 Harry Wilde, Sr.
28
29
30 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42 Recorded and transcribed by:

43
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
46 Anchorage, AK 99501
47 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 2/28/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Good morning everybody. We just were able to get on line here. Had phone problems again. Calling this meeting to order here at 9:07 of the YK RAC, February 28th.

And before we get going here, any announcements? I believe that our coordinator had a few things he wanted to toss out there.

MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council.

Again I would like to advise you, if you are going to make any travel changes, I need to know early today. (In Yup'ik) I got your note, Bob, so you're okay. And if any of you are planning to check out of the hotel, and if you do check out of the hotel, also let me know, because your hotel is paid for through today.

(In Yup'ik)

So if you're going to make travel changes, please let me know early so we can.....

MR. H. WILDE: I just moved out from the hotel.

MR. NICK: Okay. The reason why I have to do this is because I have to call Carlson every time when you change your travel plans so I will have to do that, you know, either maybe shortly after the meeting is adjourned today if you're traveling after it adjourns.

MR. H. WILDE: I don't know what time that plane goes to Mountain, because my grandson, he says he's got no one to take care of him. That's a problem.

MR. NICK: Yeah, that's part of the policy that we have to abide by. And we have to stick with the policy, because, you know, if not then, you know, we'll be dealing with it on our part.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Bob.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Good morning.
6 First of all, I apologize for my outburst yesterday,
7 and I know, you know, it wasn't appropriate the way I
8 reacted, the way I responded to that last go around we
9 had without me being invited to that name changing of
10 the tributaries of the Johnson and the Crooked Creek,
11 so I apologize for that.
12
13 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I don't
14 think the apology was necessary.
15
16 Charlie.
17
18 MR. BROWN: I have hospital appointment
19 today. I'm excused for 10:00 o'clock.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Okay. And
22 before we get underway, too, just for the record, we do
23 have all nine Council members present who were here
24 yesterday.
25
26 And if we could get the folks on line
27 to identify themselves who's in attendance for the
28 record. We'll start with any Federal Staff
29 representative who are on line.
30
31 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That's Dan Sharp,
34 BLM.
35
36 MR. McKEE: Chris McKee with OSM.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Chris McKee, OSM.
39 Any others.
40
41 MR. LORRIGAN: Jack Lorrigan, the
42 Native liaison with Office of Subsistence Management.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anyone else.
45
46 MR. BUE: This is Fred Bue, Fish and
47 Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
48
49 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Fred. Other
50 Federal representatives.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, then
4 any State Staff or representatives that are on line.
5
6 MR. NEWLAND: Eric Newland with the
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage is on
8 line. And Rena Avgaard-Hertz is with me.
9
10 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. Anyone
11 else.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, then
16 any other members of the public or organizations who
17 are in via teleconference.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I was specifically
22 asked to see if YRDFA might be dialed in.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess not. So
27 anyway for the record then we're clear to go.
28
29 Also it was brought up yesterday about
30 the concern, I think we're going to be able to
31 hopefully finish up by noon here, but in the event that
32 we don't, the concern was raised we might lose our
33 quorum. So with that, there's only a few action items
34 that really need to be taken up, and two of those are
35 at the end just regarding confirmation of the meetings
36 and selection of a date and location for our winter
37 2014 meeting. And I would like to maybe just take
38 those up first. And then the next action item is
39 actually the next item back on the regular agenda,
40 which is Item C under new business.
41
42 So I guess I'd be asking right at this
43 time for a motion to suspend the rules, and we can take
44 up the confirmation -- Items A and B under 15 for the
45 future meeting dates, and then go back to the regular
46 agenda.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary.

1 MS. GREGORY: I so move.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moved and seconded.
6 Is here any objection. Any objection.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MR. POLTY: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing no
13 objection, we'll go ahead then and take up Item 15 for
14 the date and location of the fall 2013 meeting in St.
15 Mary's Alaska. Do you have anything to add here, Alex.
16
17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
18 Council.
19
20 The only thing that I would let you be
21 advised of is that again even though it's one of the
22 hub communities, because there is no lodging facilities
23 there, there are enough facilities for meeting place,
24 you know, but lodging is going to be a problem. We'd
25 have to do a lot of work to arrange lodging. That's
26 the only thing that I would ask you to consider.
27
28 Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Alex.
31 So, members, what's your pleasure. Evan.
32
33 MR. POLTY: Yes. If you're going to
34 have problem with the -- Mr. Chair. If you're going to
35 have a problem with the problem, if there's any other
36 designated areas besides St. Mary's on the Yukon.
37
38 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.
39 Polty. The way we select the meeting location is we
40 consider hub communities first, like Bethel is a hub
41 community for this region, and St. Mary's is also a hub
42 communities. The only problem that we would run into
43 is lodging arrangements. In the past, you know, it
44 used to be done by host arrangements, placing people in
45 a family. But maybe someone in OSM would be better to
46 address the payment, method of payment to those
47 families, because most everything is done by credit
48 cards nowadays.
49
50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. I guess
2 I'd view that as more of an administrative matter that
3 would be something taken care of. I know in other
4 instances it's been handled through the tribal council,
5 so it would be a lump sum payment to them for families
6 and such. That's just an alternative that's been done
7 in the past.

8
9 Regardless I guess of that, I guess I'd
10 say a motion would be in order if we want to confirm
11 our date or the location and date of September 25/26 in
12 St. Mary's for our fall meeting.

13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob.

17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we have our
19 fall 2013 RAC meeting in St. Mary's on September 25 and
20 26.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Motion made. Is
23 there a second.

24
25 MS. GREGORY: Second

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seconded by Mary
28 Gregory. Any further discussion.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary.

33
34 MS. GREGORY: I like to go to villages,
35 because if we meet in Bethel too much, then we deprive
36 some of the people a chance to come and talk to us.
37 And I like to go to the hub villages or to the villages
38 and reach out to them as much as I can, and give them a
39 chance to give us some things to talk about. Because
40 when they come and testify or are before us, it gives
41 us good incentives to go for things that they want.
42 And yesterday when those two Williamses were giving
43 testimonies, it reminded me that we still are a
44 subsistence economy, Yup'ik people, that we are
45 maintaining our lifestyle, which is good.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Uh-huh. Quyana,
48 Mary.

49
50 MR. BILL: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If there's nothing
2 further the question's been called. All those in favor
3 say aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, we'll
13 expect for our meeting to be arranged for St. Mary's
14 this coming fall.

15
16 And Item B then for date and location
17 of the winter 2014 meeting.

18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Alex.

22
23 MR. NICK: There's something I
24 overlooked. I know that the YK Council selected
25 September 25, 26 last year, it was last fall. But
26 there is three meetings during that week, and I was
27 informed that one of the Regional Advisory Councils
28 would have to give up their meeting dates for others.
29 But it's entirely up to you if you want to discuss that
30 at this point.

31
32 During September 24 through 26 there
33 are three RAC meetings. One is YK in St. Mary's.
34 Southeast at Petersburg. And Kodiak/Aleutians I
35 believe in King Cove.

36
37 Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess I just
40 mentioned that would have been certainly good to know
41 before we took our final action on the last time. It's
42 going to now call for a reconsideration by one of the
43 Council members if they would choose to do that.

44
45 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. What's the
46 conflict here?

47
48 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Two other RAC
49 meetings are scheduled at the same time.

50

1 David, do you have anything to add.
2
3 DR. JENKINS: Well, you can see the
4 dates at the back of your book on Page 134, and you can
5 see where they overlap, so there's a calendar that
6 should be available for you to look at. YK has a
7 meeting there, the Southeast and the Kodiak Aleutians
8 all cross those dates.
9
10 Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: What's your
13 pleasure, folks, do you want to reconsider or ask them
14 to -- someone to reschedule theirs.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't know what the
21 conflict is, because they're three different areas, and
22 I don't think anybody from Southeast or from Kodiak
23 would be coming to our meeting, or is that based on the
24 workload for the OSM.
25
26 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David.
27
28 DR. JENKINS: Yeah. Bob, that's right.
29 It's stretching the OSM Staff to go to all of these
30 different meetings at the same time. It becomes very
31 difficult to arrange for OSM Staff to be in three
32 places. So if we could move them apart a little bit,
33 that would be helpful just for the logistics of that.
34 But as Mr. Roczicka's pointed out, you know, you could
35 keep your dates and wish for the other Councils to move
36 around a little bit. It's up to you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.
39
40 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41
42 If we are number 1 in line, we should
43 leave it where it is and let the others change their
44 schedule.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary.

1 MS. GREGORY: I agree with Mr. Charles.
2 And like today we don't have a lot of people attending
3 here. So I don't see any problem.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any other comments.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It sounds like we
10 want to stick with our dates as in place. Okay.

11
12 On then to -- back to Item B of 15 for
13 date and location of the winter 2014 meeting. Alex.

14
15 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. On Page 135
16 there's a calendar for winter 2014 meeting. On
17 February -- I believe Bristol Bay selected February
18 11/12. And Southcentral I believe selected February 19
19 and 20. And Eastern Interior selected February 26 and
20 27. And all the rest, based on my personal knowledge
21 as of yesterday, are open.

22
23 Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. Ma'am.

26
27 REPORTER: You hadn't gotten the word.
28 North Slope is meeting February 12 and 13.

29
30 MR. NICK: February 12th and 13. North
31 Slope. Thank you.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was the one on
34 18/19?

35
36 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I think he had
37 Southeast for the 19th and 20th.

38
39 MR. NICK: Southcentral.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Or Southcentral.
42 Okay.

43
44 MR. NICK: OSM tries to keep two RAC
45 meetings each week (indiscernible - mic not on). I'm
46 sorry. I'll start over. OSM tries to keep only two
47 scheduled RAC meetings each week due to Staff concerns.
48 Mr. Chair. Staff attendance concerns rather.

49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob, go ahead.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there any resolution
4 on -- we selected Quinhagak several times. Has there
5 been any resolution on the possibility of a meeting
6 there.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Alex.
9
10 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Aloysius.
11 You can select any village like Quinhagak again. But
12 then what will happen is between now and in the fall I
13 would have to do what's called cost analysis to compare
14 the cost differences between Quinhagak meeting and
15 Bethel meeting.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Bob.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we have our
22 winter March 5 and 6 in Bethel in 2014.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: There's a motion on
25 the floor for March 5 and 6 for our next winter meeting
26 in Bethel. Is there a second. Is there a second.
27 Motion's on the floor.
28
29 MR. CHARLES: Second.
30
31 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Second by James.
32 Okay. Any further discussion on that, anyone. Noah,
33 go ahead.
34
35 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I was
36 trying to get my attention here. But I just think that
37 the cost shouldn't be varying our interest here. Some
38 of the things that we look into, consider as part of
39 our responsibility is pretty near close to life and
40 death situations. For example on the fish species,
41 king is one of the fishing populations that's very much
42 declining here. And some of the information that we
43 may get from the villagers that we go to would bring
44 some information, first-hand information of what
45 they're doing there as a conservation prevention
46 measures. And as an advisor here, we may pick up
47 something that is very crucial, important in getting
48 this put together from the villagers themselves. The
49 money that we're talking about a cost analysis, that
50 shouldn't be a barrier. Our way of life -- I hate to

1 see it to because of no money there, because we can't
2 put there what's supposed to be prevented. That's just
3 throwing on a hat and put down on me.

4
5 In any legislation, it always comes
6 down to the last. And namely I am the last. I have
7 experienced this legislations out in the wilderness,
8 out on the streams. And that's when it comes down to
9 say I could have prevented this. And money should not
10 be a barrier here. It's our way of life. Our culture
11 should be up in the priority list.

12
13 I wanted to bring that out, Mr.
14 Chairman. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I guess you
17 would have the option of not supporting the motion for
18 the Bethel meeting if you had a preference for an
19 option in another village.

20
21 Go ahead, Bob. Did you have your hand
22 up? I thought I saw your hand.

23
24 Any other discussion.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, then
29 for our next, our winter meeting of 2014 for March 5
30 and 6 in Bethel. All those in favor say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed same
35 sign.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So we have
40 dissention. Roll call vote, please.

41
42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Roll call vote
43 for the motion. If I understand motion by Bob Aloysius
44 is to hold winter 2014 meeting in Bethel, Alaska on
45 March 5 and 6, right?

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That was the
48 motion, yes.

49
50 MR. NICK: Okay. Mr. Brown.

1 MR. BROWN: Yes.
2
3 MR. NICK: Mr. Charles.
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Andrew.
8
9 MR. N. ANDREW: Me?
10
11 MR. NICK: Noah Andrew.
12
13 MR. N. ANDREW: No.
14
15 MR. NICK: Evan Polty.
16
17 MR. POLTY: Yes.
18
19 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Do you want me
20 to call only those who are present or everyone. Mr.
21 Lester Wilde, Paul Manumik, and Andrew Brown are not
22 here.
23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: That's correct.
25 Yeah. Just the members present.
26
27 MR. NICK: Okay. Harry Wilde.
28
29 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
30
31 MR. NICK: Mary Gregory.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: No.
34
35 MR. NICK: Raymond Oney's not present.
36 Greg Roczicka.
37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes.
39
40 MR. NICK: Robert Aloysius.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.
43
44 MR. NICK: David Bill.
45
46 MR. BILL: Yes.
47
48 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. We have seven
49 for and two against.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. So
2 moving back to the agenda, the regular agenda where we
3 left off yesterday was Item C under new business for
4 review and comment on the draft tribal consultation
5 implementation guidelines.

6
7 Is Staff going to address this for us?
8

9 MR. LORRIGAN: Good morning, Mr.
10 Chairman. This is Jack Lorrigan, Native liaison in
11 OSM. Can you guys hear me okay?

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I can right here,
16 but just a moment, let me put the mic over so that you
17 get broadcast a little better. We can try again. Go
18 ahead there.

19
20 MR. LORRIGAN: Can you hear me now?
21

22 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Much better.
23 Thanks. Yes.
24

25 MR. LORRIGAN: Good morning, Mr.
26 Chairman. I'm here to present on the development of
27 the tribal consultation policy for the Federal
28 Subsistence Board. The implementation guidelines which
29 would be on Page 60 of your book.

30
31 In January of 2011, the Secretary of
32 Interior directed the Federal Subsistence Board to
33 consult with Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska on
34 actions that have significant direct impact on tribal
35 interests. As a result, the Board commenced
36 development of a tribal consultation policy and it
37 formed a work group. The work group consisted of seven
38 Federal and seven tribal members, and then a little
39 later, in June 2012 eight more members were added to
40 incorporate the ANCSA corporation viewpoints.

41
42 Over those 18 month from starting in
43 January, the Board -- the work group conducted 16
44 consultation meetings with over 200 tribes and more
45 than 15 ANCSA corporations. The work group met in
46 person twice for two to three days each time, and once
47 by teleconference. They met twice with the InterAgency
48 Staff Committee. And five letters were sent to all the
49 tribes and ANCSA corporations from the Federal
50 Subsistence Board Chairman, Tim Towarak, inviting

1 comments on the policy. After the policy had received
2 is comments an implementation guidelines work group was
3 formed on May 9th of 2012, and the work group developed
4 the guidelines which I'm speaking to today.

5
6 Throughout the 2011 and through 2012
7 the work group met a number of times, mostly by
8 teleconference to work on the implementation
9 guidelines. And final comments were received in
10 December of 2012 -- I'm sorry. Yes, 2012. And the
11 implementation guidelines were presented to the
12 Federal Subsistence Board at the January 2013 Board
13 meeting where they had some small comments to add as
14 edits. And then they were sent out to the tribes and
15 Regional Advisory Councils for feedback. We'd like to
16 have -- we're asking for a March 29th deadline for the
17 comments to come back, or the feedback to come back, so
18 we can have those incorporated for final action for an
19 implementation guideline policy before the Board at
20 their May, their spring, May 2013 work session.

21
22 In particular the implementation
23 guidelines cover how Federal Staff will work with
24 tribes on a government-to-government basis, and in
25 particular the availability of a teleconference for
26 consultation prior to the fall meetings of the RACs to
27 speak to any issues they have with any of the wildlife
28 or fisheries proposals depending on the year of the
29 cycle, to give them a time, certain time for
30 consultation with Board members and the InterAgency
31 Staff Committee, and then again one more time at the
32 regulatory meeting of the Board in January. So give
33 the tribes two opportunities to speak in a consultation
34 -- the government-to-government consultation process
35 with the Board and Staff on anything that they have
36 concerns with on the regulatory proposals.

37
38 And we are also working on developing a
39 consultation policy for the ANCSA corporations as
40 directed by Public Law, excuse me, Public Law -- I
41 don't have that in front of me, but it was the rider
42 that was put in by Senator Stevens to have corporations
43 consulted with when activities affect their lands also.

44
45
46 As a result, we've had positive
47 feedback from the tribes on this so far, and the
48 corporations. We've had four consultations for the
49 2012 fiscal year beginning December of 2011 at the
50 Providers Conference in Anchorage. People were able to

1 speak to the guidelines for consultation and issues of
2 subsistence and regulatory proposals. They had an
3 opportunity for consultation again with the Board at
4 the Southeast combined RAC meeting in Juneau on
5 Angoon's petition for extraterritorial jurisdiction.
6 And again in May they had consultation with the tribes
7 to consider further comments and guidelines to the
8 implementation guidelines. And then we had a dual
9 consultation in September of 2012 to speak with tribes
10 and corporations affected by the 2013-2015 regulatory
11 proposals for fisheries that the Board took up in
12 January.

13

14 That concludes my presentation. Mr.
15 Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess as far as
18 the action item here, you would be looking for our
19 approval of these draft guidelines? Or adoption?
20 What?

21

22 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. The
23 guidelines were sent out to the tribes and to the
24 Councils for their comment. And, yes, if you have
25 comments on it, we're anxious to hear about them.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, Council
28 members, questions, comments regarding the draft
29 guidelines here.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, I'll run out
34 a couple questions myself. Under the first paragraph
35 of the policy regarding the process it mentions, and
36 throughout this document, it's referencing pretty much
37 just the proposal process. And the dissatisfaction
38 I've heard from the tribal entities in our region is
39 specific to the -- well, not specific to, but mainly
40 centered around the in-season and special actions and
41 wanting consultation in that regard. And was that
42 discussed, and to what extent, and to what extent, and
43 how can -- is that for down the road for future
44 incorporation, or what came out of your work group
45 regarding that, if you would, please.

46

47 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. Your
48 transmission is very broken and very hard to
49 understand. I don't know if there's a way to fix that.
50 I couldn't understand what you said, because it came

1 across very wavy and fuzzy.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I was wondering if
4 you had discussion in your group about including the
5 in-season and special action, because that as been the
6 main concern I have heard from tribal entities within
7 our region. Did that come through?

8

9 MR. LORRIGAN: I will make sure we get
10 that in there if it's not. On that, if you have the
11 implementation guidelines, on Page 4, that the special
12 actions -- sometimes those are not able to -- depending
13 on the timeliness of the special action, sometimes it's
14 not possible to get a consultation together in time to
15 take action, but every effort will be made to make sure
16 it happens if it can.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. And I did
19 see that. It has the when possible, and then it also
20 says tribes will be notified.

21

22 I guess my other question then that I
23 kind of have here is that other than the advance notice
24 and the specific solicitation from tribes regarding
25 this regulatory process, what else -- I'm not sure how
26 to phrase this, but it seems in general that's pretty
27 much the public process that's already there. And I'm
28 wondering what kind of deference and difference there
29 is. Do the tribes -- are the tribes' concerns given
30 more weight and consideration when you develop your
31 recommendations as a result of this consultation
32 process? I mean, when I look through these and I'm not
33 trying to minimize or diminish the effort that's been
34 put into it, but you can replace the word tribe with
35 public that's already there, and it's pretty much in
36 place, other than like I say the direct solicitation by
37 providing a teleconference and an opportunity for
38 tribes in advance. But the public already has that.

39

40 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. I
41 apologize, I only got a small portion of that. I think
42 you're concerned about the public process and the
43 consultation process having equal weight, and you're
44 wondering if the tribes' comments or concerns would
45 carry more weight than the public process ready in the
46 special action process?

47

48 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, that's part
49 of it.

50

1 MR. LORRIGAN: I believe that with the
2 government-to-government responsibility of the Federal
3 government to the tribes that your concerns certainly
4 carry a great deal of merit, and the Board is
5 interested in all aspects of your concerns.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Mary, you
8 had a question.

9
10 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment for the
11 gentleman on the line. I think the inclusion of the
12 tribal entities gives us the -- excuse me -- gives us
13 the opportunity to work together to include them,
14 because they are our corporations and they are
15 therefore our welfare as well.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any other comments,
18 questions for Mr. Lorrigan regarding the draft
19 guidelines.

20
21 MR. LORRIGAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.
22 I didn't get any of that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Ms. Gregory
25 essentially restated that she feels this is a very
26 important process, that the tribal input needs to be
27 solicited and taken into much deeper consideration.
28 And also referenced the corporations having that status
29 as well.

30
31 James.

32
33 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 And who makes the final decision on
36 that rule? Is it Subsistence Board or other
37 organizations.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Did you get that,
40 Jack?

41
42 MR. LORRIGAN: No, sir, I didn't. I put
43 the handset to my head, and I still could not make out
44 the question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll let him try
47 it again.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Who makes the final
50 decision on that rule? Is it the Subsistence Board or

1 who is supposed to make the final decision.

2

3 MR. LORRIGAN: The final decision on
4 what? I'm sorry.

5

6 MR. CHARLES: Tribal consultation rule.

7

8 MR. LORRIGAN: The consultation takes
9 place between Federal managers who have the authority
10 to consult with tribes and the Board, if and when
11 possible, whenever they're together. Usually that
12 would mean your land managers or senior Staff for the
13 Federal government that have the standing to consult.
14 But I think that if that's your question. I'm sorry, I
15 got bits and pieces of what you asked.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. That's too
18 bad we do have a bum connection. You're coming across
19 loud and clear on this side.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: This is
22 (indiscernible) at OSM. Maybe we should move the mic
23 that we're listening to you from onto the Council
24 table?

25

26 MS. GREGORY: It's already on the
27 Council table.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It is already
30 there, and I'm actually having to put the mic down to
31 the speaker so that we can hear on this side.

32

33 What's your pleasure, Council members?

34

35 MR. LORRIGAN: You're coming across
36 very wavy, broken and fuzzy, and it's hard to make out
37 a word.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, you're loud
40 and clear on this side.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, you're loud
43 and clear on this side.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: The guys who were
46 messing around with that triangular there, I wish they
47 would fix it, because Alex worked on it first, then the
48 guy from OSM worked on it, and now it doesn't work. It
49 may be just wires or something.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any further
2 discussion or do we want to take any action on this at
3 this point.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary Gregory.

8
9 MS. GREGORY: Does it have a limited
10 time to be reviewed?

11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: They're requesting
13 feedback by the end of I believe he said March 29.

14
15 MR. LORRIGAN: Yes.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And if we want to
18 move forward, a motion would be in order. If not.....

19
20 MS. GREGORY: A motion to do what? I
21 need to look at it some more.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. If we want
24 it to be a formal action of the Council, it would have
25 to occur at this meeting.

26
27 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner at
28 OSM. I was wondering we could get an answer to Mr.
29 Charles' question.

30
31 MR. LORRIGAN: I couldn't hear the
32 question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes, you did
35 respond to that earlier, and Mr. Charles indicated that
36 his question was answered. That was regarding who has
37 the final say over the recommendations that come out
38 through the tribal consultation process.

39
40 And speaking on my view on this one,
41 it's a step in the right direction. It seems like it's
42 taken a little bite into the concerns that I've heard,
43 and it's an attempt, but it still falls a long way
44 short I guess of what many people I think would
45 consider to be adequate tribal consultation. And, of
46 course, I believe too many people feel that their
47 consultation, if they -- if their recommendations are
48 not followed, then I know there are some folks who
49 would say that they weren't -- they're not satisfied
50 with the process.

1 But I'd just reiterate earlier what I
2 see here. It's a little further effort to solicit the
3 direct input from tribes, but the process as it's laid
4 out pretty much follows what anybody could do as a
5 public member also.

6
7 I find it hard not to support it, and
8 that it is a good faith effort to try to move the issue
9 forward and improved on the process.

10
11 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I got part of that. We hope that it is a step in the
13 right direction. The response we've been getting is
14 that it is positive. We anticipate consultation if a
15 regulatory proposal appears to be restrictive and not
16 so much if a proposal were to liberalize harvest. So
17 it falls in line with human nature to make sure that
18 they're as free to do their subsistence activities as
19 possible.

20
21 We also -- I want to point out in the
22 implementation guidelines that there's training
23 requirements for the Board and the Federal Staff. And
24 one of the high points of that is that we're
25 encouraging the Federal Subsistence Board to
26 participate in subsistence activities with tribal
27 groups in their fish camps or hunting camps, to
28 actually get on the ground and experience the lifestyle
29 with them. Granted, most of the Board members are non-
30 rurally-qualified, but they can help pack a hind
31 quarter or cut meat or, you know, hang fish strips or
32 something, but give them an opportunity to experience
33 what you guys do all the time.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I could use a hand
36 this spring for somebody to help pull some 50, 60-foot
37 logs off the bank.

38
39 MR. LORRIGAN: Well, we'd like to get
40 them out there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.

43
44 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 Was that enough information you get
47 during the last teleconference meeting with the tribes
48 in this area? I think it happened last summer, but I
49 was out of town when it happened. There was a
50 teleconference from villages or supposed to be from

1 villages that time, and I wanted people who complain
2 about the rules all the time to be talking on that
3 teleconference or come to the meetings that time. But
4 I think there was not too many people on teleconference
5 last time they had it. And was that enough for you
6 guys?

7
8 MR. LORRIGAN: Are you talking about
9 the September teleconference last year?

10
11 MR. CHARLES: That's right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: He said, yes, he
14 was.

15
16 MR. LORRIGAN: I'm sorry. You guys
17 completely dropped out. I didn't get anything. I
18 don't know how to answer that. I didn't catch the
19 question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Can you hear me?

22
23 MR. LORRIGAN: I can hear you, but I
24 can't -- the way the transmission comes across, it's
25 fuzzy and garbled and it blends, and it's hard to make
26 out words.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, it's kind of
29 ineffective to continue then if you're not hearing the
30 questions. I'll try to see if it works through the
31 Chairman's mic.

32
33 James was wondering if the information
34 that you got from the September meeting, tribal
35 consultation last year, did you consider that adequate
36 for your needs?

37
38 MR. LORRIGAN: I believe you asked if
39 the consultation we conducted last year satisfied our
40 needs?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. His question
43 was if you felt it was adequate.

44
45 MR. LORRIGAN: We are working out some
46 of the bugs of the consultation. For instance, we're
47 trying to figure out how to politely ask tribes if the
48 people they are sending to represent them actually are
49 elected officials from that community, that we don't
50 want to question somebody who's coming on behalf, but

1 we would also like to make sure that our consultation's
2 with the correct individual from your community. We
3 have elders that have standing within the community and
4 their input is terrific and actually very informative.
5 And we're trying to figure out how to make sure that
6 that dialogue has meaning for the whole community, and
7 carries the weight of the tribe without offending
8 anybody in doing so. So that's something we're working
9 on.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Well, to
12 move this along, is there an interest in a formal
13 motion of support for this policy as it stands, or as
14 it -- and with the input that's been given so far.
15 Bob.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I move that
18 we support the process or the -- yeah, the process
19 that's going on at this time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: There's a motion
22 for continued support of their effort. Is there a
23 second.

24

25 MR. CHARLES: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Second by James.
28 Any further discussion, comment.

29

30 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman, if I may.
31 If your Council has any more questions, could they
32 please forward them through your coordinator to me, and
33 I'll try to get an answer for them.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, we will
36 certainly do that.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Who's that guy? What's
39 his name?

40

41 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: His name is Jack
42 Lord I believe.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Jack Lord.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any further
47 discussion on the motion.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, all
2 those in favor say aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any opposed, same
7 sign.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: Nay. I'll have to get
10 into it first and see what I'm voting on.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. One nay for
13 the record.
14
15 That finishes up that item. Thank you,
16 sir. Too bad, I wish we could have had a different
17 connection. We might be talking here for another half
18 hour yet if we did.
19
20 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21
22 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. And I
23 believe at this time Charlie -- I'm sorry, William
24 Brown, you wanted to be excused at 10:00 for a medical
25 appoint. For the record we'll note that.
26
27 And that moves us on to Item D then,
28 the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council
29 letter on customary and traditional use determinations.
30 We've got any Staff to address this.
31
32 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. David
33 Jenkins. Before we get started, perhaps you'd like to
34 take a five-minute break, and we can see if we can
35 resolve this telephone issues. See if we can reconnect
36 and make sure.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We'll give
39 you 10.
40
41 DR. JENKINS: Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We're in a step-
44 down here 10 minutes.
45
46 (Off record)
47
48 (On record)
49
50 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Back on

1 record at 10:05. Moving on to Item D.

2

3 We did have them fiddle with the wires,
4 although I just would make the observation that perhaps
5 it was just that one individual phone that was having
6 trouble. I don't believe we've -- or we haven't been
7 informed of anyone else on the teleconference having
8 difficulties up until this point.

9

10 Anyway, we're up to then Item D on new
11 business, the Southeast Advisory Council's request on
12 customary and traditional use determinations. David.

13

14 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Council
15 members. David Jenkins with OSM.

16

17 The Southeast Regional Advisory Council
18 sent a letter to all Regional Advisory Councils, which
19 you can find on Page 69 of your books here. And I'll
20 described a little bit what the Southeast RAC is asking
21 all Councils to consider.

22

23 In 2009 the Secretary of Interior
24 directed the Federal Subsistence Board to do two tasks,
25 and I'll read to you what those tasks were. There
26 first was to review with RAC input Federal procedural
27 and structural regulations adopted from the State in
28 order to ensure that Federal authorities are fully
29 reflected and comply with Title VIII. And the second
30 task was to review customary and traditional
31 determination process to provide clear, fair, and
32 effective determinations in accord with Title VIII
33 goals and provisions.

34

35 Now, the Southeast Council does not
36 believe that this directive has been met, and believes
37 that the current customary and traditional use
38 determination process does not fulfill the goals and
39 directives of ANILCA. The Southeast Regional Advisory
40 Council formed a work group that extensively studied
41 Council meeting transcripts for meetings where the
42 issue of revising the C&T process was discussed. The
43 work group found that the issue had not been presented
44 consistently to all Councils, and that Councils were
45 not given a meaningful opportunity to comment on the
46 customary and traditional use process.

47

48 In January of 2013 the Southeast RAC
49 set a letter to all of the Council Chairs, which is on
50 Page 69 of your books, summarizing this history and

1 inviting the Councils to review at their fall 2013
2 meetings whether the current customary and traditional
3 process is serving the needs of residents in their
4 regions. The Southeast Council urges all Councils to
5 engage in a thorough review of the C&T process at their
6 fall 2013 meetings and asks the Office of Subsistence
7 Management to prepare an adequate briefing for that
8 review.

9

10 So, Mr. Chair, this is just an
11 informational item here. The Southeast Council wishes
12 you to attend to this, and, in fact, all Councils to
13 attend to this issue of customary and traditional use
14 and its adequacy for the process under Title VIII of
15 ANILCA.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Council
20 members.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: No comments? Well,
25 I'll start off again.

26

27 I haven't been able to delve into this
28 real deeply, but as I look at it, and maybe I don't
29 have a full and thorough understanding of what they're
30 trying to get at and what their difficulty is, but in
31 removing those criteria for determinations, I feel that
32 it actually weakens subsistence considerations in many
33 other areas of the state. And so I'd be a little
34 hesitant in wanting to make that portion of the change
35 to them when they say they want to just eliminate the
36 eight criteria.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And I would say
41 that actually those criteria should actually maybe be
42 expanded to apply to some of the other policies, and
43 specifically the one that came up that we had yesterday
44 regarding the rural determinations, that maybe those
45 eight factors ought to be incorporated into whether or
46 not an area would remain classified under that rather
47 than the arbitrary population number that's there right
48 now. And I know that those factors are a major -- as
49 part of the other considerations, but perhaps they
50 could be given more weight in that regard.

1 And as far as the beginning of the
2 policy, you know, and stating that the purpose or
3 ANILCA is to provide for the opportunity for the rural
4 residents to be engaged in subsistence way of life,
5 which are supposedly reflected -- well, are reflected
6 to the best of many people's ability, to maintain
7 subsistence, that those criteria should also apply to
8 the management aspect, not just the regulatory harvest
9 aspect, but the management that, that they should
10 endeavor to manage their populations to provide for the
11 reasonable opportunity rather than just an opening and
12 or closing of seasons regardless of whether anything's
13 there to catch.

14
15 And I guess just one final is that I
16 would note that on the State side of management those
17 criteria have been very instrumental in providing
18 flexibility to the -- to at least the State Board of
19 Game. I don't know to what extent it might apply to
20 Board of Fisheries. But in putting conditions on a
21 hunt that incorporate the customary and traditional
22 means of harvest, and that makes it unattractive for
23 people who are not involved in subsistence. I'm
24 talking about more stringent salvage requirements of
25 bringing the stomach fat, the head, destroying the
26 trophy value of antlers, things of that nature. And
27 that it's been a very useful tool to the State to
28 accommodate or better allow for subsistence hunts to
29 take place under their -- that still would fall -- that
30 still falls within the ability for all Alaskans, which
31 is there under the constitutional requirement that was
32 the subject of the McDowell decision.

33
34 So I'd be real, real hesitant in taking
35 steps that might jeopardize any of that.

36
37 Mary, you had.....

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Mr. Jenkins, can
40 you give me what deficiencies they're talking about.

41
42 DR. JENKINS: Yes. As I understand it,
43 the Southeast Council had a couple of issues. The
44 first was that the Federal program adopted customary
45 and traditional criteria, these eight criteria from the
46 State without adequate review. And so the Southeast
47 Council is worried that such a review has not taken
48 place, and they would like to see everybody pay really
49 close attention to what customary and traditional use
50 determinations are, how they're made, what criteria are

1 used to make them. So that's the first issue, that it
2 was simply adopted from the State without adequate
3 review.

4
5 And the second issue is that the
6 Secretary has directed the Federal Subsistence Board to
7 review the process. And the Southeast Council has
8 indicated that their review of all Council transcripts
9 shows that such a review has not taken place, that the
10 Regional Advisory Councils have not had the opportunity
11 to carefully consider customary and traditional use
12 determinations, or the eight factors upon which they're
13 based. And the Council, the Southeast Council urges
14 all Councils to have the opportunity in the fall to
15 carefully consider this issue. They don't think that
16 the Secretary of Interior's directive to carefully
17 consider this issue has ever been followed, and they
18 would like to see it follow through.

19
20 And the third issue is that the
21 Southeast Council points out that these customary and
22 traditional use determination criteria are not found in
23 ANILCA, and they would rather see not these criteria,
24 but what are called .804 criteria used to determine
25 allocations when there is a scarcity of resource. So
26 they would like to see a different mechanism in place.
27 And they would like all Councils to consider those
28 issues.

29
30 Does that answer your question, Ms.
31 Gregory?

32
33 MS. GREGORY: Yes, but what's .804
34 criteria, what's about those?

35
36 DR. JENKINS: I'll tell you what those
37 are if you'd like. There are three of them, and when
38 there is a scarcity of resources, there's an allocation
39 among subsistence users, and that allocation is based
40 on customary and direct dependence upon the populations
41 as a mainstay of livelihood, local residency, and the
42 availability of alternative resources. So those are
43 the .804 criteria that are in ANILCA for allocating
44 resources among subsistence users in the event there's
45 a scarcity.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Do you have a
48 follow-up, Mary.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Don't we have all

1 that already?

2

3

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I believe we do.

4 Well, again I don't see those three criteria going far
5 enough. I believe that the eight criteria developed or
6 followed up on that, and I'm especially concerned given
7 the history again of the managers, not necessarily the
8 Board, but the managers being able to use that criteria
9 3 of availability of alternative resources, i.e. folks
10 are just going to have to find something else to eat in
11 other contexts.

12

13

I mean, I don't have a problem in
14 looking at it. Again, maybe I don't understand really
15 the depth of what they're trying to get at, but what
16 I'm -- I don't have a problem putting it on, having it
17 on the agenda to -- for our fall meeting certainly to
18 look into it more, and maybe we'll see something
19 between now and then that can trigger an improvement to
20 the system to help protect subsistence further. But
21 I'm certainly not ready to support the major change
22 that's being requested in this letter at this point.

23

24

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I agree with
25 you, and I'd like to put it on the agenda for
26 discussion.

27

28

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: At the fall
29 meeting.

30

31

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, in our fall
32 meeting. Mr. Nick, take a note.

33

34

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Is there any
35 objection.

36

37

SEVERAL: No objection.

38

39

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Hearing
40 none, then we'll take it up again this fall. We can do
41 some homework in the meantime to see if it might be a
42 useful item.

43

44

Our next, we had added on the agenda
45 under new business was the Item E, was compensation for
46 local members.

47

48

Mr. Aloysius, I believe you asked that
49 to be on. Would you address that, please. Go ahead.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I just want
2 to bring it up again and ask OSM and whoever is the
3 funding source to look into that, you know, because
4 it's not fair that member who live in a community where
5 a meeting is that they don't get any kind of
6 compensation. You know, when you go to jury duty, you
7 get compensated. And so it's just -- it doesn't really
8 make sense to me that the members who are in a host
9 community do not get any kind of compensation. So, you
10 know, I'm just looking for somebody in OSM or wherever
11 to see if there's a possibility that they can get
12 around this thing. And if they want to call it
13 something else besides per diem, that's fine. But it's
14 just -- you know, it always bugs me that -- even with
15 the State program, they have the same problem, that if
16 you're in a village then you're not -- if you're in a
17 host village and you're a member of the Council or a
18 committee, that you don't get any kind of compensation.
19 So I'll just leave it at that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anybody else want
22 to weigh in on this or Staff want to offer any kind of
23 feedback.

24
25 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
26 Council.

27
28 For those of you who's been member of
29 our RAC for several years, this topic has been on your
30 agenda, and we have brought back information on the
31 questions you have relating to stipends, compensations,
32 and I don't think I am the right person to respond to
33 that question. So if you would like, if it's okay with
34 the Council, we can put that again on the fall meeting
35 topic. Because the fact that, you know, there's been
36 some responses from the Federal Board to the Council,
37 not only to YK Council, but to other Council members --
38 rather, Councils in the State that asked that same
39 question.

40
41 Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary.

44
45 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I appreciate
46 Mr. Aloysius' concern. We have a lot of meetings in
47 Bethel, and I don't get nothing, not even an award.
48 You know, you should -- people should take into
49 consideration the amount of time we volunteer. I know
50 it's for my own people, and I don't mind it, but if you

1 guys who are in the OSM, give me maybe gas money to
2 come down here. You know those things would -- there's
3 ways to get compensated for doing something. It
4 doesn't have to be a regulation.

5
6 (In Yup'ik)

7
8 Recognition of volunteer for how many
9 years, that would be good. It lasts more than the
10 money we get.

11
12 MR. NICK: Through the Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Alex.

15
16 MR. NICK: Ms. Gregory. Yes, we do
17 have that award process for people who serve on the
18 RAC, and we will be doing that probably in the fall for
19 some of you. And I know that some of you has -- or
20 rather have received a certificate of appreciation or
21 something like that in the past. And Harry Wilde is
22 one of them. And I'm not sure if some of you have
23 received any during the time when John Andrew was
24 coordinator, but if you did not receive any award, let
25 me know. We'll do something about that. Ms. Gregory.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I got a Fish and
28 Wildlife coffee cup.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: But I guess the
33 point would be then that we would ask for, or look
34 forward for a response at the fall meeting on the
35 possibilities for -- Ms. Gregory mentioned the
36 possibility of having some kind of reimbursement for
37 expenses provided for the local members at a minimum.
38 You guys can explore different ways that that might be
39 accommodated.

40
41 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Members
42 of the Council. We will look into that again. And I
43 know that it's not going to be easy answer, but we will
44 bring back more information back to you in the fall.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Bob.

47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. If it's possible,
49 you know, I wish you could find something in the regs
50 pertaining to that particular issue and send each of us

1 a copy. There's got to be some way where -- why should
2 you exempt certain people from compensation? It just
3 doesn't make sense at all.

4

5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Aloysius.
6 We'll look into that. Thank you.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I could write
9 to the Secretary of Interior, too. There's nothing
10 stopping me, because my right to express myself.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: As with anyone.
13 Okay.

14

15 Moving on then, the final one we had
16 added here was Item F on invasive species. Ms.
17 Gregory, you asked that to be included. Would you like
18 to address that, please.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I was
21 watching one of the -- I think it was the House of
22 Representatives of the State, and they were talking
23 about invasive species, and the popular food that we
24 eat is pike, and it was included in there. If anybody
25 would tell me, it eats a lot of -- some small fry, but
26 we also -- I also would like to make sure that my food
27 is healthy enough for me to eat, and to spend money on
28 buying gas, and getting hooks and going after it,
29 because it's a good lean food which makes me eat my
30 seal oil, which is high in vitamin A, which is good for
31 your health, your eyes. I'd like some information,
32 please.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mr. Gillikin, it
35 looks like you're ready to talk about that.

36

37 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Yeah, it looks like I'm up.

39

40 So Mr. Nick asked me to address
41 specifically this House Bill 89 that was going through
42 the State legislators.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Yes, that's what I was
45 talking about.

46

47 MR. GILLIKIN: And so I looked that up
48 a little bit and found out some more information about
49 it. What it is, it's requesting directed funding
50 towards assessment and then early intervention to

1 develop a plan to address invasive species that may be
2 coming into an area so that they don't have to go
3 through all the hoops and red tape and everything to
4 act very quickly. Because oftentimes when you have an
5 invasive species, and this was actually directed
6 specifically at an invasive species of what they call
7 sea vomit, which is kind of this algae that grows in
8 the marine environment, and it's taking over parts of
9 the Sitka harbor. And so they're trying to be more
10 proactive about it.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: Yes. Mr. Chair. I worked
13 for the Kuskokwim Watershed for a little while. We
14 were studying invasive plants, and I think that was one
15 of them.

16
17 And I'd like to keep on eating the
18 pike. That's my concern.

19
20 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. It sounds to me
21 like -- Mr. Chair. Through the Chair. Ms. Gregory,
22 that you also have concerns about contaminants in the
23 subsistence food sources out here. And there have been
24 several studies done on subsistence foods out here in
25 Western Alaska, specific to Western Alaska, looking at
26 things like arsenic and mercury levels specifically.
27 And there was just recently another report released
28 from the Fish and Wildlife in conjunction with BLM
29 about contaminants in the Upper Kuskokwim related to
30 the Red Devil Mine activity. And if you'd like, I can
31 make that report available.

32
33 But I really do appreciate your
34 concerns about invasive species. They are a major
35 threat to our resources out here. And, you know, we've
36 been pretty fortunate so far. We have some plants that
37 are coming into the region. You're aware of a few of
38 them, you know, eladia and things like that. But so
39 far we haven't got any fish species in this region yet,
40 but they're all around us. In particular Atlantic
41 salmon and chad and these other species that could
42 potentially start showing up on our system.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Mary.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: Can you tell me if the
49 pike has any kind of toxins or contaminants in it?
50

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Through the Chair
2 to Ms. Gregory. It depends on how large that fish is
3 and how old that fish is, and where you catch it at.
4 It's very variable in the Kuskokwim and on the Yukon as
5 far as the concentrations of mercury is what we're
6 primarily talking about with pike, because they
7 biomagnify that methyl mercury in the system, because
8 they're predators. So in general the older the fish
9 is, probably the higher the contaminant levels are in
10 that fish.

11
12 But they're still not -- they're at the
13 levels of concern primarily for young people and women
14 of child bearing age. Most folks like myself and many
15 people in this room, we're so far along in our life
16 cycle that we wouldn't accumulate enough of those
17 toxins to probably cause serious health.

18
19 I have a report that kind of shows some
20 that. If you'd like, I could make that available.

21
22 MS. GREGORY: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Noah.

25
26 MR. N. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman.

28
29 In the area of mine activities over the
30 years, Tuluksak have received some analysis report from
31 some of the activities that might endanger the species
32 that we are talking about now. There has been proven
33 scientific that beaver's wastes are somewhat more
34 danger than some of the chemicals that mining
35 activities use. And in these analysis has this been
36 covered along with your study.

37
38 The other new things that's coming
39 about is the invasive plant species. The study with
40 the Kuskokwim River Council has found two of these in
41 the area of Bethel and Quinhagak. Has this been
42 considered as part of the analysis to find the
43 endangerment of this species.

44
45 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan, go ahead.

48
49 MR. GILLIKIN: To Mr. Andrew. If I
50 understand correctly, it sounds like you have two

1 questions. One is related to the mining activity at
2 Tuluksak and the results of that, and the other is
3 related to.....

4

5 MR. N. ANDREW: Excuse me. It's not
6 the mining activities. What we have here, in abundance
7 we have millions of dams now, and these beaver wastes
8 are considered endangerment to human, animal, fish
9 species, scientifically by the way, on a report to
10 Tuluksak CNC. Tuluksak Council.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Through the
15 Chair. I thought I could dodge this bullet, but I
16 guess I haven't, related to beavers.

17

18 What you're talking about is what
19 people commonly know as beaver fever or giardia,
20 giardiasis. And it is present in beaver populations.
21 It's also present in waterfowl populations. It's also
22 present in dogs. It's also -- the number 1 place of
23 infection of giardia, beaver fever, actually occurs at
24 day care centers, because the children are infected,
25 and they wind up infecting each other, and then
26 infecting adults. So actually a few years ago I
27 believe I presented to this committee an analysis
28 showing the different illnesses out here in the region,
29 and I could go to the State epidemiology website, and
30 you can get the information, and you see the incidence
31 that's reported of giardia, at least out in Western
32 Alaska is very low, especially compared to other
33 diseases that are out here, that are actually much more
34 concerning.

35

36 So the question of, you know, how are
37 beavers influencing the health of the subsistence
38 resource specifically, I'm not aware of any studies
39 that have been done on that. But you can look at the
40 incidence of the disease, how often it's occurring and
41 reported and see that in actuality it's fairly low out
42 here. Lower than actually in other regions of the
43 state. Southcentral and the Interior and Southeast.
44 It was actually surprisingly low out here, a lot lower
45 than I thought it would be in Western Alaska.

46

47 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: You want to follow
50 up there, Noah.

1 MR. N. ANDREW: One of the facts.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Let's try to focus
4 the discussion on the invasive species aspect, because
5 that's what the agenda item is about.

6

7 MR. N. ANDREW: I'm talking about what
8 has actually happened over the years here, and the
9 species effect that actually have been seen. I don't
10 know if they have ever been photographed or otherwise,
11 because one of the analysis that was given to Tuluksak
12 was a pike deformed. A really big head and a small
13 body. The other one is a pike, bended pike, and then
14 we had have -- I don't know what you call them in
15 English, (In Yup'ik), deformed, really big head, small
16 body. These are the kinds that I'd like for you guys
17 to bring out what causes these things. And study them,
18 and it could be very crucial information to act with
19 this endangerment, you know, but in that respect they
20 would be probably the reason why we're experiencing
21 endangerment.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. Thank you. I
26 have some reports I could provide that may assist.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Yeah. If
29 you can forward those along to us.

30

31 MR. ELISON: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Travis.

34

35 MR. ELISON: Thank you. Travis Elison,
36 Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries.

37

38 I just wanted to maybe add some
39 clarification to Ms. Gregory's question on northern
40 pike as an invasive species. And northern are
41 naturally occurring in the Kuskokwim and Yukon
42 drainages, so they're not considered an invasive
43 species here. They've always been here, and they've
44 co-existed with the salmon populations quite
45 successfully for a long, long time. So they're not
46 considered an invasive species out here.

47

48 However, in the Susitna drainage and
49 Cook Inlet, they've naturally occurred in Cook Inlet,
50 and they were planted there by individuals bringing

1 pike into the Susitna drainage probably about three
2 decades ago in buckets or in float plane floats or
3 whatever, and now they've spread throughout the Susitna
4 drainage and they've been shown to have a detrimental
5 impact on some of the salmon populations, particularly
6 the king salmon population in Alexander Creek. They've
7 been shown to cause declines of that population there.
8 And so the Department has some projects to try to have
9 a better understanding of that, and also to try to
10 reduce the pike number in the Susitna drainage to help
11 that salmon population.

12

13 But they're not considered invasive out
14 here. So I just want to clarify that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. That eases my
19 mind.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess just to add
22 to that, too, there's also lakes over along around the
23 road system on the Kenai Peninsula where pike have been
24 introduced and they've wiped out their trout
25 populations pretty well. And they've actually taken
26 some very drastic measures to poison every fish in the
27 lake and then restock it with the ones that naturally
28 did live there, just to get rid of the pike. They've
29 killed off entire lakes to do that. And they do it in
30 California as well.

31

32 We're covered on that. I think that
33 given the elevated concern that we have regarding this
34 issue, I would ask Staff to request the Watershed
35 Council, I know they have someone on staff specifically
36 to address this issue now that was brought on board.
37 Pat Sampson. He used to work with AVCP. He's now
38 working for the Watershed Council specifically on
39 invasive species issues. And if you could put it on
40 the agenda for our fall meeting, maybe under the report
41 section where you have YRDFA's down there, put the
42 Watershed Council there for a report from them as well.
43 And we'd hope for or expect that to be a part of their
44 report. Request them to come.

45

46 Thank you, folks.

47

48 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moving on to agency

1 reports. Mr. OSM.

2

3 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. David Jenkins
4 again.

5

6 We can go through these fairly quickly.
7 This will just take a minute or two. And we'll go
8 through them one-by-one.

9

10 Budget update. As you know, the
11 Federal budget is currently operating under a
12 continuing resolution. And the Office of Subsistence
13 Management is operating under a reduced budget and
14 travel restrictions. And if the sequester actually
15 goes into place, those reductions will be even larger.
16 I haven't followed the news for the last couple of
17 days, so I don't know what's happened in that arena,
18 but we've been making plans to deal with that decrease
19 in our budget as it happens in the next few weeks.

20

21 We're almost making ever effort to
22 support the Regional Advisory Councils, including
23 providing travel to meetings and conference lines to
24 all meetings. And we're trying to ensure that support
25 staff and analysts are available to provide briefings
26 and address any questions that you may have.

27

28 So very briefly that's a budget update.

29

30 In terms of staffing, as you probably
31 know, Pete Probasco has taken a new position as the
32 assistant regional director for migratory birds and
33 state programs. Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle is taking over as
34 acting assistant regional director for subsistence.
35 And the selection process is currently under way for a
36 new assistant regional director in OSM. And I have
37 assumed the duties of the deputy assistant regional
38 director for subsistence, awaiting the new ARD to be
39 selected. Helen Armstrong is retiring from OSM and we
40 are currently -- the selection process is currently
41 under way for a new anthropology chief, and we hope
42 another anthropologist in that division. Michelle
43 Chivers is retiring from our office, and we're
44 currently looking to find a new permit specialist to
45 replace her position.

46

47 All right. Requests for proposals for
48 the Fisheries Monitoring Plan. You can find funding
49 opportunity details for the Fisheries Resource
50 Monitoring Plan on our website. The deadline for

1 submission is April 4th, 2013. We anticipate having
2 about \$3.7 million dollars available to fund new
3 research and monitoring projects. Again that's
4 contingent upon what happens with the sequestration
5 that's threatening us. All investigation plans
6 addressing Federal subsistence fisheries will be
7 considered. Past awards have ranged from \$3,000 to
8 \$375,000 per year. So some of these awards were quite
9 large. And the award period has ranged from one year
10 to four years.

11
12 In terms of Council appointments, let
13 me point out that there was a significant delay this
14 year in finalizing Council appointments. The delay was
15 in the Washington, D.C. office for reasons that still
16 mystify us over in OSM. We couldn't find out why these
17 Council appointments got stuck in D.C. But they did.

18
19 And in the regulatory cycle, the Board
20 has heard various recommendations from Regional
21 Advisory Councils regarding the Federal Subsistence
22 Board meeting dates, regarding the fisheries regulatory
23 cycle and the fall meeting windows. And the Board will
24 be addressing those recommendations at a future meeting
25 after the Board and the ISC has had a chance to review
26 it. If you remember, the recommendation was to move
27 some of the dates for the Federal Subsistence Board
28 meeting to make travel for RAC Chairs a little easier
29 in the dead of winter and to open -- and to expand the
30 window for Regional Advisory Council meetings.

31
32 And finally a memorandum of
33 understanding. Let me give you a brief update. The
34 Board has heard feedback from all the Regional Advisory
35 Councils, but has not yet given final approval to the
36 revised MOU with the State, and the Board is waiting to
37 hear back from the State Advisory Committees, and will
38 address this issue at its April work session.

39
40 Mr. Chair. That's my very brief agency
41 reports from OSM.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. A question.
44 Actually you went from the Item 3 to Item 5. Did you
45 have something specific for the Partners Program
46 update?

47
48 DR. JENKINS: And I don't, and so I
49 skipped over that, and my apologies. I should have
50 flagged that I was going to skip over that, but I don't

1 have any briefing for you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I guess one
4 question I did have. Under your FRMP, the Fisheries
5 monitoring proposals, I heard you say that all projects
6 are to be considered, or was that all proposals? I'm
7 wondering about current projects that are there. Are
8 they going to be, I mean, up for consideration under
9 this FRMP? I mean, I understand that they are in place
10 and they're authorized, and that's pending
11 Congressional -- you know, subject to the annual
12 Congressional approval for the funding. And I guess
13 that was given already. I'm just a little bit unclear
14 as to are existing projects included in the FRMP?

15

16 DR. JENKINS: No, this is for this
17 year. And so these call for proposals are for this
18 year.

19

20 And your question about whether or not
21 the projects that have been authorized will be funded
22 year-by-year, it depends on what our budget is going to
23 look like year-by-year. So that's always a question
24 each year.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. That's a
27 given of the system.

28

29 Other questions on the OSM report.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Seeing none, then
34 we'll move on the Refuge. Thank you, David.

35

36 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chair. Members of
37 the Council. My name is Spencer Rearden. I'm a
38 wildlife biologist with Yukon Delta National Wildlife
39 Refuge here in Bethel. And I just want to give you an
40 update as to where we are with new information and what
41 we've been doing on the wildlife side, particularly
42 dealing with moose.

43

44 We earlier in the winter, October
45 through December time, we started traveling to some of
46 the Yukon villages to do a few different things. We
47 went to Pitka's Point, Russian Mission, Mountain
48 Village, and then we had a conference call with St.
49 Mary's. And we shared with them some of the moose
50 biology as far as the numbers, talked to them about

1 regulations, and also talked to them about potential
2 regulation changes to further liberalize moose hunting,
3 particularly in the Unit 18 Remainder area. That's the
4 area upriver from Mountain Village all the way to
5 Paimuit. We suspected that moose populations were
6 growing there, and if people wanted, we could further
7 liberalize.

8

9 And we also told them hat we're going
10 to collect data, which we just finished. We just
11 finished a survey in the Paimuit area, which is
12 Marshall all the way up to Paimuit. And last year, if
13 you remember, I informed you guys we finished the
14 Andreafsky area, which is Mountain Village to Marshall.
15 So we have that whole Unit 18 Remainder area surveyed.
16 Although I don't have new data to release, because we
17 just finished the survey last Friday, and we're going
18 through it and trying to do the number crunching. My
19 feeling based off of what's I've seen and everything is
20 that we obviously have a healthy moose population.
21 There was a lot of calves. A lot of moose were showing
22 up in areas that we didn't expect them to be in. So
23 we're pretty excited about that number. We think it's
24 going to be a pretty good number, which could help
25 further liberalize moose season.

26

27 And when I talk about further
28 liberalizing, what I'm talking about is the potential
29 for a proposal either coming from one of the Yukon
30 villages, ourselves, or anybody for that matter, to
31 allow a cow harvest in the fall. Right now the
32 regulation allows only a bull harvest.

33

34 But once we get this final number,
35 we'll be able to make a better determination and inform
36 the public, the local villages, you guys, as to what
37 that population has been doing. And so that
38 information is forthcoming. I hope to have a new
39 number generated in the next two weeks to a month, I'm
40 hoping. We pretty much have just got to sift through
41 the data, go through it and analyze it and provide you
42 guys with a number.

43

44 So that's where I'm at with dealing
45 with moose. All our surveys are done for this year for
46 population-wise.

47

48 The one thing I will have coming up
49 again is I'm going to go out and try to remove more
50 collars from moose on the Kuskokwim. Last year we

1 tried it, and we got some of them removed, but we
2 didn't get them all. Some of those moose were in kind
3 of the deep, dark forest where you couldn't really get
4 to them with the helicopter without having to harass
5 them a little bit more, so we left them alone. So this
6 year we're going to go look at them again, and, if we
7 can, we're going to capture them and take those collars
8 off.

9

10 This is to fulfill our obligation to
11 the public. There was folks, and some of you probably
12 remember, that were worried about leaving those collars
13 on those animals, even after our study is done.

14

15 Our study from Fish and Wildlife
16 Service is pretty much done. My predecessor, Eric
17 Wald, is doing the write up. We now have moose
18 established, as everybody knows, in the Kuskokwim.
19 We're still allowing some hunting through a quota
20 system, but at the same time we're still trying to grow
21 that population.

22

23 So the study is ended. And to further
24 end it, my job coming in is to go and remove those
25 collars. So we go out there, fly them with the
26 helicopter, dart them, and then take those collars off
27 those animals. Right now we have -- last year we had
28 32 left, although some of those have disappeared, some
29 of them probably have died from natural causes or other
30 causes. Who knows. And some of them are just missing.
31 And then some of them, the batteries could have died.
32 So although I had 32 left, it's most likely going to be
33 quite a bit less as far as number of moose to go and
34 capture. So that's something upcoming, and that will
35 happen hopefully this early April.

36

37 So that's what I have for you guys. If
38 you have questions, I could try to answer those.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Questions. Bob.

41

42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Just in general for Unit
43 18 Remainder, what's the bull to cow ratio, just from
44 your latest observations, and the cow to calf ratio.

45

46 MR. REARDEN: We didn't do a ratio
47 estimate this year, but we did one last year in
48 November. That would have been 2010, November of 2010,
49 and we did it near the Paimiut area. Our calf ratios,
50 if I remember off the top of my head, I used to give

1 you guys some of the same information, was close to 60
2 calves per 100 cows. So production's really high.
3 There's a lot of moose in there and production's still
4 high. So there's a lot of potential for that
5 population to continue to grow right now.

6
7 So we're not seeing what we're
8 expecting sometime, would be a lower calf ratio in the
9 future, because the population's getting to be pretty
10 good. But we haven't seen any indication of that right
11 off the bat. So things are looking real healthy.

12
13 Obviously we saw bull ratios that were
14 closer to average. I think I reported 40 bulls per 100
15 cows, which is good. That's just an indication that
16 people are shooting bulls. So if we further
17 liberalize, that actually should go up if people start
18 shooting more cows than bulls. But our feeling right
19 now is that the population is really healthy. And if
20 we can liberalize, and allow people to get their moose
21 a little bit easier, and the data supports it, we're
22 all for it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Others. James.

25
26 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Harry, then James.

29
30 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Down in Mountain
31 Village area, lower side, the moose are growing in that
32 area. But we were inviting upriver to go down moose in
33 that area, but no airplane. We don't want no airplane
34 going hunting and landing.

35
36 There's a lot of fishing area, that's
37 where that moose are concentrate right now, across from
38 fish village. We saw that -- that's where my fish camp
39 is. In that fish camp some around 26 calves. Just the
40 calf.

41
42 People are increasing, moose
43 increasing, but we don't want to see not airplane
44 people that come in. It's really danger for the other
45 people that don't care for the airplanes drop -- they
46 drop the people here, and drop over here. If they do
47 that, that moose will be less. They're going to move
48 out some place, because we tell our children how they
49 could hunt. We're teaching them. Six years we've been
50 leave them there. Let them increase the moose.

1 When I first seen a moose, there were
2 only calf and -- two calves and female while I was fish
3 collecting. I've never seen no other. But right now
4 it's there are a lot of moose in the open, the Kashunuk
5 area, for marker right now. And we appreciate the
6 efforts people gave to, you know, to help them to get
7 moose or something only for their use, even we were
8 kind of inviting here in this village or some other
9 place for over there, elders. We are supporting
10 elders, that we cold be able to help them some way to
11 feed their food for the winter.

12
13 Yeah. It's -- but we're not -- we
14 don't like to see the airplane come in and drop off the
15 people, because we don't. We go through by boat.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. REARDEN: MR. REARDEN: Through
20 the Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Spencer, go ahead.

23
24 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Wilde, yeah, we
25 understand that. Our Refuge manager. Gene Peltola,
26 Jr., he's pretty well aware of that, and he does his
27 best to try to separate the users between people paying
28 to go get dropped off to go moose hunting and
29 subsistence users. Basically he tried to keep them
30 separate by allowing the commercial operators to only
31 land in areas that aren't accessible by boat from
32 people on the Yukon. So he keeps that in mind, and he
33 takes that very seriously. He understands the local
34 issue pretty well, and so he continues to be reminded
35 of that, and I know he continues to strive to keep
36 those users separated to avoid these conflicts.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James, and then
39 back to Bob.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 Spencer, how about Federal survey area,
44 where's the Federal survey area? Is it the whole 18 or
45 part of 18? Because I know State's moratorium survey
46 area is above Bethel only, and not down below. And I
47 want to know Federal survey area, where is it? The
48 whole 18 or -- that's my question.

49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Spencer.

2

3 MR. REARDEN: Yeah. Through the
4 Chair. Mr. Charles. You're referring to the Kuskokwim
5 area I'm guessing. We work closely with Fish and Game
6 and all our surveys are done hand-in-hand. In fact,
7 the last one we did, we coordinate with each other, and
8 they hire an airplane and we fly our airplanes, and so
9 it's a coordinated effort that we get done.

10

11 As far as the Kuskokwim, most of the
12 moose are on the Kuskokwim River. That's where most of
13 the habitat is. So it's pretty much the boundary, Unit
14 18 boundary up the Kuskokwim all the way down to about
15 Bethel. But you are right that part of the survey area
16 doesn't include much downriver of Bethel.

17

18 And since I wasn't here, I wasn't here
19 to designate which areas to survey, but I think what
20 they were thinking is they weren't expecting too many
21 moose to show up, but we were surprised at what number
22 of moose were being taken downriver. Johnson River.
23 Downriver even further than that. So we're kind of
24 scratching our heads looking at that.

25

26 So the Kuskokwim is -- it's one and the
27 same area, but we kind of kept them separate. So we
28 have the main Kuskokwim River drainage, which is Bethel
29 all the way up -- pretty much Bethel all the way up to
30 Unit 18 boundary. But they also incorporated some of
31 the drainages of the Kisaralik, the Kwethluk, Eek
32 River, because they know we have a lot of moose up
33 there, too. So they did it one year prior to my
34 arrival where they used a slightly different method.

35

36 But basically those two numbers added
37 together makes up the entire Lower Kuskokwim Unit 18
38 moose population.

39

40 So part of what we use as data, we know
41 we're going to miss moose. Sometimes just moose show
42 up in weird places. Sometimes I've seen them out in
43 the middle of the tundra, but we don't consider all
44 this moose habitat. But what we do is we look at the
45 data, what we had from the previous years to the new
46 data, and then we get an idea of what that population
47 grew given that habitat that we survey.

48

49 So in the past I used to give you guys
50 handouts, and I figured you guys have seen it many

1 times before, so I didn't bring them this time. But it
2 just has survey blocks. They're all square blocks, and
3 we choose throughout those blocks and we go survey them
4 intensively with airplanes and we take numbers from
5 those blocks and then we get an estimate. We plug them
6 into a computer, and then we get an estimate for the
7 entire survey area for those blocks within that area.

8

9 That's not to say there's not moose
10 occurring outside that area. We know that happens.
11 And we're still learning where these moose are, or I
12 am. I'm seeing them arriving, I mean, in places closer
13 to Bethel that I never thought I'd ever see them, you
14 know. The bluffs right here by the tundra.

15

16 Anyway, I hope that answered your
17 question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, that answers my
22 question. But why I mention that yesterday on Federal
23 land we were allowed so few moose to catch in fall time
24 when we have the season, thinking that area only --
25 that little area only upriver is where the Federal
26 counts and survey the moose, and not counting the other
27 big area. That's my -- that was one of the things I
28 had in mind yesterday when I mentioned it. So can you
29 tell us more about that. Thank you.

30

31 MR. REARDEN: Yeah. Through the
32 Chair. Mr. Charles. Most of the moose are occurring
33 on State-managed lands, and that's most of the lands
34 along the Kuskokwim River. And we did have separate
35 quotas. I think it was 81 for the State and 19 for the
36 Federal lands. And when we speak Federal lands, we
37 know we have a pretty decent density up the Kwethluk
38 River. But Federal lands doesn't start until somewhere
39 near Three Step. And it's difficult country to hunt, I
40 mean, so we really don't have that many moose taken out
41 of there. We expected a lot more, because we have a
42 lot more moose, but I started to realize that the
43 terrain's maybe not as forgiving. And people have to
44 go a longer ways. I mean, that's a lot of fuel to go
45 get a moose versus closer to Bethel.

46

47 So the difference in quotas are there
48 because most of the moose are on State-managed lands.
49 So that's why they get a bigger quota. So there's less
50 moose on the Federal lands, therefore less of a quota.

1 19.

2

3

4 We kept that quota the same as the
5 previous year basically because we didn't have any new
6 data to go off of. We've been talking about when to
7 survey the Kuskokwim area again, but at the same time,
8 we're trying to have a moose season and grow that
9 population. There was a goal of 2,000 moose set as
10 kind of a tentative goal anyway, that we'd like to see
11 this population grow to. The last count was just under
12 a thousand, so essentially we're still trying to double
13 our population, but still allow harvest, a minimal
14 harvest, you know. So we probably won't change that
15 until we get a survey and we'll look at the new data to
16 see what we think our population could handle as far as
17 moose hunting.

17

18

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Bob.

19

20

MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Whitefish

21 Lake.

22

23

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: The fisheries will
24 come next if you're going to have a fish question.

25

26

MR. ALOYSIUS: No, this is.....

27

28

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Wildlife.

29

30

MR. ALOYSIUS:the Fish and
31 Wildlife responsibility. And I'm glad to see somebody
32 brought this thing up, conservation of whitefish in the
33 Kuskokwim River. One of the things that is still going
34 on, and it's getting to the point of frustrations for
35 the Villages of Aniak, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag.
36 Whitefish lake is restricted to 4-inch gear, and no
37 more than 90 feet long. Yet every fall people from
38 down here go up there with their 50-fathom white -- I
39 mean silver salmon nets and camp. And we can't do a
40 damn thing about it, because we don't have the
41 authority to protect that lake. And yet that lake is
42 the major producer of Whitefish Lake on the Kuskokwim
43 River. I mean, it's like an ocean to them. And the
44 people are getting really frustrated, because they go
45 up there, we go up there with our legal nets, sit, go
46 up in the morning, come back in the evening. Yet guys
47 from down here from the villages up here, Tuluksak,
48 Kwethluk, Akiak, and Bethel go up there and camp until
49 they get a boatload. And it's frustrating as heck to
50 those people up there. There has to be some way to

1 protect that lake. It was almost wiped out because Ray
2 Baxter opened it up for commercial fishing. And now
3 we're running into the same problem. We go up there in
4 the morning, come back in the evening with maybe as
5 many as 10, but mostly a lot of people go up there with
6 -- come back home with nothing. And yet those guys
7 from downriver are up there camping with their big
8 boat, big nets, and there's no enforcement protecting
9 that lake.

10

11 And I asked -- well, our advisory
12 committee asked the State if there was some way that
13 they could deputize our people right where the drainage
14 comes out of Whitefish Lake to stop people from going
15 up in there with their big nets. Yet they say we can't
16 do nothing. So is there any way that the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service can protect Whitefish Lake.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We'll stand down
20 for a second while he tries to reconnect the
21 teleconference.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We're back
28 on. Dan, did you want to offer any assurance on that
29 point.

30

31 MR. GILLIKIN: Yes, Mr. Chair.
32 Certainly.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Enforcement on
35 Whitefish Lake,

36

37 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Aloysius,
38 for your concerns. We've heard this last year as well,
39 and I believe the year before. And ask if the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service can do anything to protect those fish.
41 And working with the State, because we have joint
42 fisheries management, we co-manage, we put those
43 restrictions in place for conservation purposes.

44

45 So what you're really talking about is
46 an enforcement problem. So it's about enforcing the
47 regulations that are in place. And that is certainly
48 within -- because our -- and I'm not a law enforcement
49 individual, but I do know that our agents have dual
50 authority to both, you know, enforce State and Federal

1 regulations. I believe, now correct me if I'm wrong,
2 but I believe we contacted the trooper up in Aniak last
3 year, and expressed -- or did not contact him, or Mike
4 up at Aniak?

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't remember who it
7 was, but he was the only wildlife protection person,
8 and he said his area's from like Dillingham to
9 Fairbanks to Nome, and he's the only guy, and he can't
10 be everywhere at the same time. So his answer to us
11 was, well, give me a call, but there's never anybody to
12 respond to the calls.

13
14 So, you know, our hands are tied about
15 trying to get enforcement on what is there to protect
16 those whitefish. And every year they get less and less
17 again.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. GILLIKIN: Mr. Chair, if I may
22 quickly respond.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, go ahead.
25 And I'd reinforce that question, too, because we are
26 looking at a major problem of over-harvest and over-
27 capitalization on that.

28
29 MR. GILLIKIN: Correct. And I
30 understand. And I will certainly bring this concern to
31 our Refuge manager. And it would be helpful if this
32 committee draft a memo to the Refuge manager, since it
33 seems like the State is spread so thin, to enforce the
34 regulation. We can certainly direct some of our
35 enforcement efforts at that if it's a high enough
36 priority and it's expressed to, you know, the Refuge.
37 You know, it's -- again, it's one of our primary
38 concerns is conservation of that resource, so it's
39 about, you know -- we only have so many enforcement
40 officers on the Refuge also.

41
42 But, you know, as a citizen, you could
43 certainly document what's going on with a camera, a
44 video camera, you know, and talk to people as well, and
45 see if that makes any progress. I mean, I hear folks
46 all the time wanting to try to police themselves in the
47 villages when it comes to fishing activities and things
48 like that. And to some degree this is a similar
49 situation. It would be helpful, because like I say, we
50 have 20 million acres out here to cover with just a

1 couple of officers. But I'll bring your concern to the
2 Refuge manager.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there a possibility
5 where the State and the Federal government can come
6 together and create a very short-time position to
7 protect that lake? Because there's only one way to get
8 into Whitefish Lake, and that's at Igiugig where that
9 cabin is, and were that weir used to be. Have somebody
10 stationed there, you know, for a month, because, you
11 know, September -- right after September is the worst
12 time, because right after moose hunting, people start
13 going up there and harvesting whitefish. So if there
14 was some way that you can have a cooperative effort and
15 ask KNA and TKC and Calista to join that cooperative
16 effort to fund a position just to protect that lake for
17 six weeks, you know, from after moose season until
18 freeze-up. You know, that's something that, you know,
19 I think would work, because that way there's a person
20 with the legal authority to stop people from going in
21 there with the wrong kind of gear.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan.

24
25 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. Mr.
26 Aloysius. You hit a key word there. Legal authority.
27 In order to have that legal authority, there is a
28 gigantic volume of training that has to occur, just
29 from a legal perspective. All of our agents, they go
30 through constant training to protect themselves and to
31 protect the rights of the public, and to make sure that
32 the laws are enforced properly. So, you know, whether
33 somebody can be temporarily deputized or something like
34 that and actually have the authority to write citations
35 I know is a big hurdle to jump. But I'm a fisheries
36 biologist, not enforcement person. However, in my
37 previous life I was an enforcement person, and there
38 was a lot of training involved with that, and it
39 doesn't come very lightly. So it's a discussion to
40 have with our Refuge manager I believe if we're not
41 getting, you know, traction from the State, or they're
42 too busy to address it specifically, and he would
43 certainly have a much better idea of how to possibly
44 address it than I would.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It appears to me
47 that -- I don't know if it would fall under the
48 specific call for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
49 Program, but just one -- Whitefish Lake has been a
50 definite focus or subject of other projects in the past

1 funded from that. And if perhaps KNA could be prodded
2 to put in a proposal in that regard to have someone
3 stationed there, and although they wouldn't do the
4 citations, they would be there with a phone, and they
5 see somebody coming in with a five-and-a-half-inch gear
6 going into Whitefish Lake, they can call up the
7 enforcement guy to come up. Either that or tell them
8 to leave that five-and-a-half-inch net on the bank
9 before they go in.

10

11 Anyway, that's just a thought along
12 those lines.

13

14 Travis, you had anything to add here.

15

16 MR. ELISON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Once
17 again Travis Elison, Fish and Game.

18

19 I just got off the phone with Sgt. Ken
20 Atkin with the wildlife troopers here in Bethel and
21 asked him about this Whitefish Lake issue. He did say
22 he did make one trip up there last year and checked
23 some nets. He didn't find anything illegal.

24

25 Although one question he had is exactly
26 what time of year is this occurring. And another
27 suggestion he had was, you know, if you hear people are
28 up there doing this type of illegal activity, to call
29 him, Ken Atkin, here in Bethel, and let him know, and
30 then he himself can fly up or direct his wildlife
31 trooper in Aniak to go check nets and that kind of
32 thing.

33

34 So it's one of those things. It's hard
35 for the troopers to know what's going on there as busy
36 as they are. They don't necessarily have time to go up
37 there all the time, but if people let them know
38 something's going on, and if they have the time and
39 resources to get there, that they'll certainly do it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any others on the
42 wildlife presentation on the moose issues. Evan.

43

44 MR. POLTY: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Thank
45 you.

46

47 I have a question concerning the studies done on the
48 female collar. It's done now?

49

50 MR. REARDEN: Yeah. Through the Chair.

1 Yes, Mr. Polty. That study, we consider it down. We
2 haven't been flying and locating those moose as often
3 as we used to. Now our goal is just to get those
4 collars off.

5
6 MR. POLTY: Yeah. And they had
7 approved the fall female cow season along with bull
8 moose this coming September, so anyone happen to catch
9 the collared, it wouldn't affect them at all for
10 catching a female moose with collar on there then?

11
12 MR. REARDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
13 Polty. These are two different areas. On the
14 Kuskokwim, nobody's proposing a cow season at all.

15
16 MR. POLTY: I'm concerning about Yukon
17 area.

18
19 MR. REARDEN: Yukon area, we do not
20 have any collared animals over there.

21
22 MR. POLTY: Oh, okay. So they
23 don't.....

24
25 MR. REARDEN: Only the Kuskokwim area.

26
27 MR. POLTY:migrate further up
28 that area, those collared moose?

29
30 MR. REARDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
31 Polty. We haven't had any of our collared animals do
32 that. They pretty much stay close. We had some up on
33 the Gweek, we had some on the Eek, Kwethluk, Kisaralik,
34 and a few near Napaskiak. But pretty much these
35 particular animals have stayed pretty close by.

36
37 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
38 you, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. I had a
41 couple of questions regarding -- I wonder, given the
42 concerns that have been raised that we may be getting
43 near the tipping point or exceeding carrying capacity
44 perhaps, although we don't know where that's at yet,
45 are there plans for any kind of browse studies,
46 transects, anything going on that you could start to
47 see if you are seeing stress on habitat on the Lowest
48 Yukon section or throughout even through that remainder
49 portion up above in St. Mary's to the Russian.

50

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Mr. Chair. One
2 of the earliest indicators that habitat is starting to
3 dwindle or maybe not support the population of moose is
4 that the twinning rates are going to go down. In the
5 Interior there's a publication where they're managing
6 for like 10 percent twinning rates. Our twinning rates
7 are higher than that. I don't have the number off the
8 top of my head, but we watch those ratios, not just
9 twinning rates, but calf ratios, because it's all about
10 survival of those calves. So that's the earlier
11 indicator.

12
13 The other part is we have been
14 discussing habitat studies. They are a little costly
15 because they involve quite a bit of time and they're
16 going to involve helicopter, because you have to get to
17 areas that you can't access by boat, because you're
18 randomly choosing areas and so forth.

19
20 However, we can go collect this data
21 and there's some value in doing all this. But once we
22 get that data, like, for instance say we find certain
23 areas that are 70 percent browsed, 80 percent browsed.
24 We don't know what that means yet. We won't know what
25 that means until the moose tell us what that means. So
26 once we can correlate the amount of browse left, or has
27 -- or the percentage that has been browsed with the
28 twinning rate or the calf production rate. So if we
29 see an effect, that's what we're going to know, because
30 80 percent browse rate might not mean much to us.

31
32 And it's hard to compare to other
33 studies throughout the Interior, because we're doing
34 with new habitat. Our willow species, they carry the
35 nutrition longer than the same species that are found
36 in the Interior, so the quality of forage within this
37 Western Alaska area has been proven to be higher.
38 That's what Dillingham is finding. They did some
39 studies on their actual willow. Although they're the
40 same species, the amount of tannins or whatever might
41 be produced as a response to browsing isn't quite like
42 what it is in the Interior.

43
44 So therefore our numbers aren't
45 necessarily comparable. We don't know. And we won't
46 know until we see what the moose are telling us. But
47 we haven't done any browse work on the Yukon. I mean,
48 it's a huge undertaking, as you can imagine, it's vast
49 areas. The entire Yukon.
50

1 But it is something were interested in.
2 And we do want to figure out how to best study that.
3 And, you know, you understand habitat, you can
4 understand your critters a little bit better instead of
5 just looking at them. But to connect those dots, we're
6 going to have to continue to look at the ratios. And
7 if we can do some browse stuff, we're for it.

8
9 My predecessor did some browse stuff on
10 the Kwethluk. I haven't seen anything written yet.
11 He's still working on it. As far as what that means,
12 I'm not sure yet. So it is a topic that I discuss with
13 local Fish and Game guys here, too, to see what can we
14 do and what can we learn for this, because it is kind
15 of a unique learning opportunity also. I mean, moose
16 have never done this before on the Yukon. In many
17 places of Alaska for that matter. I mean, we've got
18 the most liberal season on the Lower Yukon in the whole
19 state. And two moose and, you know, two of those could
20 be cows, and the long season, August through end of
21 February, that's pretty phenomenal. It's a good
22 problem.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Very good.
25 Oh, just to make you aware, too, that you talked about
26 possibly changing regulations, I'm sure you'll see it,
27 but just as a head's up, that did come up in discussion
28 under our section yesterday on possible proposals, and
29 this Council is sponsoring a proposal. I think what
30 came out after about a half hour to 45 minutes of
31 discussion was a proposal to extend the season, change
32 the boundaries to -- it came out initially under
33 getting a more geographic boundary for that Lowest
34 Yukon section. So the proposal coming forward from
35 this Council at least as a placeholder and something to
36 start working around will be using the Kashunuk River
37 as a boundary, making the season run August 1, as it
38 currently is I believe, to the end of March. And still
39 with a two moose, any moose bag limit. And then on the
40 north side to also use the Andreafsky drainage as
41 another geographical boundary. So just as a head's up
42 for you on that. That's what's going to be coming
43 forward from this Council.

44
45 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
46 Yeah, that's excellent. The boundary change is one
47 thing I forgot to mention. My co-worker, Robert
48 Sundown, who I travelled with to the Yukon villages, he
49 mentioned the possibility of a boundary change,
50 something that makes more sense to the people. The

1 Kashunuk River, people can see that, instead of a
2 straight light with GPS positions and that kind of
3 stuff. So whatever it takes to make it easier on
4 hunters sounds like a good thing. So we look forward
5 to seeing those proposals.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anything else on
8 the wildlife.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If not, Dan, did
13 you have a fisheries presentation? Go ahead.

14
15 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. I don't have a
16 full-blown fisheries presentation, but I just wanted to
17 make the Council aware that there is a summary report,
18 a brief report of all the Refuge activities on the
19 back table here. And it's three pages here, and
20 they're not stapled together unfortunately. But it
21 kind of is a brief summary.

22
23 Then I also handed out some summaries
24 of Mr. Miller's work. He's up at Tuluksak today, and I
25 don't want to steal his thunder, but he's been doing
26 great things with the weirs on the Kwethluk and
27 Tuluksak, and with whitefish in cooperation with KNA.

28
29 And their video weirs are operating 100
30 percent. It's really interesting. If we hadn't had
31 that video weir in place say on the Tuluksak last year,
32 we'd have had no idea how many Chinook salmon went up
33 that system, so the operational time frame by going
34 with that technology seems to be a huge benefit.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. Okay.
37 If no further questions on the Refuge, I have a request
38 here for another quick break, so let's step down for 10
39 minutes, and we'll come back and hopefully be able to
40 wrap it up here.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Back on
47 record at 11:30 in the morning. And for the record Mr.
48 Aloysius had to leave to catch his plane. His check-in
49 was at 11:30. So we still do have a quorum of seven
50 members I believe. Three, four, five, six, seven.

1 Yep.

2

3 So moving on in reports. Next we have
4 the Togiak Refuge is a bulletin I believe that was
5 included in our packets, so there's no one here to
6 address that.

7

8 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service.

12

13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Oh, I'm sorry.

16 Alex.

17

18 MR. NICK: Could I just give a very
19 brief information on the Togiak bulletin.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. NICK: I want to mention that the
24 fact that the YK Delta RAC's region is Unit 18, and
25 Unit 18 stretches all the way over to Platinum. And
26 the Refuge boundary ends somewhere near Quinhagak. And
27 the Togiak Refuge also ends this way -- I mean toward
28 northerly boundary ends about Quinhagak area, somewhere
29 on there. And the YK Delta Refuge boundary ends beyond
30 Kotlik, behind Stebbins in Unit 22A. But, you know, we
31 never bring that up.

32

33 So what I wanted to point out as
34 something that might be of interest, especially to
35 those of you who are from Kuskokwim area, we know that
36 some of the villages in Kuskokwim River has C&T in 17A.
37 And when we talk about caribou and moose, I don't have
38 the regulations with me right now, but, you know, in
39 the fall season we could show you those and maybe
40 clarify some of that.

41

42 On Page 123 of the Togiak bulletin, it
43 talks a little bit about Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the
44 Nushagak Peninsula caribou. And on Page 124 there's
45 actually a little paragraph there that talks about
46 moose.

47

48 So I just wanted to point those out to
49 you. Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: So noted. Anybody
2 got any comments they want to make on the Togiak
3 Refuge.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Moving on then,
8 we've got the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I did
9 check with Staff on the break, and the local Staff
10 consider their report complete under the Refuge. I
11 didn't know if there's anything further that we needed
12 here. Is there any Fish and Wildlife Staff that were
13 on line for that agenda item, if there's anything other
14 than what information we received from the Refuge.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James. You had a
19 question.

20
21 MR. CHARLES: I have a question to Alex
22 on Togiak.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yea. okay. I'm
25 sorry. I moved too quick, didn't ask -- go ahead on
26 your question. I'm not hearing any response on the
27 agenda item. Go ahead, James.

28
29 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 Alex, (In Yup'ik) even it's on
32 Kuskokwim side, it's still Togiak Refuge. (In Yup'ik)
33 If we go past Quinagak down southeast a little we
34 would be on Togiak Refuge?

35
36 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. James. I mean,
37 through the Chair. Maybe Dan Gillikin or someone from
38 the Refuge could assist me on this discussion. Well,
39 not discussion, but clarification of that.

40
41 What I meant by your Region as a RAC,
42 your region is Unit 18, not necessarily the Togiak
43 Refuge boundary or Yukon Delta boundary. Unit 18
44 stretches on the coast all the way over around Platinum
45 area. So when we were talking about some of the
46 issues, you know, those issues in that area, some of
47 them should be on your table, in your agenda. That's
48 what I meant when I mentioned Unit 18 region, which is
49 Region 5 under OSM RAC boundaries. I don't think it's
50 talking about refuge boundaries. It talks about Unit

1 18.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: What you're trying
4 to get at is that we do have transboundary issues as
5 far as areas of RAC jurisdiction. We have it in that
6 the YK Refuge extends into GMU 19. We talk about it
7 when we have issues on the Innoko that are into 21E.
8 We have transboundary issues with 22A. And we have
9 transboundary issues with 17A and B.

10

MR. CHARLES: Okay. That's good.

12

13

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Uh-huh. Okay.
14 Having no response on the Fish and Wildlife Service for
15 Item D, then we'll move on to E with the joint
16 ADF&G/Fish and Wildlife Yukon Fisheries update. And
17 turn on your microphone there, sir, and introduce
18 yourself.

19

20

MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann.
21 I am the assistant Federal manager on the Yukon River.
22 I work for Fred Bue who's the Federal manager. He is
23 on line right now listening, and I believe that Eric
24 Newland with the ADF&G is also on line. I called Fred
25 to how the line was coming in. He said it wasn't as
26 good as yesterday, but he could hear okay.

27

I'm handing out our preliminary
28 preseason outlook for 2013, and I want to emphasize it
29 is preliminary. There's still on-going work to be
30 done..

32

33

MS. GREGORY: What's your name again?

34

35

MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann.
36 I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.

37

38

Just to get started, the Yukon River
39 Chinook salmon are important to all users in the Yukon
40 area. Unfortunately, these stocks have experienced a
41 decline in production. Current run sizes are about
42 half their historic levels, making it difficult to meet
43 escapement goals and provide for subsistence uses on
44 the river.

45

46

If you look on the back at figures 1
47 and 3, you can see that harvest and total run size have
48 been greatly reduced since 2000.

49

50

And if you look at figure 2, you can

1 see that Chinook salmon runs have been below
2 expectations, and escapement goals into Canada were not
3 met in three of the last five years.

4
5 Even with some of the extreme
6 restrictions that we imposed in 2012 and the reduced
7 subsistence harvest, we still fell short of some of our
8 escapement goals. An official outlook for 2013 is not
9 yet complete; however, preliminary estimates indicate
10 that we should expect a run similar to what we saw in
11 2011 and 2012. And therefore it's prudent to enter the
12 2013 season with the expectation that conservation
13 measures will be required in an effort to meet
14 escapement goals and to share the available subsistence
15 harvest.

16
17 Over half of the Yukon River Chinook
18 salmon that are harvested in Alaska are Canadian-
19 origin. Therefore, it is essential to keep Canadian,
20 as well as Alaskan stocks healthy. Conservation of
21 fisheries resources by all users is extremely important
22 for ensuring future salmon runs, And during these low
23 runs, fishermen should consider looking at the amount
24 they harvest and determine how they can voluntarily
25 reduce their harvest to help ensure adequate Chinook
26 salmon escapement.

27
28 Given the users' concerns about the
29 future of the Yukon River Chinook salmon runs, we must
30 continue our efforts in developing a management plan
31 focused on rebuilding the stocks. The initial
32 objectives of the plan needs to achieve escapement
33 goals in the Alaskan portion of the drainage and meet
34 escapement and harvest sharing commitments to Canada.
35 Furthermore, this plan must provide for subsistence use
36 of Chinook salmon in the Alaska portion of the drainage
37 and management of overlapping summer chum salmon
38 fisheries.

39
40 Yukon River fisheries managers need
41 your continued support in carrying out management
42 strategies and options for 2013 that will help in
43 getting fish to the spawning grounds should the Chinook
44 salmon run be similar to the poor runs seen since 2007.
45 The 2012 season is a good example of Yukon River people
46 cooperating to conserve Chinook salmon. Because of the
47 trend of low productivity, it is anticipated that a
48 conservation management plan will be in place for the
49 next few years. Yukon River fisheries managers are
50 soliciting practical ideas for conserving Chinook

1 salmon the river.

2

3 The 2013 management strategies will
4 likely be similar to 2012 in an effort to conserve
5 Chinook salmon. One of the new State regulation says
6 that the first pulse will be protected, but it is also
7 likely the second and maybe third pulses will also
8 need protection. Other options being considered are
9 starting the windows early; restricting nets to six-
10 inch gear from the start; close earlier on the first
11 pulse; and looking for opportunities between pulses to
12 harvest other species; and finding ways to minimize
13 incidental harvest of Chinook in the summer chum
14 directed commercial fishery by using time and area
15 authority. We are also interested in hearing your
16 ideas on other ways in which we conserve Chinook
17 salmon.

18

19 One thing that we didn't outline here
20 in this outlook was that in 2012 the summer chum run
21 did good, and the fall chum were also very good. And
22 we anticipate that for 2013 the summer chum will be
23 similar, with a surplus available for commercial
24 harvest, as well as the fall chum should have a surplus
25 available for commercial harvest.

26

27 The trick for the managers is how do we
28 provide that opportunity on the summer chum while
29 protecting the Chinook run, and that's what we look for
30 input from the fishermen.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.
33 Questions for Mr. Maschmann. Evan, then James.

34

35 MR. POLTY: Yeah. I have concerning
36 about the American Panel side. They need to consider
37 lowering the escapement up to Canada, which is 42,500,
38 55,000. They need to consider thinking about start
39 lowering that to between 30 to 28,000, that escapement.
40 So that way we will have enough time for our harvest
41 and for commercial fishing for kings. So they need to
42 look into that closely. And if the Canadians decide to
43 keep it that way, they've got to find a way to -- that
44 we work something out with them.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. MASCHMANN: That amount is
49 negotiated every year. And I would, you know,
50 encourage folks to talk to their local Panel members

1 and let them know.

2

3 MR. POLTY: Oh, okay. Thank you.

4 Thank you, Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: James.

7

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

9 How about over there in the Yukon you said there may be

10 surplus chums to commercial fish for chums. Are they

11 allowed to sell kings, too, if they catch kings?

12 Because last summer we were not allowed to sell kings

13 on Kuskokwim side even we catch few, and that was very

14 lucky. First time I caught a few kings to keep, and

15 that was good. So Yukon is doing the same?

16

17 MR. MASCHMANN: We've been doing the

18 same. At this time, any Chinook salmon caught in the

19 commercial fishery has to go back to the subsistence

20 fishery.

21

22 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Harry.

25

26 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I think a lot of

27 in the Yukon and having a problem, every year the

28 Bering Sea and Aleutian Island pollack fishery

29 intercepts Yukon kind salmon and chum salmon for

30 Western and Interior Alaska. In 2011 25,500 Chinook

31 salmon and 1,946 chum salmon were caught by bycatch in

32 pollack fishery. After being counted and sample it by

33 observers, this bycatch is either thrown back into the

34 water or in the net that been there for quite a while

35 and save it as donation in the food bank. Salmon

36 bycatch in the pollack fishery increase in the mid 2000

37 and has been declining, and below the history level.

38 King salmon bycatch hit the record high in 2007 of over

39 120,000. Chum salmon bycatch peaked in 2007 at more

40 than 700,000. Recent January study become sampled

41 shows that 50 percent of the king salmon bycatch is

42 Western Alaska origin. Sail patent (ph) and bycatch

43 sample from the last 1990 shows that the Western Alaska

44 Chinook salmon, about 40 percent are Yukon River stock.

45 Their numbers change every year and 2010 stock and 42

46 coastal Western Alaska include Lower Yukon 20 percent,

47 Upper Yukon 11 percent, Middle Yukon River, and

48 averaging that about 9 to 32 percent of chum salmon.

49 Bycatch is always either Western Alaska origin and

50 seven of the total bycatch is chum salmon.

1 You know, we do have -- everything we
2 do in the Yukon, we have something wrong. But out
3 there in the coastal area, like Aleutian Island and all
4 that, these fishermen out in the ocean, they throw away
5 some of the lot of fish of king salmon and chum salmon.
6 They're not get nothing out of it, you know, they just
7 doing it for how many years. But us, we've been
8 looking at we get blamed for it, what the little things
9 that we done, but out there those people, fishermens,
10 maybe some around 50 boat, big boats, they're holding
11 up Yukon and Kuskokwim fish, but nobody seems to be
12 bother them. But every time what the little done in
13 the Yukon River, in Kuskokwim and Yukon, they make a
14 big thing out of it, and they really don't like what
15 the little they've been done. But out there they
16 throw them overboard, They never get no blame.
17 Nothing. It's getting where we are getting tired of
18 doing this, getting blame of fish, we didn't do this
19 and that. And we fish down in Y-2 area, and commercial
20 fishermen. I use to, but not any more.

21
22 It is something that we have to do
23 something, because of in the Yukon we get blame and in
24 the first when the Federal subsistence people come in,
25 I was supporting them. When they first came to Western
26 Yukon. I make -- an old man told me, Harry, I think we
27 make a mistake when we're supporting them people to
28 stay in that area and counting the fish and all that.

29
30 Our ancestor where they used to live
31 and fish for all these years, but we get blamed for it.
32 So that's what it is. All the fish in the Yukon River
33 and king salmon and chum salmon. those people that are
34 out there fishing, and they took it overboard or they
35 give them to some other place. But we're getting tired
36 where we are blamed for everything about it, especially
37 on king salmon.

38
39 Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Do you care to
42 respond, Gerald.

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: All I can say is I
45 concur. It's hard for the managers to go into these
46 village and ask subsistence fishermen to reduce their
47 harvest and then we hear about, you know, bycatch and
48 they're throwing it overboard. I wish I can manage the
49 pollack fishery, but I'm not, and, you know, we're
50 frustrated, too, and we just -- we can't do anything.

1 As managers we can't do anything about it, but we
2 definitely urge our agencies to keep on top of the
3 bycatch.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Evan, go ahead.

6

7 MR. POLTY: Since you're unable to say
8 anything about pollack fishery down in the area,
9 catching those kings, I recommend that you continue to
10 have our subsistence priority come in first for the
11 first pulse to continue until the subsistence users in
12 the Yukon catch enough fish for their winter use.

13

14 Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Do you want to
17 respond? Go ahead.

18

19 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, before I
20 conclude, I just want to reiterate that the managers
21 and the people on the Yukon, we give all the credit to
22 fishermen on the Yukon. In 2012 they were alert. They
23 paid attention to the news releases. They kept
24 informed. They cooperated with the restrictions. Many
25 folks on the Yukon voluntarily reduced their harvest
26 and the preliminary subsistence harvest is showing that
27 a lot of fish, a lot of Chinook salmon were not
28 harvested in the subsistence fishery. It was below
29 average. And a lot of folks did substitute summer chum
30 and fall chum when they could. And that goes to a lot
31 of credit to the Yukon River folks for helping us out.
32 And we know it's going to be another tough year in
33 2013, and we're hoping for that continued cooperation,
34 and we know that it's difficult. And we are trying very
35 hard to find ways to allow harvest of summer chum.
36 We've been asked in the past to be innovative,
37 creative, surgical, and we've been doing that. So some
38 of these openings that we're having, they're short
39 notice sometimes, or they're short on hours or they're
40 weird gear restrictions or weird limited areas, but
41 those are all attempts to provide some opportunity on
42 that summer chum.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. Other
45 questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess the only
50 one I was going to ask you, and I think maybe you

1 touched on it already in your previous statement, but,
2 you know, given that the Fish Board here on their last
3 cycle around, people went through that whole painful
4 process of coming up with seven-and-a-half inches being
5 the optimum gear to help protect the productivity of
6 your run for kings. And then I see in your outlook for
7 the preliminary that you're now considering six-inch
8 restrictions over and above that. And is the thinking
9 now that six-inch should be the optimum rather than
10 seven-and-a-half, or what's the rationale behind that?

11
12 MR. MASCHMANN: Well, we think seven-
13 and-a-half is optimum for catching Chinook, but with
14 the outlook for 2013, we're looking for ways to
15 conserve Chinook, by provide opportunity for the summer
16 chum. So we're looking at six-inch as being the
17 optimum for people to harvest summer chum, still
18 provide the opportunity to fish and harvest, but
19 minimize that Chinook salmon catch.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Thank you.
22 No one else?

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay.

27
28 MR. MASCHMANN: One more comment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. MASCHMANN: It was brought up at
33 the Board of Fish that some folks in the Lower River
34 are trying some innovative ways. They're looking at
35 five-and-half-inch mesh for commercial summer chum.
36 And the preliminary studies are showing that the five-
37 and-half-inch mesh catches way more chum per
38 incidentally caught Chinook than the six-inch. And so
39 we're looking at it as an option in the commercial
40 fishery, but we know not everyone has that gear.
41 They're also -- the folks in the lower river are also
42 looking at dipnetting and seining for summer chum, to
43 release the Chinook back into the water alive. So
44 those are options that the State is looking at as
45 potentially providing additional summer chum harvesting
46 opportunity while protecting the Chinook.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. I don't
49 see any others. Okay.

50

1 The next is the Department of Fish and
2 Game.

3
4 MR. NEWLAND: Mr. Chair. This is Eric
5 Newland with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
6 I'm the acting Yukon area summer season manager.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Oh, did you want to
9 follow? I thought we were done. I didn't know we had
10 something else for the Yukon. I was on to the next
11 agenda. You had something to add onto the last
12 presentation?

13
14 MR. NEWLAND: Well, I thought I might
15 go over the Board of Fish actions taken for the Yukon,
16 give a little bit of a chum forecast. I know that that
17 last presentation by Mr. Maschmann was primarily
18 focused on the Chinook and the outlet for 2013.

19
20 And I guess I would also like to just
21 recognize the great efforts the people on the Yukon
22 have taken in the last several years. It's been
23 difficult, but the way people are responding is making
24 it a lot easier on us as manager.

25
26 So if I can start, maybe I'll just go
27 into the Board of Fish or maybe I'll give the chum
28 first, the chum salmon kind of forecast.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Well, I
31 wasn't aware that you were waiting to be part of the
32 presentation; otherwise I would have called on you
33 directly after. So go ahead with your presentation as
34 you see fit.

35
36 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. So the preliminary
37 projection for the 2013 summer chum run is projected to
38 be about one and a half million, which should provide
39 for escapement, subsistence needs and a surplus
40 available for commercial harvest. However, the ability
41 to capitalize on that surplus will be dependent on
42 management actions taken to protect the Chinook run.

43
44 The summer chum commercial fishery will
45 be managed conservatively in order to reduce the
46 incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. We'll talk about
47 kind of more of those gear stuff options later when I
48 get into the Board of Fish stuff as far as the summer
49 chum directed commercial fishery.

50

1 The fall chum projection is for a point
2 estimate of 1.1 with a range of 900,000 to 1.2 million.
3 This is very similar to the 2012 run, and like the
4 summer chum run, this will cover escapement,
5 subsistence and surplus for commercial opportunity.
6

7 The preliminary subsistence harvest
8 information from 2012 in case there was an increase in
9 fall chum taken as most summer chum. Fall chum average
10 is about 80,000. They did about 94,000 in 2012. This
11 is preliminary information so far. Based on this 2013
12 preseason projection, the fall run will likely support
13 additional subsistence harvest and will be able to
14 supplement for the lack of Chinook salmon.
15

16 Coho is expected to be below average to
17 average run, also similar to last year in 2012, and
18 will cover escapement and subsistence, and possible
19 commercial harvest.
20

21 Initial management strategies in the
22 fall season will depend on how that summer to fall --
23 fall to summer chum relationship looks. If the
24 relationship supports the fall chum forecast, there
25 should be no restrictions to the subsistence fishery.
26 Additionally, the commercial fishery will likely begin
27 at the transition period, middle of July in the lower
28 river, between summer and the fall season and continue
29 through the season.
30

31 If the summer chum run doesn't
32 materialized as expected, fall season management would
33 take a more conservative approach, maybe fish a little
34 commercially at the transition and then wait until
35 August to assess.
36

37 So the kind of take-home here is that
38 the chum runs are looking good, similar to last year.
39 Summer chum might have that -- or will be impacted by
40 the actions taken for the Chinook. Fall chum looks
41 good so far, but we'll have to wait until July and see
42 how the summer chum run looks first.
43

44 So I guess that's it for the outlook.
45 If I can move forward with the Board of Fish, or if you
46 guys want to take questions now. I don't know how you
47 want to take that.
48

49 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. We'll break
50 here and see if anybody has any questions on your

1 report so far. Evan.

2

3 MR. POLTY: Yeah. I have a question
4 for you. The 1.5 million summer chum escapement, would
5 it be possible to start that commercial fishing for
6 chum earlier than last year.

7

8 MR. NEWLAND: Well, I think it's going
9 to have to depend on the in-season assessment of the
10 Chinook run. That's pretty much what's delaying the
11 summer chum commercial fishing. In the last several
12 years we've been pushing it pretty much to the third
13 week to the last week of June. Last year was
14 incredibly difficult with the lateness of king run put
15 it right top of the middle of the summer chum run, and
16 so a lot of chum were foregone to protect those kings.
17 Basically that's our biggest goal is to delay that
18 commercial until we can make sure that the incidental
19 harvest rate would be lower on the kings. So we'll be
20 looking at a lot of the same kind of options as we've
21 been doing the last couple years with the limited area
22 openings, short periods, potential for having the
23 subsistence and commercial together to try to reduce
24 the amount of time the kings are exposed to harvest,
25 those kind of things. But that is the idea. We would
26 like to get moving earlier and allow for more harvest,
27 but obviously that's our biggest challenge. Last year
28 was incredibly difficult with that king run being so
29 late and right on top of the meat of the chum run. So
30 we'll just see how it goes, and maybe the kind run will
31 be better than we expect.

32

33 MR. POLTY: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anyone else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go head with your
40 Fish Board report then.

41

42 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. So the AYK meeting
43 of the Board of Fisheries took place in Anchorage on
44 January 15th through the 20th. I will be presenting
45 only those proposals that were passed by the Board, and
46 those that were specifically addressing. There is a
47 news release that was distributed through email and
48 faxes to cc's throughout the drainage, and this is also
49 available on line.

50

1 So I'm going to start out with Proposal
2 130. This is the amounts that are reasonably
3 necessary. ANS, for subsistence salmon in the Yukon
4 northern area was reviewed. The current ANS range was
5 established in 2001, and those ranges were based on
6 harvest years from 1990 through 1999. Several options
7 were discussed that looked at ways to incorporate more
8 recent subsistence information since 2000. A minor
9 change to the Chinook change was reviewed.

10
11 More substantial changes were presented
12 regarding summer and fall chum. The utilization of
13 these species has changed in recent history in response
14 to loss of the summer chum roe market in the middle
15 river, and the decline in use of fall chum as dog teams
16 present on the river are diminishing.

17
18 Previously there had been no range
19 established for pink salmon. And an ANS range was
20 established for pink salmon or 2,100 to 9700; however,
21 no other changes were adopted to the species-specific
22 ranges. There was a considerable amount of I think
23 opposition by ACs and public comment towards keeping
24 the existing ranges. As people on the river are being
25 asked to take other species, they didn't want to see
26 these ranges altered I think is the take-home there.

27
28 Proposal 131, this will require first
29 pulse protection in the king salmon management plan.
30 After initiating the pulse closure in Districts 1 and
31 2, the Department may discontinue or continue
32 subsistence fishing closures in Districts 3 through 6
33 depending upon in-season run assessment. So the
34 Department has protected the first pulse in 2009, 2011
35 and 2012 where the preseason projection indicated a
36 poor run was expected. However, the Board took a
37 precautionary approach to account for the uncertainty
38 in these preseason projections. They required the
39 protection regardless of the projection. So beginning
40 in Districts 1 and 2, first pulse protection will
41 occur. Further protection will be considered based on
42 in-season assessment.

43
44 Proposal 139. This aligns Yukon
45 subsistence regulations in Districts 1, 2, 3 with
46 current management practices, and it allows for
47 adjusting closures around commercial fishing periods,
48 and allowing concurrent subsistence and commercial
49 fishing by emergency order. The pros of this option
50 are that it allows for the adjustment in closure times

1 between a subsistence and a commercial period. The two
2 events normally separated by a closure can effectively
3 be compressed into a single harvest event and reduced
4 the over-all amount of time a weak stock is exposed to
5 harvest pressure. Adjusting the closure around a
6 commercial can allow for additional subsistence fishing
7 time when commercial fishing periods are being
8 prosecuted frequently. This is especially important in
9 years when reduction in subsistence fishing time has
10 already occurred. And allowing for commercial fishery
11 to be prosecuted quickly with assessment information
12 indicates when a surplus of salmon is available for
13 harvest. This is particularly important for managing
14 the fall season when it is necessary to capitalize on
15 the sporadic pulses of fall chum as they enter the
16 river. During the summer season this has been used to
17 coordinate commercial fishing opportunity when the
18 incidental rate of Chinook would be anticipated to be
19 low

20

21 There's some cons to this option. It
22 is difficult to enforce the opening and closing times
23 of commercial periods when they're much shorter in
24 duration, and they're offered in the longer subsistence
25 period. There is potential for the subsistence caught
26 chums to enter the commercial market. And competition
27 for available fishing sites can occur between
28 subsistence only fishermen and the commercial
29 fishermen.

30

31 The Department recognizes these issues
32 and asked for the emergency order authority to only use
33 this option when necessary.

34

35 Proposal 152. This opens the Acharon
36 Channel in the Yukon River drainage to salmon fishing.
37 District 1 boundaries were redefined to include the
38 coastal waters adjacent to the south mouth of the Yukon
39 River from Chris Point south to Black River. There are
40 multiple ramifications to including these waters to
41 District 1. These waters which were once closed were
42 now opened. The District 1 boundaries were redefined
43 to include these waters, and to maintain the historical
44 fishing area that was described in the closed waters.
45 The fall season, setnet only, this would be included in
46 that. In District 1 during the fall season, commercial
47 fisheries specific coastal areas are designated in
48 which only set gillnet gear is allowed, and managed
49 separately from the remainder of District 1. These
50 changes to the District 1 boundary, it must be aligned

1 with the description of the setnet alone area.

2

3 And also there's ramification for the
4 coastal district. Including this area into District 1
5 effectively removes this area from the coastal district
6 and the subsistence schedule would change. So this
7 area would follow the District 1 schedule of the two
8 36-hour periods per week and would no longer fall under
9 coastal district's 24-7.

10

11 Moving on to 132. This proposal is
12 going to prohibit the sale of king salmon from the
13 Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king
14 salmon commercial fishery. This is something we've
15 done with emergency order before, but now any non-king
16 salmon commercial fishery, the sale of king salmon will
17 be prohibited at the start of the commercial fishing
18 season. However, the Department may allow the sale of
19 king salmon by emergency order based upon in-season run
20 assessment. So it's kind of -- before we had the EO
21 authority to prohibit sale when it was necessary, now
22 it's that we can EO out of it.

23

24 Proposal 133 allows for the directed
25 chum salmon commercial fishery in Districts 1, 2, and
26 3 in Yukon area during times of king salmon
27 conservation using five-and-a-half or smaller mesh
28 size, not exceeding 30 meshes in depth. Now this is an
29 option. We already have the option to restrict gear to
30 six-inch in the commercial fishery as well as the
31 subsistence fishery, but this five-and-a-half option at
32 the 30 mesh depth is just another option only for the
33 commercial. The Department will be conducting -- likely
34 be conducting a mesh size study to address the affect
35 and the efficiency of such changes in mesh size and
36 depth. So it's uncertain how much we're going to use
37 this. It might be something we will use more in the
38 future. It's difficult to say how we're going to use
39 this option this year. I know a lot of people were
40 concerned that they need to go rush out and buy gear if
41 it's going to be used extensively this year. But it's
42 difficult to say how much we'd use that this year. I
43 understand it's a difficult thing for people to locate
44 that gear right now and get it going.

45

46 Proposal 240 establishes time when a
47 commercial gillnet permit holder in the Lower Yukon
48 area may use dipnet and beach seine gear to
49 commercially harvest chum salmon during the summer
50 season. All king salmon caught in a dip net and beach

1 seine gear must be returned to the water alive. Beach
2 seine mesh was specified to be a maximum of four
3 inches. Dipnets, they were specified to be four and a
4 half stretch mesh. And up to four dip nets may be used
5 by a commercial gillnet permit holder. So that's
6 another option again for the commercial fishery in
7 which it's difficult to say now much we would use this
8 option at this time.

9
10 I think there's going to be a little
11 bit more of an education, outreach on how these gear
12 types could be used and how we're going to go about
13 safely releasing fish from both of these gear types. I
14 think the potential obviously to catch more fish with
15 the seine is out there, and possibly even run into more
16 incidental harvested kings and how to release them,
17 whereas the dipnet, only a limited amount of fish can
18 be caught in a single dip. And obviously those are
19 probably a lot easier to release.

20
21 But like I said, both of those options,
22 the five and a half and the dipnets and the seine, it's
23 difficult to say how much we're going to use those at
24 this time. I understand that's difficult for people to
25 kind of grasp with the need to.....

26
27 (Reconnecting teleconference)

28
29 (Evan Polty excused)

30
31 MR. NEWLAND:captured and
32 released. So commercial -- this is just the commercial
33 fishwheels in Districts 4A and 6 must be constructed in
34 the following manner.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Eric.

37
38 MR. NEWLAND: Basket sides and bottoms
39 consisting of.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Eric.

42
43 MR. NEWLAND:a soft mesh
44 materials similar to or made of same web. An
45 adjustable or fixed chute must consist of smooth bottom
46 (indiscernible) lines, and that these must return the
47 Chinook salmon immediately to the water alive.

48
49 So that's like the eight of them that
50 the Board took action on regarding salmon. I know I

1 went over them fast. I know there's a lot of
2 information there, but I can take questions and
3 hopefully clarify anything we breezed over.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. And actually
6 our phone cut off at the end of -- right when you were
7 wrapping up on the dipnet and seine section, so you
8 might want to repeat the last one. We just came back
9 on line here as you were wrapping up your last
10 statement.

11
12 MR. NEWLAND: Okay. All right. So
13 moving back towards the Proposal 240, that established
14 the times when a commercial gillnet permit holder in
15 the lower river Districts 1 through 3 may use a dipnet
16 and/or beach seine gear to commercially harvest chum
17 salmon during the summer season. All king salmon
18 caught in dipnet and beach seine gear must be returned
19 to the water alive. The beach seine mesh size was
20 specified to be a maximum of four-inch. The maximum
21 stretch mesh on the dipnet was specified to be 4.5 and
22 up to four dipnets may be used by a commercial gillnet
23 permit holder in the lower river. So basically four
24 dipnets per permit holder.

25
26 And then moving on to the District 6
27 fishwheel, Proposal 241, this provided the Department
28 emergency order authority to restrict gear to
29 fishwheels only, require fishwheels to be closely
30 attended, and live release of king salmon in District 6
31 during times of king salmon conservation. Additionally
32 fishwheel construction specifications were adopted to
33 reduce the potential for injury to king salmon which
34 may occur while being captured and released. This
35 basically aligns the District 6 commercial fishwheel
36 fishery with the one that occurred last year in
37 Districts 4A and Kaltag. But also they made the
38 specifications to how fish wheels would be more fish
39 friendly and they must be constructed in a manner that
40 includes baskets sides and bottoms consisting of soft
41 mesh similar to or made of same web, an adjustable or
42 fixed slider chute, and consist of smooth bottom and
43 closed cell foam, lined sides and return Chinook salmon
44 immediately back to the water alive.

45
46 So that's basically bring 6 commercial
47 fish wheels in alignment with District 4. So that's
48 another option we can do to allow for summer chum
49 opportunity while conserving kings just as was done in
50 4A last year where a successful commercial fishery took

1 about 108,000 summer chum.

2

3 And I think that's pretty much it, and
4 if you have questions about this Board of Fish stuff,
5 please feel free to ask now. And I know I went over it
6 fast, but there's a lot of stuff there.

7

8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you.

11 Questions then for Eric. Mary Gregory.

12

13 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment. I
14 don't know who's on line, but we're from the lower part
15 of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, and we do not use
16 dipnets, nor do we have fishwheels here. So I feel
17 that this report should be given to the people who use
18 those things like (In Yup'ik) Upper Kuskokwim and Upper
19 Yukon. The other RAC. Western people. Because that
20 report may be informational for some people, but to me
21 it was not. It didn't concern me.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And this was a
24 report for the Yukon River also. Any other questions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none, thank
29 you, Eric. There's no one else has anything it
30 appears. So thanks, folks.

31

32 MR. NEWLAND: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And we'll go on
35 then to Fish and Game Subsistence Division I believe
36 was the next up.

37

38 DR. IKUTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 Members of the Council. My name is Hiroko Ikuta. I
40 work for the Fish and Game Subsistence Division in the
41 Fairbanks office. I'd like to update two projects that
42 we have been working on in the YK Delta.

43

44 The first one is the Yukon salmon
45 disaster project that I just submitted the executive
46 summary. So in 2009 the Governor declared Yukon salmon
47 disaster, and we received funding from Legislature to
48 understand the socioeconomic impact of declining king
49 salmon runs in the Yukon River communities. So we also
50 documented how people share their subsistence food.

1 So in 2010 we interviewed people in the
2 Yukon River communities: Emmonak, Marshall, Nulato,
3 Beaver, and Eagle. And people shared their concerns
4 about regulations, fish declines, climate change, cost
5 of gas, loss of commercial fisheries. Basically lots
6 of hardships. And many people acknowledged the
7 importance of conservation, but they told us that
8 because of the regulations, they could not meet their
9 needs.

10
11 This project gave us the better
12 understanding of exactly how people have been going
13 through and contextualized the numbers of, you know,
14 how people harvest king salmon.

15
16 So here is -- that is the executive
17 summary, but the final report will be published in the
18 summer of 2013.
19 So in a few months from now.

20
21 And next project that I'd like to talk
22 about is Bethel Community subsistence research that I
23 just submitted. That flyer.

24
25 So this project is something that we
26 have been partnering with ONC. And the purpose of that
27 project is to document the harvest and use of all
28 subsistence resources such as fish, game, birds, plants
29 by the residents of Bethel. At this moment there is
30 not comprehensive subsistence data about subsistence
31 activities in Bethel, so this project will give us a
32 better understanding of how subsistence activities are
33 held in Bethel.

34
35 So starting tomorrow, on March 1st,
36 Fish and Game Staff will start conducting 475 household
37 studies in Bethel over next two months be done.

38
39 So, yes, this concludes my
40 presentation, and I'm happen to receive any questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Hiroko.
43 Questions anybody.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: All around I
48 appreciate that you guys are finally doing this.
49 Bethel is probably the only village on the Kuskokwim
50 that has not received that consideration of

1 documentation of subsistence use, and I think it's long
2 overdue, and I appreciate that it's finally getting
3 done.

4

5 This other flyer that you put out on
6 the socioeconomic effects that's specific to the Yukon,
7 is that something that's going to be incorporated into
8 the report for the Bethel?

9

10 DR. IKUTA: Mr. Chair. They're two
11 different projects, so for the Yukon River salmon
12 disaster, that project was already completed, and so
13 they're not necessarily cooperating together.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: No, not that they
16 would be incorporated together, but that the
17 socioeconomic effects would be addressed, the issue
18 would be addressed within the Bethel survey specific to
19 Bethel.

20

21 DR. IKUTA: Yes, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yes. Okay. Thank
24 you. Anyone else.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: None. Okay.

29

30 DR. IKUTA: Thank you very much.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you. Next,
33 we're still on Department of Fish and Game. What we've
34 got next, I see a couple folks bobbing up and down. Go
35 ahead for the record.

36

37 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. My name
38 is Drew Crawford. I'm with the Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team.

40

41 And I just want to tell you I don't
42 have a report for you, but I want to let you know a
43 little bit about us. We're basically here to try to --
44 if you have needs from the Department of Fish and Game
45 for data, for reports, or you want to hear a certain
46 presentation, Many of you also participate in other
47 advisory committees. If you hear something at one of
48 those that you think the RAC would like to hear, you
49 should let Alex Nick know what your request is for the
50 Department, and he'll submit that to our office and

1 we'll to make that happen for you at your future
2 meetings.
3
4 That's all I have for you at this time,
5 unless you have any question.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. What's your
8 name?
9
10 MR. CRAWFORD: My name is Drew
11 Crawford.
12
13 MS. GREGORY: Drew.
14
15 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes.
16
17 MS. GREGORY: And your a liaison
18 for.....
19
20 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. I'm with the
21 Federal Subsistence Liaison team. It's with the
22 Department of Fish and Game.
23
24 MS. GREGORY: Assigned to the Federal?
25
26 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes,
27
28 MS. GREGORY: Okay. I'm glad that you
29 guys are opening yourself for us to ask and get some
30 information. I like that kind, not just imposing the
31 laws and the regulations on us, but seeking our input
32 for whatever that is needed for us to be served better.
33
34
35 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Drew.
36 Next is commercial fisheries. That's commercial
37 fisheries for the Kuskokwim.
38
39 MR. ELISON: Yes. All right. Mr.
40 Chair. Once again I'm Travis Elison, Fish and Game,
41 Commercial Fisheries. I'm the Kuskokwim area
42 management biologist.
43
44 I just handed you the 2013 news release
45 1. This o notify people of the Board of Fish actions.
46 I apologize. I tried to get this to the Council prior
47 to the meeting. I'm not sure what happened there. But
48 I'm just going to hit on some of the high points here,
49 and I'd be happy to answer any questions. And then
50 I'll move on and try to give a little bit of a head's

1 up of what to expect in the 2013 salmon season.1

2

3

4 So at that 2013 Board meeting in
5 January, the Department presented reports on Kuskokwim
6 River stock status, Kuskokwim River king salmon
7 escapement goal recommendations, and options for
8 revising amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence
9 uses in the Kuskokwim area.

9

10 The Department recommended sustainable
11 escapement goal ranges for Kuskokwim River king salmon
12 as follows. For the Kuskokwim River drainagewide, the
13 Department recommended 65,000 to 120,000. On the
14 Kwethluk River we recommended 4,100 to 7,500. In the
15 Kogrukluk River the new recommended goal would be 4,800
16 to 8,800. And in the George River, the new goal would
17 be 1,800 to 3,300.

18

19 I guess before I move on, is there any
20 questions on escapement goals at this point.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. ELISON: This drainagewide
25 escapement goal is a very new thing for the Kuskokwim
26 River, and we think it will make management of the king
27 fishery much easier and simpler, managing for the
28 entire stock.

29

30 Moving on to the proposal action
31 summary, Proposal 104 was submitted by the Department.
32 This was for customary and traditional subsistence uses
33 of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence
34 use, and to review the amounts necessary for
35 subsistence salmon in the Kuskokwim area. The reason
36 the Department submitted this proposal is we had
37 revised our subsistence harvest estimates, and this was
38 to get the new ANS determination in line with our
39 current estimation methods.

40

41 So the Board finds the following
42 amounts of fish reasonably necessary for subsistence
43 use: In the Kuskokwim River drainage they find 67,200
44 to 109,800 king salmon, 41,200 to 116,400 chum salmon,
45 32,200 to 58,700 sockeye salmon, 27,400 to 57,600 coho
46 salmon, and an additional species that wasn't
47 determined before is pink salmon, and that's 500 to
48 2,000 pink salmon in the Kuskokwim River drainage.
49 There's a separate ANS determination for Districts 4
50 and 5, which are Quinhagak and Goodnews, and they found

1 6,900 to 17,000 salmon, all species combined as the ANS
2 range there. And also new is for the remainder the
3 Kuskokwim area, which is essentially the Bering Sea
4 coast from about from Kong up through Nelson island,
5 and they found 12,500 to 14,400 salmon for an ANS
6 determination there.

7
8 Probably the biggest change -- well,
9 besides the escapement goals are a major change, was
10 Proposal 105, which is update and clarify the Kuskokwim
11 River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan. And I would
12 like to commend all the stakeholders that were involved
13 in that meeting. It was a tremendous effort by all
14 parties, all agencies, everybody really came together
15 and showed that we can still work together on these
16 difficult issues, and try to come up with better
17 solutions to management of these fisheries.

18
19 So amendments to the Kuskokwim River
20 Salmon Management Plan were jointly submitted from the
21 Department and Kuskokwim stakeholders to the Board
22 prior to deliberations on Proposal 105. The new
23 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Plan provides
24 guidelines for managing the Kuskokwim River salmon
25 fishery to meeting escapement goals ad the subsistence
26 priority. The following are the major changes from the
27 old management plan,

28
29 In the king salmon fishery, management
30 will be based on preseason and in-season escapement
31 projections.

32
33 When the projected escapement of king
34 salmon is above the drainagewide escapement goal range,
35 the subsistence fishery will be open seven days per
36 week with unrestricted gillnet mesh size. The
37 commercial and sort fisheries will be managed to
38 provide for harvest opportunity on surplus king salmon
39 in excess of escapement and subsistence needs.

40
41 When the projected escapement is below
42 the drainagewide escapement goal range, the sport,
43 commercial and subsistence king salmon fisheries will
44 close.

45
46 And then in the big area in the middle,
47 when the projected escapement of king salmon is within
48 the drainagewide escapement goal range, harvest
49 opportunity might be limited or liberalized depending
50 on available surplus. To the extent practical, provide

1 subsistence opportunity on surplus in excess of
2 escapement needs with at least one fishing period per
3 week. If there is a limited surplus, a fishing period
4 may be opened during which king salmon may only be
5 taken by individuals 60 years or older. When it is
6 necessary to conserve king salmon, the subsistence
7 fishery may be restricted to four-inch or less mesh
8 until sockeye and chum salmon abundance exceeds king
9 salmon abundance. Actions to conserve king salmon may
10 be applied to the entire Kuskokwim River, its sections,
11 or tributaries, consistent with harvest trends and
12 variability in abundance of king salmon available for
13 harvest as the run progresses upstream. Harvest
14 opportunity may be provided in the commercial and sport
15 fisheries on surplus king salmon in excess of
16 escapement and subsistence needs.

17
18 The commercial fishery will be managed
19 to ensure there is no significant impact on escapement
20 or subsistence opportunity on salmon species harvested
21 incidentally in the commercial fishery directed at
22 other species. When king salmon are abundant, the
23 commercial fishery will be managed conservatively to
24 ensure escapement goals are achieved and reasonable
25 opportunity for subsistence use is provided in
26 consideration of harvest trends to maintain adequate
27 abundance of king salmon available to subsistence users
28 throughout the drainage. When the projected escapement
29 of king salmon is within the drainagewide escapement
30 goal range, the first commercial period may not occur
31 until after June 23rd; only waters of Subdistrict 1-B
32 may be opened during the first commercial period; and
33 72 hours must pass between the first Subdistrict 1-B
34 opening and the first Subdistrict 1-A opening.

35
36 In the sport fishery, actions to
37 conserve king salmon will be implemented when king
38 salmon are reset, consistent with migratory timing as
39 the run progresses upstream.

40
41 I'll touch on Proposal 106, which was
42 also submitted to address the management plan and
43 optimal escapement goals for king salmon. The Board
44 took no action on that proposal based on the amended
45 language, and also the recommended escapement goal for
46 the new management plan.

47
48 Proposal 110 was also adopted. This
49 was for gillnet specifications and operations, and this
50 removed the option for a gillnet mesh to be up to eight

1 inches in District 1 of the Kuskokwim River commercial
2 fishery.

3

4 So those are the three proposals that
5 were adopted by the Board. The other proposals that
6 weren't are listed on here, and here, and if anybody
7 has any specific questions, I'd be happy to answer
8 those.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Travis.
11 Questions.

12

13 And just a clarification that a lot of
14 people miss, and it should be keyed onto every time,
15 regarding your Proposal 110 on the removing the use of
16 eight-inch gillnet from regulation. That applies only
17 to the commercial fishery, not the subsistence fishery.

18

19 MR. ELISON: Correct.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Questions. Noah,
22 go ahead.

23

24 MR. N. ANDREW: Are these the only
25 tributaries of Kuskokwim you used to determine the
26 escapement goal? You're covering Kwethluk so many
27 thousands here. Is that based on weir -- your records
28 based on the weir and your numbers as far as towards
29 that river is concerned. There are other tributaries,
30 you know . The Bogus Creek and other tributaries. Are
31 these ever been aerial count on these tributaries?
32 Where's your number on them

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Drew.

35

36 MR. CRAWFORD: Through the Chair. Mr.
37 Andrew. still do still have our aerial surveys
38 conducting through the drainage, and we do have -- I'm
39 not sure exact numbers, it's probably around eight or
40 nine aerial survey escapement goals. Those were not
41 changed. The assessment's the same, and they were
42 determined to be adequate based on the data that we
43 have available for aerial surveys.

44

45 The major change here is this
46 drainagewide goal, and that's a new assessment method
47 that we haven't -- it's just been developed over the
48 past 10 years, and was finally published last summer.
49 And what that does, it takes into account all the data
50 we collect on the salmon, the Chinook salmon run

1 throughout the summer, so it includes subsistence
2 harvest estimates, commercial harvest, aerial survey
3 escapement counts, weir-based escapement counts, and
4 also run timing at Bethel. And what that new method
5 does, it's called a run reconstruction, and it gives us
6 a total estimate of how many fish came back in a given
7 year to the entire drainage, how many were harvested
8 and therefore how many escaped to the entire drainage.
9 And using that information, that data set, we developed
10 this new goal which is based on trying to get a better
11 production and trying to optimize production. And this
12 one's not based on maximum sustained yield. It's
13 actually based on having maximum recruitment, which is
14 having the most number of fish come back each year.

15
16 And then once we had that drainagewide
17 goal, we needed to reassess our tributary goals. And
18 one big concern was having the tributary goals based on
19 a different scale than the drainagewide, so these
20 tributary goals are based on the average proportion of
21 the total escapement that goes into those tributaries
22 based on historical counts there. And all of these
23 tributary goals are lower than what they previously
24 were, although they're still very conservative, and
25 definitely considered sustainable.

26
27 As far as the Tuluksak, that tributary
28 escapement goal was discontinued. It was determined
29 that we didn't have a good enough data set to really
30 have a good idea of what the production would be there,
31 and additionally were the concerns for the habitat, and
32 that it's a severely impacted stream as far as salmon
33 habitat goes. And therefore it doesn't really track
34 like these other systems do. It has different issues,
35 although the escapement goal's no longer there, we do
36 still intend to take actions to protect the Tuluksak
37 River tributary stock along with the other tributaries,
38 even the ones that's aren't monitored.

39
40 And the assessment is as far as I know
41 from Fish and Wildlife Service we're planning to
42 continue the assessment of Tuluksak River weir.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead and follow
45 up there, Noah.

46
47 MR. N. ANDREW: I'd like for both of
48 you, the Federal and the State to confer with Tuluksak
49 Native Community with this approach before you took off
50 about -- that report's contrary to what we pursue, and

1 I would like for both of you to contact the village
2 council, I can give you their phone number right now,
3 and determine some way to work with them, because as we
4 do, the fish we count must be precise, and somewhere
5 along the line some way we lost count, and that will
6 affect us -- that affects us when count is different
7 ways. Windows, for example. And I wish that -- I
8 encourage you to contact the community.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan, you had?

13

14 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. Mr.
15 Andrew. Yes, we fully intend to do that, and as a
16 matter of fact that's one reason Mr. Miller is up there
17 today is to talk with people about, you know, that we
18 may -- the fact that we may have to take some preseason
19 conservation actions there, and to get some feedback
20 from people there at Tuluksak and the Council.

21

22 But as we further develop, work with
23 the State to develop some objectives, management
24 objectives for the Tuluksak, we'd like to then discuss
25 that with the village there and get, you know,
26 agreement with the village that these are good
27 objectives to have, and that they understand that those
28 are going to be what we would manage for in the future.

29

30 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, finish
33 up.

34

35 MR. N. ANDREW: Just kind of remind me
36 about how my colleague Bob was feeling earlier,
37 frustrated. And I, too, have some kind of frustration
38 what I am a member of the advisory council, and I must
39 get an accurate count, accurate balance in what are
40 being there. I do have some working relationships
41 there with that advisory counsel. And we are in the
42 same boat now as far as I'm concerned. We'd like to
43 paddle the same time.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan.

48

49 MR. GILLIKIN: If I may, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. GILLIKIN: I just gave you a brief
4 summary handout of what the count was for last year and
5 historically on the Tuluksak, and there's certainly as
6 you know through Mr. Miller, there's a much more
7 detailed report available every year that tells us what
8 the fish counts are through the weir.

9

10 But what we're talking about is
11 establishing, because we've dropped the escapement goal
12 there, we still want to have in place some kind of
13 objective. We don't want to just, you know, write that
14 system off, because we think it's very important to the
15 community, and so we want to come up with some kind of
16 a management objective, and we want community input on
17 that, and we're probably going to begin discussing some
18 of that as early as the end of next week. And we'd be
19 happy -- once we kind of lay out the basic framework,
20 we'd be happy to bring that to the council up there and
21 discuss it with them.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary.

24

25 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
26 commend Mr. Elison for a job, that you gave us a really
27 good report, and I know a lot of research was done, and
28 you can recognize when people have been working really
29 hard to get the reports and stuff they're going to
30 present to us, make it right and tell it as it is. And
31 I really enjoyed this report, because it's precise and
32 very informative. And I encourage other presenters to
33 do the same. And to talk in layman terms, which is
34 very good for us.

35

36 MR. ELISON: Quyana.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Other questions.

39 And I'm presuming this is also the joint Kusko
40 fisheries update, and we're still on Fish and Game
41 right here.

42

43 James, you had.....

44

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

46

47 This report that we got is looking
48 good, and like Mary said, and we think you for your
49 hard work. And we know that the Board of Fish was
50 working on this one, too, with the help of other people

1 that testified. I was there, too, and you guys were
2 there. And working together like this makes things
3 look good for the users.

4
5 And my village, there was a resolution
6 from my village to change the ANS numbers, because we
7 harvest more chums than kings in the past, or since I
8 was a kid. And they saw that the numbers on kings were
9 higher than chums, so they made a resolution and had
10 you work on it, and the Board of Fish accepted that and
11 they amended the proposal 104.

12
13 And then 105 that the Board of Fish
14 amended with the help of people. I like that Napaskiak
15 resolution, too, that allows the older people to catch
16 Chinook salmon, and what I had -- Greg and I and most
17 working group and as you know, we are there at the
18 meetings. When I can't come to the meeting, I'm on
19 teleconference.

20
21 And what made me think one time this
22 summer, or the past summer, was all those commercial
23 people changed to subsistence when we're talking about
24 subsistence fishing. So that's my question there, do
25 you change to subsistence fishery when it's time to
26 talk about subsistence fishing. That's my question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Have you got an
29 answer for that one here?

30
31 MR. ELISON: Through the Chair. Mr.
32 Charles. Yes. I guess officially my title's Kuskokwim
33 River commercial fisheries management biologist, but in
34 reality I'm commercial and subsistence fisheries
35 management biologist. And I should probably introduce
36 myself as such.

37
38 MR. NICK: Mary.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: Under your proposal 105,
41 one, two, three four, fifth paragraph in the middle
42 where Mr. Charles just alluded to, that if there's a
43 limited supply, fishing may be opened during king
44 salmon only to be taken only by 60 years or older. I
45 have a question there. I am over -- I am 70-something,
46 and my husband is in his 80s, and we cannot go out and
47 fish for ourselves no more. So how do I go about
48 getting my king salmon.

49
50 MR. ELISON: Through the Chair. Ms.

1 Gregory. This doesn't have all the details in here,
2 and part of that 60-year-old provision is that a family
3 member within second degree of kinship, which is a
4 pretty broad definition. It's, you know, brother,
5 sister, daughter.

6

7

MS. GREGORY: Grandson.

8

9

MR. ELISON: Yep, grandson. People
10 like that can go fishing with that person. So the
11 stipulation is that somebody 60 years or older has to
12 be on the boat while fishing, but they can be helped
13 out by family members. And part of the Board's purpose
14 behind that was, is they wanted to encourage the
15 teaching of subsistence practices to younger
16 generations by having people 60 years or older with
17 their grandsons or grandchildren, for instance,
18 fishing, and to help pass that on even when we are just
19 having very limited fishing in a very bad year like we
20 had last year.

21

22

MS. GREGORY: And my concern comes up
23 for those (In Yup'ik) game warden. If I go out, or my
24 husband goes out with our grandson to get our king
25 salmon, and then a game warden happens to land by them
26 with a plane, what happens there?

27

28

MR. ELISON: Well, that really I guess
29 depends on the situation. So the 60-year-old
30 provision, and it's similar to this one period per
31 week. It is when we are in a situation where we think
32 we're probably going to meet our escapement goal, but
33 there's only a little of fish available to harvest and
34 still meet that escapement goal. So since escapement
35 comes first, we have to manage for escapement, but if
36 we identify that we have a small number of fish for
37 somebody to take, then we can say, we don't think
38 there's enough for everybody with a boat and a net to
39 go out and go fishing for six hours. They'd catch too
40 many fish, and we wouldn't meet our goals. So this is
41 the kind of thing we'd bring up with the working group
42 and get input from the stakeholders on if they would
43 like to see us open it up to maybe six hours where it's
44 only open to people who are 60 years old or older. And
45 that would be something we announce in a news release,
46 so it would be specific to a specific fishing period. But
47 if that's the case where it's open to people 60 years
48 or older, and you're out fishing with your
49 grandchildren, and a trooper stops by, then there
50 shouldn't be a problem with that.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: David, you had.....

2

3 MR. BILL: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman. I might be off the record or something by
5 saying this. I was there at the Board of Fisheries
6 meeting. I guess what I'm trying to say is it's the
7 worst ever I've been to the meeting. I went home
8 disappointed, really disappointed. Most or all of the
9 proposal that came from Kuskokwim area, they all
10 failed. And other proposal made it okay. What I mean
11 by that is other areas, weren't from subsistence, they
12 made it okay. But all of the subsistence proposals,
13 they all failed from Kuskokwim. I just want to know, I
14 guess I'm trying to -- what I'm trying to understand is
15 how come is it like that this year. I've been going to
16 Alaska Board of Meetings since 1980s. This is the
17 first time I ever seen anything like this. That's my
18 question, I think you know, and why did that happen.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Travis.

21

22 MR. ELISON: Through the Chair. I
23 don't have a very good answer for it. A couple of
24 specific proposals, 107, the king salmon possession
25 limits for drying and cold smoke purposes, there was a
26 lot of concerns about limiting one specific subsistence
27 use and one specific subsistence processing practice,
28 and also a lot of concerns over how you would enforce
29 it. So that one didn't seem very practical to the
30 Board I don't think.

31

32 Similarly with the subsistence fishing
33 permits, I think they looked at that as an additional
34 requirement to subsistence users that they don't have
35 right now. And we're hoping to address the concern
36 that I think was the reason behind Proposal 108 through
37 research and i think in the most recent FRMP they're
38 actually looking at trying to get a study going to
39 document how many fish are leaving the Kuskokwim area.

40

41

42 As far as Proposal 109, the customary
43 trade, I really don't know why they didn't adopt it for
44 the Kuskokwim area. I'm not sure. I can't remember
45 the deliberations on that.

46

47 Those were the main other subsistence
48 proposals that failed.

49

50 MR. BILL: A follow up, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, David.
2
3 MR. BILL: Proposal Number.....
4
5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Your mic.
6
7 MR. BILL: Yeah. Proposal No. 107, I
8 think that was the worst part of it, because of the
9 cold smoking. They did not -- the Board members were
10 talking about they did not know what cold smoking was.
11 So they decided to vote against it, because they didn't
12 know what cold smoking is. I think that was really
13 unfair.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MR. ELISON: Through the Chair. I wish
18 Mr. Aloysius was here. I'm sure he'd have two cents to
19 put on this, but I mean, even among the subsistence
20 users in the Kuskokwim area, there wasn't really
21 agreement on the definition of cold smoke and what that
22 was. So I really don't have much to say to that.
23
24 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Cold smoke is
25 the way we smoke our fish. It's a Yup'ik way and there
26 should be no question about it. The gussack way of
27 smoking is you put it in a container and you put the
28 thing on it and you half cook and half smoke them.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah, you cook him.
31
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: But I guess I'd
36 just offer I was there as well, and it wasn't the
37 intent of the proposal that the Board really turned on.
38 It was just mainly in the language in their entirety,
39 and we were actually encouraged to go back and rework
40 that. That was put in by my tribal council, anyway, to
41 put that into place.
42
43 And I guess I'd just say I got a little
44 bit of a different view. Even these are all the
45 proposals, there weren't any other proposals, anything
46 to deal with commercial as far as the Kuskokwim goes.
47
48 But the language that we came up with
49 in the management plan incorporated so many of the
50 other concerns, I guess I would view it a little

1 different. I've been going to Board of Fish meetings,
2 too, since the late 1980s, and this is the most
3 productive that we've ever gotten the Board of Fish to
4 accommodate concerns for the Kuskokwim region that I've
5 ever experienced. And that's not to say there's not
6 plenty of criticism yet, and I'm almost worried that
7 this went so well, I'm waiting to see what's going to
8 come back and bite us on it. I don't know. Just have
9 to wait and see.

10

11 Dan.

12

13 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Thank
14 you.

15

16 I just wanted to reiterate that many --
17 it was my observation that many of the concerns
18 addressed, the intents of the proposals that were
19 presented to the Board of Fish were actually
20 incorporated into the management plan or into other
21 proposals that did pass.

22

23 And I worked with the folks at Kwethluk
24 specifically on their proposal, and there was some
25 language, some wording problems with that specific
26 proposal, but we also made it very clear that, you
27 know, we currently have the ability to restrict that
28 fishery within our authorities if we have a
29 conservation concern. And we really want to recognize
30 the Village of Kwethluk and their efforts towards
31 conservation of the fishery there. And we understand
32 the intent of what people are trying to do, but
33 oftentimes just some of the technicalities are just
34 it's either not possible, or that authority, we already
35 have the authority to do that if we need to do that.

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I thought you
38 had additional information before Mr. Bill got the
39 floor. You.

40

41 MR. GILLIKIN: Me?

42

43 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Is there any other
44 additional on the presentation. Did you have
45 additional presentation for the Kusko fishery?

46

47 MR. GILLIKIN: No, I do not. I think
48 Travis was just going to talk about the outlook, the
49 preliminary outlook for this coming season.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. We're ready
2 to go into that. Or, I'm sorry. Noah, did you have
3 another question.

4
5 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. One
6 more.

7
8 On Proposal No. 112. I'm hoping that
9 this go into anything, that eight-inch would be used
10 after the kind season is over. This four-inch and
11 seven-and-half-inch are going to decline the king
12 salmon, to lower adult king salmon. Adult king salmon
13 are the ones that spawn, and it is very, very sensitive
14 on this fish that the (In Yup'ik) is very, very
15 sensitive. You hit it on the four-inch, it's going to
16 somehow get that fish, it will die somewhere along the
17 way. Hopefully after it spawns, but that's one of the
18 very most -- very thing we want to stay away, when
19 these large king salmon enter for spawning. And I just
20 want to put it there, it's declining our species.
21 That's one of the reasons which declines our species by
22 majority. The fish eggs in their hundreds, maybe
23 thousands of fish for using that four-inch.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Ready to
28 move onto the outlook then.

29
30 MR. ELISON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I don't
31 have anything prepared. We're still doing our data
32 analysis of the run last year. We just got our very
33 first look at subsistence harvest estimates and our
34 first look at our run reconstruction, escapement
35 estimate. We still need to a lot of error checking,
36 make sure we don't have any fat finger mistakes or any
37 just errors in the data in general.

38
39 But 2012 was definitely one of the
40 lowest years we've seen on the Kuskokwim River. And it
41 was by far the lowest subsistence harvest we've seen
42 since we've been estimating subsistence harvest here.
43 But on the up side, the escapements were pretty good.
44 For instance, the George River escapement was within
45 the new recommended escapement goal range, which is
46 good. And escapements overall are higher probably than
47 2011 and 2010. But the total run, total number of kind
48 salmon coming back to the Kuskokwim River was probably
49 lower than we've seen in 2010 or '11.

50

1 With that said, we do have these new
2 escapement goals which may potentially provide for more
3 opportunity, even given a small run like we had last
4 year, but the anticipation is if we have a similar run
5 size to what we did last year, there will be need for
6 considerable conservation actions. Hopefully nothing
7 as drastic as what we had last year. Potentially we
8 could allow a small window of opportunity, maybe a
9 short period while the kings are there, before the chum
10 and sockeye show up. It's hard to say. It will all be
11 based on in-season assessment.

12
13 As far as preseason actions, we'll
14 likely have tributary closures like we have the past
15 couple of years, like in the Tuluksak and Kwethluk and
16 Aniak. And then we're not planning on closing the
17 subsistence fishery right away. We'll watch and see
18 what the run develops. Hopefully we're lucky and we
19 get a good run and maybe we won't have to do anything
20 too drastic.

21
22 One thing I do want the Council here to
23 recognize is the potential for six-inch mesh
24 restrictions once chum and sockeye show up. It's
25 definitely there. I would recommend if people are
26 planning on buying new mesh, new net, get something in
27 six-inch or less, because we found last year that was a
28 very good conservation measure for king salmon. People
29 were able to get a lot of chum and sockeye salmon,
30 which may not have been their preferred fish, but at
31 least they were able to get salmon, and we saw very few
32 kings getting caught during that time when those chum
33 and sockeye were there.

34
35 As far as the four-inch, there's a
36 potential to go to four-inch restricted mesh before
37 chum and sockeye show up. And I just want to remind
38 people that that net is not to be used for salmon
39 fishing, period. If you target salmon with that, you
40 can be cited. So that is to be used for whitefish.
41 You know, we allow four-inch mesh or less, because
42 people are living the subsistence lifestyle and people
43 need something to eat, even if it's not their preferred
44 food. We like to at least give people a chance to go
45 out and catch some whitefish or other fish. So
46 hopefully we don't have a problem with that. I mean,
47 if we end up in dire straights and not meeting
48 escapement goals at all, then we could potentially have
49 to take that option of four-inch away if it's become a
50 problem, and we're seeing a lot of kings getting

1 harvested with that. Something to keep in mind.

2

3 So we'll have our preliminary
4 subsistence harvest estimates, and our preliminary run
5 reconstruction estimates available by the Kuskokwim
6 InterAgency and working group meeting, which I believe
7 is I think March 20th to the 22nd in Anchorage. So
8 we're planning to present a joint recommendation for
9 preseason management actions and to work up a preseason
10 management strategy, and then we'll plan to discuss
11 that with the working group to come up with a final
12 management strategy going into the 2013 season, and
13 then we'll follow that up and issue another news
14 release similar to this one detailing what the strategy
15 is and what the outlook is going into 2013 based on
16 what happens at the working group meeting there and
17 those discussions.

18

19 As far as other species other than
20 kings, we don't really have any concerns for chum,
21 sockeye or coho. So as far as commercial fishing, we
22 probably won't initiate commercial fishing until July
23 again, because we're anticipating a low king salmon
24 run, but that's one of those things we'll know once we
25 have our in-season assessment.

26

27 So that's about all I have for the
28 Council. I'll take any questions.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Dan, did you have
33 anything to add. Other questions, anybody.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: None. I guess
38 we'll see you in a couple weeks.

39

40 MR. ELISON: Yep. Let the fun begin.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Yeah. Okay. Going
43 into the organization report. AVCP is first up here.

44

45 MR. T. ANDREW: Good afternoon, Mr.
46 Chairman. Members of the YK RAC. For the record, my
47 name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the director of natural
48 resources for AVCP.

49

50 And my apologies for not attending

1 yesterday. I was trying to get on livestreaming with
2 the Area M meeting that's occurring in Anchorage at
3 this time.

4
5 But there are several issues that I'd
6 like to bring before the Council. Number 1 is the
7 Council meetings that used to occur in the villages
8 were extremely valuable to people as we travelled to
9 various communities. And it encouraged citizen
10 involvement, not only from people from Bethel or from
11 close proximity villages, but also a broad cross
12 section of people in the outlying areas. I remember
13 meeting out there in Hooper Bay where we had local
14 testimony provided by local subsistence users. We had
15 a meeting in Alaknuk, in Emmonak, in Aniak and various
16 other villages. Unfortunately this level of
17 bureaucracy that came in upon us to where we have to
18 meet here in Bethel or in other approved communities, I
19 think it's working against the Federal subsistence
20 management system. I think it discourages a lot of
21 people in our villages from applying for these RAC
22 positions, because they're not involved any more. The
23 only opportunity that they have to be involve is to
24 travel to Bethel, and traveling to Bethel, as you know,
25 is extremely important. But, you know, hopefully at
26 some point this level of bureaucracy that is upon us
27 will be removed and allow us to once again meet in the
28 villages. I think to bring the management to the
29 villages is more important than bringing the villages
30 to the management process.

31
32 The other area I'd like to talk about
33 is muskox. We have a pretty good number of muskox that
34 is starting to settle in the mainland. As you know,
35 several years ago there was one that -- or one group
36 that was extremely highly publicized, unfortunately it
37 was a harvest by a group of people and they got caught
38 in the process by both Federal and State law
39 enforcement. And we can't continue to see this
40 population or this muskox population go on our mainland
41 and there's no management plan. There's no objectives.
42 There's no goals. There's no harvestable surplus
43 identified. And there's muskox in the Askinuks, the
44 Kusilvaks, the Monday (ph) volcanoes north of the Yukon
45 River, even past, beyond the mountains up here into
46 McGrath.

47
48 And the current Federal management
49 system, if you look in the regulation book, it
50 currently says that there's no Federal priority. So

1 what does that mean? Does that mean that these things
2 are being seen as invasive species, or illegally
3 introduced species, or what? But they send their law
4 enforcements out there to enforce the law. And there's
5 no management plan.

6
7 So we are putting pressure on the
8 Refuge to try and develop a muskox management plan to
9 allow people in our villages to harvest the harvestable
10 surplus if there's one identified, and some of these
11 discrete populations start to develop to higher
12 populations.

13
14 The other thing is that at our last
15 convention in October, we had a resolution that was
16 forwarded to the Alaska Federation of Natives
17 Convention to host a Congressional hearing on
18 subsistence. And the Senate Indian Affairs, which both
19 Senators Murkowski and Begich sit on had committed to
20 coming out. One of the hearings will be held here in
21 Bethel; the other hearing will be held within the AHTNA
22 region. And their primary purpose is to hear from
23 people about how the Federal subsistence management
24 system is impacting their subsistence way of life. To
25 identify some of the weaknesses, some of the strengths.
26 And some of the other Federal issues like, for example,
27 the bycatch issue.

28
29 We are currently in the process of
30 working on the Yukon and Kuskokwim Intertribal
31 Fisheries Commissions. We are trying to identify at
32 least five individuals from each river system to travel
33 down to the Pacific Northwest, probably into Portland
34 and perhaps the Seattle area, to visit the Northwest
35 Indian Fisheries Commission and also the Columbia River
36 Indian Fisheries Commission in hopes to launch our
37 fisheries commissions in this state.

38
39 As far as moose, we've heard from a
40 number of our communities regarding what Harry had just
41 brought up earlier about the issue about transporters
42 coming in, dropping off people in various locations.
43 In fact around the community of St. Mary's, I might
44 have reported to you before, but they've come in and
45 dropped off people in the Andreafsky River. The people
46 from St. Mary's travel up that river. They moose hunt
47 around that area, and they came upon these
48 transporters, and the transporters -- I mean, the
49 clients of transporters, and these guys, I don't know
50 where they're from. I don't know if they were from

1 out-of-state or in-state, but they asked these people
2 from St. Mary's, what are you doing up here? You're
3 not supposed to be here, this is our hunting area.

4
5 There has to be tribal consultation in
6 the placement of transporters where they're affecting
7 the local people. You know, had the Refuge manager had
8 the Refuge Staff come out to St. Mary's or perhaps
9 Mountain Village and work with the community, identify
10 areas where they can place these people, it would
11 greatly keep the peace I think within the management of
12 our moose populations.

13
14 We are working on salmon mortality, and
15 identifying all sorts of salmon mortality, whether it
16 occurs in the river systems. I know on the river
17 systems the terminal streams are really easy areas to
18 identify where salmon mortality's occurring. But
19 within the ocean we identified, as everybody else, that
20 bycatch is one of the biggest issues. But
21 unfortunately in the Gulf of Alaska the only way that
22 they identify salmon is through coated wire tags, those
23 little tags that they put into the nose of the salmon.
24 And we don't have that ability within the Bering Sea or
25 Western Alaska systems to put coated wire tags into our
26 salmon. So what we're trying to do is persuade the
27 Gulf of Alaska fishery managers to start utilizing
28 genetic analysis to identify where these Chinook salmon
29 are coming from. You know, in my opinion, that's our
30 Chinook salmon, both Yukon, Kuskokwim River Chinook
31 salmon do not necessarily stay within the Bering Sea,
32 but possibly venture out into the Gulf of Alaska.

33
34 In fact, I was talking to a fisherman
35 Chignik. He said that they harvest Chinook salmon in
36 their commercial fishery as bycatch or incidental
37 harvest, and they can't eat them, because they're so
38 fat in the Chignik commercial fishery. And their egg
39 skeins are about that long. Who knows where those fish
40 are coming from. They could be from the Yukon for the
41 Kuskokwim River.

42
43 And the other issue is we have the
44 tribal trials, trials of our fishermen coming up in
45 April, coming up here within the next month or so.
46 During last fall's trials, we've lost -- initially lost
47 the three cases, but hopefully with the First Amendment
48 emphasis in this trial, we will succeed further, or
49 succeed in these cases.

50

1 And the last thing I'd like to bring up
2 is the elimination of the Tuluksak River escapement
3 goals. There is a downside to that in my opinion. And
4 the reason why I'm saying that there's a downside to
5 that is because what if we get to a point where we can
6 only allow for terminal stream harvest, like, for
7 example, those river systems that have escapement
8 goals. Kwethluk, Tuluksak, Aniak. And here you can't
9 harvest the -- can't harvest within the Kuskokwim
10 drainage, but allow for -- but possibly allow for
11 terminal stream harvest beyond the escapement goals.
12 And the danger of eliminating escapement goals in the
13 Tuluksak is exactly that, allowing for perhaps a
14 community harvest of beyond the escapement goals.
15 Perhaps this is something that the RAC should consider
16 at some point is to look at these escapement goals and,
17 you know, close proximity communities, you know, allow
18 for that surplus to be harvested if there's a surplus.

19
20 That basically concludes AVCP's report.
21 And I'd be happy to answer any questions if anybody
22 would have any.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Tim.
25 Questions. James.

26
27 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 Last year about April AVCP put up a
30 salmon convention here in Bethel, and I was one of the
31 speakers. And there was a plan after the convention or
32 second day I think it was, there was a plan and the
33 Yukon group met in one area, and Kuskokwim met in one
34 area. And made a plan to do if the salmon, or Chinook
35 salmon return was low. They made a plan. But it
36 didn't work. When people, the Council or the village
37 representatives went back, and I don't think majority
38 of the council members passed the word along to their
39 villages. I can see who did a good job, like Kwethluk
40 and a few other villages, Napaskiak and a few villages
41 worked. And their people, the people I see who did not
42 take the word back to their villages complained all
43 summer. Complain, complain, and illegal fishing, too.
44 So that didn't work. So I wish something like that
45 happens and work. Because I saw that all the village
46 members or representatives didn't take the information
47 back to their villages. It was hard work for us.
48 There was Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of
49 Fish and Game at that meeting. The meeting was in here
50 in this building. And I felt sorry for that, for those

1 people who didn't take the information back to their
2 villages.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
7 Charles for bringing that up. You know, those
8 situations are kind of beyond our control, but perhaps
9 one consideration that the Department should consider
10 is holding the Kuskokwim preseason planning meeting
11 along with the working group in the Community of Bethel
12 or within the region rather than holding it in
13 Anchorage where it's virtually impossible for people to
14 come in and participate. I think we'd get probably a
15 lot more public participation. You know, public
16 participation as you know within this process and also
17 the working group process is extremely important, and a
18 lot of considerations are taken. And, you know, when
19 people feel like they have the ownership of managing
20 the resource, they bring that information home. They
21 participate in it. And, you know, having the meetings
22 300, 400 miles east of here and approximately \$600 in
23 the airfare alone, you know, that shouldn't be
24 happening. That should be happening here in this
25 community. And I think people would bring their
26 messages home.

27

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Other questions for
28 AVCP.

29

30

(No comments)

31

32

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I have a couple.
34 You mentioned about these Congressional hearings and
35 working on the fish commissions and so forth. Is there
36 any ballpark time identified when they might come out
37 here yet?

38

39

MR. T. ANDREW: Senator Murkowski's
40 office indicated that they would likely come out during
41 the month of March. But with this Congressional
42 sequester that is occurring, that might be delayed into
43 April. I'm not sure. But they did commit to holding
44 the hearings in Bethel and also in the AHTNA region.

45

CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: And that would be
46 the members of the Alaska delegation, not necessarily
47 our new chairman or other members of this Senate Indian
48 Affairs?
49

50

1 MR. T. ANDREW: I believe it would be
2 the entire Senate Indian Affairs. Senator Begich was
3 also wanting to include the Commerce Committee as well
4 since there's a lot of talk about the bycatch issue and
5 our fisheries.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: It's a good idea.
8 Dave and then Mary.

9
10 MR. BILL: You were talking about
11 muskox earlier, and I guess you said that there was no
12 enforcement down there for them, or they're running all
13 over the place now from Nelson Island? I don't think
14 anybody can do anything about it, because once the
15 appurtenance (ph) freezes over, the muskoxes are going
16 to the mainland. And we know that muskox will never
17 survive in the flat land. When the muskox gets wet,
18 it's going to stay wet in the flat land. They don't
19 know how to swim. They can't swim. There's too much
20 hair on them. They'll just sink. If you want to be a
21 -- if there should be enforcement down there for
22 muskox, they got be there for a whole winter, and bring
23 them back right after the storm. That's how they're
24 going to do. There's nothing you can do about it.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. I'm not saying
29 that there's no enforcement. There's a lot of
30 enforcement. I mean, people getting cited for
31 harvesting muskox. There's no management plan.
32 There's nothing out there.

33
34 But, you know, there's -- when the
35 Nelson Island park or one of the -- several of the
36 Nelson Island animals came onto mainland, they came on
37 during the winter. In fact, there's one that went
38 within two years from Nelson Island, went all the way
39 up, way far up the river, I can't remember, Aniak or
40 somewhere, and then two years later came back to Nelson
41 Island.

42
43 So, you know, the Nelson Island herd is
44 really expanding. They're settling in Askinuk
45 Mountains, the Kusilvaks, north of the Yukon River. In
46 fact, even up here in these mountains here.

47
48 But there's just no management plan.
49 There's no objective. And we need to move towards that
50 to allow for perhaps a limited harvest.

1 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Pippa.

4

5 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa, an
6 anthropologist with OSM in Anchorage. Pippa Kenner.
7 Tim, in the Board's reply to the Council's annual
8 report, one of the things that the Board suggests the
9 Council or some individual do is to submit a proposal
10 during our wildlife proposal season, which is now, for
11 customary and traditional use determination of muskox.
12 Is that something you might consider.

13

14 MR. T. ANDREW: Certainly, Pippa. And
15 thank you for bringing that up, and AVCP would be more
16 than happy. I'm glad to submit a C&T proposal.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Mary, you had your
19 hand up.

20

21 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) Quyana AVCP
22 for always looking out for the Yup'ik people and going
23 into meetings and speaking for us, because (In Yup'ik).

24

25 MR. T. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any others. Alex,
28 you had.....

29

30 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Tim, I have
31 couple of information from the past meetings that RAC
32 held, and you probably remember that one of the first
33 issues that you recommended was that the RAC should
34 meet in the villages, and that's Mary's concern, too,
35 that's several members' concern. But the RAC heard
36 budget report from one of the OSM staff members, Dr.
37 Jenkins. That's been concern by the Council several
38 meetings, you know, in the past, and because the
39 budget, we haven't been able to do that. We might be
40 able to do that in the future when funds are approved,
41 you know, to do so.

42

43 And another one that I wanted to remind
44 the Council about is the muskox issue. In the past
45 muskox has been in the Council agenda. And there was a
46 recommendation by one of the RAC members from the Yukon
47 that there should be a muskox moratorium, like moose.
48 I believe that individual was supposed to work with the
49 Refuge Staff and us, you know, but I'm not sure if it
50 went forward. I didn't go forward I don't think. But,

1 you know, recommendations are good that was given by
2 Pippa I believe. It was one of them.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Anything else for
7 AVCP.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana, Tim.

12

13 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Next is
16 Orutsararmiut, and we have Roberta here to do her
17 fisheries presentation.

18

19 MS, CHAVEZ: Good afternoon, Mr.
20 Chairman and RAC Board members. My name is Roberta
21 Chavez. I am the fisheries biologist for ONC. I was
22 hired at the end of September to replace Eva Patton.

23

24 And I was hired in time to perform the
25 in-season volunteer fish survey, which we conducted
26 from October to November. And our surveys conducted
27 probably about 90 percent of the households in Bethel.
28 We were supposed to survey 1,034 households; we
29 surveyed 90 percent of that with the help of Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game and two technicians that we
31 hired, Iana Dall and Lawson Coaster.

32

33 Let's see. Okay. We had some issues
34 with the surveys when it came to some of the households
35 refused because of the closures this summer, and the
36 problems that occurred with the closures, and the days
37 that they were allowed to fish it was raining, so it
38 didn't allow for the people to dry their fish properly,
39 so there was some spoilage. And the mesh sizes with
40 the nets, a lot of people don't have the money to
41 purchase the right size nets. And also Alissa just
42 pointed out to me that the four-inch mesh size that was
43 used, some Chinook juveniles were caught in the nets.
44 And so we had some refusals, and some people did not
45 want to participate, and they were very upset. Even
46 though they did not want to participate, we still
47 requested their comments, and what can we do to improve
48 these issues, to make it better for next year. So with
49 the surveys, even though they refused, we went ahead
50 and wrote their comments down.

1 The other complaints we had were the
2 fuel prices.

3
4 We also had some members who took
5 conservation measures and did not want to or they did
6 not catch any Chinook salmon, because they knew the
7 numbers were low. So we had a lot of participants who
8 also conserved and caught chums and sockeye in replace
9 of the Chinook salmon.

10
11 Let's see. I guess that's the main
12 issues that came up during the end of season surveys.

13
14 This spring in May we're going to begin
15 our in-season surveys. I was just talking about the
16 end of season volunteer fish surveys. So in May we'll
17 begin the fish surveys with the help of our two techs,
18 Alissa and Iana, and we're hoping that we have a good
19 season this year. And hopefully Fish and Game, and U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife will take into consideration all the
21 comments that -- or actually Fish and Game, that the
22 participants gave us during these surveys.

23
24 Do you have any questions or comments.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: questions. Mary.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment. I
31 really enjoy your report. And it looked like you just
32 jumped in there, get your feet wet and did something.
33 And I'm glad that you went around to the Bethel
34 residents. I wouldn't have participated because I
35 wasn't allowed to catch fish. And I'm glad the people
36 revolted in that manner, which is okay. I mean, if we
37 keep being regulated and deprived from doing something,
38 we're going to revolt. We're going to go out and defy
39 in one way or another. And there's nothing wrong with
40 that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any other questions
43 for Roberta.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: If not, thanks.

48
49 MS. CHAVEZ: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I guess I would
2 just add a little bit on the wildlife side of ONC, too.
3 A major project we're engaged in right now and have
4 been for the last month is kind of a continuation.
5 I've reported before that ONC has partnered with
6 village councils on the Yukon to have them get
7 designated hunters to go out, and we had local air taxi
8 services contribute their -- to fly the meat back free
9 of charge. And in the last couple years we've expanded
10 that to some degree, and this year especially, through
11 fuel donations from Crowley. We have a list of about
12 10 to 20 proxy hunters that we help them go through the
13 paperwork, they go out and go across the Yukon to bring
14 back moose that are distributed out between the single
15 parent families, elders, widows, widowers, someone who
16 doesn't have anyone to hunt for them. And so that's
17 been real successful last year.

18
19 We tried to focus it in first just to
20 target the harvest on the Lower Yukon, down below
21 Mountain, that section where the moose population is
22 heaviest, but we didn't get a whole lot of people who
23 wanted to travel that far and overnight, so this year
24 we've just had more of the folks just going across to
25 the closer area. But anyway, we have three moose
26 sitting to be cut up and distributed right now. We've
27 just taken two already to the Senior Center, and we're
28 expecting a couple more here probably today. My
29 phone's been buzzing at me. I think a couple of them
30 hunters just came back this morning.

31
32 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I appreciated
33 being included in your elder and your less fortunate
34 population, taking care of them. And Paul and I
35 appreciated that, having fresh moose meat in the
36 wintertime.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Ready to
39 move on then to Kuskokwim Native Association. I
40 haven't seen anybody here. Are they on line.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: They're not. Yukon
45 River Drainage Fisheries Association. There's no one
46 here, but we were told they might be on line.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Hearing none. Are

1 there any tribal representatives. I saw the Kwethluk
2 guys around that wanted to make mention to the Board.
3 James I think.

4

5 MR. NICHOLAI: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 MR. H. WILDE: Quyana.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Okay. Any other
10 tribal representatives.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Any village
15 corporation representatives.

16

17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Could I
18 summarize what Mr. Nicholai.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Oh, I'm sorry,
21 yeah, I should have.....

22

23 MR. NICK: Yeah. Mr. Nicholai as. Mr.
24 James Nicholai from Atmautluak provided his personal
25 comments thanking RAC for their hard work benefitting
26 younger generations in regards to use of the fish and
27 wildlife resources.

28

29 He said that Alaska was used and is
30 still being used by indigenous people while hunting and
31 fishing for their personal use. And in the past he
32 used to hunt and fish without any regulations. They
33 hunt and fish to use in wintertime, for food and also
34 for clothing.

35

36 This is his first meeting with RAC, and
37 he appreciated what the RAC is doing, benefitting the
38 younger generation and the subsistence users.

39

40 He also indicated that elders knows
41 about the land and fish and wildlife habitat. And he
42 advised that these elders from the communities should
43 be invited not only to RAC meetings, but to other
44 meetings to give their advice to the people who are
45 holding meetings, because they possess a lot of
46 experience hunting and fishing and using the land. And
47 he said that they've been involved in local management
48 of fish and wildlife resources.

49

50 These are the highlights of what I

1 captured. Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Alex. I
4 start to fade away towards the end of a meeting here.
5 Okay.

6

7 I don't think we have any village
8 council representatives, unless there's somebody on
9 line. We've taken care.....

10

11 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Harry.

14

15 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Your microphone.

18

19 MR. H. WILDE: I am a vice corporation
20 representative.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Actually we're
23 going into the -- the next one is closing comments, if
24 you want to go ahead and incorporate that in, and your
25 microphone's still not on.

26

27 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

28

29 MR. H. WILDE: I think I could speak in
30 behalf of village corp representative. I'm a vice
31 chair there.

32

33 We really have a problem.....

34

35 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me. What village.

36

37 MR. H. WILDE: Mountain Village.
38 Mountain Village. Y-1, 2, and 3, they going to have
39 seine and dipnet for this coming summer, commercial
40 fishing.

41

42 We got the message from upriver that in
43 the Lower Yukon there has been drying king salmon and
44 after they dry, they feed them to dogs. That's
45 something that we never have done before.

46

47 However, that also we never have
48 fishing using a dipnet and seine. That's what this
49 coming summer people of Y-1, 2 and 3, that's what
50 they're going to use for commercial fishing and

1 subsistence. I don't know how it's going to work.
2 People never done before. And it's really affecting
3 them, how they're going to do, how they through all
4 that, and also there were -- this come from one of the
5 Fish and Game Advisory Councils, that for fishing that
6 people, they use it over other area. I don't know what
7 they're going to do, and they're really supporting it,
8 Fish and Game supporting this. However, the Fish and
9 Game never support.

10

11 And looking at they know North Pacific
12 Fisheries. This North Pacific Fisheries, these the
13 ones that throw king salmon and chum salmon overboard.
14 I don't know. We never heard about really something
15 about to do with this North Pacific Fishery Councils.
16 But some of them, they know.

17

18 We do have some people in this Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game in here. They know it.
20 Bering Sea Fisherman Association. But we never heard
21 nothing.

22

23 We have very much a problem right now
24 that we feel that the Yukon River where we're going to
25 commercial fishermen and subsistence fishermen using
26 those nets. They never have been before. It's going
27 to be really hard for some of them. The net is five-
28 and-a-half inches mesh. You've got to have a five-and-
29 a-half. I don't know how that thing would work. But
30 that's what people, Fish and Game, they want.

31

32 If I know all these things through
33 affecting all our people, my people in the Yukon River,
34 all the way up to I don't know where, I would have
35 never support Fish and Games. I work for them, try to
36 start working on U.S./Canada negotiation and all that.
37 But that's one mistake that I did. I should have never
38 done it. Me myself right now that it seems to I always
39 kind of feel bad. I must hurting my people, my own
40 people through doing these things, because this people
41 out here like North Pacific Fishery Councils, this
42 Alaskan Fish and Game, they never tells us that they've
43 been throwing overboard the fish, king salmon or chum
44 salmon. We have to go to a meeting all the time try to
45 learn a lot of things that we don't know.

46

47 Today that like our elders saying that
48 I don't know how it's going to work, but we'll do our
49 best whatever they give to us, because we're Eskimos.
50 But the white people out there, they're throwing

1 overboard. Fishermens. All that never get complained.
2 So I suppose we'll do our best. And also that it's
3 going to go Y-1, 2, and 3. They're going to try it. I
4 don't know how they will work. I suppose some of the
5 people know how to do it. But I suppose we'll do our
6 best.

7

8 We got lot of problem. I think it just
9 started out from people upriver. They're saying that
10 they dry the king salmon and after they dry it, they
11 feeding to the dogs. I don't know if that's true or
12 not, but I never seen no one. I've been in fish
13 collecting and all that when I was younger, but I never
14 seen anyone that feeding dogs with king salmon.

15

16 Right now I think I'm getting where I
17 cannot be go meetings all the time. And I'm planning
18 to right now, if I finish this meeting and I'll be
19 resign or something. It's really sometime affect me so
20 much, because of if I go meetings like this kind of
21 meeting, my people say that you must then go meetings
22 and you should tell us what is good about it. Well, I
23 do my best. In the corporation, village corporation we
24 have young people they have in corporation fishery
25 meetings. They get together. So I do my best and try
26 to get some things so they could understand more. But
27 hopefully that this summer my people, those young
28 people, they do their best, and they try.

29

30 And like that even moose hunting and
31 they're going way more like I train them where to go
32 and all that. But the first thing that I think while
33 we're training, let go out there and we also going to
34 counting how many moose and all that while we're five
35 years. Five year our people, young people never go
36 moose hunting. We appreciate the people at Russian
37 Mission and also Marshall supporting us and never say
38 complaining or nothing because while we try keep our
39 moose increase. But right now it's increased. The
40 first time when I see moose in the Yukon River, I was
41 Fish and Game. I see cow moose with two calves. Right
42 now there are 70 or 60 calves down in the lower site.
43 They're really coming up.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting
46 me and let me be here and have time. But I think to me
47 myself I'm saying that this is maybe the last time that
48 I'm attending this meeting. The reason is two months
49 ago my wife pass away. I have to take care of our
50 little grandchildren to go to school. It is my family

1 sometimes is more important than myself.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Well, Harry, we're
6 still lucky to have you.

7

8 Noah, do you have any closing comments.

9

10 MR. N. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12

13 First I'd like to welcome Dr. Bill into
14 the Council here.

15

16 And if I understand Harry's comment,
17 he's been working a long time. And it will be -- it's
18 not a loss, it's not going to be a loss, because some
19 his comments his recommendations, will carry on. I
20 assure you, if I am here, I will carry on that
21 tradition. And I'd like to thank him here publicly
22 for having to form this organization to the point where
23 it is now.

24

25 Harry, quyana.

26

27 (In Yup'ik)

28

29 Now, let me speak a minute to my
30 colleague over there, Dr. Bill. I congratulated him
31 earlier. I'm going to give him something he needs to
32 be aware of. I heard recently there is a small beaver
33 dam in Mekoryuk. And if that is true, that's the sign
34 of something that's going to be detrimental later on.
35 I have very good experience with beavers.

36

37 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to point this
38 out, not just to the Department of Fish and Game or
39 Fish and Wildlife, but also to my fellow RAC here. We
40 have traditional council who needs to work with us and
41 help us get on the same boat and paddle at the same
42 time. I'm talking about the Kuskokwim River itself.
43 Not the tributaries. I know the tributaries are the
44 ones that gave us food. Kuskokwim River is like a
45 table. A plate on the table. From Bogus Creek -- we
46 need to work together to get this resolved. From Bogus
47 Creek to the Village of Akiachak, the river channel is
48 being destructed, or it's being covered.

49

50 Several years back river barge

1 activities unload gravel, and those gravels has
2 extended down to Akiachak. We have had in my time
3 since that time to this period the village themself
4 find floater, an excavator, and make a channel on the
5 Tuluksak River a couple of times. I was disappointed
6 not to hear some of the products that the river gives
7 out to us in the spawning areas, the nesting places.

8
9 Like I've said earlier, and in a
10 previous meeting, beaver dams, beaver tails are
11 drumming. (makes sound), across the tundra. There's a
12 possibility of the largest beaver dam ever to be built.
13 Let me give you a little detail on beavers. Beaver dam
14 building, beavers are not electronically functioning.
15 Beavers do not need WD-40. Beavers don't malfunction.
16 There have been detrimental issue from a long, long
17 time. They block the rivers, channeling rivers with
18 dams. We need to get this across the government, for
19 them to help us in getting to where we try to be.

20
21 I'm glad that Secretary of Interior and
22 Secretary of Agriculture finally approach our destiny,
23 what we try to do for long time, which came down from
24 our elders to us, the responsibility we have, We are
25 advisors, yeah. But we can do big job here as working
26 and using one language as Brother Bill had mentioned
27 earlier.

28
29 Traditional conservation is very, very
30 strong. We know how to conserve. Let me give you an
31 example. (In Yup'ik) is a knife traditionally made
32 with a bone here and a blade over there. It completes
33 a little black fish trap with conservation built into
34 it. At the end of the tip there is a small, large
35 enough hole for the fries to escape.

36
37 Congressional education is due process.
38 In order for them to help us, they need education. And
39 I'm sure the Board of Fish, the Board of Game will
40 educate them with our advice, with our adversary
41 Council policies.

42
43 Let me give you an example.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Noah, these are for
46 closing comments. Don't keep going on on examples,
47 please. Could we.....

48
49 MR. N. ANDREW: Pardon?
50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: This is for closing
2 comments. Could you -- we don't need lots of examples.
3 This is your time for just the closing comments of the
4 meeting.

5
6 MR. N. ANDREW: Yes. That's in
7 conclusion of my -- I need to throw those in there.
8 This is my third year, and I don't know if I win the
9 seat back. So if you leave our previous position with
10 something stable that your fellow people might
11 understand, they will continue on that process. And
12 that is why I put that into it.

13
14 Now, let me tell you I ran again, I
15 don't know what I'll do, but that's information.

16
17 We need the Department of Fish and Game
18 to work constantly, closely with an eye open on the
19 Kuskokwim channel.

20
21 I do have a lot more things I intended
22 to say here, I found out that time is consuming here.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Noah.
27 David Bill.

28
29 MR. BILL: (In Yup'ik)

30
31 I'm very thankful that I'm with the
32 Board right now, because maybe in some way in one word
33 I might be able to help these people, but I don't know
34 if I do or not. That is what I was going to -- that
35 much I can say about myself.

36
37 Right now I have to -- I'm with the
38 Bering Sea Fisherman's Association. I've been a board
39 member since 1980, since the office opened. Henry
40 Whist (ph) was my executive director. He started a
41 halibut fishery, and he also started the herring
42 fishery way before the CDQs. And he was the right-hand
43 man of me and Harold Sparks at the start of the CDQs.

44
45 Now, just three weeks ago we were in
46 Canada. We were in Victoria. We were with the IPHC
47 commissioners. We had no representative there.
48 Western Alaska did not have a representative in the
49 IPHC. We're supposed to have Philip Blesnikof (ph)
50 from St. Paul, but he worked more closely with the

1 Aleutian Islands and St. George, not with Western
2 Alaska.

3

4 I endorsed -- me and Bering Seas
5 Fishermen's Association, we endorsed Henry Misleton
6 (ph) to sit on the seat as a commissioner for Western
7 Alaska, as representative from Western Alaska at the
8 IPHC commissioners. And we'd like to ask for your
9 support, but the deadline is on February 28, at the end
10 of the month. If you would like to call, do us a
11 favor, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, the number
12 is 279-6519, and ask for Karen. You'll get that
13 number, and she'll be glad to help you out. We really
14 need somebody for Western Alaska at the IPHC. It will
15 not be halibut alone that he'd be working with. He'll
16 be getting into Yukon and Kuskokwim area. He's done it
17 before. I just want to bring that up. But he also
18 used to be the member of the North Pacific Fisheries
19 Management Council. Like I said, he was the right-hand
20 man of me and Harold Sparks when we were trying to
21 start the CDQs.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Dave.
26 Mary Gregory.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
29 have a lot of comments to make, as always.

30

31 First of all, I want to thank Harry for
32 being the brain on this Council for so many years. And
33 his ability to see the future has helped me somehow,
34 and it's inspired me to keep going on, to reapply the
35 last time I finished my term. And with that, I like
36 you, Harry, because you're a very smart man, and
37 nobody's going to replace you. And thank you for
38 enlightening us with your knowledge of the food and
39 subsistence way of life, living.

40

41 (In Yup'ik)

42

43 MR. H. WILDE: Thank you.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: On the other comments I
46 have is a lot of people are saying that the muskox and
47 other four-footed animals are going toward the ocean.
48 And we used to have an elder on his Council, but he no
49 longer is with us, because when he died, nobody
50 replaced him. And another elder that used to come to

1 my house is Mr. Jimmy (In Yup'ik). He use to tell Paul
2 and I that when a famine is coming, all the animals go
3 towards the ocean.

4

5 (In Yup'ik)

6

7 And another sign that he told us is
8 that in all the little rivers or tributaries or
9 sloughs, when the famine is coming, the little
10 whitefish and the sheefish will start to dominate those
11 rivers. He used to tell us this before he died.

12

13 And another thing that he used to tell
14 us, when animals and the food that we eat, they follow
15 the availability of their food sources. And you guys
16 who are doing studies, you need to get this into
17 consideration, how the fish are surviving, because of
18 their food.

19

20 Another thing, while I'm sitting here,
21 I'd like to be informed and know what I'm doing. I
22 just don't like to vote on something just because
23 everybody else is doing it. I am my own person. I
24 make my own decisions as I see them. Any surprise
25 presenters for the future, I would like for them to be
26 on the agenda and let us know who they come from and
27 what they're going to talk about. And it takes a lot
28 of precious time, like our Chairman had to allow that
29 person to talk about the fishnets and the seiners,
30 which is foreign to me, because we don't use those
31 things here. And here it is alluded to that they are
32 being introduced to be used on the Lower Yukon, which
33 is an infringement upon the people's right to fish for
34 themselves and make their own decisions. We don't want
35 people to make decisions for us how we're going to
36 live. I'm not going to come to your house and tell you
37 how to live. Give us the same treatment. We're not
38 here to be played as puppets. See, how much -- how can
39 we do with dipnetting. You guys are just playing with
40 the Native people. We don't want to be played with any
41 more. We've been played with enough already.

42

43 Fish and Game, both Federal and State
44 need to practice the utmost courtesy, to inform the
45 Native people when they're going to -- who are going to
46 be affected with new regulations, and not to surprise
47 them. They are imposing on them like the one that we
48 just heard from, the upriver, Tanana, around that area,
49 and then after they know the regulations are changed,
50 it's your job to disperse those, to make sure the

1 people that you are serving are well informed. If
2 they're not well informed, they're not going to
3 function as you would like them to be. And after the
4 fact, things don't usually work. Creating hardship to
5 all the people, the Natives who are the primary users
6 of the resources.

7
8 So for the future make sure that all
9 the presenters - and I'd like to have our coordinator
10 take special note, that make sure that all the
11 presenters are going to be on the agenda.

12
13 And then I agree with Mr. Noah from
14 upriver, about his concern about small mesh are hurting
15 our kind salmon. You guys are creating the problem,
16 because when you hit that (In Yup'ik), it's the most
17 sensitive part of the fish. And they go and die. I
18 just watched the house bill, something that they were
19 talking about, and they're going to allow barbless fish
20 hooks to fish for king salmon, which is good, because
21 after you have injured a fish, they just don't go on
22 and think nothing about it. They tie. When we are
23 hurt, it takes a whole body to attack that foreign
24 substance or object, to fight it and make us well
25 again.

26
27 So in the future you guys need to
28 really watch what you're doing and take our advice.
29 And I am very happy to be here serving my people. And
30 I'm glad I can speak English, because if I didn't, I
31 would make lots of noise to get attention. A lot of
32 times I have to make the holler and the noise in order
33 for use to be -- to bring us back to reality. That's
34 what's happening around us.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mary.
39 James.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 I just want to thank everybody who help
44 us at this meeting, and without you we wouldn't know or
45 learn anything. So I want to thank everybody. Alex
46 Nick, other Fish and Wildlife Service Staff and Fish
47 and Game Staff and other people who come by and let us
48 learn about problems, and there's not problems only.
49 There's good stuff, there's bad stuff, and we learn
50 about those at almost every meeting. So I want to

1 thank your Chairman, Greg, and without him maybe we
2 wouldn't have this meeting, because our chairman
3 couldn't make it in. And so I just want to thank
4 everybody. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Quyana, James.
7 Yeah. Well, thanks for putting up with me, too.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: I feel like
12 sometimes I kind of run things a little bit too quick.

13
14
15 This is a frustrating job in many ways.
16 Sometimes I think we're sitting as more tokens,
17 although I do see it as a role that has a lot of
18 meaning. I could probably argue about how meaningful
19 it is sometimes, or how I feel on that side. I think
20 there's a lot of problems with the structure, but I
21 don't believe in complaining about something unless I'm
22 trying to get something to make it better.

23
24 I know one of the frustrations that I
25 hear people express a lot about the regulations and
26 things that we have to deal with, and one thing I'd
27 like people to keep in mind is that one of the main
28 reasons for regulations I think that are becoming more
29 prevalent and harder for people to deal with is that
30 we're using tools now that if we're not careful, we'll
31 end up destroying the very things that we're trying to
32 protect. I look at history of what happened in the
33 Lower 48. I don't want to see it happen here. The
34 30/30 rifle killed off millions upon millions upon
35 millions of buffalo. The snowmachine did it for our
36 moose here before we had the moratorium and the
37 regulation on the Kuskokwim.

38
39 Those are the kind of things that we've
40 got to look at, too, so it's really difficult. We're
41 looking at just only one generation since all this came
42 down. Early 1970s. 60s, 70s, early 80s even before
43 regulation really came into play in this region.
44 That's a very recent clash, and it's a major clash.
45 Hopefully it will even itself out over time.
46 Generational changes.

47
48 With that, thanks everybody for coming.
49 If there's no objections, I would say we're adjourned.
50

1 Alex, did you have any final
2 announcements. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Council.

6
7 I want to thank Mr. Harry Wilde for all
8 the hard work that he's been doing for the RAC, for the
9 YK RAC since it started, about 1993, '94. And I want
10 to ask him if possible to attend one more meeting so
11 that, you know, everyone would have maybe hopefully a
12 full RAC, would have the opportunity to congratulate
13 him and bid him farewell and maybe talk to him, maybe
14 get his advice during that time.

15
16 And on behalf of our program, Harry, I
17 am very sorry for the loss of your wife. We know how
18 it's really, really hard to lose a family member, and
19 in the Yup'ik tradition I hear a spouse is one of the
20 worst loss in your family, so we are -- you know, your
21 loss is our loss, Harry.

22
23 And I would like to continue to
24 dialogue with you as a coordinator for this RAC. I
25 won't be a coordinator very long, too. Maybe not too
26 many months or maybe not more than a year from now
27 maybe. I'm thinking about my retirement, too.

28
29 In response to Mary Gregory's request
30 about presentations, there should be names on the
31 agenda, yes, that's our policy. That's OSM's policy,
32 and our policy is -- one of the process that we have is
33 we have agenda call. There's notices about RAC
34 meetings sent to radio. James and I, we announce that.
35 James Charles and I, we announce that in Yup'ik during
36 Yup'ik Talkso, and also during English radio talk show.
37 We announce that, and we encourage public to attend
38 these meetings.

39
40 Unfortunately there's been some
41 different kinds of policies that agencies and
42 organizations are facing right now. You know, they
43 have to check with someone in their organization or
44 agency before they make a commitment to give
45 presentation, so that make it a little harder for us to
46 place some of the names, you know. Like I didn't know.
47 And I appreciate ADF&G and other Staff for being here,
48 you know to give your presentation. I didn't know who
49 was going to present with the exception maybe a couple
50 of people.

1 And one other thing that I want to make
2 sure that this RAC, especially new Member Bill, and I
3 also welcome you to this RAC, David Bill from Toksook
4 Bay. Definitely he's going to be a good addition to
5 your RAC membership here.

6
7 I want to make sure to let you know
8 that I never forget what this RAC wanted us to do, is
9 to make sure there's placeholder for potential
10 presenters. In the past, you know, we mentioned that
11 we want names of presenters, we want materials, and we
12 give deadlines to agencies and organizations. We kind
13 of look the other way without not allowing any
14 presenters, we let them do that.

15
16 If I mess up, I know that my bosses
17 will come back to me in saying some of these things,
18 but I do want to remind you that the reason why there
19 are some -- especially under organization reports, or
20 updates, there are placeholders for most everyone that
21 attended your meetings in the past.

22
23 Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: Thank you, Alex.

26
27 And before we do adjourn I'd like to
28 ask James to do a benediction for us if he would.

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Lord Jesus,
31 for being with us throughout the meeting and guide us
32 throughout the meeting. And we ask you to bless us and
33 everyone and keep us in safe conditions and us through
34 our going home trips. And we ask you to bless and keep
35 our families at home safe. Thank you. In Jesus name.

36
37 IN UNISON: Amen.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROCZICKA: We are adjourned.

40 2:30.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing transcript contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, Pages 85 through 198 taken electronically by our firm on the 28th day of February 2013 at Bethel, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of March 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014