

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

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8
9 Bethel Moravian Church Fellowship Hall
10 Bethel, Alaska

11
12 September 29, 2011
13 9:00 a.m.

14
15
16
17
18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 19
20 Lester Wilde, Chair
21 Robert Aloysius
22 John Andrew
23 Noah Andrew
24 James Charles
25 Mary Gregory
26 Raymond Oney
27 Evan Polty
28 Greg Roczicka
29 Aloysius Unok
30 Harry Wilde
31
32
33 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 9/29/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting to order. The time is now 9:00 a.m.

We'll have a roll call to establish quorum. Mr. Robert Aloysius, could you call the roll, please.

MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown. Oh. William Brown. Charlie Brown. James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew, Sr.

MR. N. ANDREW: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty, Sr.

MR. POLTY: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde, Sr.

MR. H. WILDE: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: He'll be showing up shortly.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Oh, here comes Ray.

MR. ONEY: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde, Sr.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.

1 MR. UNOK: Here.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka. I saw
4 him earlier. Greg Roczicka.
5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Here.
7
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius, Sr.
9 Here. John W. Andrew.
10
11 MR. J. ANDREW: Here.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, we have a
14 quorum.
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Aloysius.
18
19 At this time we'll go housekeeping
20 items, announcements. Mr. Nick.
21
22 MR. NICK: Good morning. For the
23 record, my name is Alex Nick. I'm the coordinator for
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.
25
26 Again, welcome to Bethel. And I
27 understand yesterday that some of you had some problems
28 checking into the hotel, and all the reservations and
29 confirmation of your hotel has been provided to us. I
30 don't know what was the problem with the hotel. It was
31 resolved by the time I got there last night. Mr. Unok
32 was the one that called me, and I understand some of
33 you encountered problems upon checking in. And if I
34 knew you were having problems, I would have gone to the
35 hotel and tried to resolve it as well.
36
37 Your RAC travel was arranged before the
38 end of July because of the transition in the budget
39 process or whatever they -- federal budget management
40 services I believe. And your lodging and your air
41 travel were guaranteed to be paid for by that time.
42
43 I wanted to stress that when -- upon
44 your return from Bethel, try to make sure that you stay
45 within the itinerary provided to you, because there
46 will be some problems if you try to change your travel
47 on your own. All the travel changes has to go through
48 me and then I would contact appropriate people in our
49 office in Anchorage, and -- or Carlson Travel. That's
50 the only way we could change the travel these days.

1 Some problems occurred with Grant
2 Aviation travel this go around, especially with Yukon,
3 and I think it was Ray Oney who had a problem with
4 tickets and reservations from Emmonak to Bethel and
5 return, but fortunately that was resolved within a few
6 minutes.

7
8 I think that's just about it for now.
9 And right now we're having a problem with our
10 conference equipment, and we won't be able to get that
11 running until something's resolved within it. I'm not
12 sure what it is. For now, this morning, we'll let go
13 of that to get your meeting going. You have a full
14 agenda.

15
16 And one other thing is there -- some of
17 the eating places have changed. I think the one across
18 there, I think, close by, I think it closed down, that
19 Snack Shack. And there's a couple other -- a few other
20 changes in town.

21
22 Doi. Welcome to Bethel.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have any
25 questions. Mary.

26
27 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know that.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a question for
32 Alex.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
35 Alex before we continue on.

36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Right here.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Robert.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. There's a couple
42 of us who have to stay over Saturday because of our
43 Department of Fish and Game advisory committee meeting
44 on Saturday.

45
46 MR. NICK: Yeah, as long as you let me
47 know, and I contact travel agency and our appropriate
48 staff in Anchorage, that will work. It will be
49 possible.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
2 questions.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
7 Alex.
8
9 At this time we'll have an invocation.
10 I've asked Mr. James Charles to give us our invocation
11 for this morning.
12
13 MR. CHARLES: Let us pray. Lord, we
14 thank you for the opportunity to get together again.
15
16 (In Yup'ik)
17
18 All through the summer under now (In
19 Yup'ik), we thank you for the people who travel to come
20 to the meeting and we ask Thee for guidance throughout
21 the meeting to lead our people up and down the river on
22 the Yukon and all over the State. And we ask you to
23 with us throughout the meeting.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 In Jesus' name, amen.
28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
30 James Charles.
31
32 At this time we'll our welcoming
33 remarks from our local tribal chief, Mr. Louie Andrew.
34
35 MR. L. ANDREW: Good morning.
36
37 (In Yup'ik)
38
39 So thank you very much for allowing me
40 to welcome you, the Council.
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And I believe that
43 welcome also is extended to the guests in the room.
44
45 We are now down to review and adoption
46 of our draft agenda. The agenda is as follows.
47
48 Item 7, review and adoption of draft
49 minutes from February 23rd, 24th, 2011 meeting.
50

1 Item 8, Regional Advisory Council
2 concerns and comments.
3
4 Item 9, Chair's report.
5
6 Item 10, Review of 2012-2014 wildlife
7 councils. There will be -- the presentation procedures
8 for the proposals will be as follows. First, we'll
9 have introduction of proposals and the analysis.
10 Second, we'll have the Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game comments. Third, we'll have Federal and State
12 agency comments. Fourth, we'll have tribal comments.
13 Sixth, we'll have InterAgency Staff Committee comments.
14 Sixth, we'll have fish and game local advisory
15 comments. Seven, we'll have summary of written public
16 comments. Eighth, we'll have public testimony. And,
17 ninth, we'll have Regional Advisory Council
18 deliberation and recommendation and justifications.
19
20 The statewide proposals are as follows.
21
22 Item A, WP12-01, requirements when
23 selling handicrafts incorporating claws.
24
25 Statewide proposal B, WP10-02, deferred
26 WP08-05, bear claw incorporation in handicrafts.
27
28 Item C, WP12-02, redefine designated
29 hunter so that a designated hunter can only hunt for
30 elders or a person who is disabled.
31
32 Item D, WP12-03, trapping, incidental
33 take.
34
35 The regional proposals are as follows.
36
37 Item E, WP12-42, revise season dates.
38
39 Item F, WP12-43, revise harvest limit
40 and extend season dates for lynx.
41
42 G, WP12-44/48, revise harvest limit,
43 revise season dates and remove antler requirement.
44
45 Item H, WP12-45/49, revise season dates
46 and harvest limit, revise season and harvest limit.
47
48 I, WP12-46, revise season dates.
49
50 J, WP12-47, limit use of aircraft in

1 controlled use area.
2
3 K, WP12-50, new regulation in Unit 18
4 remainder to allow hunter to use boat under power to
5 harvest moose.
6
7 Item L, WP12-51, revise harvest limit
8 and season dates for ptarmigan.
9
10 Item M, WP12-52, close sport hunting
11 along the Yukon River.
12
13 Item N, WP12-53, revise language under
14 special provisions for use of motorized vehicles to
15 harvest ungulates.
16
17 Item O, WP12-54, revise hunting harvest
18 limit.
19
20 Item P, WP12-55, revise hunt harvest
21 limit.
22
23 Crossover proposals are as follows.
24
25 Item Q, WP12-39, revise season.
26
27 Item R, WP12-40, revise area
28 descriptor.
29
30 Item 2 -- 11, I'm sorry. Or is that 2?
31 That's 11. Subsistence fisheries issues. Under item
32 11.A, 2011 Yukon River salmon season summary. Item B,
33 Tri-RAC customary trade subcommittee status report.
34
35 Item 12, review of 2012 Fisheries
36 Resource Monitoring Program. Under 12.A is Yukon.
37 Under 12.B is Kuskokwim. And 12.C is multi-regional.
38
39 Item 13 in our agenda,
40 agency/organization reports.
41
42 Item 13. A, Office of Subsistence
43 Management. Item A.1, briefing on tribal consultation.
44 Item 13.A.2, status report on the Secretarial review
45 recommendations. 13.A.3, update on Bering Sea/Aleutian
46 Island chum salmon bycatch.
47
48 Item 13.B, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 Service update. Under that is item 1, Yukon Delta
50 Refuge Update. B.2 is Togiak Refuge.

1 Item C under 13 is Bureau of Land
2 Management update.
3
4 Item D, 13.D, is Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game update.
6
7 13.E, Association of Village Council
8 Presidents update.
9
10 Item 13.F, Yukon River Drainage
11 Fisheries Association.
12
13 13.G, Yukon River Inter-Tribal
14 Watershed Council.
15
16 13.H, tribal representatives.
17
18 13.I, Orutsaramiut Native Council
19 Natural Resources.
20
21 Item 13.J, Kuskokwim Native
22 Association.
23
24 13.K, municipal government
25 representatives.
26
27 13.L, ANCSA village corporation
28 representatives.
29
30 13.M, other organizations.
31
32 13.N, Bering Sea Fisherman's
33 Association.
34
35 Under item 13 [sic], Regional Council
36 business, item 14.A is 2011 annual report topics.
37 14.B, confirm winter 2012 Council meeting date. Item
38 13.C, establish fall 2012 Council meeting date and
39 location.
40
41 15 will be closing comments.
42
43 16 is adjournment.
44
45 Any additions or corrections or
46 deletions on the agenda.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.

1 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to see
2 introduction of our guests and ourselves.
3
4 (In Yup'ik)
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. As public
7 comments, first we need an approval on our agenda.
8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Move to adopt the
10 agenda.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's made to
13 adopt the agenda. Do I hear a second.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All in favor of the
18 motion signify by saying.....
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka, go
23 ahead.
24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 I have an additional to the agenda. I would like to
27 see under item 11, we have item 11.A is the 2011 Yukon
28 River salmon season summary. Immediately following
29 that I would also like to see a Kuskokwim River season
30 salmon summary. I would have actually expected that to
31 be there automatically, but evidently it got overlooked
32 or something, especially given last year was the first
33 time ever that we've had an actual closure system put
34 in place for our chinook, and conservation concerns
35 that are there. So, anyway, put that in as item B, and
36 that would move the tri-RAC C&T subcommittee to item C.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
43
44 (In Yup'ik)
45
46 Introduction of our guests and us.
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. Just a
49 minute. After the agenda we'll get to that, ma'am.
50

1 MS. GREGORY: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.
4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. Ms. Ikuta and
6 the gentleman would like to give an update under 13.D,
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. They're from
8 Fairbanks. Subsistence Division I believe.
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was that,
11 again?
12
13 MR. NICK: Subsistence. Maybe you
14 could come over and explain it.
15
16 MS. IKUTA: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Item D?
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: 13.D.
21
22 MS. IKUTA: Good morning, Chairman. My
23 name is Hiroko Ikuta. I work for Division of
24 Subsistence at Fish and Game in Fairbanks office. And
25 we'd like to update -- we'd like to give a presentation
26 to update on-going projects in Y-K Delta. And if it's
27 possible, we'd like to do that under 13, agency/
28 organizational report, D, Alaska Department of Fish and
29 Game update.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.
32
33 MS. IKUTA: Quyana.
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Under item 13.D. I
36 can't understand what you're saying, Bob.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: What item?
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Subsistence.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: 13.D.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Under 13.D.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Alaska -- under the
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game update. They'll
50 include their update in that section also. Okay.

1 Anything else. And if I may.....
2
3 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Before we get
6 started, please, this is going to be a kind of
7 important meeting. We would ask that if all of you
8 would please turn off your cell phones, we'd appreciate
9 it, because we get distracted whenever there's a phone
10 that goes off when we're in deliberation.
11
12 Mr. Unok.
13
14 MR. UNOK: Yeah. Last year we had
15 problem with our agenda. Two days is really short for
16 all this work to be doing. Some we had to drop them
17 off. If it's okay with the Council, if we go to the
18 evening, after supper break, one hour or two hours.
19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If we need to, Mr.
21 Chairman [sic], that is -- we leave -- I mean, Mr.
22 Unok, we leave that to the discretion of the chair. If
23 we need to, we'll make sure that we do have those extra
24 hours.
25
26 Any other further correction on the
27 agenda. Additions or deletions.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was there a motion
32 on the -- there's a motion on the floor to adopt the
33 agenda. Do I hear a second.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by -- who
38 -- was there a second? Did you get that, recording
39 secretary? Second?
40
41 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
44 called for. All in favor of the motion say aye.
45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
49 sign.
50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
4
5 At this time we'll have introduction of
6 our guests, starting from the young lady with a keeno
7 shirt way over there. Introduce yourself and then go
8 around.
9
10 MS. NICORI: Sandra Nicori.
11
12 MR. JIMMY ANDREW: Jimmy Andrew,
13 Kwethluk, Incorporated.
14
15 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of
16 Land Management.
17
18 MR. ALEXIE: Nick Alexie, Kwethluk,
19 Inc.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And the young man
22 standing next to you.
23
24 MR. PETER: Philip Peter, IRA chairman
25 from Akiachak.
26
27 MR. JAMES: I'm Charles James, Akiachak
28 Native Council.
29
30 MR. THERCHIK: Dave Therchik from
31 Toksook Bay.
32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Derrick
34 (indiscernible).
35
36 MR. ESTENSON: Yes. Good morning. My
37 name is Jeff Estenson. I'm with the Alaska Department
38 of Fish and Game, commercial fisheries on the Yukon,
39 and I'm from Fairbanks.
40
41 MR. SIPARY: Darryl Sipary, St. Mary's.
42
43 MR. CRANE: Paul Crane from Emmonak.
44
45 MR. E. UNOK: Eli Unok (ph) from Yukon
46 Delta, RIT.
47
48 MR. BRENNER: I'm Andrew Brenner with
49 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
50 Subsistence out of Fairbanks.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MR. RUNFOLA: David Runfola, Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence,
5 Fairbanks.
6
7 MR. BALIVET: I'm Ben Balivet. I'm
8 also with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
9 Subsistence, and I'm based out of Bethel.
10
11 MS. IKUTA: Hiroko Ikuta, Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.
13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. George
15 Pappas, Fish and Game.
16
17 MR. MEARS: Jeremy Mears, U. S. Fish
18 and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks.
19
20 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, Bureau
21 of Indian Affairs, subsistence anthropologist out of
22 Anchorage.
23
24 DR. JENKINS: David Jenkins, Office of
25 Subsistence Management out of Anchorage.
26
27 MR. LANDLORD: James Landlord from the
28 Asacarsarmiut Tribal Council, Mountain Village.
29
30 MR. BEANS: Christopher Beans, Yupiit
31 of Andreafski, St. Mary's.
32
33 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Office of
34 Subsistence Management out of Anchorage.
35
36 MR. BERG: I'm Jerry Berg, Fish and
37 Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.
38
39 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM, Anchorage.
40
41 MR. NICK: Alex Nick, OSM, Bethel.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The young man back
44 there that's just now putting down his bag, could you
45 introduce yourself, please?
46
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, yeah. Did we
50 miss anybody. The young man there.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
6 from -- I'm from McCann (indiscernible) Center. They
7 wanted me to come and listen.
8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Young
10 lady over here, our recording secretary?
11
12 MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing with
13 Computer Matrix in Anchorage.
14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Our illustrious
16 chief.
17
18 MR. L. ANDREW: Louie Andrew from
19 Bethel. Fish and Wildlife.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.
22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead anyway,
26 introduce himself.
27
28 MR. UNOK: Al Unok from Kotlik.
29
30 MR. POLTY: Evan Polty from Pilot
31 Station.
32
33 MR. H. WILDE: Harry Wilde from
34 Mountain Village.
35
36 MR. N. ANDREW: Noah Andrew, Tuluksak.
37
38 MR. ROCZICKA: Greg Roczicka, Bethel.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Lester Wilde,
41 Hooper Bay.
42
43 MR. J. ANDREW: John W. Andrew,
44 Kwethluk.
45
46 MR. CHARLES: James Charles,
47 Tuntutuliak.
48
49 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney, Alakanuk.
50

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 And my English name is Mary Gregory,
4 and I'm a member at large on this committee, council,
5 and I'm from Bethel. Originally from Kipnuk.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)
8
9 Translation.
10
11 My name is Bob Aloysius from Kaltag.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you very
14 much. And welcome you all to our meeting.
15
16 And at this time we're going down to
17 review and adoption of our minutes. Any comments on
18 the minutes.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move we adopt the
25 minutes for the meeting of February 23 and 24 in 2011.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
28 to adopt the minutes of February 23, 24. Do I hear a
29 second.
30
31 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
34 Gregory -- Mr. Greg Roczicka.
35
36 Any discussion. Mr. Aloysius.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's -- oh, that's in
39 the comments.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Don't forget your
42 mic.
43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's something that
45 always bugs me is when we're reviewing the comments or
46 the minutes, there's always misspelling, omissions and
47 additions, and just plain not English wording. Once
48 again I'd encourage whoever does the comments and the
49 minutes to use spell and grammar check. That really
50 helps a lot. I don't appreciate it when somebody

1 writes in something I didn't say.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anything -- let me
4 start -- Nick.

5

6 MR. NICK: For the record, my name is
7 Alex Nick. I'm coordinator for the Y-K RAC. We do the
8 best we can to review the 300 some page transcripts
9 from your meetings, and it's going to be a little bit
10 more during this meeting. We do the best we can. And
11 sometime we try to put the words together from what you
12 say to make it -- I think the best word would be more
13 sensible to, you know, whatever the comment anyone
14 makes. It doesn't matter who it is. Sometime, you
15 know, it's very difficult to put -- compile into
16 minutes like this sometimes, you know, especially
17 during the time when we're really busy.

18

19 What we've been doing in the past is we
20 have a team review of our minutes, and I thank Mr. Tom
21 Kron for taking time to review the minutes before they
22 were finalized. So we did the best we can.

23

24 But if you do have some changes, please
25 put them in writing or notes and give them to me, and
26 I'll make sure that it's changed in the final minutes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know you've got
29 comments to that, Mr. Aloysius.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: No comment on the
32 invitation to comment.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
35 discussion on the minutes. Any further questions.

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
40 Andrew.

41

42 MR. N. ANDREW: I'm with Bob here. And
43 then there's a couple of things in there that kind of
44 didn't fit to what I spoke last year, in line with I
45 have to relearn, and I'm already learned. And with
46 that, we may have to have some problem with the way,
47 change the wording without any motion in prior --
48 giving a letter to him. I think that's not -- I guess
49 that's inappropriate. So I think what we have here is
50 -- we should be changing those as we move along,

1 because that will be our records. And I note here now
2 that I have not said anything about learning as I do
3 have some knowledge of what we -- was passed down to
4 me generation after generation, I pick it up.

5

6 Thank you for bringing that out, Bob.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
9 discussion on the minutes. Aloysius.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: You know, there are some
12 Yup'ik words that are very descriptive of what a person
13 says, and it's not right for somebody else to change
14 what that person says. You know, I commented on one
15 word, being (In Yup'ik). It's a very broad description
16 of what we do. And it's the pursuit of food, shelter,
17 clothing, comfort and companionship by hunting,
18 fishing, trapping and gathering with respect to all of
19 creation. And I don't know where this person got this
20 (In Yup'ik). That's just one part of (In Yup'ik).

21

22 So, please, you know, be mindful of how
23 we speak from here and how it comes out on paper.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.

26

27 MR. NICK: Yeah, I take full
28 responsibility in trans -- compiling your minutes, but
29 as a Yup'ik translator and interpreter as well, (In
30 Yup'ik) has many definitions. It has many meanings in
31 different parts of the delta, and in fact in Bristol
32 Bay. So if you don't want me to change anything like
33 (In Yup'ik) and (In Yup'ik) are practically the same
34 thing, you know, when you translate it to English. And
35 if you want to define what you are saying, it would
36 help to use that definition if you want it changed.

37

38 But I take full responsibility on
39 what's in your minutes, and I'm willing to change it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In the future if
42 you have any questions on any words that are being
43 spoken by our Council, it might be a good idea to call
44 that individual that you have prob -- that are part of
45 the minutes, to ask, to see exact word that that person
46 is using or used in the minutes -- or at the meeting as
47 spoken at the meeting.

48

49 Yes, Ms. Gregory.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
2 commend Alex for taking responsibility for that
3 incident or whatever, that wording. And it's good for
4 us to do this, too, admit that we are human, and to err
5 is human.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
8 questions. Discussion. Mr. Aloysius.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. On Page 9, the
11 secretary made kind words at the Alaska Federal of
12 Natives Convention. That should be Alaska Federation
13 of Natives.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Of Native. I think
16 might be a typo. There was a couple typos. I might
17 have -- I don't know if these were typos or not, Alex,
18 but there was one mention of a bycatch of 700,000 chum
19 salmon. Is that correct? The number 700,000? I
20 thought that was a little bit much, but I see a couple
21 people shaking their heads, so I guess it must be even
22 700,000. That's a lot of fish.

23
24 Any other discussion on the minutes.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
31 called for. All in favor of the motion say aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.

40
41 Before we get into Regional Advisory
42 comments, public comments are welcome for each agenda
43 item. Please fill out a green -- if you have any items
44 or comments that you would like to make on any of our
45 agenda items, make sure that you get a blue card like
46 this from our lady over there, or from the table.
47 They're on the table. And make sure that we get them
48 up here, so we can hear your comments on it.

49
50 Time limits, because of our long

1 agenda, might be incorporated later on during the --
2 probably tomorrow morning. First we'll see how things
3 are going today, but usually we can pretty much go
4 through just about everything without having time
5 limits. And as far as our subsistence is concerned, I
6 hate to put -- or any don't like putting time limits on
7 what you have to say, so if you're going to make
8 comments, go ahead and make them as long as you want,
9 or say whatever you need to -- what needs to be said.
10 And if it needs -- if we have a time crunch, then at
11 that time we'll decide whether we will need to put a
12 time limit on your comments or not.

13

14 Please also note that the times for the
15 meeting each day, the order of business and the agenda
16 are estimated and are subject to change without notice.
17 Contact the Office of Subsistence Management personnel
18 -- could the people from OSM please stand up so the
19 people will know who you are? Okay. These are the
20 people that you could get in contact with if you have
21 any problems with our agenda or with anything else that
22 may concern our meeting.

23

24 The Regional Advisory Council arranges
25 its meeting to hear and understand the subsistence
26 concerns of the area where we meet. And please feel
27 free to share your subsistence concerns and knowledge
28 during the meeting.

29

30 The agenda is an outline for the
31 meeting and is open to area's subsistence concerns
32 whether it's listed on the agenda or not. If you have
33 something to say concerning subsistence, please be
34 recognized, and I know for sure that you'll be
35 recognized.

36

37 At this time we're down to item 8,
38 Regional Advisory concerns and comments. We'll start
39 out with Mr. Robert Aloysius.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I only have a very short comment, and that is remember
43 this word, subsistence. Keep in here, in here, and in
44 here and here, because that's what we're all about. I
45 don't care what the Federal government is doing to
46 weaken the Federal Subsistence Board. It has been sued
47 by various people, agencies, and organizations to
48 include other users of subsistence foods, which to me
49 is not right. So think about that whenever you
50 deliberate, because subsistence is our way of life.

1 It's not a lifestyle. It's a way of life, because we
2 are controlled by the seasons, not by paper. And
3 everything we know as Native people comes from our
4 ancestor. It's always to love, honor and respect all
5 of creation. Honor and respect your relations. Not
6 only your human relations, but your relations that fly,
7 roost, climb, walk, hop, jump, scuff, skip, and
8 slither, burrow, grow and swim on mother earth. Those
9 are all of our relations.

10

11 And remember that we are visitors in
12 their land. They were here way before us. And we try
13 to dominate them and look what happens. We suffer for
14 it, because they suffer more than we do. Their numbers
15 decline and decline and decline and decline, because we
16 don't love and honor them as our food source, because
17 without them, we are nothing. We are nothing, because
18 we depend on all of the fish, wildlife, plants and
19 berries for our existence.

20

21 And the other thing is, please respect
22 locality. Respect the people away from your region and
23 do not try to influence or change their way of living.
24 Honor the people who live in that locality, because
25 they're there year round. They depend on the land, the
26 water, the air they breath, the plants, animals and
27 fish for their existence. And we as strangers have no
28 right to go over and try to dictate to them how they
29 are supposed to live and take care of their land.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

34 Aloysius. Anaan.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 And I'd like to welcome the OSM people
39 and other people who are concerned with my way of life.
40 I appreciate your time and your concern. And I'd like
41 to reiterate what Mr. Aloysius said about (In Yup'ik).
42 This year there's hardly any red berries in Bethel.
43 (In Yup'ik) By picking up whatever I see, I almost got
44 a five-gallon of red berries. It's about four and a
45 half gallons. And what he said is true.

46

47 When we try to do as hard as we can to
48 get something, we will achieve it. And perseverance
49 pays off, so be perserverant and don't give up just
50 because something cannot be done or something hinders

1 your process. I never give up. My mom taught me not
2 to give up, so I tell you to not give up and try to
3 pursue something. Even though (In Yup'ik), I'm a night
4 person. Even sometimes I get up early so I can make
5 something or go pick berries.

6

7 Quyana for your time..

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Quyana, Anaan. Mr.
10 Oney.

11

12 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. I just want to thank everyone for being here
14 at this meeting, especially those that have come from
15 far and wide to be here. We're here to listen to your
16 concerns, so hopefully you'll be able to come and give
17 your concerns.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Oney. Mr. Charles.

23

24 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 My name is James Charles from Tuntutuliak. I am a RAC
26 member here, and I'm also fish and game advisory
27 committee chair, and the working group member.

28

29 And I've heard a lot of complaints
30 about the resource, fish and game both, and other
31 resource. When there -- the elders used to say that
32 some years things don't come back as usual. Like some
33 years we have a lot of resource like fish and game and
34 berries and other stuff. And when -- we used to be
35 told not to fight over the resource when things don't
36 come back as normal. And that's been going on around
37 here for fish on the river when they don't come back in
38 a lot of numbers. People complain about that. And
39 even with the other game, like moose and other stuff.
40 But I'm with -- like I told you, I'm with Kuskokwim
41 Salmon Management Working Group, and I've learned from
42 those -- being in that group.

43

44 And last year people don't talk about
45 this, even Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife Service
46 didn't talk about the blackfish. We ate blackfish and
47 there was -- blackfish was scarce last winter, and you
48 didn't talk about it. We didn't talk about it. But
49 just like that, some years the resource don't come back
50 as normal. In the years before, we had a lot of

1 blackfish. You see them on the little ponds and the
2 rivers and sloughs, but last winter they were hard to
3 catch. So that's the same, this what we talk about now
4 is going to be the same. Fish and game.

5
6 And for your information, a lot of
7 elders like me who don't understand Fish and Game and
8 Fish and Wildlife Service or the protection officers,
9 they call them all Fish and Game.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. CHARLES: So us, we know the
14 difference, but that's what people who don't come to
15 meetings say. They're all -- everybody's Fish and
16 Game, even Fish and Wildlife Service. Okay.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
21 Charles. Mr. Andrew.

22
23 MR. J. ANDREW: Yeah. Quyana. My name
24 is John W. Andrew.

25
26 (In Yup'ik)

27
28 Starting off yesterday, we had a little
29 trouble coming in and try to call -- when we came in,
30 we had a hard time getting -- we got turned away from
31 our hotel in the morning and early afternoon and
32 finally checked in in the evening.

33
34 Other one is some of us have trouble
35 with our air carriers. Some agents out in the villages
36 always provide poor services out there. They don't
37 pick us up in the morning, and if we do go back around
38 4:30 or after 5:00, nobody's out there to meet us at
39 the airports. And on Saturdays nobody will meet you at
40 your airport. You have to walk a mile and a half back
41 to your village. That's one.

42
43 The other one is the locations of the
44 meeting places. I would rather see the fall meetings
45 be held at the villages at the time when the travel's
46 easier, then have the winter meetings in Bethel.

47
48 Thank you. Doi.

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

1 Andrew. Mr. Roczicka.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 And I'd echo the welcome. It's always
6 good to see the chairs filled rather than looking at an
7 empty room besides just only the various State and
8 Federal Staff members. So I do appreciate that, the
9 folks that have come in from the neighboring villages.

10

11 I don't have a whole lot more to add
12 that's not on the agenda at the moment, and other than
13 the reiteration of the frustration that I have with the
14 management system per se, and that the Federal
15 Subsistence Board continues to shirk its
16 responsibility, and the Federal management system as a
17 whole until it addresses the management of its
18 populations to provide for subsistence needs is failing
19 in the subsistence priority. And coming out with
20 formal documents and statements that put subsistence in
21 a secondary or even a third position to other uses that
22 are abstract in nature and have nothing to do with the
23 populations themselves or subsistence and saying
24 they're fulfilling their responsibility when they will
25 say, we'll open a season for you, but we're not going
26 to do a dang thing to make sure there's anything there
27 to catch or to harvest. And until that issue is
28 addressed by the Federal Board and the Department of
29 Interior management structure as a whole, they continue
30 to fail their responsibility to provide for
31 subsistence, and provide a subsistence priority to the
32 people as promised in Title VIII of ANILCA.

33

34 I guess just a little follow up on some
35 of the other comments that were mentioned here, the
36 challenges we have as far as trying to incorporate the
37 two cultures that are -- continue to be in fashion,
38 have been -- and actually had any substantial
39 interaction in the last generation. And we see it in
40 such things as just in discussion with some Subsistence
41 Division Staff here in Bethel. I'm sorry, not
42 Subsistence Division, but with some ADF&G Staff in a
43 survey that goes out every year in the post season.
44 And one of the questions on that survey was were your
45 subsistence needs met. And it jumps out at you just
46 the difference in people's understanding, because
47 people -- it's a very difficult -- you're always so
48 thankful for what you have and what you've been able to
49 catch. And to not be satisfied with it, or to make a
50 statement that you're not satisfied with what you've

1 got is like saying to someone, well, you didn't give me
2 enough. So small things like that are just really
3 difficult. And it is a challenge, and sometimes I feel
4 like just walking away. And I've said that before
5 enough times, and I've heard it from other people as
6 well.

7

8 Anyway, welcome, everybody.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
11 Roczicka. Mr. Andrew.

12

13 MR. N. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.

14 Chairman.

15

16 Sitting as an advisory I learned is
17 very hard work, especially when there is no
18 communication between the person sitting as an advisor
19 and people out there. I would encourage that you would
20 talk with us, or call us. Resources we have are not
21 much to cover some of our ideas to disperse the
22 information from the Board themselves and from you guys
23 coming in, too, so that we can utilize that information
24 as a resource in approaching upcoming work. And I
25 found that we need to communicate a lot. It's hard to,
26 if you're -- especially if you don't have enough
27 finance, funds to work with you.

28

29 Last year I used four words that an old
30 man taught me a long time ago. And I will repeat those
31 at this time if I may. Those four words are observe,
32 comprehend, acknowledge, execute. And it's helped me,
33 and I hope you got that, the information that, details,
34 the necessary communication process. Being in the
35 situation like this, one has to have a goal.

36

37 For example, out there in the woods,
38 you have to have experience to know what the people are
39 talking about, and putting that into detail so that we
40 may put forth an advice. But you, as a person out
41 there, that information that you brought is very
42 important. And if you voice it, then we'll be able to
43 work with it. Unless we know about it, we wouldn't be
44 able to function as part of your extended arm. So
45 although sometimes we want to communicate with
46 everybody, every household for example in the village,
47 we don't have all that resource.

48

49 So it is very important that you guys
50 also learn to talk with us. Stop us on the road and so

1 on. Feel free. I'd like to get all that information
2 so I can put it here and voice it out when we sit up
3 here. You have very excellent people here I noted, and
4 I understand working with them is an honor. And I
5 appreciate their efforts. At times when we work
6 together, we work together. We're no different. Set up
7 some kind of communication with us. Feel free to get
8 some information to us. We've got resources, like
9 schools, for example. Communicate that way.

10

11 I have a lot of them that I might
12 bring out, but I guess the most important one is
13 communication.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Andrew. Mr. Wilde.

19

20 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. My name is Harry
21 Wilde. I've been.....

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Speaker on.

24

25 MR. H. WILDE: My name, Harry Wilde,
26 and I've been represent Yukon-Kuskokwim for quite a
27 while. And sometimes it's pretty hard as to be
28 represent. Like some people I get response from, how
29 come you didn't do this and that? Well, me, myself, I
30 go through everything, try to do my best. And also
31 that when I couldn't get no information from
32 organizations, it's very hard to represent. It is
33 hardest thing. I always go through when I was young
34 and now is 82. It's a lot of work and
35 responsibilities. Sometimes very high and couldn't
36 even go over, try -- sometimes I like to work with
37 organizations, and like back home in Mountain Village,
38 we would have some people who could really concern
39 about some things, they would be here. I mean, we even
40 talked to some things, problems, and all that.

41

42 And I think it's hardest part of my
43 lifetime is subsistence, because I go through
44 subsisting, I didn't have nothing to live on. Three,
45 four years when my parents are pass away, and try to
46 take care of my brothers and sisters. Hardest part in
47 my life, but I never give up, still today. I met
48 elders I talked to, they said, Harry, I need help. In
49 the villages we've got people that -- like our
50 organization, tribal corporations and all those others,

1 and we really sure want to hear from some people that
2 need help, because I know myself how to be need help
3 and hungry. It is a -- it could be help us.

4
5 Me, myself, I don't think I will ever
6 go through again try to do something that I don't know.
7 Like when a person told me that, Harry, you should have
8 done this and that, well, I never heard from that
9 person. Even I go meeting, before I get any kind of
10 information sometime from my village, I travel. But
11 then I appreciate people that ahead of -- before us,
12 that organizations, what we going to talk about and all
13 that. It is the hardest part I think in my lifetime,
14 try to make up what the people want. People want is
15 kind of hard if they never tell you nothing.

16
17 And like people -- we had meet with,
18 and I appreciate the AVCP has been really helping us,
19 try to be represent people, Yukon and Kuskokwim.

20
21 Just like here, I've been sitting here
22 and looking at the things, what the people want. And I
23 want to ask organizations, please let us know what we
24 could help you, how we could help you. Maybe we could
25 do better.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
30 Wilde. Mr. Polty.

31
32 MR. POLTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
33 name is Evan Polty.

34
35 First of all, subsistence is a way of
36 our life, our culture, livelihood. It's not -- I can
37 remember way back, we grew up with subsistence way of
38 living before western way of living came around. We
39 act -- like what Robert was saying, we go to four
40 seasons to survive, and we follow those four seasons to
41 get -- that our elders wanted us to follow. It is very
42 difficult. I've seen it myself, where people struggle,
43 and even my home town, we struggle when we don't follow
44 those four seasons. And it's very difficult.

45
46 Those elders used to tell us, if you go
47 out and catch a game, share it, and honor it through
48 our culture, and honor who catch that animal. Name
49 them after your family. That's our way of our culture.
50 And they tell us, if you don't honor them, the animal

1 will know that they -- even you go out again, you'll
2 have less what you wanted. That's what we learned from
3 the elders.

4

5 And those that are here today, are
6 going through similar thing. Different regions have
7 their different way of honoring their culture. That's
8 what we're doing here to continue to have our way of
9 life existed so we'll all exist next generation, our
10 next generation that are coming.

11

12 And I'd like to give my respect for
13 Harry. He's been in the board for long time for our
14 way of subsistence, our way of life. That's what we
15 need to do.

16

17 And these other elders are here to help
18 us all, that our subsistence way of life, our
19 livelihood exists.

20

21 That's all I have. Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

24 Polty. Mr. Unok.

25

26 MR. UNOK: My name is Aloysius Unok.
27 I'm from Kotlik. I represent Y-K Delta. That means
28 Kuskokwim area and Yukon.

29

30 Everybody said what I was going to say,
31 so that's it. That's all I'll have to say.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. UNOK: No, I've got one concern.
36 People, other organizations, Fish and Game, Fish and
37 Wildlife, other government workers approached me and
38 asked if the tribal councils could get more involved in
39 this organization, it will be a lot helpful for us.
40 Like one of the council mentioned it, that we need
41 help. We cannot decide for the people in the villages.
42 The tribal councils have got to get more involved in
43 this organization so it will help, lot easier for us to
44 decide on what come on our -- in front of our face, our
45 desk in two days.

46

47 I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I jump in
48 about meeting, our agenda's full of -- for two days, if
49 it's okay for the Council to go evening if we have to.

50

1 That's all I have.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Unok.
5
6 At this time I think we didn't --
7 there's some people that came in late that I would like
8 to have introductions of. I will, Mr. -- but at this
9 time could we have introductions starting with the
10 young lady standing there smiling prettily at her
11 uncle.
12
13 MS. JOSEPH: Hi. I'm Alissa Joseph.
14 I'm with the State Board of Game, and also I report on
15 the subsistence surveys. And I also take care of --
16 I'm the new (indiscernible) regional coordinator for
17 the Department of Fish and Game.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Either one or the
20 other.
21
22 MR. NANENG: Okay. My name is Myron
23 Naneng. I'm the president of the Association of
24 Village Council Presidents and attended many Regional
25 Advisory Council board meetings as well as some others
26 and work with many of the former state employees and
27 I'll work with Federal subsistence (indiscernible) so
28 we welcome you all here to Bethel.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. The
31 young man there with the uniform?
32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I've already.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Have you? Anybody
36 else that did not intro -- get introduction.
37
38 MR. ROCZICKA: There's two of them.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, the young man
41 there?
42
43 MR. T. ANDREW: Timothy Andrew,
44 director of natural resources. I work for Myron, and
45 Myron has (indiscernible).
46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: The young fellow back
48 there in the corner.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The young fellow

1 back in the corner. Which corner?

2

3 MR. JONES: Patrick Jones. I work for
4 Fish and Game here in Bethel.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anybody else.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Now that we all
11 know each other, I guess I can say my comments. I
12 saved them for the last, although it's not any more
13 important to say than anybody else that said anything.

14

15 But one thing that I've noticed in the
16 past is that, you know, we've tried to do our job that
17 we know that we -- the way we -- the best way we know
18 how. And sometimes our best is not the best that it
19 could be. And when it comes from the people that are
20 out there that living like we do in subsistence, we
21 have to go -- we have one other authority above us that
22 makes the decisions on what becomes regulations as far
23 as subsistence is concerned, and that's the Federal
24 Subsistence Board. We at times bump heads with the
25 Board to no avail. And in those times is when it gets
26 a little frustrating and it gets a little disheartening
27 for those of us who try to represent our people the
28 best way we know how, and not have the ability or the
29 authority to make those changes as they are being
30 presented to us on our subsistence level in the every
31 day life on the village level.

32

33 You know, even those of us that have
34 lived in the villages and lived the subsistence way of
35 life, whenever we leave our area and go into an urban
36 area, we have a tendency at times to lose that sense of
37 need for our sustenance, or our hunger in our souls and
38 in our body that needs that food. And whenever we have
39 the opportunity to be able to discuss that and do it
40 from our heart and be turned down is something that --
41 is a feeling that I have lived over the years being a
42 chairman and representing our Council on the Board.
43 It's not always easy, but somebody has to do the work.
44 Although I may not be the best person on the Council to
45 represent them, I've been picked and chosen by them to
46 do so, and I try my best whenever I'm confronted with
47 our proposals and the proposals as passed by this
48 Council.

49

50 So if at any time any of you have a

1 And you have four statewide proposals
2 and a lot of beeping going on, but we'll go through --
3 give up? Okay. We'll go through -- I'll wait just a
4 second and see if this phone works.

5
6 MR. BERG: I think we'll just
7 disconnect the phone. We'll do it at the break.

8
9 DR. JENKINS: We'll start with a
10 proposals, WP12-01, which is a proposal about selling
11 handicrafts incorporating brown bear claws. And this
12 proposal, which you can find on Page 32 of your Council
13 books was submitted by the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft
14 Working Group.

15
16 And what it does is it requests that
17 before selling a handicraft incorporating a brown bear
18 claw, the hide must be sealed by an authorized Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game representative. Or if the
20 claw, brown bear claw is not attached to the hide, it
21 also must be sealed by an authorized ADF&G
22 representative, and a copy of the sealing certificate
23 would then accompany the handicraft when it is sold.

24
25 Now, the proposal is a compromise
26 reached by members of the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft
27 Working Group. And this working group was comprised of
28 members of 9 of 10 Councils, of ADF&G Staff, and of
29 Federal Staff.

30
31 And the proposal addresses concerns
32 raised by the State of Alaska with Federal regulations
33 that allow sale of handicrafts what include brown bear
34 claws from bears that are taken under Federal
35 subsistence regulations.

36
37 The intent of the proposal is to
38 protect subsistence users who incorporate brown bear
39 claws into handicrafts for sale by providing proof that
40 the claws are from brown bears that were harvested by
41 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Okay. Having
42 proof that the claws are from subsistence-harvested
43 brown bears could provide added value to the handicraft
44 as it would clearly identify that the claws are from a
45 legally-harvested brown bear. And requiring a copy of
46 the sealing certificate to accompany the handicraft
47 would further provide a method of tracking legally
48 harvested brown bears.

49
50 But it would also require modification

1 of the current sealing certificate which is managed by
2 the State of Alaska. So it would include a place on
3 the certificate indicating that the bear was harvested
4 by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

5
6 Now, the issue of selling handicrafts
7 from bear parts has been before the Federal Subsistence
8 Board since 2002 in a variety of forms. And the
9 Federal Subsistence Board has provided for the sale of
10 handicrafts made from the skin, the hide, the pelt, the
11 furs, claws, bones, teeth, and skulls of brown bears by
12 Federally-qualified subsistence users were required.
13 It's not been the intent of the Federal Subsistence
14 Board to create a commercial incentive to harvest bears
15 based on the sale of bear handicrafts.

16
17 Now, the effect of this proposal, if
18 adopted, it would provide some protection for
19 subsistence users who incorporate brown bear claws into
20 handicrafts for sale, as I say, by providing proof that
21 they were legally harvested. And it's possible that
22 having this proof could add value to the handicraft,
23 because it would identify the handicraft as coming from
24 a legally harvested brown bear.

25
26 I should point out that there's no
27 known evidence to indicate that current Federal
28 subsistence regulations adversely affect brown bear
29 populations, nor that Federal subsistence regulations
30 have led to an increase of illegal harvest of brown
31 bears.

32
33 The conclusion, the preliminary
34 conclusion from the Office of Subsistence Management is
35 to support this proposal from the Brown Bear Handicraft
36 Working Group.

37
38 I should note that this proposal
39 doesn't have a great effect here, but because it is a
40 statewide proposal, I need to present it to this
41 Council for information purposes at least, or for your
42 further discussion.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
47 Mr. Jenkins. Anaan.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. What's
50 your name again?

1 DR. JENKINS: David.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: David. Under 38, effects
4 of the proposal, my question is how -- what is a
5 sealing certificate -- what's the purpose and why and
6 how big is it, if it's a claw that's being sold and the
7 sealing certificate would be -- it should be attached.
8 That's what the proposal indicates.
9
10 DR. JENKINS: Well, that's right It's
11 not -- it's a sheet of paper essentially. It's a small
12 sealing certificate, and it's already in some
13 regulations to attach to certain kinds of objects, bear
14 hides. And it really -- the State of Alaska requires
15 them, and it's just going to require a small box
16 indicating that it came from a Federally-qualified
17 subsistence user to be checked. And it's a way of
18 marking these hides, especially for international -- or
19 these claws rather, especially for international trade
20 to ensure that when they are exported, they can be
21 legally sold. But it's not a big piece of paper that
22 goes along with it.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I'd like
25 to remind the Board that we have to move to accept or
26 adopt a proposal, have it seconded, then open up for
27 discussion. So I move that we adopt or support,
28 whatever you want to call it, WP12-01.
29
30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move to
31 adopt.....
32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: I did.
34
35 MS. GREGORY: You did?
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute. If
38 you -- just for your correction, present with the --
39 according to the schedule that we use for presentation
40 of proposals, the motion for Regional Council
41 recommendation is item down below.
42
43 MR. ROCZICKA: Item 6.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Item 6.
46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: It's on the back right
48 here.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It's in the back of

1 your name right there as how the proposal is going to
2 be handled. The procedure. So we'll go ahead and
3 follow the procedure as written. So we'll have at this
4 time.....

5
6 Do you have any further questions for
7 David Jenkins concerning the introduction of the
8 proposal as presented.

9
10 MR. POLTY: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Evan.....

13
14 MR. POLTY: Dave, you were
15 discussing.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Turn on your mic.

18
19 MR. POLTY: Excuse me. You were
20 discussing about -- who would be the representative for
21 the sealing. It says here Fish and Game; is the Fish
22 and Game personnel got to make the seal on those hides
23 and claws? Or are you going to designate in the area
24 where it's very difficult for people to reach where
25 they could get those sealed, the hide and those claws.

26
27 DR. JENKINS: My understanding is that
28 it will be an ADF&G representative. And there was some
29 discussion in the working group about the difficulty of
30 having them sealed in remote areas.

31
32 MR. POLTY: Okay. So are you going to
33 work something out to where it will be easier,
34 appropriate for them to get those things done?

35
36 DR. JENKINS: Yes, that's my
37 understanding.

38
39 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you, Chairman.
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
43 discussion on Mr. Jenkins.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,
48 Mr. Jenkins. At this time we'll have -- ask for
49 comments by Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. Good morning,
2 Mr. Chair. George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game,
3 subsistence liaison team.

4
5 Our comments, you'll see about half of
6 them are in the book. We have all the printouts in
7 that tall stack there with the rest of our comments.
8 And I'll request respectfully to have our comments as
9 they appear incorporated into the transcripts as agreed
10 upon by the Federal Subsistence Board Chair. And I'll
11 summarize from our comments.

12
13 This proposal was a consensus outcome
14 of the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Working Group.
15 Changing Federal regulations to provide documents which
16 support legal sales of Federal subsistence harvested
17 brown bear claw handicrafts should help eliminate
18 illegal commercial markets and the masking of illegal
19 sales in Alaska and elsewhere. Adoption of this
20 proposal will not interfere with continuing to allow
21 Federally-qualified subsistence users to obtain such
22 handicrafts for ceremonial, religious and cultural
23 purposes. And if adopted, Federally-qualified
24 subsistence users who plan on selling handicrafts made
25 from legally harvested brown bear claws will be
26 required to have the hide sealed by the department,
27 retain copies of that sealing certificate and provide
28 copies to the certif -- of the certificate to the
29 customers.

30
31 Let me expand upon that. If you decide
32 to take a Federal subsistence brown bear under Federal
33 subsistence regulations, and you want to use the claws
34 in handicrafts to sell them, you bring the hide in and
35 you have it sealed.

36
37 The question came up about being
38 remote. The same question came up at the Seward
39 Peninsula meeting last week in Nome, and the gentleman
40 was from Wales. There's not too many folks that get
41 out that far. Well, within two hours Fish and Game had
42 him set up with a sealing -- as a designated sealer for
43 that area, and was issued tags.

44
45 So you can work with Phillip Perry
46 here, the area manager. I just spoke with him. We
47 have a few extra sealers in this area, so talk to the
48 local representative and that will be addressed, sir.

49
50 Under the State regulations,

1 handicrafts with bear fur may be sold to anyone, but
2 sales of handicrafts with claws, skulls, teeth and
3 bones are not allowed at this time. Whole bearskins
4 with claws attached taken in certain predator control
5 areas may be sold under State regulations, but only
6 after sealing and under the terms of the permit issued
7 for the bear skin.

8

9
10 For enforcement issues, this proposal
11 will reduce enforcement issues created by the existing
12 Federal regulations by creating a tracking system which
13 provides documents to accompany the brown bear claws
14 used for making handicrafts legally taken, utilized and
15 sold under Federal subsistence regulations. Further,
16 adoption of this proposal will significantly reduce the
17 likelihood that Federally-qualified subsistence users
18 will face State prosecution for engaging in sales that
19 are prohibited under State law when they occur on State
20 or private lands.

21

22 The Department really appreciates the
23 cooperation and work the Brown Bear Claw Work Group
24 completed over the last two years. We met many times.
25 Providing for tracking would be an important first step
26 in addressing some of the Department's concerns
27 regarding conservation and enforcement. A brown bear
28 harvest can be tracked over time and bear parts or
29 handicrafts can be traced to reported legal harvests,
30 conservation concerns will be less likely to arise and
31 managers will be able to better determine if or when
32 legal sales are contributing to illegal sales or
33 otherwise creating conservation concerns.

34

The Department supports this proposal.

35

36 And another answer, you asked about the
37 sealing require -- the sealing certificate. It will be
38 a piece of paper, and if you want to sell five claws in
39 one item, the piece of paper would go -- make a copy of
40 it, and it would go to whoever buys it from you; or if
41 you want to make, you know, 10 or 15 different
42 handicrafts out of each individual claw, it would just
43 come down to making copies of that and sending that
44 piece of paper with that claw to whoever buys it, and
45 who wants to go to Europe or leave the country, or what
46 have you. That will help them not have it taken away
47 from them at the border.

48

49

50

STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

Wildlife Proposal WP12-01:

Develop a tracking program for federal subsistence harvested bear claws that are made into in to handicrafts for sale by federally qualified users.

Introduction:

This proposal was a consensus outcome of the Brown Bear claw handicraft working group. The proposal requests all federal subsistence harvested brown bear claws, which are incorporated into handicrafts for sale, be tracked through use of the current department brown bear sealing program. If adopted, federal subsistence users who intend on selling brown bear claws incorporated into handicrafts will be required to have the bear hide sealed by the department. If adopted, a copy of the bear sealing document will be required to accompany the bear claw handicrafts when sold.

Sales of handicrafts made from brown bear claws, teeth, skulls, and bones present a particular problem, because these are potentially high value items, and allowing sales creates market incentives for illegal harvest in Alaska and other states. Adoption of this proposal will protect federal subsistence craftsmen and their clients by providing proof and a means of documenting their handicrafts were legally taken, legal to sale by federally qualified users only, and are legal to own by any customer. Additionally, if this proposal is adopted, the customers who purchase brown bear claw handicrafts from federally qualified users will have the security of written proof certifying the handicraft came from a legally harvested Alaskan brown bear, legally authorized harvester, and legally authorized artesian.

Changing federal regulation to provide documents which support the legal sales of federal subsistence harvested brown bear claw handicrafts should help eliminate illegal commercial markets and the masking of illegal sales in Alaska and elsewhere.

1 Endangered Species (CITES).

2

3 In Alaska, economic incentives
4 associated with harvesting brown bears to make
5 handicrafts create conservation concerns because brown
6 bears develop slowly and have a low reproductive rate,
7 making small populations extremely susceptible to
8 overharvest. Allowing widespread sale of high value
9 bear parts without any kind of tracking mechanism is an
10 invitation to illegal harvests. Further, the existing
11 regulations are unenforceable and inconsistent with
12 sound wildlife management principles.

13

14 Enforcement Issues:

15

16 This proposal will reduce enforcement
17 issues created by the existing federal regulation by
18 creating a tracking system which provides documents to
19 accompany brown bear claws used for making handicrafts
20 legally taken, utilized, and sold under federal
21 subsistence regulations. Further, adoption of this
22 proposal will significantly reduce the likelihood that
23 federally-qualified subsistence users will face state
24 prosecution for engaging in sales that are prohibited
25 under state law when they occur on state or private
26 lands.

27

28 Jurisdiction Issues:

29

30 The Federal Subsistence Board lacks
31 jurisdiction to allow sales of any wildlife handicrafts
32 when and where such sales are not customary and
33 traditional. In the past, the Federal Board has
34 rejected this argument, asserting that if any use is
35 customary and traditional then the Board can authorize
36 any other use. The Board's argument is inconsistent
37 with its litigation stance in the Chistochina Unit 12
38 moose case where it argued that customary and
39 traditional use is related to how resources are used
40 after they are taken, and not to or a prerequisite
41 condition for the taking itself. State v. Fleagle,
42 (Case 3:06-cv-00107-HRH) Doc. 32 at 22.

43

44 Other Comments:

45

46 The department appreciates the
47 cooperative work the brown bear claw work group
48 completed over the last two years. Providing for
49 tracking would be an important first step to addressing
50 some of the Department's concerns regarding

1 conservation and enforcement. If brown bear harvests
2 can be tracked over time, and bear parts or handicrafts
3 can be traced to reported legal harvests, conservation
4 concerns will be less likely to arise and managers will
5 be better able to determine if or when legal sales are
6 contributing to illegal sales or otherwise creating
7 conservation concerns.

8

9 Recommendation: Support.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for

14 Mr. Pappas.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,

19 Mr. Pappas.

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, sir.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Comments from the
24 Federal and State agency comments. Federal and State.

25

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How about Federal
30 comments. Federal agency comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any comments from
35 OSM or Fish and Wildlife.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Then we go
40 ahead, any tribal comments. Mr. Andrew. Jerry, go
41 ahead.

42

43 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
44 just wanted to -- I'm here to relay some comments that
45 we heard from other tribes through a new process on
46 consultation with tribes that the Federal Subsistence
47 Board has just started getting more involved with
48 recently. So I just wanted to let the Council know
49 that the Federal Board is working to enhance their
50 relationships with Federally-recognized tribes, and

1 they're working on a government-to-government
2 consultation process in the form of a protocol.

3
4 And the Federal Board met this past May
5 and they established a work group made up of tribal
6 members and Federal Staff to develop how -- to develop
7 a protocol on how best to consult with tribes. And I
8 think John Andrew is a member of that work group.
9 They're trying to get together to try to form this
10 consultation protocol. And the long-term protocol is
11 still being worked on.

12
13 But for this year, the Board and the
14 tribes have -- or in the work group agreed to just
15 consult through a series of teleconferences. So we set
16 up a series of 10 teleconferences before every Regional
17 Council meeting and tried to get tribes to call in to
18 consult on all of these proposals.

19
20 So I just wanted to relay to you guys
21 that we did hear from a few tribes on this proposal,
22 Proposal 1.

23
24 We heard from the Native Village of
25 Kasaan in Southeast Alaska. I'm trying to find my
26 notes. Oh, there it is right here. I have it right
27 here in front of me. And they opposed this proposal
28 for the handicraft sealing requirement, and what David
29 explained to you. They wanted to look into it further
30 and then they were going to also present some more
31 comments to the Southeast Council.

32
33 Then they also heard from -- we had --
34 in addition to consulting with tribes, the Federal
35 Board recognized that they're also required to consult
36 with ANCSA Native corporations. So we did hold two
37 teleconferences specific to Native corporations. And
38 we received comments from two corporations. Now I'm
39 trying to find my papers here. I thought I had them
40 all organized, ready for you guys.

41
42 So the Cully Corporation in Point Lay
43 -- no, they commented on Proposal 2; they didn't
44 comment on Proposal 1.

45
46 Actually I guess that's the only
47 comment that we -- no, we do have one other tribal
48 comment from the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, and they'd
49 like to see more consistency between the different
50 programs on how items can be used for handicrafts made

1 from the various animals, so like marine mammals and
2 migratory birds and then this program. And they also
3 felt that if any regulation was put into place, that it
4 needs to easily be understood by the users so they know
5 what is legal and so how they can use those items
6 legally for handicrafts, however they -- whatever
7 handicrafts they end up making.

8

9 So that's the new process and input we
10 received on this proposal. And then when each proposal
11 comes up, there's I think two or three more comments
12 that I have from other tribes that I'll present to you.

13

14 So that's all I have. Mr. Chair.
15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
18 Mr. Berg.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Jerry.
23 Mr. Andrew.

24

25 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 For the record my name is Timothy Andrew. I'm the
27 director of natural resources for AVCP.

28

29 I'd like to recognize my parents as
30 well and give honor to them. My parents are Nick and
31 Astasia Andrew from the Community of Marshall.

32

33 As far as this proposal, we have a
34 Yupiit tradition from way back that we don't really
35 mention the animal by name out of due respect for the
36 animal and for our culture and traditions as well, so
37 I'm going to keep that to a minimum, mentioning the
38 animal by name.

39

40 I am glad to see that the State of
41 Alaska supports this proposal in areas that do utilize
42 this animal for handicrafts. As far as I know, it is
43 extremely minimal that people do use parts of this
44 animal for handicrafts.

45

46 But there is a subsequent proposal
47 that's on the books, Proposal No. WP12-02 I believe it
48 is, which would remove the unit specific recommenda --
49 unit specific regulation. What I'm afraid of is that
50 this proposal would be just limited to those units that

1 were specified in WP-01, and, you know, if there's
2 people -- if there's cultural traditions that, you
3 know, people around this area perhaps, Unit 18, or
4 perhaps even Unit 19, utilize this animal for
5 handicraft, that they would be unjustly prosecuted for
6 practicing their cultural, traditional handicrafts.
7 And that would be our primary concern

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Andrew.

13

14 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No InterAgency.

19 Okay. How about any comments from fish and game local
20 advisory committee comments. Any local fish and game
21 advisory council. Go ahead, James.

22

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

24 We did not talk about this proposal at our last meeting
25 here in Bethel. We had the meeting back in April 7 in
26 Bethel, but we did -- this proposal didn't come up at
27 that time, so we did not talk about it.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any public
32 testimony.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Sorry. Is there a
37 summary of written comments, public comments. Mr. Alex
38 Nick.

39

40 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, Gates of the
41 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission supported this
42 proposal, but they never provided their justification
43 for support.

44

45 Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

48 Nick.

49

50 Regional Advisory Council deliberation,

1 recommendation, and justification. What is the feeling
2 of the Council concerning Proposal WP12-01. Anaan.

3

4 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Mary
5 Gregory. I don't like the way that this proposal is
6 forming up, because Mr. Charles hadn't heard about it.
7 And it seems to me like people were just putting it
8 together and not contacting people who will be
9 involved.

10

11 So I will not support it, because it
12 will be cumbersome if there's a piece of paper. And
13 you know how big the bear claws are? They're small.
14 And when we start selling our stuff, the Council on the
15 Arts have a little tag that accompanies the item to
16 prove the authenticity of the item. Unless it's
17 something like that -- I need to research it more.

18

19 And I'm on the Bear Claw Committee, and
20 we had only one meeting, and that was two years ago.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

23

24 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John
25 Andrew, Kwethluk.

26

27 Like the manager, he mentioned that our
28 people that harvest them, they are instructed not to
29 talk about the bears or their intentions towards them.
30 That's why most of the hunters out there are reluctant
31 to bring this one up.

32

33 The intention of this WP12-01 is to be
34 able for the artist or the people that make the
35 handicrafts be able to sell them.

36

37 (In Yup'ik)

38

39 But we do know in the past our people
40 used to use them. I've seen them when I was a young
41 boy. Some families make necklaces out of them and a
42 headband or dance ornaments out of them. But that
43 practice is rarely practiced nowadays.

44

45 What is the purpose for (In Yup'ik)

46

47 Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. I
50 apologize. You know, at this -- before discussion by

1 the Council I think we should have had a motion to the
2 positive side of the motion. Do I hear a motion
3 concerning the WP12-01.

4

5 Mr. Roczicka.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Move to
8 support Proposal 12-01.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
11 made.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
16 Charles. Now we can get into discussion. Sorry.

17

18 Any further discussion on -- Mr. James
19 -- Aloysius. I know. It's early in the morning.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Thank
22 you. I'm not going to support this, because to me it's
23 just another way of hindering production of something
24 that's been going on for years. Why should we have to
25 get a piece of paper saying that this bear is real or
26 these claws are real when we know they are. It's just
27 more hinderance for the artist. More paperwork to pay
28 somebody in Washington, D.C. to go through papers. Oh,
29 we have so many of these, so many of these, so many of
30 these, and we never hear anything about it. So I'm not
31 going to support it. It's just -- to me it's another
32 way of hindering an artist.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
35 discussion. Thank you, Bob.

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: And bury them in paper.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
40 Aloysius? Mr. Roczicka.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 I appreciate what's been said about the concerns on
44 putting this proposal forward, but currently right now
45 it is not allowed at all. It is illegal entirely to
46 use those parts. And this is something that's been
47 under discussion between the Regional Councils for
48 close onto 12 -- 10 years or so now. And what it is
49 attempting to do is because there are concerns of black
50 market that does occur for the gall bladders, people

1 that do want to use it as artistry work are currently
2 prohibited from doing so. And so this is something
3 that came from the Regional Councils and I guess along
4 the lines of respecting what people want to do in their
5 own localities, in other areas of the state, it would
6 be more appropriate to support this proposal. And if
7 there are a few folks here that would like to do so
8 within our region, they should be allowed to as well.

9

10 So I would -- as I say, it's been a
11 long time in the making, and it did -- was generated
12 through the Regional Councils. It's not something that
13 was imposed down from above. So along those lines I'd
14 recommend for support the proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Roczicka. Mr. Unok.

18

19 MR. UNOK: Yes. When it comes to
20 subsistence using and when money's involved in it, it's
21 not -- to me it's not subsistence any more. I --
22 somebody's going to kill any animal not for food, is
23 going to kill the animal just for cash. He's going to
24 make money out of it. It's not considered subsistence
25 any more. It's like Mr. Greg said, black market is
26 money-making. And I'm not -- if they could reword it
27 to like fish and -- you could buy -- to buy gas to go
28 hunt. I don't know.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
31 Unok. Mr. Oney.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. Looking at Page 43 under Unit 18, there's
35 only 11 villages that are listed. I want to know how
36 come not all 56 villages are listed. As you know, the
37 Y-K is a big area, and there's only 11 villages listed
38 there. I was wondering how come all the other villages
39 aren't on there.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Have you got an
44 answer to that, Mr. Jenkins?

45

46 DR. JENKINS: I do not have an answer
47 to that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Could you
50 answer one question for me. Is it -- is there a

1 subsistence -- there is no subsistence opening for
2 brown bear in Unit 18, is there? Or is it -- is there
3 a subsistence opening for brown bear? I didn't
4 understand that, but if somebody would come up with an
5 answer to that, so we can all understand whether there
6 is or not. Go ahead.

7

8 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I'm Phillip Perry.
9 I'm the area wildlife biologist for Fish and Game here
10 at Bethel.

11

12 Hopefully I can clarify it a little
13 bit. So currently under State law you can -- there's
14 several different ways an individual can harvest a
15 brown bear. One is just under a general season hunt.
16 The bag limit is one per year. Right now it's open to
17 residents and non-residents of the state September 1st
18 to the end of May. And that requires a metal locking
19 tag. If someone harvests a bear under that regulation,
20 they then have to seal the bear within 30 days of
21 harvest.

22

23 The other way that a person can harvest
24 a bear as a state resident, they can get a subsistence
25 permit. I think a lot of you at the table here are
26 probably familiar with, you know, in the early 90s how
27 that came about, how it started out as a Western Alaska
28 Brown Bear Management Area subsistence permit. At that
29 point it was a much more liberal season. You could
30 harvest a bear every year. It does not require that the
31 hunter gets a metal locking tag. It's simply a permit
32 that the person needs to get. It doesn't cost
33 anything. When someone harvests a bear under this
34 permit, they're required under the subsistence permit
35 to salvage the meat for human consumption, and they are
36 not required to seal the bear, unless the bear --
37 unless they're going to send the hide off to have it
38 tanned or anything like that. Then we would seal the
39 bear.

40

41 So there is a subsistence hunt I guess
42 on -- what you're referring to I think is in Federal
43 regulation, and I'm not real familiar with -- let's
44 see, it's on Page 43 you said? Is that the -- and
45 that's a customary and traditional determination from
46 my understanding, and that's kind of a separate issue
47 than what the seasons and bag limits. I can talk about
48 seasons and bag limits, but the other portion is -- I
49 think happened through the Subsistence Board, and I'm
50 not familiar with how that process goes or that.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Perry. Mr. Aloysius.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: What about the incidents
5 where you have to protect your life or your property,
6 and you shoot a bear? That's a third way of killing a
7 bear.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In the case of bear
10 pests like we do on the Yukon in some areas in the
11 fishing village -- in the fish camps. Is it required
12 that you have a permit prior to killing the bear?
13 Whether it's tearing your cabin down or tearing your
14 fishrack down, do you need a permit before you pull the
15 trigger?

16
17 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. The
18 defense of life and property is I think what Bob is
19 referring to. With that, the big difference with that
20 is obviously it's -- most of the time that's unplanned.
21 A lot of the time it happens in the summer when none of
22 the other seasons are open. Both the seasons I talked
23 about start the first of September and go to the end of
24 May when most people have fish camps. It's outside of
25 that time frame. So if someone kills a bear in defense
26 of their life, you know, if they're fearful for the
27 life of their children or, you know, anybody around,
28 it's a legal harvest, but that bear becomes property of
29 the State. They have -- and you just skin it out.
30 They need to get ahold of us. There's some paperwork
31 to fill out of the circumstances and that sort of
32 thing.

33
34 And they can also do the same when
35 it's, you know, destroying -- you know, it's defense of
36 life, that's pretty straight forward, and then of
37 property. If a bear is destroying your property, and
38 that includes, you know, actively destroying a fish
39 camp, that you have fished, it's part of your
40 livelihood and the way you make -- the way you live,
41 and that bear is harvested in that case. That's the
42 same thing. The person needs to get ahold of us or the
43 state troopers and somehow get that head and the hide
44 to us, and we'll put a seal on it, but it becomes the
45 property of the State and then, you know, we fill some
46 paperwork out, and it becomes -- it is a legal harvest
47 at point, but it's not something that the person who
48 shot it gets to retain.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. That's

1 -- there's been some incidents in our area where that's
2 happened, and I just wanted to make sure that our
3 people don't get in trouble for something -- doing
4 something like that.

5

6 Mr. Unok, you have a question.

7

8 MR. UNOK: Yeah, I have a question On
9 the -- does customary trade wording would fit on
10 selling those bear parts?

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The young lady back
13 there from BIA had an answer to that.

14

15 MS. PETRIVELLI: Thank you, Mr. Unok.
16 My name is Pat Petrivelli and I'm the BIA subsistence
17 anthropologist.

18

19 And then I -- first I'm going to start
20 with the customary and traditional use determinations
21 question first, because Mr. Oney asked about that. And
22 it kind of ties in with what Phillip Perry was talking
23 about with the Brown Bear Working Group management
24 plan.

25

26 And when the Federal program took over
27 management of wildlife from the State in the 1990s,
28 they adopted the existing customary and traditional use
29 determinations that the State had used. So those 11
30 villages that were recognized were recognized in the
31 1990s as using brown bear. And since then no one's put
32 in a proposal to ask for the recognition of the other
33 villages. So if the other villages want to have their
34 use of brown bear recognized, they would just put in a
35 proposal and then just look at -- and a C&T analysis
36 would be done to recognize those uses.

37

38 Okay. So now back to the question
39 about the customary trade, and I think this speaks kind
40 of what I wanted to talk about with Greg when he was
41 talking about making something legal. Our regulations,
42 and even under State regulations, they recognize the
43 use of bear parts for handicrafts, but under State
44 regulations, they do not recognize the use of claws in
45 those bear parts.

46

47 Now, recognizing the legal trade, we
48 have a definition where under subsistence uses that are
49 recognized in ANILCA, use of food, clothing, and
50 customary trade, you know, the uses of fish and

1 wildlife resources for food, clothing, customary trade
2 and a few others. So when someone is taking a bear for
3 subsistence, that means it's not like when they do it
4 for sport. When they do it for sport they just have to
5 salvage certain parts and have it sealed and they can
6 leave the whole carcass in wherever they find it. But
7 when they take it for subsistence, they have to take
8 everything, because that's a subsistence use, where you
9 take the whole thing, and then you use it all. And the
10 program recognizes those uses, because once you're
11 through eating, then you use the other parts for other
12 things, and you make handicrafts from it, and sometimes
13 you sell them. And that's what customary trade it.
14 And that's what these regulations are trying to
15 recognize, those uses.

16

17 And the way the Federal program is
18 different from the State is we allow the use of bear
19 claws in handicrafts. And so the State is the one who
20 initiated this proposal, not the Councils.

21

22 The Councils recognize -- they
23 initiated proposals that allowed different regulations
24 throughout the state. So like Western Interior doesn't
25 recognize that use, and Bristol Bay doesn't, but North
26 Slope and Northwest Arctic, Southcentral, I mean, they
27 all have different ways of recognizing the use. And
28 this Council asked for recognition of their brown bear
29 users to be able to sell claws in their handicrafts, or
30 the sale of it.

31

32 And then the State has the objection
33 about the potential of this use, handicraft use causing
34 increased illegal sales. And it has nothing to do with
35 gall bladders, it's just the idea of the parts that are
36 made into handicrafts, and including bear claws it.

37

38 And so that's why when this -- the
39 Federal board was -- had this proposal before it two
40 years ago, the Brown Bear Working Group was formed to
41 try to come up with a solution to address the State's
42 concerns about the potential illegal harvest. And this
43 was their potential solution. That if you have the
44 little piece of paper with your handicraft, then it
45 would prove that you harvested this legally under
46 Federal regulations.

47

48 Well, because the sale of the claws in
49 the handicraft would -- could only be allowed for bears
50 harvested under Federal regulation. So you would have

1 to prove you harvested on Federal public lands to get
2 the sealing certificate.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

5

6 MS. PETRIVELLI: So I answered a whole
7 bunch of questions all at once and I hope -- but if you
8 have further questions -- I apologize, but I just
9 wanted to lay it out there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for
12 laying it out.

13

14 Any further questions. James.

15

16 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute. Mr.
19 Wilde, just wait until James.....

20

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

22

23 So as the proposal is written, it don't
24 affect this area of 18, it's because it's not there.

25

26 MS. PETRIVELLI: It would affect Unit
27 18. It would affect any area where there is legally
28 allowed Federally harvested bears. So if it's passed,
29 then if you have a subsistence permit under the Federal
30 program to harvest a bear, and you want to make a
31 handicraft and sell the bear claws with it, you would
32 need to seal the bear. Now you don't have to if you
33 just want to use it for subsistence purposes and you
34 want to give away that handicraft, you don't have to
35 seal the bear if you don't want to. But if you want to
36 sell the handicraft that has the bear claw in it, then
37 you would need to seal it so that that's the -- the
38 person who -- when you sell it, that that person could
39 take that object, if it's a headdress or whatever it
40 is, and if they're selling it and they take it
41 overseas, if they're from Germany or something, they
42 would have a little piece of paper that said someone
43 legally harvested this handicraft. So it wouldn't be
44 -- because now if it's not legally harvested, whoever
45 bought it, they would just take it away from them. And
46 they would confiscate it, and they would -- because of
47 the Endangered Species Act and so it's really -- it
48 protects the artist in a way, because there's CITES
49 provisions, and I forget what CITES stands for, but it
50 has to do with endangered species, and when they go

1 through customs, and they have things like marine
2 mammal parts and stuff, if they're not properly sealed
3 or have the authenticity of being legally harvested,
4 then they're confiscated from whoever bought them.

5
6 So this little piece of paper would
7 help the artist out, and the buyer of the object. And
8 whether they keep track of that little piece of paper,
9 you know, do they have to keep track of it forever? I
10 suppose if they want to sell it again they do, but if
11 they just want to keep it for their own use, that --
12 that was another concern, people were worrying about do
13 they have to keep track of this little piece of paper
14 forever, and I suppose just to allow for legal sales in
15 the future so that it's not confiscated, whoever buys
16 it, and it's just only the concerns with the bear claws
17 that people are concerned about. I'm not sure why it
18 doesn't count as a concern when doing bear hides or
19 skins, but maybe the State could answer that, because
20 it -- they're the ones that put in this proposal.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
23 Charles. Your mic, please. Your mic.

24
25 Mr. Wilde.

26
27 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I think living
28 most of time, in summertime in the fish camp. Most of
29 the elders stay behind and take care of the dry fish,
30 fish in the fish camp. And sometimes like where I'm
31 at, two miles out of Mountain Village, bears comes
32 around, scare some of our -- some of my grandchildren.
33 When I went to Mountain and tell them, the people say,
34 why don't you tell Fish and Game? Fish and Game don't
35 come around. Once in a while maybe they fly over.

36
37 I think that to me brown bear claws is
38 not very important. It's not. All this -- as you get
39 old, elder, you work hard all the time, every day, try
40 to survive your family. What I say is in my time my
41 father used to sell wooden spoons, and now like try to
42 get something to -- like a few stuff from the people
43 that buy. I think it's -- to me, people, some of the
44 people should have an opportunity, chance to survive
45 without bear come around and scare them all the time.

46
47 It be good to have a license. I've got
48 hunting license, old hunting license, but still I have
49 -- they say you still have to go to Fish and Game and
50 talk to them about those bears. Me, as long as I have

1 that old hunting license, I'm not -- I shouldn't -- I
2 don't have to go to Fish and Game and tell them I'm
3 having problem with the dogs. They never come around
4 anyway. Fish and Game don't come around.

5
6 Like selling claws. I don't know. I
7 think it's very important to have claws, so sell them,
8 I don't know how they -- how much it cost and all that.
9 But me, I represent elders who try to make them survive
10 their family. They shouldn't have hard time with Fish
11 and Game. They should -- if you know someone, elder,
12 you could give them license to kill a bear instead of
13 bear eating up your dry fish and wait for Fish and
14 Game. That is my concern, especially people that try
15 to survive in summer time, like this summer. Wind and
16 rain and all that stuff. Our people try to survive for
17 their family.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Wilde.
22 Mr. Andrew, Noah.

23
24 MR. N. ANDREW: We had an incident in
25 Tuluksak. The concern that Mr. Wilde spoken for, is --
26 we're experiencing in Tuluksak. We have bears that
27 took fish from fish-hanging racks and we had a couple
28 incidents where they have broken into the smoke house
29 and bring the fish out. There is concern that the
30 subsistence users have, concern, that come over here
31 and told me, this is what they tell me. In order to
32 kill the brown bear that's doing all that, after he
33 kill it, he has to send the skin, the head back to the
34 Federal building or somewhere, on their own expense.
35 And that kind of wasn't right to me at all. And he
36 said he -- he's a subsistence user. This kind of
37 happening is going on now, and we called the Department
38 of Fish and Game on several incidents where a couple of
39 moose were killed off of the river, brown bear. They
40 hunt moose, and they're abundant and hungry, they're
41 not going to worry about no Federal or State law.
42 Where as a human being and for the safety of these
43 families and for securing their property if I may put
44 it that way. There still some problem in the way this
45 entail.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
50 Andrew. Mr. Aloysius.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. This general
2 description is very confusing to me, because it says,
3 prior to selling a handicraft incorporating a brown
4 bear claw, skull, claws, the hide or claws not attached
5 to the hide must be sealed by an authorized Department
6 of Fish and Game representative. Well, I'm looking at
7 11 items. The hide and the 10 claws. Do you mean we
8 have to have a seal for each one of those items?
9 That's the way it looks like to me. And those bear
10 claws are only that big, and the seals on them are --
11 you know, it doesn't make sense. Why should you have
12 to put a seal on a bear claw? That's the way I look at
13 it. So, you know, to me, it's just another hindrance
14 of somebody's ability to make something out of a bear
15 claw or any other item that is related to the animal of
16 any kind.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could somebody from
21 the Department or the Service answer that question
22 about sealing each and every claw. Mr. Perry.

23
24 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I can answer the
25 question about what -- when we seal a bear, what
26 happens. So we have a form, a sealing certificate
27 that's a numbered certificate. The hunter comes in,
28 presents the animal. The hide and the skull, each one
29 of those we put a plastic seal on. We fill out
30 information of who harvested it, where it was. Each of
31 those plastic seals are seals that have a serial number
32 on them that's good for that particular year. You put
33 those on the hide and the skull.

34
35 We're not talking about in this case
36 that you would put then an individual seal on each
37 claw, because they're just -- physically that wouldn't
38 work. But the certificate itself that shows that it
39 was a legally harvested bear, what seals were put on it
40 as far as the hide and the skull. My understanding of
41 the way this is written is it would be a copy of that
42 form that shows it's legally harvested and that it was
43 sealed that would need to accompany those things that
44 were being sold.

45
46 So I apologize. I wish I would have
47 brought both of those in. I have them at the office,
48 bear seals and certificates, and I'd show you what
49 we're talking about, because, you know, we don't seal a
50 lot of bears. WE don't have a large harvest of brown

1 bears, so some -- you know, probably a lot of you have
2 never seen what I'm talking about, a sealing
3 certificate and a seal. It's very similar to those of
4 you that have sealed furbearers. It's the same sort of
5 plastic seal. So, yeah, it would not work to put an
6 individual seal on the gear claws. But having a copy
7 of the certificate that shows that it was a legally
8 harvested bear, and in this case with an extra box
9 saying that it was a Federal subsistence, Federally-
10 qualified subsistence user that harvested the bear, I
11 think that's the purpose of what they're looking at
12 here.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Perry.
15 Mr. Perry.

16

17 Mr. Roczicka.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: That's okay. I thought
20 he had more.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry. I
23 thought, Mr. Noah, were you done? Right. You were
24 already. Okay. Greg.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, I recognize
29 you, but he had his hand up first.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: Oh, okay.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll pass for now.

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Now it's
37 your turn.

38

39 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Perry and
40 (In Yup'ik).

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, Mr. Jenkins.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Jennings?

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Jenkins.

47

48 MS. GREGORY: Before you come up with a
49 proposal for us, people who are ignorant about the
50 Federal red tape, I would like to see you bring an

1 example, like Mr. Perry said he has -- he could have
2 brought something to show us, to make sure -- if you
3 want to convince us to support you, you need to do more
4 than just talk about it. You need to give us something
5 concrete to look at.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Jenkins?

8

9 DR. JENKINS: Uh-huh.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know you heard
12 that.

13

14 DR. JENKINS: I did. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
17 questions concerning the WP12-01.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, there's a
22 motion on the floor that's seconded. Any further
23 discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Question

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Question's called
30 for. Roll call vote for it, Mr. Secretary.

31

32 MR. ALOYSIUS: My microphone is not
33 working -- yes, it is, okay, it's working now.

34

35 William Brown. James Charles.

36

37 MR. CHARLES: No.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.

40

41 MR. N. ANDREW: No.

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.

44

45 MR. POLTY: No.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

48

49 MR. H. WILDE: No.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Yes.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: No.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Lester Wilde.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
14
15 MR. UNOK: No.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
18
19 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius, no.
22 John Andrew.
23
24 MR. J. ANDREW: Yes.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Anybody take count?
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, we didn't take
29 the count. You were taking it.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: I was just reading
32 names. I didn't put Y or.....
33
34 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. It fails.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's fail.
37
38 MS. GREGORY: Motion failed.
39
40 MR. NICK: 7 no, 4 yes.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: 7 no. The motion fails
43 because of 7 nays and only 4 yes.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
46 Secretary.
47
48 I've got one question. According to
49 our minutes, did -- was there -- it's stated that Mr.
50 Andrew from Kwethluk was secretary. Could you

1 straighten that out, because we've got two secretaries
2 listed. I want to make sure that the right secretary
3 is doing the job.

4
5 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair, members of the
6 Board. Or rather, the RAC. Sometime our rosters get a
7 little bit mixed up somewhere along the line.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, as in this
10 case.

11
12 MR. NICK: You are correct; I believe
13 John Andrew was elected as secretary.

14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. No.

16
17 MR. NICK: Oh, was.....

18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, he was the chairman
20 during the meeting, and after they elected, I was
21 elected as the secretary.

22
23 MR. NICK: I'll have to doublecheck in
24 the transcript. We'll straighten that out later. Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. And for this
28 meeting's purposes, since Mr. Aloysius has been
29 assigned secretary and been doing a beautiful job,
30 we'll keep him on as secretary.

31
32 Okay. Then the next item, I think
33 WP10-02 has been deferred. So our next item is WP12-
34 02. Introduction of the proposal and analysis.

35
36 DR. JENKINS: WP12-02 was submitted by
37 Michael Cronk of Tok, Alaska. And it requests that
38 people 60 years of age or older, or disabled, be
39 allowed to designate their harvest limit to another
40 person. And this regulation would apply to the entire
41 state.

42
43 Now, as it stands, the Federal
44 Subsistence Board established a statewide designated
45 hunter system in 2003. The statewide designated hunter
46 regulation includes the following. The designator must
47 be a Federally-qualified subsistence user. The
48 designator must designate another Federally-qualified
49 subsistence user to take deer or moose or caribou on
50 his or her behalf. And the designated hunter must

1 obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a
2 completed harvest report for that hunt.

3
4 The designated hunter may hunt for any
5 number of recipients, but may have no more than two
6 harvest limits in his or her possession at any one
7 time.

8
9 So these provisions apply unless
10 modified in unit specific regulations.

11
12 Now, the purpose of the designated
13 hunter rules is to recognize customary and traditional
14 practices of sharing and redistribution of meat in
15 rural Alaska, and of other resources. It -- the
16 designated hunter system legalizes the traditional
17 practice that is ongoing in much of rural Alaska. With
18 an individual harvest limit, some hunters cannot
19 harvest enough to meet the needs of their own
20 households as well as the needs of people with whom
21 they share, so the designated hunter system allows
22 hunters to harvest moose and caribou and deer expressly
23 for sharing. And households may contain members who
24 are unable to, or who do not choose to harvest for
25 themselves. And as everyone knows, hunters do not
26 possess equal skills and abilities and aptitudes, and
27 each community has -- tends to have a minority of
28 particularly good hunters and trappers and fishers who
29 share with the wider community.

30
31 Now, this proposal seeks to change that
32 designated hunter system, permit system so that only
33 people 60 years of age or older or disabled be allowed
34 to designate their harvest limit to another person. So
35 it seeks to limit the designated hunter permit system
36 as it stands.

37
38 And if this proposal were adopted, the
39 extent of impacts on subsistence users cannot be
40 measured, because the statistics that we've been able
41 to find were gathered to describe the age of those
42 designating the hunter and not whether a user was
43 disabled, for example. And based on these statistics,
44 which you can find on table 3 in your Council books,
45 for 2009 and 2010 only, these two years, 77 percent of
46 users designating a hunter were under 60 years old. 77
47 percent were under 60 years old. If the proposal would
48 be -- was adopted, these people would be prohibited
49 from designating hunters to hunt for them, because they
50 are younger than 60 years old.

1 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 oppose Proposal WP12-02 for the reasons that I've
3 mentioned.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Jenkins.

9
10 Agency comments.....

11
12 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game.

16
17 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chairman. Can they
18 state the page where the proposal is? We're all
19 looking for.....

20
21 DR. JENKINS: 60.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Page 60.

24
25 MR. UNOK:by the time somebody
26 find it, it's all over.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Page 60. Mr.
29 Pappas.

30
31 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 I'll summarize our comments here.

33
34 This proposal requests that Federal
35 regulations be changed to require the Federal
36 subsistence designated hunters only hunt for Federally-
37 qualified recipients 60 years of age or older or for
38 persons who are disabled.

39
40 Under State regulations, the State
41 proxy hunting beneficiary requirement includes to be a
42 resident of Alaska, the person -- or is blind, or 70
43 percent physically disabled, or 65 years of age or
44 older. Proxy hunters under State regulations may not
45 proxy hunt for more than one beneficiary at a time, and
46 may only have one proxy permit, authorization permit
47 with them in the field at a time. If adopted, this
48 proposal will bring Federal and State regulations
49 closer to alignment.

50

1 Adoption of this proposal -- the
2 Department's recommendation is adopt this proposal with
3 modification to establish the designated hunter
4 beneficiary qualifications equal to those approved by
5 the Federal Subsistence Board for Unit 6. The State
6 recommends modifying the proposal to require
7 beneficiaries of the Federal subsistence designated
8 hunters be blind, 65 years or older, or at least 70
9 percent disabled or temporarily disabled. The State
10 also recommends modifying the proposal to reflect the
11 proposal to reflect the Unit 6 designated hunter
12 possession limit adopted by the Federal Board which
13 limit designated hunters to possession of only one bag
14 limit at a time.

15
16 Adoption of these recommended proposal
17 modifications will bring regulatory consistency in
18 Units 1 through 6 and make Federal and State
19 regulations more parallel.

20
21 *****
22 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
23 *****

24
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
26 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

27
28 Wildlife Proposal WP12-02:

29
30 Change federal subsistence designated
31 hunter regulations.

32
33 Introduction:

34
35 This proposal seeks to change the
36 statewide federal subsistence designated hunter
37 regulation by specifying the qualifications for the
38 recipient of harvest. The proposal requests federal
39 regulations be changed to require that federal
40 subsistence designated hunters only harvest for
41 federally qualified recipients 60 years of age or older
42 or for a person who is disabled.

43
44 The proponent indicates the federal
45 subsistence designated hunter program has diverged from
46 the original intent of the Federal Subsistence Board by
47 allowing designated hunting to provide for elders and
48 others that were unable to hunt for themselves. The
49 proponent indicates the designated hunter program is
50 currently an uncontrolled system. The proponent

1 indicates some federal subsistence users are abusing
2 this regulation and are harvesting as many animals as
3 numbers of permits they can obtain which may lead to
4 detrimental impacts to game populations and subsistence
5 hunting in general.

6

7

Impact on Subsistence Users:

8

9

10 If adopted, federally qualified
11 subsistence designated hunters could harvest animal for
12 federally qualified users 60 years of age or older or
13 are disabled. If adopted, some federally qualified
14 subsistence super harvesters may expend additional time
15 locating and obtaining game tags from qualified
16 designated hunter beneficiaries. If adopted,
17 designated hunters who cannot locate federally
18 qualified users 60 or over or are disabled may harvest
19 fewer animals per year.

20

21

Opportunity Provided by State:

22

23

24 Proxy hunting for big game is
25 authorized in state hunting regulation. State proxy
26 hunting is allowed for moose, caribou, and deer. The
27 state proxy hunting beneficiary requirements include
28 being a resident of Alaska who is blind, 70% physically
29 disabled, or 65 years of age or older. Proxy hunters
30 may not proxy hunt for more than one beneficiary at a
31 time and may have only one Proxy Authorization with
32 them in the field at a time.

33

34

Conservation Issues:

35

36

37 Undetermined at this time. If this
38 proposal is adopted without modifications many more
39 animals may be harvested than anticipated.

40

41

Enforcement Issues:

42

43

44 If adopted, this proposal would bring
45 federal and state regulations closer to alignment.

46

47

Recommendation:

48

49

Support with modification.

50

51 Adopt the proposal with modification to
52 establish designated hunter beneficiary qualifications
53 equal to those approved by the Federal Subsistence
54 Board for Unit 6. The State recommends modifying this

1 proposal to require beneficiaries of the federal
2 subsistence designated hunters be blind, 65 years old
3 or older, at least 70% disabled, or temporarily
4 disabled. The State also recommends modifying this
5 proposal to reflect the Unit 6 designated hunter
6 possession limit adopted by the Federal Subsistence
7 Board which to limits designated hunters to possession
8 of only one bag limit at a time. Adoption of these
9 recommended proposal modification will bring regulatory
10 consistency to Units 1 through 6 and make federal and
11 state regulations more parallel.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
16 Pappas. Any questions. Mr. Roczicka.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. George, has
19 the State identified any place where this is being
20 utilized where there's -- it's creating any kind of a
21 conservation concern?

22

23 MR. PAPPAS: Looking at our notes, and
24 talking to folks around the state within the
25 Department, it's undetermined at this time. It's
26 undetermined at this time. We do hear from Southeast
27 Alaska, which is -- the vast majority of the land is
28 Federal public lands, there have been complaints by
29 residents that some folks under the Federal subsistence
30 program hunt and harvest a lot of deer, over a dozen
31 sometimes. And some folks believe that this is -- some
32 of the guys really like to hunt, and looking for the
33 biggest animal. Some people don't.

34

35 But at this time we don't have a
36 conservation concern to state, sir.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anyone else.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I didn't quite hear
45 the recommendation from Fish and Game.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Oh, I'm sorry. The
48 recommendation is to modify the proposal to require
49 that the beneficiaries, the ones who receive the
50 designating hunting meat from folks, recommend they be

1 -- that the minimum requirement be blind, 65 years or
2 older, or at least 70 percent disabled or temporarily
3 disabled; and also that a designated hunter out in the
4 field can only have one possession limit at a time
5 instead of hunting for multiple people at the same
6 time. So bottom line, we're looking to make our
7 regulations more parallel than they are right now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
10 further questions of Mr. Pappas. Mr. Unok.

11

12 MR. UNOK: Yeah, I have a question on
13 if a person gets an animal, he would -- can able to
14 hunt for -- to kill another animal for another person?
15 Is this what it's all about?

16

17 DR. JENKINS: Yes, that's what it is,
18 so somebody can hunt for someone else. So this
19 proposal attempts to it. It attempts to limit the
20 numbers of people that can be so designated to only
21 those who are 60 years or older. As it stands now,
22 there is no such Federal limitation.

23

24 MR. UNOK: What about a permitting?
25 You're allowed to get two? If they need a permit to
26 hunt, they'll have two or just one? How does that
27 work?

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's a
30 difference in the State and the Federal regulations.
31 The Fed's says you can get up to two in possession, the
32 State says one. It depends on which area you're
33 hunting, whether it's under State jurisdiction or under
34 Federal jurisdiction. Understand that?

35

36 MR. UNOK: Yeah, I understand that.
37 Because to get more -- we have to get moose permits? I
38 mean, moose ticket? How that's going to work?

39

40 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. If you look
41 at Page 63, there's a difference between the State and
42 the Federal system that you can see there. And as it
43 is, you can get any number of -- a person may hunt for
44 any number of recipients right now in this designated
45 hunter system, but must have no more than two harvest
46 limits in possession at any one time.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's with the
49 Federal.

50

1 DR. JENKINS: That's with the Federal
2 system.

3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And the State?

5
6 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Yes,
7 both the Federal and State government have regulations
8 that allow you to hunt for other people. On the State
9 side, the -- who you can hunt for is limited to folks
10 that really can't hunt for themselves. On the Federal
11 side, there's no -- there's not a restriction. You can
12 hunt, except in Unit 1 through 6 -- or, excuse me, in
13 Unit No. 6, on the Federal side you can hunt for
14 anybody who's a Federally-qualified user. The proposal
15 is trying to restrict that, and on the -- the
16 difference in regulations as he said, on the Federal
17 side, you're allowed two moose at a time, say, in
18 possession. On the State side you're only allowed one
19 at a time. You shoot a moose for someone else, you
20 bring it home, you process it, you can go back, get
21 another permit, proxy permit, to go hunt for another
22 proxy person on the State side. You can do that until
23 the season's closed. A lot of work.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Any further
26 questions. Mr. Polty.

27
28 MR. POLTY: Yeah. For hunting for the
29 designated people, do you need written letter or
30 written paper from the elder that you're hunting for
31 them, or just follow this regulation that you just came
32 out with.

33
34 DR. JENKINS: Through the Chair. My
35 understand is that you just need to follow this
36 regulation. You need to have the appropriate permit if
37 you're the designated hunter.

38
39 MR. POLTY: Okay. How about on State
40 side?

41
42 MR. PAPPAS: Phillip will stand in.
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Through the Chair.
48 For the proxy hunting or authorization for the State is
49 basically a one-page document. The beneficiary, the
50 person that's being hunted for, fills out just general

1 information. Name, date of birth, their hunting
2 license number, and then they sign it. The proxy, the
3 person that's hunting for them, fills out the same
4 information, and the myself or another Department
5 employee signs the bottom that it's authorized, and
6 they carry that in the field with them. So it's just a
7 one-page; it takes 10 minutes to fill out.

8
9 And we've done them -- we do them here
10 in the office fairly regularly and we help people in
11 different villages do them, especially when it's a --
12 when someone's over the age of 65, it's very straight
13 forward. When they qualify by either being blind or by
14 70 percent disabled, there's an additional form that
15 they need to get one time that they would give a copy
16 to us also. But, yeah, for most of the time it's just
17 a simple one-page form.

18
19 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
22 questions of either the State or the Feds. Mr.
23 Charles.

24
25 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26
27 So if this proposal is adopted and
28 accepted, that would make them different then? I mean,
29 the regulations different or did I under -- if I
30 understand it right. So if it's -- if they're accepted
31 that would make two different regulations?

32
33 DR. JENKINS: Yes. As stands, they're
34 -- the State and the Federal regulations are different.
35 And if this proposal were adopted, they would continue
36 to be different. That's the case. But this proposal,
37 as I mentioned, seeks to limit the numbers of people
38 you can designate. You have to be 60 years or older
39 that can be designated.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
42 questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
47 very much, gentlemen.

48
49 And at this time we'll have any Federal
50 agencies, any comments.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I guess that's all
4 the Federal agencies we have. How about Native,
5 tribal, village corporations. Tribal -- yeah, I know
6 that. Go ahead, Mr. Andrew.

7

8 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman, members of the Regional Advisory Council.
10 Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

11

12 One of the things that really concern
13 me about this, the effects of this proposal is its
14 limitations that it may have on people in our villages.
15 To be -- and this proposal seeks to be consistent with
16 the State of Alaska's level of restriction.

17

18 We have in our -- I agree with Mr.
19 Aloysius that it is extremely hard to characterize and
20 describe our cultures and traditions on paper. And
21 sometimes that's virtually impossible. But in most
22 villages we care for our elders and people that are
23 disabled and also widows. You know, people that are in
24 an unfortunate situation. Perhaps somebody has a
25 broken leg, a broken a hand or had suffered a minor
26 stroke or heart attack or was ill during the majority
27 of the moose hunting season, but, you know -- or
28 caribou season or whatever season it may be.

29

30 And, you know, meat sources are
31 extremely important to our people, you know, much so
32 that it was documented in a 2004 study by the Institute
33 of Social and Economic Research, labeled status of
34 Alaska Natives. It was characterized that our people
35 in this area harvest 664 pounds per capita. That's for
36 very man, woman and child. And a large part of that,
37 20 percent of that is from large mammals.

38

39 And to take this proposal and make it
40 equivalent with -- or similar to the State of Alaska, I
41 think it would have a big impact upon the people in our
42 villages, the way we care for each other. The way we
43 care for people that are perhaps, you know, 50, 20
44 percent disabled or, you know, somewhat under the 70
45 percent disabled benchmark. You know, it gets very
46 handicapping when we try to place these restrictive
47 regulations upon our way of life.

48

49 And I think the way the current
50 regulation reads will work for the people in our

1 villages, will work for, you know, all of our tribal
2 members, you know, caring for each other and also
3 caring for others in other communities as well.

4
5 And I think it was under -- I'm not
6 sure if it was an ONC program or something like that,
7 and Greg will probably correct me if I'm wrong, but
8 harvesting additional moose where there is no
9 conservation concern, in fact, harvesting moose from
10 the lowest part of the Yukon River to feed the elders
11 in this community, in the senior center, you know, some
12 of those people may not qualify for that benchmark.

13
14 But I just would really encourage the
15 counsel to take a look at this with caution to see how
16 much it will compact the people in your villages, the
17 people that you represent, and the people of the area.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Andrew. Any questions for Mr. Andrew.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you.

27
28 Any InterAgency Staff Committee
29 comments. Mr. Berg.

30
31 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Actually I didn't have any -- I do sit on the
33 InterAgency Staff Committee, and we didn't have any
34 comments.

35
36 But I had a couple of other comments
37 from other tribes through our teleconferences we held.
38 And just to let the Council know, we did also hold a
39 teleconference to consult with the Board and the tribes
40 for the Y-K Delta proposals that are in front of you,
41 but we didn't have any tribes call in on that
42 teleconference. So the only comments I have are from
43 tribes from other areas of the State.

44
45 So we did have a comment from the
46 Sun'aq Tribe in Kodiak on this proposal. They felt
47 that this proposal does not make sense for many
48 cultures around the State and does not make sense for
49 their area in Kodiak. There's no reason to place such
50 restrictions on our elders or hunters who are helping

1 to hunt for an elder.

2

3 And then the Organized Village of
4 Kasaan provided a comment on this proposal, that they
5 were opposed, that some people need to designate
6 someone else to hunt for them, and this would limit
7 their ability to do that.

8

9 And then we had one village
10 corporation, the Cully Corporation in Point Lay
11 commented that they are concerned about the proposal.
12 Hunters need to be able to utilize the designated
13 hunter provision when needed to support subsistence
14 uses of available resources. And hunters need to be
15 able to teach their children and other younger hunters
16 where and how to hunt according to traditional and
17 cultural values.

18

19 That's all the comments I have. Thank
20 you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Berg.

24

25 Advisory group comments. Do you have
26 any comments from your advisory group.

27

28 MR. CHARLES: No comment from Lower
29 Kuskokwim AC.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Regional Advisory
32 Council comments. Are there any comments from any
33 Regional Council.

34

35 MS. NICORI: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, we'll get to
38 you in public testimony. I've got your notice here.
39 We'll come to you next, later.

40

41 Local fish and game advisory, we got
42 that. National Park Service Subsistence Resource
43 Commission. Is there anybody from that.

44

45 MR. ROCZICKA: We have no national
46 parks.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We don't
49 have no national parks.

50

1 Summary of written comments. I think
2 -- Mr. Nick.

3
4 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Summary of the
5 written public comments is on Page 74 or your book.

6
7 And I think there's a typo in the
8 comment. The comment is from Gates of the Arctic
9 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission. And
10 they -- the one that's written in here says support
11 with modification to include widows. I think what it
12 actually means is support with modification to include
13 widows.

14
15 The designated hunter option is
16 important to traditional subsistence practices and
17 ensure that animals are harvested correctly.

18
19 Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
22 questions for Mr. Nick.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, we are down
27 to public testimony. Sandra Nicoli. Nicori, I'm
28 sorry.

29
30 MS. NICORI: Yeah. Sandra Nicori. I
31 think that this proposal excludes and then should be
32 amended to included widows and single females, people
33 under 60 years of age. This proposal should include
34 other people, being the widows and single people under
35 the 60 -- under the age of 60 that are unable to unable
36 to physically hunt or provide for themselves. And then
37 the reason being that not all widows and single people,
38 single females are over the age of 60.

39
40 Doi.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 Sandra, welcome, and thank you for
47 that. But just to clarify, what this proposal --
48 that's the way it currently is. It can be anybody, no
49 matter of their age. you know as long as they're old
50 enough to have a hunting license basically to designate

1 anybody else to go for them. This proposal is trying
2 to change that and restrict it to people disabled or 60
3 years or older. So just to clear, that it -- that's
4 the way it is right now. It could be anybody
5 regardless of age or the disabled.

6

7 MS. NICORI: Uh-huh. Okay. Doi.

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: Under the Federal
10 system.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Quyana. Council
13 recommendations. We need a motion.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move to
16 adopt the Proposal WP12-02.

17

18 MR. ONEY: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
21 made by Mrs. Gregory to adopt WP12-02. Do I hear a
22 second.

23

24 MR. ONEY: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded -- Mr.
27 Oney, I'm sorry. Mr. Oney seconded the motion.

28

29 Any discussion.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick -- I mean,
34 Mr. Aloysius. I'm sorry.

35

36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Who am I today?

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I can't recognize
41 you today.

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The way that
44 this general description is, it doesn't make a bit of
45 sense to me at all. It says that the only people 60
46 years of age or older, or disabled be allowed to
47 designate their harvest limit to another person. It
48 doesn't make a bit of sense to me, because it doesn't
49 say anything about hunting for, or, you know, allowing
50 somebody else to hunt for you.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. -- do you have
2 something for his concern with what's written, the way
3 it's written in the book?

4
5 DR. JENKINS: Well, that was how the
6 proponent proposed this language, so.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, okay. That's
9 the proponent's, okay. So it's -- do you understand?
10 It's from the guy that wrote the proposal.

11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: It doesn't make sense at
13 all to me, so I like the way it is previously, and, you
14 know, on-going the way it is right now. So this
15 amendment or whatever you want to call it, you know,
16 I'm not going to support.

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mom.

19
20 MS. GREGORY: You can call me mom.
21 That's fine.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mom.

24
25 MS. GREGORY: There already exists a
26 designated hunter law that it involves us elderly
27 people and it involves anybody with no age limit. And
28 because I made that positive motion doesn't mean I'm
29 going to support it. I'm not going to support this
30 one, because there's already a permission that exists.

31
32 And every year we don't want to change
33 our laws. Please don't do that to us. Let us live our
34 life the way we like it, and we're used to it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Sometimes. Mr. --
37 can we get the rest of the guys, then we'll come back
38 to you.

39
40 Go ahead, Mr. Roczicka.

41
42 MR. UNOK: Yeah. Cannot they add like
43 people, sitting here, two days moose hunting, they're
44 going to close by the time we get home. They can hunt
45 for us like people go out to meetings.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

48
49 DR. JENKINS: That's correct, you can
50 designate a hunter to hunt for you under the Federal

1 system.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you clear with
4 that, Mr. Unok?

5

6 MR. UNOK: I'm asking like we're here,
7 we didn't catch anything, and there's two more days of
8 hunting like right, for example, tomorrow is the last
9 day of moose hunting, and one of -- maybe Mr. Wilde
10 didn't catch anything and he wants somebody to hunt for
11 him, would that work to add it on is what I'm asking.

12

13 DR. JENKINS: As the Federal
14 regulations read, no, there are no restrictions for
15 that, so you can designate somebody to hunt for you
16 under any number of conditions, including the ones you
17 just mentioned.

18

19 MR. UNOK: Any regulated hunting
20 season?

21

22 DR. JENKINS: Well, that's right. You
23 have to work within the existing regulations in those
24 hunting seasons, but within those seasons, you can have
25 designated hunters hunting for you under the Federal
26 program.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that.....

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Somebody needs to.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, I see that.
33 Mr. Aloysius.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just want to clarify
36 something, and my observation of the proceedings and
37 the way people are pointing fingers at him and him or
38 her, and they're not the ones who wrote these
39 proposals, so please refrain from, you know, getting
40 after them.

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I second that.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
47 Aloysius?

48

49 Mr. Roczicka.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.

3
4 I'm not going to support this proposal
5 either, seeing that the author and where he's from and
6 I'm also familiar with the individual. That's neither
7 here nor there. It's -- the proposal takes away a
8 recognition of traditional practices within the
9 villages. And that's what's mentioned in the public
10 testimony.

11
12 I thought about asking earlier if the
13 State in its recommendation had taken into
14 consideration, I believe it was Jim Magdanz with the
15 Subsistence Division up in the Kotzebue area that put
16 together a very thorough representation of a matrix of
17 how subsistence is done in one village up there around
18 the Kotzebue area. I forget exactly which village it
19 was. And I know that the State Board was aware of that
20 and it was presented by Dr. Fall, and has been brought
21 up on several occasions since, but the State Board of
22 Game has refused to acknowledge that within its -- or
23 not acknowledge it, but refused to take any action to
24 change their regulations to reflect that, and they
25 continue to keep it with the restrictions of that
26 anybody hunting proxy under the State system as to be
27 60 years, older, blind or disabled.

28
29 And as was mentioned by Mrs. Nicoli in
30 her testimony, it certainly doesn't recognize the --
31 for widows or you know, single-parent families and
32 things, or anybody who -- we all know that in the
33 villages there's people that maybe don't have the
34 equipment or the wherewithal for the gas to get out and
35 take care of things. And this proposal tries to take
36 that away from -- that opportunity under the Federal
37 system, so it's certainly not worth supporting.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Before we get to
40 Mr. Nick, there was one testimony request came in a
41 little bit late, but we're going to go ahead and listen
42 to her anyway. Alissa Joseph.

43
44 MS. JOSEPH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 I just want to say that the wording,
47 when you look at the Page 67, the effects of this
48 proposal, and it tells you exactly that only Federally-
49 qualified subsistence users who are 60 years of age or
50 older or disabled would be allowed to designate another

1 person to take. And, well, anyway, this wording right
2 here excludes everyone else such as widows, younger
3 ladies who can't go out hunting due to traditional
4 custom values, people who lost loved ones and who can't
5 hunt for a year for themselves, or orphans who lost
6 parents or guardians, women with children and no men in
7 the family to go hunting for them, and other people
8 such in -- within that category that are not on here
9 that would be affected by this if this was adopted.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Alissa.

14

15 Mr. Nick.

16

17 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex
18 Nick for the record.

19

20 I just wanted to do a couple of things.
21 One, just hopefully clarification Mr. Unok's question
22 regarding designating someone to hunt for him. I
23 believe there's a couple of people, Mr. Louie Andrew
24 and Spencer Reardon in the room here.

25

26 Mr. Jenkins did will explaining what he
27 needs to do, but one thing that needs to keep in mind
28 is that both the hunter, your designated hunter and you
29 need to be present to fill out paperwork, making sure
30 that, you know, all of the information that should be
31 in the designated hunter ticket or harvest information
32 is filled out correctly regarding your hunting license,
33 both of your hunting license would have to be in it.

34

35 I can't speak for the State, but I used
36 to deal with those designated hunter -- I used to issue
37 those, that's why I know a little bit about them. And
38 Mr. Andrew is one of the people who fills out
39 designated hunter forms.

40

41 Another thing that I forgot to do, Mr.
42 Chair, is I'm supposed to let you know what other RACs
43 did in each proposal when I provide information on the
44 comments.

45

46 For Proposal 12-02, Seward Peninsula
47 opposed that proposal. Kodiak/Aleutians opposed the
48 proposal. And Southeast Alaska opposed the proposal.

49

50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Nick.
3
4 We have Mr. Polty.
5
6 MR. POLTY: Yes, Mr. Chair.
7
8 On what I asked, the reason I ask is
9 for the designate, when you designate someone, you have
10 to go through all that paperwork, and at home it costs
11 \$2 to fax to Fish and Game here, so that's part of it
12 that's involved with that, if we decide to go ahead and
13 go along with that. But I like what Mary proposed on
14 that, why change it now while it's good now. So I go
15 along with Mary for that proposal, what we decide on.
16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If there are any
20 further comments.
21
22 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Quyana. Mr. Unok.
25
26 MR. UNOK: My question was not to
27 change. I just want to comment. If it could be added
28 on in the future. That was my idea.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Any further
31 discussion from the Council.
32
33 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.
36
37 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Well, I look at
38 myself, I think I'm old enough to get help. I went
39 moose hunting in my land allotment down across from --
40 in that area. I take my son-in-law with me in case I
41 catch moose so he could help me. I did catch moose. I
42 was about 61 years old. What happen is my son-in-law,
43 he didn't happen to have any license. He got fined for
44 helping me. He was helping me out, trying to skin the
45 moose, and bring it to my camp. But he turn around,
46 the State fine him just for helping me. I don't think
47 that's really fair.
48
49 But my understanding is no matter where
50 you are, if you own the land, control or run by State.

1 State take care of your land. Well, it's my land and I
2 go through flying all over, and try to make a place to
3 fishing and hunting.

4
5 But one thing that really bothers me
6 until today. My brother-in-law tried to help me, but
7 he got fined. I don't know how many people take time
8 and whatever I do, I will never support anything like
9 that, just to -- we're not -- when my age gets to 60,
10 I'm still able to do -- go out and do what I want to
11 do. So whatever this -- if this is one that needs
12 help, someone will help you, they have to make sure
13 that according to the State you've got to have a
14 license to help you. I don't know, but me in my land
15 there, and I didn't really support this, and I'm not
16 going to support something like that.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
21 Wilde.

22
23 We have a motion on the floor that has
24 been seconded. Any further discussion.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. J. ANDREW: Question.

29
30 MR. CHARLES: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
33 called for by Mr. Andrew. May I have a roll call vote,
34 please, Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary.

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: James Charles.

37
38 MR. CHARLES: No.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.

41
42 MR. N. ANDREW: No.

43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.

45
46 MR. POLTY: No.

47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

49
50 MR. H. WILDE: No.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
2
3 MR. ONEY: No.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
6
7 MS. GREGORY: No.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Mr. Wilde.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
14
15 MR. UNOK: No.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
18
19 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. No.
22 John Andrew.
23
24 MR. J. ANDREW: No.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Motion fails, 11 to
27 nothing.
28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion fails.
30 Thank you.
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we recess
37 for lunch.
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
40 to recess. Let's reconvene at 1:30, because sometimes
41 it takes us a little bit longer to order our food. And
42 when there's a lot of people, it takes a little bit
43 longer than that. So we'll reconvene at 1:30.
44
45 (Off record)
46
47 (On record)
48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting
50 back to order. It is now 1:30.

1 At this time we are down to item --
2 Proposal WP12-03. Can we have the introduction of
3 proposal presentation and analysis.

4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: They were going to give
6 the award?

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, I'm sorry.
9 Prior to that, before we do that, we'd like to give an
10 award to some one, one of the people that's been with
11 us for the past 20 years, putting up with all our --
12 what I was going to say, aches and pains and everything
13 else that goes along with helping the Council along.

14
15 And at this time I'll call on Mr. Tom
16 Kron to do the presentation. Tom.

17
18 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
19 Council. Tom Kron with OSM.

20
21 And I have a certificate to present to
22 Alex for putting up with you and me and others for the
23 past 20 years.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. KRON: Alex, come on. And it's
28 from Geoff Haskett, basically a certification awarded
29 to Alex Nick in recognition of 20 years of service to
30 the government, the United States of America.

31
32 Thank you, Alex.

33
34 MR. NICK: Thank you.

35
36 (Applause)

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Even if at times it
39 doesn't look like we appreciate your work, it really is
40 appreciated.

41
42 Mr. Roczicka.

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

45
46 Before we get into introduction and
47 anything on the next proposal, WP12-03, I have to
48 declare a conflict of interest at this point in time
49 and ask for a ruling from the parliamentarian or
50 others, that I'm perfectly willing to step down. The

1 proposal was submitted by my employer, and I was
2 actually directed by ONC subsistence committee and I
3 did draft the proposal, wrote it up, did all the
4 background on it and so forth. So I'd like to share
5 that conflict right now, and I'm ready to step down.
6 And I have a blue card in for testimony later.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We will
9 accept your temporary resignation. Just for this item.

10

11 Proposal WP12-03. Presentation.

12

13 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair and Council
14 members. Good afternoon. I'm David Jenkins with OSM.

15

16 Proposal WP12-03, submitted by the
17 Orutsaramiut Native Council would require trappers to
18 move a trap that incidentally harvests a moose, a
19 caribou, or a deer at least 300 feet for the remainder
20 of the regulatory year. The animal would become the
21 property of the regional management agency. The
22 proposed regulation asks trappers to salvage the edible
23 meat and turn it over to the appropriate agency.

24

25 The proponent intends to protect
26 trappers from enforcement action by more clearly
27 writing a provision into Federal wildlife regulations
28 that is currently only in State wildlife regulations.

29

30 Now, this proposal begins on Page 77,
31 and if you look on Page 78, you can see the language of
32 that proposed regulation. And it might be useful to go
33 through that. It's near the bottom of the page in
34 bold. It says, continuing to take or attempt to take
35 furbearers at a site where a moose, caribou or deer has
36 been taken incidentally is a violation. Any moose,
37 caribou or deer that dies as a result of being caught
38 in a trap or snare, whether found dead or euthanized,
39 becomes the property of the regional management agency.
40 The trapper should salvage edible meat and surrender it
41 to the appropriate agency. A person salvages and
42 surrenders the edible meat in accordance with this
43 regulation will not be the subject of citation.

44

45 If such an incidental take occurs, the
46 trapper must move all active traps and snares at least
47 300 feet from the site for remainder of the regulatory
48 year, which is July 1 through June 30, and after the
49 ending of the July 1/June 30 r regulatory year, may
50 reset again in the same place or area during subsequent

1 trapping seasons.

2

3 Now, if this proposal is adopted,
4 Federal subsistence users would be required to move a
5 trap for the remainder of the regulatory year when it
6 has taken a moose, caribou, or deer incidental to
7 trapping furbearers. This would be required if the
8 incidental harvest occurred on Federal public lands
9 using Federal trapping regulations.

10

11 Note that the use of traps to harvest
12 caribou, moose, or deer is prohibited under both State
13 and Federal regulations, primarily because traps do not
14 discriminate between animals, such as cows, bulls, and
15 fawns; however, these animals are occasionally caught
16 in traps set for furbearers.

17

18 We have no good estimates on how often
19 moose, caribou or deer are caught in traps set for
20 furbearers statewide or within regions. State and
21 Federal Staff generally assume that low levels of
22 incidental harvest occur and are on-going. But as I
23 say, we don't have any good estimates on the numbers
24 involved.

25

26 Now, the regulations prohibiting the
27 use of traps and snares are not directed at trappers,
28 and they're enforced because of the non-discriminatory
29 nature of the method, trapping. That is, they can trap
30 any -- incidentally catch any number of animals. So
31 requiring a trapper to move a trap would be a hardship
32 that would not conserve moose or caribou or deer. In
33 other words, the benefits to Federal subsistence users
34 or to resource conservation cannot be demonstrated.

35

36 And for these reasons the OSM
37 preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP12-03.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
42 Jenkins.

43

44 Agency comments. Alaska Department of
45 Fish and Game.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr.
48 Jenkins here covered most of my thunder, thank you.

49

50 I'll skip to the lower end of our

1 comments. For conservation issues, none are identified
2 nor solved by adoption of this proposal.

3
4 Regarding enforcement issues, this
5 proposal is purported to have been submitted in
6 response to previous confusion by law enforcement
7 personnel. The State understands that local
8 enforcement personnel have received updated training as
9 a result of reports events surrounding this issue.
10 Failure to adopt this proposal is not expected to
11 contribute to continued enforcement issues.

12
13 This proposal is likely unnecessary
14 given that if this proposal is not adopted, Federally-
15 qualified users would continue to be required to comply
16 with State regulations, requiring that when a caribou,
17 moose, or deer are harvested incidentally, the trap
18 must be moved 300 feet for the remainder of the
19 regulatory year, or risk receiving a State citation.

20
21 So the Department opposes this
22 proposal, sir.

23
24 *****
25 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
26 *****

27
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
29 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

30
31
32 Wildlife Proposal WP12-03:

33
34 Incidental harvest requires moving
35 traps for regulatory year. This proposal was submitted
36 by the Orutsaramiut Native Council.

37
38 Introduction:

39
40 The proposer seeks to require trappers
41 to move a trap that incidentally harvests a moose,
42 caribou, or deer at least 300 feet for the remainder of
43 the regulatory year. Trappers would also be required to
44 salvage the edible meat and turn it over to the Federal
45 inseason wildlife manager.

46
47 Impact on Subsistence Users:

48
49 Federal subsistence users would be
50 required to move a trap when it has taken a moose,

1 caribou, or deer incidental to trapping furbearers for
2 the remainder of the regulatory year, and surrender
3 their meat specifically to the Federal inseason
4 wildlife manager.

5
6 Opportunity Provided by State:
7

8 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of
9 taking big game; exceptions The following methods and
10 means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to
11 the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: (6) with the use of a
12 trap or snare

13 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers;
14 exceptions

15 a) The following methods and means of taking
16 furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in
17 addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080: (12) by
18 placing or leaving an active trap or snare set on land
19 that is within 300 feet of the site at which a moose,
20 caribou, or deer was taken using a trap or snare; this
21 prohibition applies for the duration of the regulatory
22 year in which the moose, caribou, or deer was taken
23 using the trap or snare.

24
25 Conservation Issues:
26

27 None identified nor solved by adoption
28 of this proposal.

29
30 Enforcement Issues:
31

32 This proposal is purported to have been
33 submitted in response to previous confusion by
34 enforcement personnel. The state understands local
35 enforcement personnel have received updated training as
36 a result of reported events surrounding this issue.
37 Failure to adopt this proposal is not expected to
38 contribute to continued enforcement issues.

39
40 Other Comments:
41

42 This proposal is likely unnecessary
43 given that if this proposal is not adopted, Federally
44 qualified subsistence users would continue to be
45 required to comply with the State regulations requiring
46 that when a caribou, moose, or deer are harvested
47 incidentally, the trap must be moved at least 300 feet
48 for the remainder of the regulatory year, or risk
49 receiving a State citation.

50

1 Recommendation: Oppose
2
3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
6 Pappas. Any questions for Mr. Pappas.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Federal
11 agencies.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Native tribal.
16 AVPC.
17
18 MR. T. ANDREW: Good afternoon, Mr.
19 Chairman. Timothy Andrew with AVCP.
20
21 We haven't really looked at the
22 thorough consequences of this proposed regulations, but
23 incidents of harvesting perhaps moose or caribou or
24 deer in a trap or a snare set by trapper is probably
25 few and far between. There's only one incidence that I
26 have heard so far of one person perhaps getting either
27 a deer -- either a moose or a caribou in his snare
28 perhaps once or twice within the 16 years that I've
29 been involved with AVCP.
30
31 And, you know, when a person goes out
32 and sets a snare out, they're targeting furbearers.
33 They're not necessarily targeting moose or caribou.
34 He's out there targeting either lynx or perhaps -- or
35 wolves or foxes or whatever it might be, and did not
36 intentionally run out there and set a snare for a moose
37 or a caribou. It would be something that would be
38 completely beyond the ordinary.
39
40 And to receive a citation for such
41 action, it seems totally unnecessary, and which likely
42 spawned the -- somebody to submit this proposal. I
43 think law enforcement should use much more discretion
44 in dealing with matters of this nature. You know, it
45 was definitely not the intent to go out and harvest
46 moose -- or harvest a moose or a caribou.
47
48 And that's all of our comments. Thank
49 you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Andrew.
3
4 Alex Nick, do you have any written
5 comments from other RAC members.
6
7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Seward Peninsula
8 RAC opposed the proposal, and their justification for
9 their opposition to the proposal is that the proposal
10 is more restrictive of subsistence users. It is not
11 supported by a biological reason, but based on an
12 isolated incident.
13
14 Kodiak/Aleutians took no action.
15 Southeast Alaska opposed the proposal.
16
17 Mr. Chair. No public comments.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
20 Nick. InterAgency Staff Committee.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Advisory group.
25 Mr. Charles.
26
27 MR. CHARLES: No comment.
28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: National Park
30 Service Subsistence Resource Commission.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No one here by that
35 title.
36
37 Summary of written comments.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Public
42 testimony. We have one, Mr. Greg Roczicka.
43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
45 For the record, Greg Roczicka. I work as the director
46 for the natural resource program, Orutsaramiut Native
47 Council. That's the tribal governing body for the
48 community of Bethel.
49
50 And our subsistence committee, we don't

1 have a fish and -- it's not called fish and wildlife
2 committee, it's called a subsistence committee. It's
3 made up of four of our council members and six long-
4 time trappers, hunters of the area that deal with
5 regulatory processes on both the State and Federal
6 sides, serves kind of as a de facto advisory committee
7 for Bethel alone if we were to have our own as some
8 other areas of the state do, rather than regional
9 advisory committees.

10

11 A couple of points I'd like to bring
12 out on this proposal specifically under the -- starting
13 with under the discussion where it says specifically
14 State enforcement officers. The concern is with
15 enforcement officers on both the State and the Federal
16 side. We were informed through the course of
17 discussion when this did pass through our committee
18 that actually the State individual that was involved
19 was not inclined to issue the citation, but was urged
20 to do so by the Federal enforcement official who was
21 involved.

22

23 Another item that's down below at the
24 bottom of that first page, it says, it appears that the
25 State officer interpreted one year to mean one calendar
26 year, January 1 to December 31. I don't recall
27 anywhere, as long as I've been around, which is quite a
28 while, and I challenge anybody to say where on the
29 State or the Federal side their wildlife regulations or
30 fish -- well, I don't know about the fishery as much,
31 but for wildlife regulations apply for a calendar year.
32 It's always been the regulatory year, although they
33 could put a statement in there saying that their
34 enforcement personnel were actually not that familiar
35 whether State or Federal that we -- the regulatory year
36 is July 1 to June 30th, to make a statement of that
37 nature. So there's -- I can't see where that would
38 even hold water.

39

40 It was almost like the harassment, if
41 you will, and it has occurred on different occasions.
42 I'm certainly glad to hear that there's been some
43 follow up and education efforts, and they don't expect
44 such a thing to happen again.

45

46 However, in researching after I was
47 directed by my subsistence committee to put these
48 proposals together in time for the deadlines that, you
49 know, occurred last winter, I did specifically stop by
50 to the Fish and Wildlife offices in Anchorage, you

1 know, when I was in for other meetings, so I could get
2 the correct page and paragraph and legal description to
3 cite within the proposal. And I had about three
4 different people over the course of an hour or so, we
5 couldn't anywhere, well, we don't have anything
6 specific to that. They said this one is not on the
7 books, we follow State regulations. They follow State
8 regulations is what we were told. So following that
9 line of logic and reasoning, this does apply to
10 subsistence users already.

11
12 I know it looks like a pretty hefty
13 amount of language to put in there, but actually when
14 you look at it under the State, what's on the books
15 already, it's actually adding only two lines, and that
16 is adding a line to the paragraph, about the fifth line
17 down, that said a person who salvages and surrenders
18 the edible meet in accordance with this regulation will
19 not be subject to the citation.

20
21 And then it specifically states out
22 again to clarify for enforcement officers, whether they
23 be State or Federal, if they don't get the proper
24 training, what the regulatory year is, which is July 1
25 through June 30, and that they may reset again in the
26 same place or area during subsequent trapping seasons.

27
28 So that language is already on the
29 books, which according our information the Federal
30 management agencies and enforcement personnel say they
31 already follow, where it's not on the books for them.

32
33 And I guess just finally in their
34 justification for it as far as the benefits to Federal
35 subsistence users or the resource conservation cannot
36 be demonstrated, anything that can be placed upon the
37 books that would reduce that confusion or what people
38 feel is basically harassment or unnecessary actions,
39 and that we can do to clarify that, is certainly
40 worthwhile to subsistence users.

41
42 A similar proposal has been put forward
43 to the State Board of Game, and they'll be addressing
44 it in their meeting in Barrow in November.

45
46 And actually when this proposal was put
47 forward and I spoke with your legal advisor from the
48 State about it again prior to drafting the proposal and
49 putting it in, they said, this is great. This is
50 exactly what we think the system should be about,

1 fixing it, making things more clear so it's less of a
2 burden on the people out there who doing the hunting,
3 fishing and trapping.

4
5 Whether that interpretation that we
6 were given that this provides more of a burden on
7 subsistence users, if that is -- because it's not on
8 the books under Federal regulation, if that is the
9 case, we'd certainly consider withdrawing it, but it
10 evidently had not been the case, that this has been
11 left open, and one of those gray areas, and so
12 hopefully we can -- we'll see that this won't happen
13 again, but anything we can do, and hopefully we can get
14 it passed within -- through the State Board of Game,
15 and they can adopt it, but again will the Federal folks
16 follow and recognize that, as we were informed that
17 they do.

18
19 I don't know whether I'm really asking
20 you for your support now or not. Perhaps this might be
21 one that we would want to defer until after we see what
22 happens at the State Board of Game, and also we get
23 that clarification of in absence of something being on
24 the books. And again I don't have it writing, I'm
25 sorry. But that when it's not on the books, that I was
26 directly told they follow the State regulations in such
27 cases. And maybe we'd ask for their opinion on that.
28 So maybe a deferral of the proposal would be the best
29 avenue at this point at the Federal level.

30
31 Quyana.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
34 Roczicka.

35
36 Regional Council recommendations. We
37 need a motion to adopt this. Mr. Charles.

38
39 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I said as a local advisory committee a while ago that I
41 didn't have comments, but at our last meeting back on
42 April 7 the advisory committee supported that proposal.
43 So Greg reminded me -- when he testified, he reminded
44 me of what happened there at the meeting.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan.

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move to

1 adopt Proposal No. WP12-03.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
4 made by Ms. Gregory to adopt WP12-03. Do I hear a
5 second.

6

7 MR. ONEY: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
10 Oney.

11

12 Ms. Gregory.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: I have -- I'm supporting
15 this proposal. I don't mind moving the trap 300 feet.
16 But I have a problem with the transportation of the
17 meat to the regulatory people. What if you're out in
18 the boondocks and there's no roads and nothing to take
19 your catch to the Federal system. How are you going to
20 get it there.

21

22 And I think instead of doing that, we
23 need to maybe (In Yup'ik). I want to (In Yup'ik) this
24 proposal to say that they let those people know and
25 advice how to get -- dispose of whatever is -- whatever
26 they want to keep.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
29 Aloysius.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 If you read the continuation of that, it says the
33 proposed regulation asks trappers to salvage the edible
34 meat and turn it over to the appropriate agency. But
35 this would not be required. Not required. And to me
36 the appropriate agency would be the tribal council, and
37 have them distribute it to the needy.

38

39 Doi.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
42 discussion.

43

44 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I support
45 what Mr. Aloysius proposed.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, we're
48 addressing the proposal as it. Are you going to put an
49 amendment to that proposal or.....

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's clear enough to me
2 that, you know, it's not required.
3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Any further
5 question.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: I feel that we could use
8 our own discretion as to what appropriate agency would
9 be.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
12 discussion. Any further discussion.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
19 called. Mr. Secretary, please call the roll. I like
20 that Mr. Secretary.
21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. Yeah. The
23 motion is to approve WP12-03. Noah Andrew.
24
25 MR. N. ANDREW: No.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.
28
29 MR. POLTY: No.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.
32
33 MR. H. WILDE: No.
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.
36
37 MR. ONEY: Yes.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
40
41 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Mr. Wilde.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
48
49 MR. UNOK: Yes.
50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka. Oh, he's
2 excused. Robert Aloysius. Yes. John Andrew.

3
4 MR. J. ANDREW: Yes.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown. James
7 Charles.

8
9 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: The ayes in support, 7.
12 Opposition, 3.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's
15 carried.

16
17 Okay. We are down to item WP12-42.
18 Introduction of proposal.

19
20 MR. MCKEE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
21 I'm Chris McKee with the OSM out of Anchorage. I'll be
22 here with you for the next several proposals, so you'll
23 have to see my face for a little while. I apologize
24 for that profusely.

25
26 Mr. Chair. Members of the Regional
27 Advisory Council. The draft analysis for WP12-42
28 starts on Page 82 of the meeting's material booklet.

29
30 WP12-42 was submitted by the Yukon
31 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and requests a reduction
32 in the harvest limit and season for caribou in Unit 18
33 from 2 caribou to 1 and a shortening of the season by
34 approximately three months.

35
36 The proponent states that these
37 restrictions are in response to the declining
38 population of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd over the last
39 several years. Management objectives were to maintain
40 a population of 100 to 150,000 animals with a minimum
41 bull/cow ratio of 35 to 100. In 2009 the Board of
42 Game reduced the population objective to 30 to 80,000
43 animals, citing that these numbers were more realistic
44 for the herd.

45
46 The Mulchatna Caribou Herd increased at
47 an annual rate of 17 percent between 1981 and 1996.
48 Overall herd size peaked in 1996 at approximately
49 200,000 animals, with a peak bull/cow ratio of 42 to
50 100, and a calf/cow ratio of 34 to 100.

1 Since 1996 the population, bull/cow
2 ratio and cow/calf ratios have all declined
3 significantly.

4
5 Harvest of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
6 continues to decline. Total reported harvest was 2,171
7 in 2005, but had declined to 516 by 2008.

8
9 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 oppose this proposal. Carrying capacity of traditional
11 wintering areas for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd were
12 exceeded in the late 1980s with the herd using non-
13 traditional winter ranges at an ever-increasing rate
14 over the last 25 years. Further decline in the herd
15 may necessitate further reduction in the harvest;
16 however this proposal would make the Federal harvest
17 limit and season more restrictive than existing State
18 regulations. And if adopted, this proposal -- if this
19 proposal is adopted, hunters will still be able to take
20 two caribou under State regulations on U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife and BLM lands in Unit 18.

22
23 And there's currently no companion
24 State proposal before the Alaska Board of Game to align
25 State and Federal regulations should this proposal
26 pass. Without alignment with State regulations, the
27 effectiveness of this proposal would be limited.

28
29 From what I understand, in the last
30 week or two there's been some talk that, and perhaps
31 either the Refuge or Fish and Game can speak to this
32 better than I, there's some talk that they're hoping
33 that the Department will be able to submit an emergency
34 order to reduce the harvest for this herd, but I don't
35 know exactly where that's at at this point. So perhaps
36 the State could speak more to that.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
41 McKee. Any questions for Mr. McKee.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none,
46 agency comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50 Summarizing our comments, if this

1 proposal is adopted, the Federal subsistence caribou
2 hunting season in Unit 18 will be reduced by about 90
3 days, and a Federal subsistence caribou harvest limit
4 would be reduced by 50 percent to one caribou per year.

5
6 Uniform Federal subsistence and State
7 bag limits would decrease the potential for enforcement
8 problems across mixed land ownership patterns in the
9 area. In Unit 18, the Federal -- excuse me, the
10 proposed Federal subsistence bag limit would be
11 different from the State bag limit, creating confusion
12 amongst hunters.

13
14 So the Department recommends supporting
15 this with modification. The Department supports
16 proposed hunting season dates, but -- the proposed
17 hunting season dates, but recommends modifying the
18 proposal to retain the current Federal subsistence bag
19 limit of two caribou per year.

20
21 *****
22 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
23 *****

24
25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
26 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

27
28
29 Wildlife Proposal WP12-42:

30
31 This proposal changes the federal
32 subsistence season and bag limit for the federal
33 subsistence caribou hunt in Unit 18.

34
35 Introduction:

36
37 This proposal seeks to reduce the
38 federal subsistence caribou hunting season from August
39 1 through March 15 to August 1 through September 1 and
40 December 20 through February 29. Additionally, the
41 proposal requests reducing the annual bag limit of the
42 federal subsistence caribou hunt from two to one.

43
44 Impacts on Subsistence Users:

45
46 If adopted, the federal subsistence
47 caribou hunting season in Unit 18 would be reduced by
48 approximately 90 days and the federal subsistence
49 caribou harvest limit would be reduces by 50% to one
50 caribou per year.

1 Opportunity Provided by State:

2

3 State regulations for caribou in Unit

4 18 follows:

5

6 The season is August 1 through March 15

7 with a limit of two caribou, of which no more than 1

8 bull may be taken, and only one caribou may be taken

9 from August 1 through January 31. This hunt is closed

10 to non-residents.

11

12 Conservation Issues:

13

14 Reduced harvest in the Mulchatna

15 Caribou Herd is needed to promote herd growth.

16 Limiting take of both bulls and cows is needed for herd

17 growth. Limiting take to 1 caribou per year is needed

18 for conservation. The proposed reduced season dates

19 eliminate harvest between September 2 through December

20 19 preventing harvest of specific segments of the herd

21 during fall migration period.

22

23 Enforcement Issues:

24

25 Uniform federal subsistence and state

26 bag limits would decrease the potential for enforcement

27 problems across the mixed land ownership patterns in

28 the area. In Unit 18, the proposed federal subsistence

29 bag limit would be different than the state bag limit,

30 creating confusion among hunters.

31

32 Recommendation:

33

34 Support with modification.

35

36 The department supports the proposed

37 hunting season dates but recommends modifying the

38 proposal to retain the current federal subsistence bag

39 limit of two caribou per year.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

44 Pappas. Any questions for Mr. Pappas.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

49

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

1 So the State is -- when are the State
2 open in the fall and spring?

3
4 MR. PAPPAS: The opportunity provided
5 by the State, the season is August 1 through March 15th
6 with a limit of two caribou, which no more than one can
7 be a bull, and only one caribou may be taken between
8 August 1st and January 31st. And the hunt is closed to
9 non-residents.

10
11 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Federal
14 agencies. Any comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: AVCP.

19
20 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman. Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

22
23 We would like to see the caribou
24 population come back. In fact, it was long before the
25 Alaska Board of Game adopted the proposal to reduce the
26 take that we had advocated for the elimination of the
27 non-resident season.

28
29 And the reason being behind that was
30 that there was a Scandinavian study of the effects of
31 selective hunting of ungulates and carnivores. And
32 what happened in that study was they looked several
33 populations of moose, they looked at caribou, they
34 looked at various species, other species as well. But
35 they had found that within a certain time period when
36 hunters were selectively targeting large breeder bulls,
37 either breeder bulls of moose or breeder bulls of
38 caribou, and when you take out a large number of those
39 populations, or the huge breeder bulls, the calving and
40 the reproduction ends up going later. So rather than
41 the calves being born in the spring, they were born
42 later on in the spring or perhaps early summer. And
43 that doesn't give the calves very much time to
44 strengthen themselves with their body; that doesn't
45 give the cows much time either to build the strength to
46 survive the winter. So the calves and the cows go into
47 the winter extremely week. They are subject to
48 predation. They're subject to disease. They're
49 subject to the weather.

50

1 And if you look at the statistics, it's
2 not explained in this report, but if you look at the
3 statistics in I believe it was Unit 17, there was a
4 large non-resident hunter component, and also a non-
5 local component that came over, landed at the remote
6 airstrips, harvested the large breeder bulls just to
7 put the trophy racks on the wall without even
8 considering the reproductive consequences of these
9 caribou. That's why we see such a tremendous drop from
10 200,000 to an extremely low population today.

11
12 And I would encourage this body and the
13 Federal managers, State managers, if we ever do build
14 this population back up, to make sure that we watch the
15 sport hunters and keep their -- keep the low -- keep
16 the level of harvest of large breeder bulls at a low
17 level so that we have continuous and consistent
18 breeding cycles to allow these calves to survive
19 through the winter. And, you know, we've talked to the
20 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board until
21 we're blue in the fact, but they finally took action
22 when the herd, or the population had dropped below
23 45,000 animals. And now we're continuing to drop.

24
25 I don't really like to advocate for
26 placing more restrictions on the subsistence hunter. I
27 know that our hunters in our villages, especially along
28 the Kuskokwim River corridor, really need access to
29 that meat. Currently with the 100 bull restriction
30 that we have on the moose population for the lower
31 Kuskokwim area, it places a burden on the subsistence
32 hunters to try and fulfill the access to that meat, the
33 meat that they really need from the large animals. And
34 the best alternative at this point is the caribou
35 population.

36
37 But, you know, it's very hard for a
38 family to survive the winter with only one caribou.
39 And in likely situations if it does get reduced down to
40 one, you know, there's not much of an alternative for
41 the local people in the region.

42
43 So in a nutshell, if we ever do rebuild
44 this population, keep a close eye on it, keep a close
45 eye on the reports. If it's showing that there's too
46 much non-resident, non-local large bull harvest, you
47 know, eliminate and cut that down first before you
48 start cutting down the subsistence hunter.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Andrew.
3
4 Mr. Riorden.
5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Spencer Riorden.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Riorden.
9
10 MR. RIORDEN: Hi. My name is Spencer
11 Riorden. I'm with the Yukon Delta Refuge. I'm a
12 wildlife biologist here in Bethel.
13
14 We got concerned with this caribou
15 population as everybody with the population
16 dramatically going up and then going down.
17
18 And just to point out, we haven't had a
19 count since 2008. We've had problems with weather and
20 the caribou aggregating so that they can get a complete
21 census.
22
23 But if you look at some of the data,
24 well, sitting with the managers, there's no suggestive
25 evidence to say that the population is rebounding. And
26 I'd like to point out that the minimum of 30,000, which
27 was counted in 2008/2009, that's the low end of the
28 management objectives, which were also a moving target
29 for a while. They kept changing. So the Refuge had
30 concern over that.
31
32 And we also had concern that there's a
33 lot of other mortality that, although we have no
34 numbers -- much of the hunting occurs in the springtime
35 when the weather's nice and the days are longer. And
36 -- but we also had anecdotal reports of caribou dying
37 either from wounding loss or maybe end of winter
38 harassment, which at that time of year their nutrition
39 is pretty stressful for them to reach nutritional ways
40 to -- at the end of winter.
41
42 Anyway I want to point out that we had
43 biological reason to submit this proposal.
44
45 Now as it currently stands, the State
46 does not have a proposal to mimic ours. And so there's
47 political reason not to support it through OSM. So I
48 just want to point that out, that there is some
49 biological reason if you look at the data.
50

1 Now, I don't know how it's going to
2 play out with the State. I gave you guys all a handout
3 that briefly stated that we're in discussions with the
4 local Fish and Game on our options, one of which is an
5 emergency order. We do not know if that's going to
6 come through or not, or if there's much support or not.
7 So it's one of these challenging things between Federal
8 and State regulations.

9
10 The Refuge here supports it obviously.
11 There's some discussions on the State side of trying to
12 reduce harvest on the caribou. And then I think you're
13 -- what you guys say here is going to be real important
14 for what the Board considers also.

15
16 We personally would like to see some
17 type of reduction in caribou harvest, either through
18 season or bag limits or a combination. But we also
19 understand that our proposal doesn't really carry much
20 weight if the State does not consider the change also.

21
22 So that's all I have to say. Thanks.

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

25
26 InterAgency Staff Committee.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Advisory
31 group comments.

32
33 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Advisory group.
36 Does your advisory group have any comments.

37
38 MR. CHARLES: No comment.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any written
41 comments from other -- no other RAC comments.

42
43 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
44 the record.

45
46 Seward Peninsula, when they met last
47 week, they opposed the proposal. The vote was to adopt
48 the proposal, but it was -- rather the motion failed 7
49 to 2. Their justification is the effect of this
50 proposal is too broad, and applies to the whole unit

1 and not to just the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The
2 Council wants to give deference to the Y-K Council.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
7 neighboring -- that's the RAC comments. From the local
8 fish and game advisory committees.

9

10 MR. CHARLES: No.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Nope. National
13 Park Service Subsistence Resource.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I don't believe so.
18 Summary of written comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Public
23 testimony. There isn't any.

24

25 At this time we'll entertain a motion
26 from the Council.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Greg Roczicka.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Before we
33 go into deliberations, could we recall the Refuge staff
34 that sponsored the proposal?

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: I just have a question.
39 Spencer.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Spencer, could you
42 get back here, please.

43

44 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I'm sorry I
45 didn't think of it while you were sitting here. I was
46 trying to listen to you, and I have a little tough time
47 doing two or three things at once any more. Trying to
48 think and listen at the same time.

49

50 The proposal, the possible amendment

1 that Mr. Pappas mentioned about maintaining the same
2 bag limit, but reducing the season back to the end of
3 February, and the concern that you mentioned as far as
4 later on in the season with the additional harassment,
5 plus you've got more of an issue with pregnant cows, of
6 course, and that stress and the spontaneous abortions
7 that sometimes occur from that, later on in their
8 cycle. Did you guys discuss that at all as an option
9 and what -- if we were to -- if something like that was
10 to come forward, how much do you think it might help?

11
12 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Roczicka, through the
13 Chair. Yes, we have discussed that, and we do think
14 that would be heading in the right direction for sure,
15 without a current census count. But we do think it's
16 on the downward trend based off of the comp data. The
17 calving ratios and the bull ratios continue to be
18 relatively low compared to what it was, you know, 10,
19 15 years ago.

20
21 So we do support a season reduction for
22 sure. We think that it will allow less stress on those
23 animals and reduce harvest. As we know spring harvest
24 is a popular time to get out during February, end of
25 February and March. And we think that alone will
26 reduce harvest. We don't know how much. I mean, it's
27 anybody's guess. And with the level of concern, we
28 felt the need to act now and not wait for a complete
29 census count, because I think there's enough data to
30 suggest that it's not rebounding, and so that's why we
31 also through in the one caribou limit.

32
33 And we understand that is restricting
34 subsistence a little bit more. We understand that.
35 And that's not our goal. But at the same time, we want
36 to conserve caribou. So we pushed for not only a
37 season reduction, but a harvest limit reduction.

38
39 So I think that it brings up a good
40 discussion on how much is needed, and I think we're
41 definitely supportive of at least a season reduction.

42
43 Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
46 Charles.

47
48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49
50 When did you say the last count was on

1 18?

2

3

MR. RIORDEN: It's -- through the
4 Chair. Mr. Charles. The last count for the Mulchatna
5 Herd was in 2008/2009. And the minimum count was
6 30,000, but from my understanding, the actual count is
7 not too far from that. And knowing that it's gone down
8 to that, that is also the lower end of the har -- of
9 the goal of having 30,000. So it very well could be
10 below. We don't know for sure, but there's some
11 indication that the population may still be continuing
12 downward.

13

14

Mr. Chair.

15

16

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan.

17

18

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. On Page 87
19 under the justification part, can you explain that,
20 because it's kind of conflicting itself with the last
21 paragraph with the alignment with State regulations,
22 effectiveness of this proposal would be limited, and
23 Federally-qualified users would have less opportunity
24 than non-Federally-qualified users. Can you explain
25 that? Somebody.

26

27

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

28

29

MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Ms.
30 Gregory, yeah, this is for the Federal regulations
31 where we're only submitting on the Federal side of
32 things. Now, if the State regulation does not change,
33 because currently it's also at two caribou with the
34 same season dates and so forth. But if our regulations
35 change, the Federal regulations, and the State
36 regulations do not an individual can continue to hunt
37 for two caribou under the State regulations, meaning
38 that the Federal regulation would be null. I mean, it
39 would not really make much of an effect for individuals
40 that want to go and kill -- or harvest more than one
41 caribou. So unless the State has a regulation change
42 along with the Federal change, there will be no change.

43

44

So that's kind of in a nutshell.

45

46

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I support this
47 of not taking too much caribou, because I'm a
48 conservation person. I like to conserve for the future
49 use of our descendants.

50

1 (In Yup'ik)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Can we have a
4 motion. I need a motion. Go ahead, Greg.
5
6 Are you done? I'm sorry.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Greg.
11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'm going
13 to keep this -- but rather than reduction of the human
14 harvest and in reflection of my comments at the
15 beginning of the meeting, has there been any effort
16 whatsoever by the actual management agencies to pursue
17 management of your populations, i.e. whether protection
18 of -- from predation on the calving grounds could serve
19 a positive effect rather than look at this reducing the
20 human harvest all the time, actually manage your
21 population to provide for the subsistence needs that's
22 out there.
23
24 MR. RIORDEN: Yeah, through the Chair.
25 Mr. Roczicka, no, we haven't pursued any of that, and
26 there's hasn't been any discussions. Predator
27 management as you know is definitely a hot topic in the
28 State and very challenging to implement anything. So,
29 no, we haven't.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have a
32 comment. Thanks, Spencer.
33
34 MR. PERRY: I'll address Greg's
35 question. This is Phillip Perry with Fish and Game
36 again.
37
38 While in Unit 18 we haven't really
39 addressed that, in the areas that the Mulchatna Caribou
40 Herd is calving, there is some preliminary studies
41 going on as far as calf survival to figure out if the
42 State needs to go forward with any sort of control
43 efforts or something to help them, if that's
44 appropriate in this case. So, you know, in Unit 17 and
45 in Unit 19B. This year was the first year they've done
46 some calf studies. I just heard some preliminary
47 results from about a month ago. I don't know when
48 they'll have that done this fall, but they'll -- we
49 should have more information at that point to be able
50 to tell if predator control or anything like that would

1 help this herd, since that's the -- where most of the
2 herd calves every year is actually outside of this
3 unit. It's actually over in Unit 17.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
6 further discussion needed on this before we go into
7 deliberation and recommendation.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We need a -- the
12 Chair would entertain -- go ahead.

13

14 MR. RIORDEN: I just had one more
15 thought after I listened to Mr. Nick's report from the
16 Seward Peninsula RAC where they -- because I forgot.
17 Oftentimes -- or in the past, the Western Arctic Herd
18 has made it down to the northern part of Unit 18.

19

20 Now, our intent with this proposal is
21 not to restrict any harvest on that population. That
22 population is thriving, and from my understanding is
23 doing pretty well. Our intent was on the Mulchatna
24 Herd and only the Mulchatna Herd. So I guess in order
25 to separate the two hers through regulation, we'd have
26 to be more specific for Unit 18 and that complicates
27 things obviously with having to implement a new
28 boundary and so forth.

29

30 But just to be clear, our intent was
31 only for Mulchatna Herd and not for the Western Arctic
32 Herd.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think that was
35 understood.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: So east and west of the
38 Kuskokwim.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What is the Counsel
41 recommendations.

42

43 MR. UNOK: I have a question for.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's a question
46 from Mr. Unok.

47

48 MR. UNOK: On the Norton side, are they
49 still counting 200, maybe less now? I don't know where
50 they come from. Maybe -- there used to be over like

1 1,000, now they're down to 100 something.

2

3 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
4 Unok, are you referring to the caribou around the.....

5

6 MR. UNOK: Above St. Michael

7

8 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. Yeah. Northern
9 Unit 18 in that St. Michael/Kotlik area. Those are --
10 those were Western Arctic Caribou that came down a
11 number of years ago. And that's a different herd.
12 That herd from my understanding was counted over
13 400,000 animals. And that was two to three years ago.
14 And I know they also completed another census. And the
15 harvest limits for areas where that herd typically
16 ranged is much higher. It's very liberal. So, yeah,
17 that herd is doing real well.

18

19 MR. UNOK: Well, I'm talking about the
20 hunters from Kotlik went up, they only see like about
21 200 or less every time they go up, not 400,000.

22

23 MR. RIORDEN: Yeah. Through the Chair.
24 Mr. Unok, yeah. My understanding is that's kind of the
25 southern part of the range that the Western Arctic
26 Caribou range. And it's not every year as we know.
27 Certain years there's groups of caribou that show up in
28 that area and other years sometimes hardly anything.
29 So they may be just seeing the edge of what the herd
30 really is, but that's still considered part of the
31 Western Arctic Herd where the numbers are doing real
32 well.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did that help you
35 out?

36

37 MR. UNOK: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The Chair will now
40 entertain a motion for Council recommendation. Mr.
41 Roczicka.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Move to support.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Moved to support
46 Proposal WP12-42 has been made by Mr. Roczicka. Do I
47 hear a second.

48

49 MS. GREGORY: Second

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Ms.
2 Gregory. Any further discussion.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. UNOK: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
9 been.....
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Wait, wait, wait, wait.
12 Don't call for the question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr.
15 Aloysius.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. It always upsets
18 me that the State and the Feds always favor sports
19 hunters. I don't care where you go. Money talks.
20 Subsistence people who depend on the fish and the game
21 have no money to support lobbyists. And the simple
22 fact is that, you know, sport hunters pay tens of
23 thousands of dollars to come up here and, you know,
24 shoot off our breeding stock. When are we going to
25 start pushing for regulations to limit the sport
26 hunters, the head hunters. We're always regulating and
27 limiting access to our food source by limiting the
28 subsistence hunters and the users of the fish and game.
29 You can limit -- you can shorten the days and limit the
30 numbers, but you're still not limiting or shortening
31 the days of access for the sport hunters who have the
32 money to come up here and take what they want.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done, Mr.
35 Aloysius? Mr. Roczicka.
36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38
39 I was going to offer an amendment in
40 reflection of -- that maintained the bag limit, but
41 reducing that -- accepting the season reduction there
42 to the last day of February, and if I get a second,
43 I'll speak to that.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the
46 motion for an amendment. Do I hear a second to the
47 amendment.
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
2 Aloysius.

3
4 Go ahead, Mr. Greg.

5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7
8 Yeah, we don't know what the numbers
9 are, but again reflecting back to that the Federal
10 management system, this law it has is that it does not
11 manage its populations to provide for subsistence
12 needs. If there's anything that -- the only thing that
13 the Federal Board has accepted as any responsibility is
14 reducing or eliminating human harvest in response to
15 what's happening. And there's no accountability by the
16 management agencies to manage the populations to
17 provide for subsistence. And if they're not even --
18 haven't even considered that, then again they're not
19 fulfilling their responsibilities under Title VIII of
20 ANILCA.

21
22 And I do recognize that later in the
23 season is a biological concern. I remember when we had
24 the Lower Yukon moose was just opening and I think it
25 was Cornelius Benedict that came in front and said that
26 their older folks in their villages there were -- just
27 chewed the hell out of their young folks for going out
28 and, because there were so many moose around, they were
29 having fun chasing them late in the year. And they
30 said, if you've never seen an aborted calf, you better
31 hope you don't, because it ain't a pretty sight. And
32 so things like that were happening later in the season.

33
34 And so by reducing the season, we can
35 start to address it, but the Federal management system
36 again is not stepping up to the plate and holding
37 themselves accountable if their managers are not going
38 to make efforts as well other than just to cut off the
39 subsistence harvest or leave the season open even if
40 there's nothing there to catch.

41
42 So that's kind of the basis for my
43 motion here to accept that, but maintain the -- a
44 reduction in the season, but maintain the current bag
45 limit.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
48 discussion on the modified proposal. Any further
49 discussion. Yes, Mr. McKee.
50

1 MR. McKEE: Through the Chair. Mr.
2 Roczicka, how much shorter exactly are you proposing to
3 shorten the season?
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: I was accepting the
6 reduction of the season that is there. Essentially
7 eliminating the March portion of the season, and the
8 last day of February.
9
10 MR. McKEE: Okay. Thanks. And so as
11 written.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. But maintain the
14 current bag limit of two caribou.
15
16 MR. McKEE: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
19 discussion.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion.
24
25 MR. ROCZICKA: On the amendment.
26
27 MS. GREGORY: Amendment.
28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: On the amendment?
30
31 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Question on the
34 amendment of shortening the season down to -- what was
35 those dates again?
36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: From August 1 to
38 September 30 and December 20 until the last day of
39 February.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a question on
44 that. His amendment was to maintain the two.
45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Correct.
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: And shorten the hunting

1 time.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Shorten the --
4 eliminate March, the March portion of the season from
5 the current season, but maintain the current bag limit
6 of two rather than reduce it to one.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
9 questions. Any further discussions. Any further
10 comments.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. CHARLES: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
17 called for on the amendment to the -- there's a word
18 for it I can't quite get in mind. It's amendment to
19 the proposal as written.

20

21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, do we need
22 a voice vote on this amendment, or can we just.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, we do. We
25 need a.....

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: I mean a roll call.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:roll call. A
30 roll call vote.

31

32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Do we have to?

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: On the amendment?

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Not necessarily.
37 Whichever way you feel.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, let's ask for a
40 voice vote. It will be easier.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All in favor of the
43 amendment to the proposal say aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
48 sign.

49

50 (No opposing votes)

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
2 Now the main motion. The main proposal was to -- I
3 think the main proposal -- that kind of shoots it out,
4 doesn't it?
5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Yep, it replaces it.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It replaced the
9 main proposal to the amended proposal would be to cut
10 down the season by one month, but keep the two.....
11
12 MR. J. ANDREW: Early season.
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:the season to
15 -- bag limit of two caribou. Yes.
16
17 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. Yeah, when I
18 asked that question the last time I just wanted to be
19 sure that it -- that you were -- it sounds like you're
20 talking about something different than the original
21 proposal, because the original proposal is looking to
22 shorten the season for three months. So are we talking
23 about -- you're talking about just reducing it by one
24 month; is that correct?
25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: It actually comes out to
27 only about two weeks.
28
29 MR. McKEE: Two weeks, okay.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Kron.
32
33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair, members of the
34 Council. Spencer mentioned the issue that this is
35 focused on the Mulchatna. Do you want to limit the
36 effect to the Mulchatna Herd?
37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was the
41 question again?
42
43 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members of the
44 Council. The question related to which herd we're
45 talking about.
46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We're talking about
48 the Mulchatna.
49
50 MR. KRON: Occasionally the Northwest

1 Arctic comes down into Unit 18.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. We're talking
4 about the Mulchatna Herd.

5

6 MR. KRON: And again their proposal,
7 originally the intent was to focus on the Mulchatna
8 Herd. And you could do that, if you wanted to. If you
9 chose to.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that was the
14 Mulchatna Herd.

15

16 Mr. Aloysius.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. There's
19 nothing in the proposal that specifies the Mulchatna
20 Herd. It just says -- requests a reduction in the
21 harvest limit and season for caribou in Unit 18.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, didn't we
24 want -- didn't you want to address the Mulchatna herd
25 and not the Western Caribou Herd? That was the intent
26 of the proposal. Mr. Roczicka.

27

28 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We'll get it
31 straightened out yet.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. The
34 entire analysis and all discussion around the proposal
35 is couched regarding the Mulchatna Herd. And I think
36 that was just a point that slipped by everybody about
37 the possible effect on the Western Arctic. And
38 actually I was wondering why Seward Peninsula was even
39 involved, and I appreciate it being -- you know, things
40 come by us. So it would -- if we want to break it
41 down, rather than just say it's a statement of intent,
42 when we first addressed it back in the early 90s when
43 20,000 caribou came over the hill, and we had a little
44 Kilbuck Herd of 1,000 animals that we'd been growing
45 for a while here, we used the Kuskokwim as the
46 boundary. So if we'd want to put in a descriptor that
47 we're talking about east of the Kuskokwim where the bag
48 -- in Unit 18. That is Kilbuck Mountain side.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm at a loss right

1 now. Spencer, could you please get back up here? In
2 your proposal, it's stated -- was that -- that was
3 intended for the Mulchatna Herd, wasn't it?

4
5 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Chair. That is
6 correct. We intended only for Unit 18 for Mulchatna
7 Herd, and not for the Western Arctic Herd which occurs
8 in the northern parts of Unit 18, towards Kotlik/St.
9 Michael area.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's what we --
12 that's what I understood it to be, that Mulchatna Herd,
13 and therefore we should insert Mulchatna Herd into that
14 -- into the proposal as amended.

15
16 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. Unfortunately
17 there was no mention of the Mulchatna Herd in the
18 executive summary; however, as Mr. Roczicka said, that
19 the whole of the analysis is referring to the Mulchatna
20 Herd. So it's just in the executive summary where it
21 talks in more general terms. But that's the intent.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The intent was the
24 Mulchatna Herd.

25
26 MR. McKEE: Yes. Yes. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. That is
31 the intent of my motion, and if the intent is very
32 clear on the record, I believe that's sufficient for
33 Staff, we don't need to craft up the actual language,
34 but that it will be made very clear when it comes time
35 to present it at the Federal Board that we are
36 referring to the Mulchatna herd only.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay?

39
40 MR. McKEE: Thank you. Yes.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All right. After
43 that, let's take a 10-minute break.

44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: No, let's have the vote
46 first.

47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, okay. We
49 better vote on it then.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Confusion reigns.
4 Okay. The motion was?
5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: The motion was to after
7 the amendment that in Unit 18 we would maintain the two
8 caribou bag limit on the Mulchatna herd with the season
9 of August 1 to September 30, and December 20 to the
10 last day of February, reducing the current season by 15
11 days.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the
14 motion. This we'll take a roll call vote for, Mr.
15 Secretary.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.
18
19 MR. POLTY: Yes.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde. Oh, sorry
22 about that. Evan Polty voted yes. Harry Wilde.
23
24 MR. H. WILDE: No. No.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
27
28 MR. ONEY: No.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
31
32 MS. GREGORY: Yes. I've got a loud
33 voice.
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
40
41 MR. UNOK: Yes.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius, yes.
48 John Andrew.
49
50 MR. J. ANDREW: No.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown, absent.
2 James Charles.
3
4 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.
7
8 MR. N. ANDREW: No.
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Seven yes, four no.
11 Motion carries.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carries. At
14 this time let's take a 10-minute break.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
17
18 (Off record)
19
20 (On record)
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Before we go down
23 to Proposal 43, I'd like to get a ruling from the rest
24 of the Council members, if it's all right if we work
25 right through dinner and work until 7:00 o'clock and
26 not come back after dinner. It gets a little bit hard
27 to come back after you eat, and we get a little bit
28 tired after that, so it might be better if we just work
29 right through lunch until about 7:00 and then recess
30 until tomorrow at 7:00. What is the.....
31
32 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.
33
34 (In Yup'ik)
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All right. That's
37 how we're going to do it. We'll work right through
38 dinner until 7:00. We'll recess until morning at 9:00.
39
40 Okay. We are down to item WP12-43.
41
42 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
43 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
44 WP12-43 starts on Page 89 of your meeting materials
45 booklet.
46
47 Proposal WP12-43 was submitted by the
48 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and it requests an
49 extension of the season and an increased harvest limit
50 for lynx under Federal hunting regulations in Unit 18.

1 The proponent states that in addition
2 to being a furbearer, lynx are also a subsistence food
3 resource. Additionally there is a perception among
4 Federally-qualified subsistence users who harvest a
5 finite number of lynx for food that they are second
6 tier to commercial trappers who are allowed to harvest
7 an unlimited number of lynx in a trapping season.
8

9 The proposed changes would include an
10 increase in the harvest limit from two to five lynx,
11 and extend the end of the season from March 31st to
12 April 30th. A companion proposal is currently going
13 before the Board of Game.
14

15 There are no means of estimating
16 population size, but sealing records provide an index
17 of relative abundance. It's a classic example of
18 cyclic populations with lynx populations tied to
19 snowshoe hare abundance. These populations tend to
20 fall in an 8 to 11-year cycle.
21

22 As mentioned, the harvest history is
23 based on sealing records which do have some problems,
24 including under-reporting, under-representation by some
25 users, and also harvest can be affected by snow
26 conditions that are conducive to snowmachine travel.
27

28 Most lynx are taken under trapping
29 regulations, and you can see this on Page 92 of the
30 analysis. Figure 1 shows that by far the majority of
31 lynx taken in Unit 18 are through trapping. An average
32 of nine percent of the lynx harvested are harvested
33 under hunting regulations.
34

35 The effects of this proposal would
36 provide some additional harvest opportunity for
37 Federally-qualified subsistence users under hunting
38 regulations. And those are typically those that do not
39 want to purchase a trapping license. By increasing the
40 limit and extending the season, it should have a
41 minimal effect on the lynx population since a small
42 proportion of users who harvest under hunting
43 regulations would be able to harvest up to three or
44 more lynx per year. Meanwhile, there is still an
45 unlimited harvest under trapping regulations. Hunting
46 is a less targeted means of harvest for lynx because of
47 the elusive behavior of the species. And the harvest
48 is opportunistic.
49

50 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to

1 support WP12-43.

2

3 I welcome your comments and edits.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

8 McKee.

9

10 Agency comments. Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game.

12

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

14 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

15

16 If adopted, Federal subsistence hunters
17 targeting lynx in Unit 18 may opportunistically harvest
18 additional lynx with a longer season and higher annual
19 bag limit. The proposed liberalizations will provide
20 Federal subsistence hunters the option to
21 opportunistically harvest additional lynx while in the
22 field.

23

24 It is undetermined at this time if
25 there's a conservation issue. And the vast majority of
26 the lynx are harvested through trapping.

27

28 The proponent indicates this proposal
29 would also be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game for
30 the March 2012 meeting.

31

32 The Department has concerns with
33 setting Federal subsistence bag limits during times of
34 peak population abundance cycles. Establishing a
35 Federal subsistence bag limit during temporary times of
36 peak abundance sets an artificially high Federal
37 subsistence priority.

38

39 The Department's position is support or
40 neutral on this. We want to wait to hear what the
41 Board of Game determines before we finalize our
42 position.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 **No official written comments
47 inserted/provided by State at this
48 time**

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Pappas.

2

3 Federal agencies. Mr. Riorden.

4

5 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Chair, members of the
6 Council. Spencer Riorden, Fish and Wildlife Service,
7 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

8

9 Yeah, we submitted this proposal,
10 because we wanted to give people additional
11 opportunity. We understand there are certain
12 individuals out there that like to eat lynx, and while
13 hunting moose, caribou or whatever they may be doing in
14 the all. We thought that we should change the season
15 dates to allow them to opportunistically shoot these
16 animals if they would like for subsistence purposes.
17 And at the same time we also increased the limit to
18 five to also further increase subsistence
19 opportunities.

20

21 So that's where we're coming from, and
22 why we supported this proposal -- or submitted this
23 proposal.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions. Mr.
26 Charles.

27

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

29

30 What's the lynx population doing now
31 and where are they? In the Kuskokwim, Yukon or on the
32 coast? Where's more lynx?

33

34 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
35 Charles, I don't think we have a number for how many
36 lynx. We do know that they increased just from the
37 number of trapped lynx that have been tagged through
38 Fish and Game throughout the Yukon and Kuskokwim.
39 Anecdotal reports may have suggested they've gone down
40 a little bit, but we still know they're present here.
41 People are still finding them, and they were trapping
42 them just last winter. But as far as a real number, we
43 don't know.

44

45 But we do not have a biological concern
46 over increasing the harvest limit and extending the
47 harvest dates for the hunting regulations. As you
48 heard earlier, that through the hunting regulations not
49 many lynx are really shot relative to what's taken
50 under trapping regulations. So we do not think that it

1 would cause a biological concern if this proposal were
2 to be adopted.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I've got a question
7 about the August 10 opening for hunting to November
8 10th. Are the pelts prime at that time? And would
9 they be worth anything if they're not prime, you know?
10 It seems like to me that, you know, the winter season
11 is the time we would trap, because the pelts are at
12 their prime, and the fur buyers are going to be going
13 over them more than the fall or late summer and fall
14 shot animals.

15

16 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Aloysius, through the
17 Chair. I do not believe they're in the prime that
18 early, and possibly not that late. However, for the
19 purposes of eating them is why we supported this
20 proposal -- we submitted this proposal, because there
21 are people that shoot those -- shoot lynx so that you
22 can eat them, and they are good eating. So we want to
23 provide that other opportunity. They're not just a
24 furbearer animal; they're an animal to be eaten to some
25 individuals.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: They're more delicious
28 than turkey.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other questions
33 of Mr. Riorden, Council.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Thank you.

38

39 I think that our tribal representative
40 says that he's going to mix lynx, so InterAgency Staff
41 Committee.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Advisory
46 group comments.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Other RAC comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Any written
4 comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Getting
9 easier and easier.
10
11 National Park Service Subsistence
12 Resource Commissions.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Summary of
17 written comments.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Public
22 testimony. There aren't any.
23
24 At this time Regional Council
25 recommendations.
26
27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move to
28 adopt Proposal WP12-43.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's
31 been.....
32
33 MR. UNOK: Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:made to adopt
36 Proposal WP12-43 by Mary. Seconded by Mr. Unok.
37
38 Any further discussion, Council.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. J. ANDREW: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none, the
49 question's been called for. All in favor of the motion
50 signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: No roll call this time.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Not this time.
12 Thank you.
13
14 We're down to WP12-44/48.
15
16 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, members of the
17 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
18 WP12-44/48 starts on Page 95 of your meeting materials
19 booklet.
20
21 WP12-44 was submitted by Zechariah
22 Chiliak, Sr. of Nunapitchuk and requests that the
23 harvest limit for moose in Unit 18 remainder be changed
24 from one antlered bull to one antlered bull or one cow
25 without a calf.
26
27 WP12-48 was submitted by the Yukon
28 Delta National Wildlife Refuge and requests a change to
29 the harvest limit for moose in Unit 18 remainder from
30 one antlered bull to one moose during the winter
31 season, as well as an extension of the winter season
32 from January 10th to the last day of February.
33
34 The proponent for WP12-44 states that
35 the cow moose -- that cow moose are becoming too
36 abundant in Unit 18 remainder and that a cow hunt
37 should be allowed for one season, after which the hunt
38 would go back to the one antlered bull requirement.
39
40 The proponent for WP12-48 states that
41 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Fish and
42 Wildlife Service are jointly proposing to liberalize
43 regulations for the winter moose season in Unit 18
44 remainder as they believe that healthy moose
45 populations combined with a low harvest during the
46 winter season justify a liberalization of season length
47 and removal of the antler requirement.
48
49 Moose populations in the Paimiut survey
50 area, which covers the densest population of moose in

1 Unit 18 remainder, had an estimated population size of
2 3,614 moose with a density of 2.3 moose per square mile
3 in 2006, which is an increase for the 1992 density
4 estimate of .64 moose per square mile. The current
5 density in the area may be near 3 moose per square
6 mile; however, Federal and State managers are hesitant
7 to support liberalizing the fall hunt without more
8 recent density data.

9
10 The moose population down river of
11 Mountain Village and adjacent to Unit 18 remainder
12 increased significantly from 1994 to 2008. The 2008
13 population estimate along the main stem of the Yukon
14 River corridor from Mountain Village to Kotlik was
15 3,320 moose. From Mountain Village to Emmonak, the
16 moose density estimate was 2.8 moose per square mile.

17
18 Overall winter moose harvest in Unit 18
19 remainder more than doubled between 2005 and 2010, with
20 the majority of harvest coming from residents of Unit
21 18.

22
23 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
24 oppose WP12-44 and support WP12-48.

25
26 Although moose populations appear to be
27 healthy and growing in Unit 18 remainder, the most
28 recent density estimates for the area are five years
29 old, and State and Federal managers are hesitant to
30 allow for more liberal harvests during the fall hunting
31 season when most of the harvest occurs.

32
33 WP12-48 may satisfy the proponent for
34 12-44, because most local residents living within the
35 Kuskokwim River drainage area are more likely to hunt
36 the Yukon River drainage during the winter when hunters
37 can access the area via snowmachine.

38
39 I welcome your comments and edits.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Agency comments.
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

45
46 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I'll be summarizing our comments.

48
49 If WP12-44 is adopted, Federal
50 subsistence users participating in the Unit 18

1 remainder Federal subsistence moose hunts will have
2 greater opportunity to harvest a moose with or without
3 antlers for the requested one year.

4
5 If WP12-48 is adopted, Federal
6 subsistence moose hunters participating in the Unit 18
7 remainder winter moose hunt will have approximately 49
8 more days to harvest any moose with or without antlers.
9 If adopted, Federal subsistence moose hunters success
10 rates are expected to climb.

11
12 Under State regulations in Unit 18
13 remainder, the State winter moose hunt season is from
14 December 20th through January 10th with a bag limit of
15 one antlered bull, and there's meat on bone salvage
16 requirements. For Unit 18 remainder for the fall
17 season under State regulations, it's from August 10th
18 through September 30th for residents of Alaska, one
19 antlered bull. A non-resident State moose hunting
20 season is September 1 through September 30th, a bag
21 limit of one antlered bull. The State winter hunter of
22 the season for Unit 18 remainder is from December 20th
23 to January 10th, and again meat on bone is required
24 prior to October 1st. And residents -- under State
25 regulations, residents may not harvest more than one
26 moose per year between both seasons.

27
28 For conservation issues, the Lower
29 Yukon River moose population is growing rapidly and
30 currently it is not a conservation concern. If the
31 moose population continues at a high rate of growth,
32 over-browsing may result in future management -- and
33 may result in future management and conservation
34 concerns.

35
36 There are two proposals submitted to
37 the Board of Game. It's Proposal No. 7 and Proposal
38 No. 8. They're similar. And currently the Refuge
39 manager and our area manager, they're working on trying
40 to get the language exactly the same so if the Board of
41 Game does move forward, we end up with the same
42 regulations. That will reduce confusion.

43
44 So the Department recommends to oppose
45 No. 44 and recommends supporting 48, dependent on if
46 the Board of Game adopts it. But the Department is
47 supporting that.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 **No official written comments
2 inserted/provided by State at this
3 time**

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
6 Pappas.

7
8 Any questions for Mr. Pappas. Mr.
9 Roczicka.

10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
12 can't help but ask this. You have on your -- we do
13 have it in front of us this time, so it was one I was
14 able to look at.

15
16 What's going to be the percent of
17 increase if it's not a leap year?

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: 245 percent increase on
22 leap year.

23
24 MR. PAPPAS: About a negative 7.2
25 percent -- no, I'm sorry, I don't know.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Federal
28 agencies. Mr. Reagan. No, Mr. Riorden, I'm sorry.

29
30 MR. RIORDEN: Yeah. Spencer Riorden,
31 Fish and Wildlife Service.

32
33 We submitted this proposal. We -- in
34 the last two years we had special actions to do this
35 exact same thing, and we felt that the hunt has been
36 sustainable. The numbers, as the data we have, seem
37 sufficient. And also considering that this area is
38 adjacent to the Lower Yukon where we're actually having
39 habitat degradation concerns, because of the increasing
40 moose populations. We wanted to get this in the books
41 so that we don't keep people guessing whether or not
42 we're going to have a special action or not any more,
43 and provide another subsistence opportunity.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for
46 Mr. Riorden.

47
48 MR. ROCZICKA: I do.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 know we've had the concerns for a long time, but has
3 there actually been any indications, has there been any
4 kind of browse surveys or anything of that nature done
5 to show that there is degradation occurring in maybe
6 just localized areas or widespread? Anything at all
7 other than just, yeah, we're all worried about it's
8 going to happen, it's a matter of when and that type?
9 Anything on the ground?

10

11 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
12 Roczicka, no, we have not done any browse surveys on
13 the Yukon. Our only concern is coming from what's --
14 the densities are increasing in much of the Yukon and
15 relative to the rest of Alaska. The number of moose
16 per square mile is getting us concerned, but with that
17 concern, we want to increase subsistence opportunities.
18 We think -- we know we have a healthy moose population,
19 and so we think that people ought to be able to further
20 harvest those animals.

21

22 But to answer your question, no, we
23 haven't done any. We had some discussions on that, but
24 it's a huge undertaking. The Yukon is a huge area. We
25 had some limited habitat studies done up on the
26 Kwethluk River, which is more of a pilot study to
27 determine if we can use that data to indicate the
28 health of the environment. The browse -- we did some
29 browse surveys up there. But that data's forthcoming,
30 and we kind of have to let the moose tell us what's
31 going on based on twinning rates, calving rates,
32 survival, so forth. But that has not occurred on the
33 -- no habitat studies has occurred on the Yukon.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
36 Charles.

37

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

39

40 Does these proposals include the
41 Johnson River? That's a little different than
42 moratorium area?

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Perry.

45

46 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Through the Chair.
47 Yeah, so the remainder where this is talking about, the
48 remainder of Unit 18, that would be just the way the
49 stuff is written, you know, where we have the
50 registration permit, the remainder is the area outside

1 of where the registration permit is. So that would
2 include the Johnson River, upriver of, as I call it, In
3 Lake, the lake upriver of Nunapitchuk that has a real
4 long name, from that point up to basically behind
5 Kalskag, anything within a half mile of the south bank
6 of the Johnson River and north of that, to include all
7 the Yukon drainage, is part of what this is, the Unit
8 18 remainder. So it's kind of a backwards way to
9 describe the area, but it would include that, that
10 upper Johnson area.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
13 questions of either -- any questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Perry.

19
20 Tribal village. Anybody from AVCP.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, he's not here.
25 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
30 Advisory group comments.

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

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

35
36 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. You could see a
37 map of Lower Yukon.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Your mic.

40
41 MR. H. WILDE: You could see on Page
42 98, Lower Yukon hunt area. One time there was no Lower
43 Yukon hunt area until we mayors in Lower Yukon get
44 together. We say to ourself, we've been travel for
45 long ways upriver, and upriver river are helping us at
46 least getting the moose. There was no moose down
47 there. I used to be fish collector. There was no
48 moose.

49
50 So one time mayors together and they

1 said, let's start try to increase the moose. There was
2 no moose down there anyway in that area. And that's
3 what we did. Mayors get together with the villages.
4 We tried to start a moose season down that area. We
5 help people work together and people upriver are
6 helping us. And we did -- you could see that right now
7 today. There's an area, Lower Yukon hunting area they
8 call it. From Kashunuk it goes all the way to
9 Chuathbaluk, from Chuathbaluk to Mountain Village, From
10 Mountain Village, 20 miles north of Kotlik.

11
12 Today there's quite a few moose. I
13 just came back from down lower with my grandchildren,
14 go hunting. There are more cows than the bull down
15 there. And if it's not with the support of these
16 people, we wouldn't have no moose that area. Right now
17 today we estimate about 13 villages, moose hunting in
18 that area.

19
20 Only problem that we have, we start
21 getting sport hunters coming in by plane. We're not
22 supporting the people that come in with the airplane.
23 They could leave their plane in the villages and they
24 could go out with the boat like what we do. Like one
25 time that area, we get there where the moose live, most
26 bulls area. We told them that, you know, you are sport
27 hunter, you're welcome here. You're welcome, but you
28 have to hunt like us. You have to leave your airplane
29 there, not flying or looking for big bulls or looking
30 for bear. We are willing to help you if you need help,
31 but no flying. Not spotting by airplane. Because we
32 give every chance our elders to go out and make sure
33 they've got something to eat. That's why we're not
34 really supporting planes that come in when the area
35 open. But we'll welcome people in the Yukon River up
36 to Russian Mission and all those people, or even Bethel
37 people to come over hunting that area. But we're not
38 supporting people that's -- hunters that come in
39 spotting the biggest bull, biggest horn. Those biggest
40 horn that there are some sport hunters catching is
41 moose makers. That's why we've got moose in that area
42 today.

43
44 We give everybody chance that come in
45 and willing to help them. Like we always plant (ph)
46 sometimes that people come in from Bethel and they'll
47 hunt for their elders. We like that. But we're not
48 supporting no -- you come in with a plane and look
49 around for that there's a moose, that's looking for the
50 big horn, we're not supporting that. So you guys have

1 to know. So that's where they put this one map and all
2 that in this Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
3 Advisory Council book.

4
5 So that's what elders say, that, you
6 know, we didn't have no help from Fish and Game and
7 Fish and Wildlife when we tried to start moose down
8 there. Didn't. So therefore that right now you look
9 at that map on 98, and you see that boundary and it
10 says the Lower Yukon hunting area. That's the Lower
11 Yukon hunting area, and we're not against people that
12 come in, go hunt when it's open, but they have to hunt
13 like us. Not flying. That's the only thing that we're
14 against, flying. But we appreciate people from Russian
15 Mission and people that go down for their -- for
16 something to -- for their family. We support that.
17 Because there's quite a few moose down there.

18
19 There's a lot of females down there and
20 a lot of calves. Quite a few. The last time I went
21 down to across Fish Village, we saw six calves with
22 three cows. And we're expecting it will be more moose
23 down there if we watch them and make sure that -- like
24 drop-off people in that area, we're not supporting
25 that. If we know ahead of time, maybe we could help
26 them out. Leave their plane in one of those villages
27 and go out with a boat.

28
29 So right now like today there's some
30 people out there really hurt and they don't want to see
31 that plane flying, spotting, just spot -- going to spot
32 something. If they want to hunt in that Lower Yukon
33 hunting area, we want to know before they come in. We
34 may help them out, like if they want to go hunting,
35 there's some people have boats and all that area, in
36 that area.

37
38 So that's why you see these proposals
39 here in that Lower Yukon hunting area.

40
41 Quyana.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry,
44 Mr. Wilde.

45
46 Advisory group comments. Advisory
47 group comments.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Local fish and game
2 advisory committees comments.

3

4 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Other Regional
7 Advisory Council or RAC comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Tribal
12 comments.

13

14 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman. Once again Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

16

17 I am originally from the community of
18 Marshall and remember the years when there was hardly
19 any moose out there. and the seasons, although they
20 extended through the month of September, just very few
21 people would get moose. And with the conservation
22 efforts of the local people between Russian Mission --
23 or that portion of Unit 18 that used to extend from
24 Russian Mission all the way down to the mouth of the
25 Yukon River, with the prohibition and education,
26 extensive education on the prohibition of shooting cows
27 during the fall season, really built that population to
28 where it is today.

29

30 And like Mr. Wilde had indicated,
31 there's been -- since we've had a large explosion of
32 moose in the area, we've started seeing a number of
33 transporters come in to take advantage of the larger
34 moose population.

35

36 And I normally hunt during the fall
37 around the community of Marshall, within 20 miles, 25
38 miles of the community. And back in 2005 I believe it
39 was, when I was the chairman of the village
40 corporation, we had expressed our concerns to the Fish
41 and Wildlife Service about the placement of these
42 transporters that bring out people and place them in
43 camps. They were camped in very close proximity to
44 various Native allotments. They were placed in very
45 close proximity to village corporation lands. And in
46 the more recent years we've started hearing more issues
47 about user conflicts occurring on Federal and Native
48 corporation land and Native allotment lands.

49

50 Just recently this past fall, behind

1 the community of Marshall there's a place called
2 Blyukpuk (ph). That's a Native allotment owned by one
3 of the local people there. He said that hearing the
4 drone of the planes flying around, circling and landing
5 in various places, dropping off and picking up their
6 clients has created quite a bit of stir within the
7 community. And also Pilot Station. We've also heard in
8 the previous years some of the user conflicts occurring
9 down around St. Mary's, up the Andraefsky River.

10

11 And, you know, this is just a very
12 small portion of this proposal. It does address issues
13 of -- issues like that during the fall season.

14

15 And I'd just like to take the
16 opportunity to advise the Refuge that they must utilize
17 their tribal consultation in consulting with the local
18 communities in the placement of these hunter camps, or
19 whether or not the local communities even support the
20 concept of dropping these people off within close
21 proximity to their subsistence use areas.

22

23 But as far as the proposal itself,
24 transitioning from one bull to one cow during the -- or
25 not cow, but one moose during the winter season, over
26 the last couple of years there's been quite a bit of
27 participation from people on this side of the river
28 traveling up to the Yukon River to harvest the more
29 populated moose up there. And it has contributed to
30 the food security of a lot of people on this side of
31 the river.

32

33 I've heard a number of concerns about
34 why are we allowing people to harvest cows during the
35 winter when we were prohibited from doing so. And I
36 would encourage if this body were to adopt this
37 proposal, that you encourage or have at least an annual
38 report of the activity or moose population, the calf or
39 cows per -- bulls to cow ratios, calves to cow ratios,
40 and make sure that the managers stay within the
41 management objectives, just to make sure that this
42 population does not crash like the Mulchatna Herd and
43 also the moose populations in Unit 19, because this is
44 an extremely valuable subsistence food for people along
45 the Yukon River corridor and more importantly for
46 people in this area that have limited opportunity to
47 harvest moose and then the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
48 declining as well. So it's a food basket for the
49 subsistence hunters in the area, and we must really
50 take it seriously when, you know, especially local

1 people start seeing declines, and then take action to
2 try and conserve the population and make sure the
3 population continues to sustain a good hunt for the
4 region.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew, we're
9 in discussion of two proposals, 44 and 48. When you
10 said this proposal, which proposal were you addressing?

11

12 MR. T. ANDREW: I was propos -- I was
13 addressing both proposals. I know one says one cow
14 without a calf, but -- and Proposal 48, it indicates
15 that one moose, and that could be either a cow or a
16 bull during the winter season.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
19 further discussion on Proposal 44 or 48.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Local
24 fish and game advisory council. Let's see. We're down
25 to -- did I get InterAgency Staff.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
30 Advisory group comments.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: He said no comments.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments,
35 advisory group. Were there any comments from
36 neighboring Regionals.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. National
41 Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I haven't heard of
46 that -- I haven't either, Perry, so -- summary of
47 written comments, Mr. Nick.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Public
2 testimony on 44 or 48. There isn't any request for
3 that.

4
5 We are down to Regional Council
6 recommendations. Motion. Mr. Roczicka.

7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Move to
9 support Proposal No. 48, and rather than oppose, I
10 would say no action on Proposal 44.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
13 made to have no action on 44 and support 48. Do I hear
14 a second to that motion.

15
16 MR. CHARLES: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
19 Charles.

20
21 Discussion. Mr. Aloysius.

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Where do I
24 start.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 44 or 48.

27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: He already answered part
29 of my question. So we're virtually eliminating 44,
30 right, and we'll take action on 48.

31
32 MR. ROCZICKA: I made the motion that
33 since they were presented to as one action item rather
34 than two proposals, I'm addressing an action for both
35 proposals in one motion. So it would be to support
36 Proposal No. 48 and take no action on Proposal 44, due
37 to the action on Proposal 48.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you for the
40 clarification. With that clarification, I will support
41 the motion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
44 discussion. Any further discussion on 44/48.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MR. UNOK: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been

1 called for I think. All in favor of the motion signify
2 by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.

11

12 We are down to WP12-45/49.

13

14 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
15 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
16 WP12-45/49 starts on Page 105 of your meeting's
17 material booklet.

18

19 Proposal WP12-45, submitted by Aloysius
20 Unok of Kotlik, requests that for a portion of Unit 18
21 that the start of the fall hunting season be changed
22 from August 10th through September 1st, and that the
23 harvest limit be changed from one antlered bull to one
24 moose, except that a cow with a calf may not be taken.

25

26

27 Proposal WP12-49, submitted by the
28 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, requests that the
29 moose hunting season in portions of Unit 18 be revised
30 from fall and winter hunt -- fall and winter dates,
31 August 10th through September 30th, and December 20th
32 to February 28th, to August 1st through the last day of
33 February, and that the harvest limit be two moose, only
34 one of which may be antlered. The taking of an
35 antlered bull would be limited to the dates of
36 September 1st through September 30th.

37

38 The proponent for WP12-45 states that
39 hunting opportunities for local users are limited in
40 Unit 18 by the antlered restriction during the fall
41 hunting season; that hunters have to spend a long time
42 in the field searching for legal animals to harvest. A
43 one-moose harvest limit would allow for more harvest
44 opportunities.

45

46 The proponent for WP12-49 states that
47 the moose population of the Lower Yukon has grown
48 dramatically and the season and harvest limit for this
49 portion of Unit 18 can be liberalized. In addition
50 it's stated that reducing the number of cows may help

1 slow the increasing population, thereby reducing the
2 potential for habitat damage that could lead to a
3 population crash.

4
5 Population surveys conducted in 2008 in
6 portions of Unit 18 yield an estimated 3,320 moose with
7 a density of 2.8 moose per square mile. The area has
8 experienced rapid growth since the end of a moratorium
9 in 1994 with an average annual growth rate of 27
10 percent for the period between 1994 and 2008. Although
11 fall and winter moose harvest has increased since 2005
12 with an average annual winter reported harvest of 29
13 animals from 2000 to 2009, the total reported winter
14 harvest remains lower than anticipated.

15
16 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
17 support 12-49 and take no action on 12-45.

18
19 The Federal Subsistence Board recently
20 adopted Proposal WP10-56 which increased that harvest
21 limit for moose in the Lower Yukon area of Unit 18 to
22 two moose per regulatory year. Proposal WP12-49 would
23 provide additional opportunity for Federal subsistence
24 users to harvest moose in the area by lengthening the
25 season and liberalizing harvest requirements from one
26 antlered bull to two moose, except that antlered bulls
27 may be taken only between September 1st and September
28 30th.

29
30 Moose densities along the Lower Yukon
31 are high and additional harvest should not have any
32 negative impacts on the moose population. WP12-49
33 should help reduce moose densities in the area which
34 could prevent or help reduce negative impacts to the
35 habitat.

36
37 The increased season length and hunting
38 opportunities in WP12-49 should meet the needs set
39 forth by the proponent in WP12-45.

40
41 I welcome your comments and edits.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
46 McKee.

47
48 Agency comments. Alaska Department of
49 Fish and Game.

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 If WP12-45 is adopted, Federal
4 subsistence users participating in the Lower Yukon area
5 portion of Unit 18 Federal subsistence fall moose hunt
6 will have greater opportunities to harvest moose with
7 or without antlers during the open season.
8 Additionally, if this proposal is adopted, the Federal
9 Subsistence moose hunters will have 21 days, which
10 would be a 41 percent reduction, of the season length.

11

12 If 49 is open -- excuse me. If
13 Proposal 49 is adopted Federal subsistence users
14 participating in the Lower Yukon area portion of the
15 Unit 18 Federal subsistence fall moose hunt will have
16 greater opportunity to harvest antlerless moose. The
17 current fall season, which is antlered bulls only, is
18 51 days long and the winter season for any moose is 70
19 days long, which is 121 days. The proposed season
20 length from Proposal No. 49 is to 202 days, which is a
21 60 percent increase on leap years and a 59.2 percent
22 increase on non-leap years in which antlered moose
23 could be only harvested between September 1 and 30th.

24

25 And if adopted, Federal subsistence
26 users would be restricted from harvesting antlered
27 bulls between August 10th and 31st. If adopted,
28 Federal subsistence users opportunity to harvest cow
29 and antlerless moose would significantly increase.

30

31 The Department supports these proposals
32 as modified and they want to align with Federal staff
33 on the proposals that are going to the Board of Game,
34 which is Proposal No. 7 and Proposal No. 8. Currently
35 our area managers and Refuge Staff are working on
36 trying to get the language just right. And this is a
37 reflection, along the same intent as the last proposals
38 we just went over. So at this time, we do support as
39 modified as it's going to be presented to the Board of
40 Game.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

Wildlife Proposal WP12-45:

1 This proposal requests eliminating the
2 antlered bull moose harvest requirement Lower Yukon
3 Area portion of Unit 18 The proposal also requests
4 reducing the Lower Yukon Area portion of Unit 18
5 federal subsistence moose hunting season by delaying
6 the season opening date.

7

8 Wildlife Proposal WP12-49:

9

10 The proposal requests liberalizing the
11 Lower Yukon Area portion of Unit 18 federal subsistence
12 moose hunting season. The proposal also requests
13 changing the federal subsistence antlered bull moose
14 harvest requirement dates.

15

16 Introduction:

17

18 The proponent of WP12-45 requests
19 authorizing the harvest cow moose without calves in the
20 fall season for that portion of Unit 18 north and west
21 of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the
22 mouth of the river upstream to the old village of
23 Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to
24 Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River
25 drainages upriver from Mountain Village (Lower Yukon
26 Area). The proponent also requests reducing the
27 federal subsistence moose hunting season in the
28 identified area from August 10 through September 30 to
29 September 1 through September 30.

30

31 The proponent of WP12-49 requests
32 liberalizing the federal subsistence moose hunting
33 season for that portion of Unit 18 north and west of
34 the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the
35 mouth of the river upstream to the old village of
36 Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to
37 Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River
38 drainages upriver from Mountain Village (Lower Yukon
39 Area). The proposal requests the current fall and
40 winter federal subsistence moose hunting seasons be
41 replaced with a single continuous season from August 1
42 through February 29. The proposal also requests
43 changing the antlered bull moose harvest requirement
44 dates from August 10 through September 30 and from
45 December 20 through February 28 to the single time
46 period of September 1 through September 30.

47

48 The proponent of WP12-49 indicates
49 adoption of this proposal will result in lowering the
50 moose densities in the Lower Yukon Area of Unit 18 by

1 establishing one continuous season partially directed
2 at cow moose.

3

4 Impact on Subsistence Users:

5

6 If WP12-45 is adopted, federal
7 subsistence users participating in the Lower Yukon Area
8 portion of Unit 18 federal subsistence fall moose hunt
9 will have greater opportunities to harvest a moose,
10 with or without antlers during the open season.
11 Additionally, if this proposal is adopted, federal
12 subsistence moose hunters would have a 21 day (41%)
13 reduction of the season length.

14

15 If WP12-49 is adopted, federal
16 subsistence users participating in the Lower Yukon Area
17 portion of Unit 18 federal subsistence fall moose hunt
18 will have greater opportunities to harvest antlerless
19 moose. The current fall season (antlered bulls only)
20 is 51 days long and the winter season (any moose) is 70
21 days long (total 121 days). The proposed season length
22 is 202 days (60% increase) of which antlered moose
23 could be only harvested between September 1 and 30. If
24 adopted, federal subsistence users would be restricted
25 from harvesting antlered bulls between August 10 and
26 31. If adopted, federal subsistence user opportunity
27 to harvest cow and antlerless moose would significantly
28 increase.

29

30 Opportunity Provided by State:

31

32 In the Lower Yukon Area portion of Unit
33 18, the state moose hunting season is from August 10
34 through September 30 for residents of Alaska with a bag
35 limit of one antlered bull. The nonresident state
36 moose hunting season is September 1 through September
37 30 with a bag limit of one antlered bull. The state
38 winter hunting season for the Lower Yukon Area portion
39 of Unit 18 is from December 20 through February 28 with
40 a bag limit of one antlered bull. Meat-on-the-bone
41 salvage is required thus meat taken prior to October 1
42 must remain on the bones of the front and hindquarters
43 until removed from the field or processed for human
44 consumption. Residents may not harvest more than one
45 moose per year between the fall and winter seasons.

46

47 Conservation Issues:

48

49 The Lower Yukon River moose population
50 is growing rapidly and currently is not a conservation

1 concern. If the moose population continues at a high
2 rate of growth, over-browsing may result in future
3 management and conservation considerations. Moose are
4 abundant in areas of Unit 18 currently open for
5 hunting, thanks to the success of the moratoria.
6 Information presented to the Federal Subsistence Board
7 in 2007 indicated that the moose population in areas
8 targeted in this proposal is highly productive and is
9 continuing to grow.

10

11 Enforcement Issues:

12

13 Differences in federal and state
14 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
15 create enforcement problems in areas with mixed land
16 ownership. The boundaries between federal and state
17 lands are not marked and often difficult to locate on
18 the ground.

19

20 Other Comments:

21

22 The department will submit similar if
23 not more liberal proposals to the Alaska Board of Game
24 requesting liberalization of harvest regulations for
25 portions of Unit 18.

26

27 Recommendation:

28

29 Support as modified. The department
30 recommends modification of the proposal to align with
31 the following proposals the department will submit to
32 the Alaska Board of Game.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
37 Pappas. Any questions. Mr. Roczicka.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Not really a question,
40 instead a request. But just to make it clear on the
41 record for folks, I mean, it's in there as two moose,
42 it's actually somebody can go and harvest two cows if
43 they want to, and it could be within any time within
44 that period. If they choose not to take a bull in the
45 fall season, that's fine. They could take a cow then,
46 too, correct?

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. Mr. Chair. Through
49 the Chair. Yes.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
2 Riorden.
3
4 MR. ROCZICKA: You have Al, Mr. Chair.
5 Aloysius.
6
7 MR. UNOK: I have a question. How did
8 they get to two moose without it wouldn't affect the
9 moose population? How many hunters out there?
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Who are you
12 directing that question to? To Mr. Pappas? Sorry.
13 Who was the -- was that.
14
15 MR. PERRY: I can answer it if you'd
16 like.
17
18 MR. UNOK: My question is how did they
19 come up with two moose for subsistence users? I mean,
20 that wouldn't hurt the moose population?
21
22 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I guess -- through
23 the Chair. The intent of this is to increase the
24 harvest, especially the cow component. The last
25 several years during the Federal season, hunters have
26 been able to harvest a cow or two cows during the
27 winter hunt. Not all that many people have done that.
28 So when we look at it and look at the trajectory of
29 this population, what's happening, you know, there's a
30 lot of moose there now and it's still growing. If we
31 doubled the harvest and all of the increase in the
32 harvest was cows, we still think that that would not
33 harm the population, it would just slow down the
34 growth.
35
36 MR. UNOK: So you moved the winter to
37 falltime, that's what you're saying? Or it's going to
38 be the same?
39
40 MR. PERRY: Well, the proposal here
41 would open it basically in August and remain open, so
42 it would have the same season -- you know, you could
43 hunt in August and September like before, but you could
44 continue to hunt through October, November and December
45 when the season is currently closed, and then hunt the
46 same time in January and February. So it would add
47 quite a bit of time to hunt as well as making that two
48 moose bag limit that used to be only on Federal lands
49 in the winter apply for a longer period of time.
50

1 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Noah. Mr.
4 Andrew.
5
6 MR. N. ANDREW: 100 moose then would
7 become 200 moose? On the certain count earlier there
8 was 100 moose. Like they're south -- and I would
9 suspect -- to follow his question, I assume that the --
10 from what I first heard, there's 1,000 permits that
11 were issued out. And 100 moose was counted to -- for
12 those 1,000 permits. Now, if I'm listening correctly
13 here, if you increase it to two moose per hunter, with
14 that kind of population, what backup do you have?
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you understand
17 what he's speaking of?
18
19 MR. N. ANDREW: On the moose count.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Which moose count
22 are you talking about?
23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I think I
25 an help with -- Noah, what you talked about for the
26 permits applies only on the Kuskokwim. This proposal
27 deals with the Yukon below Mountain Village where
28 there's many thousands of moose. The permits only
29 apply, that you referred to, apply only on the
30 Kuskokwim where it has the limited registration. It's
31 a different area you're thinking of.
32
33 MR. PERRY: Yeah. If you turn to --
34 it's for a different proposal, but if you turn to Page
35 98 that shows the boundaries for the moose hunts in
36 Unit 18, the area that this is talking about is the
37 area in the farthest west and northern part that says
38 the Lower Yukon hunt area. The area that's
39 crosshatched down around Bethel, and that is a
40 registration permit hunt. So we're comparing -- it's
41 two different areas, and, you know, fewer people in the
42 Lower Yukon area and a lot of moose right now, and a
43 population that is growing very -- still growing very
44 rapidly as far as moose.
45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay?
47
48 MR. UNOK: Yeah.
49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you okay with

1 that?

2

3 MR. UNOK: Well, the map.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. And Mr.
6 Riorden.

7

8 MR. RIORDEN: Spencer Riorden, Fish and
9 Wildlife Service.

10

11 I just wanted to point out a few of the
12 nuances of this proposal. I gave you a handout with a
13 map on the front page, and on the third page I'd point
14 out some similarities and differences between the
15 Federal and State proposal.

16

17 Our Federal proposal is to liberalize
18 the season with cow harvest, allow two moose, two cows.
19 However, we also propose only allowing one of them --
20 one of the two moose to be a bull, an antlered bull,
21 which could only be harvested in September. The State
22 proposal also has two moose, but you could shoot an
23 antlered bull throughout the season, throughout the
24 proposed season, and only one of which could be
25 antlered bull.

26

27 Our concern was that we did not want to
28 push to allow antlered bulls to be harvested after
29 September for fear that you may have other folks coming
30 in to harvest antlered moose in October, November,
31 December, especially in October when the rut's really
32 going on. And when big bulls come down to the river,
33 they draw attention from other folks outside this area,
34 which is controversial in its own way.

35

36 And the other thing is that our bull
37 ratio is downwards of close to 30 per 100, which is a
38 decent bull ratio; however, we want to shift some of
39 that bull harvest over to cow harvest. So we're not
40 only liberalizing cow harvest, but this proposal in a
41 sense restricts bull harvest buy not allowing bulls to
42 be harvested in October. So that's something to
43 consider for the differences.

44

45 Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and
46 Game locally are working together to try to get this
47 language to mesh very similar, because we don't want to
48 complicate it for the hunters out there and have to
49 worry about State or Federal lands.

50

1 So that is something to consider. I
2 wrote a paragraph in the third page of this handout
3 that I gave you, which is kind of a summary report of
4 some of the data and points out some of the differences
5 in our proposals. So I'm just bringing your attention
6 to some of the small nuances. Either way we're trying
7 to liberalize moose harvest and we would like to see
8 increased cow harvest.

9
10 As Phillip Perry just mentioned, if we
11 were to significantly increase the harvest on cows, we
12 may only slow down the population growth at that. This
13 population is likely growing so fast and harvest is not
14 high enough that we may have a limited effect. So
15 there's a lot of families that get multiple moose, but
16 there's really not that many people getting two moose
17 as is. So we're not worried at all if we signif --
18 about significantly increasing moose harvest. We'd
19 like to see that happen in fact, especially on cows.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
22 questions for Mr. Riorden.

23
24 MR. UNOK: Question.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, ma'am.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I used to
31 take care of Mr. Paul Huff from Kwethluk when I used to
32 be a home for people who come to the hospital, and then
33 he used to tell me all kinds of things. And one thing
34 that he told me one time was that when populations are
35 going to change, people start having twins or triplets.
36 And I think that's what's happening to the moose.
37 They're changing, they're replenishing. When we die,
38 people will take over. That's what's happening I
39 think. And we can hunt -- you can open for cow because
40 they're hunting the male, people who are producers.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
45 further questions for Mr. Riorden. Mr. Unok.

46
47 MR. UNOK: Yeah. I talked with other
48 region upriver in the Yukon, Eastern and Western. They
49 had moose population like we had. they had sports
50 hunters come out there killing bulls and subsistence

1 users were killing cows. I was afraid it might happen
2 like upriver. The moose population might disappear if
3 sports hunters come out killing bulls, subsistence
4 users killing cows. How will that be handled if this
5 proposal pass, how long will it be affected? Will the
6 moose population be watched after?

7

8 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
9 Unok. It is part of our goal this year to go get
10 another census count of the Lower Yukon. We haven't
11 had a count here since 2008. And let me make sure I
12 said that correctly. Yes, 2008. And we know about
13 that time it was growing upwards of 27 percent a year.
14 And so we suspect that it's continuing to grow
15 significantly. We don't know if it's at 27 percent
16 necessarily, but we will always try to monitor that
17 population, especially as we continue to change
18 regulations.

19

20 We have various areas that we.....

21

22 MR. UNOK: Excuse me, my question was,
23 well, if this pass, will the moose population to be
24 monitored if it's dropping?

25

26 MR. RIORDEN: The answer is yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did you have
29 anything else to say.

30

31 MR. RIORDEN: Just while I have your
32 attention on this form here, it was brought to my
33 attention that on one of the ratios on the third page
34 where I was talking about the moose composition
35 estimates. I wrote in the area where it says Middle
36 Yukon and in parenthesis says, includes Andreafsky and
37 Paimiut areas. I was wrong in that, in that it only
38 includes the Andreafsky is what they referred to. Just
39 while I have your attention on this.

40

41 And then one other issue, too, is that
42 the state proposal also requests that a person not be
43 able to take a cow accompanied by a calf prior to
44 October 1st. And the Federal proposal does not have
45 that. There's some hunting ethics that are involved on
46 this, and the biological part of it is that there are a
47 lot of cows, there's a lot of calves, so even though
48 we're liberalizing by allowing cow harvest in the fall,
49 hunters under the State proposal would have to be able
50 to shoot just cows without calves prior to October 1st,

1 so that would further limit their selection of cows.
2 That's just another nuance to point you the differences
3 between the State and the Federal proposal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
6 Polty.

7
8 MR. POLTY: I have a question for --
9 since you say that you haven't do any countings, 2008,
10 and you haven't done up as far as 2010? 2010?

11
12 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
13 Polty. The only thing that we have for 2010 is a ratio
14 count, which doesn't tell you what the population is.
15 We hope to be able to get a census count this next
16 winter on the Lower Yukon, including the Middle Yukon
17 area.

18
19 MR. POLTY: Since you did -- you
20 haven't count fairly on that, I think it might be
21 better to delay until everything is official as to how
22 many bull moose in that area, and how many cows in that
23 area for hunting, to open hunting season, that one that
24 you indicated there. So it might be better to just
25 delay it until the official count come up in that Lower
26 Yukon area.

27
28 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
29 Polty. We did a count to get an idea of how many bulls
30 there are per 100 cows, and right now it's close to 30
31 bulls per 100 cows based off of looking at 845 moose.
32 That's a pretty high sample size, and it wasn't very
33 hard to find 845 moose to get that. So we have an idea
34 of what the bull ratio is. And we're pretty confident
35 that the population of the Lower Yukon has grown more
36 than what it was in 2008. And our concern is that
37 we're getting to the point where no matter how much we
38 liberalize, we may not be able to keep that population
39 from growing and over-shooting carrying capacity, which
40 can also take a long period of time to rebound.

41
42 So we're looking in the future here,
43 and we think we have enough data in hand, and we're
44 pretty confident that if we go and collect more data,
45 we're going to find more moose than what was in 2008.
46 And so our worry is that habitat degradation is going
47 to be noticeable, significantly more noticeable. And
48 in Alaska, and especially in western Alaska, willows
49 and birches and things that moose eat take a longer
50 period of time to recover than in places like in the

1 Lower 48. So we're trying to delay -- at this point I
2 don't know if we can prevent the crash, we're trying to
3 delay it now. So we feel that this population is going
4 so fast and harvest is not keeping up, that the
5 population is going to do what it wants to do.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Riorden.

9

10 MR. POLTY: I have one more. On the
11 bull ratio for 2000, did you get any -- this harvest
12 survey on how many were harvest on bull this year? Or
13 you haven't received them yet?

14

15 MR. PERRY: We don't have.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The season just --
18 no, that hasn't ended yet.

19

20 MR. PERRY: Mr. Polty, through the
21 Chair. For this year that season's still going even
22 continuing today. And then there's a winter season
23 coming up for this year. Fish and Game is the keeper
24 of that data. Since they have the permits for years
25 past, they may be able to give you an idea of what the
26 reported harvest was. Keep in mind, not all harvest is
27 reported to us or to Fish and Game. So there is some
28 data to answer your question.

29

30 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

35

36 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll pass.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Noah.

39

40 MR. N. ANDREW: Are you aware of the
41 information that we have heard, that I have heard,
42 there's a couple of people that camp along the
43 treelines and they have come by and reportedly saw a
44 lot of moose, bull moose passing by going towards
45 Kuskokwim this year. And not only that, you may be
46 aware that we do have predators, you know, wolf, bear,
47 and I think that should be, like he said, be available
48 before you can count like -- come up with this kind of
49 proposal.

50

1 Thank you, Chair.

2

3 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. Duly noted.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok.

6

7 MR. UNOK: He mentioned what I was
8 going to ask, but I know I don't see any wolves and
9 hardly any brown bears, too. Maybe just a few brown
10 bears left. No predators. Maybe that's why they're
11 growing fast.

12

13 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair.
14 Yeah, we don't have any monitor of predators in that
15 area, other than what locals tell us. And through my
16 own personal hunting time over in the Kotlik area, that
17 they're seeing -- they see them once in a while, but it
18 doesn't appear to be a big issue. And most often
19 predators -- not all the time, I mean, a lot of times
20 calves are the ones that are hit fits over the adults,
21 and our data's showing that we have around 69 calves
22 per 100 cows in that area, which suggests that
23 population is going up.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
26 discussion on this.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just have a comment on
29 what Spencer said about willows and birch. Those
30 things grow faster than grass. And so I don't see why
31 the Feds have a concern over browse for moose, because
32 those things grow -- I mean, overnight they grow a foot
33 at a time. If you cut them off, next spring they're
34 that high again, and they grow and grow and grow. So I
35 really don't see any problem with browse for moose as
36 far as willows and birch.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have
39 anything else on that?

40

41 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Aloysius, I guess our
42 thinking is related to what has happened in other
43 places in the state. Unit 9, for example. The moose
44 moved into that area and the population went real high
45 in the 80s, and now it's pretty low. It's considered
46 low density, and much of the thinking from the
47 biologists in this area is that the browse has never
48 recovered to what it used to be. And so now the
49 population has settled at a much lower rate to where
50 the habitat can support that. So it takes times -- we

1 don't know when the population's going to over-shoot.
2 We don't know how many thousands of moose can be
3 supported by the habitat, but relative to the rest of
4 the state, we've got a real dense population and a high
5 population that continues to grow. And so when -- once
6 the population gets to a level where they feed on that
7 willow, especially in the wintertime is when they're
8 stressed the most, nutritionally stressed, that there
9 is going to be a point where that habitat will not
10 support moose, or a certain level of moose during the
11 winter or late winter time period. So, yes, willow
12 does grow faster than most other shrubs, but there's a
13 point where it doesn't grow fast enough to support a
14 certain population.

15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have
17 anything else on that, any questions on it

18
19 Before we get into tribal with Mr.
20 Andrew, I'd like to make one statement, that I -- last
21 winter I went on a winter hunt, and I couldn't believe
22 the amount of moose that we saw in every patch of (In
23 Yup'ik) that was up there. The willows with the red
24 leaves during the wintertime, that's where the moose
25 were concentrated on. And I just couldn't believe that
26 every patch, every -- behind Mountain Village, we were
27 going up to -- Paul, my son-in-law, and just about
28 every large patch of red-leafed willows had a
29 population of at least two to four to six moose in each
30 one of those patches. And that's something that I've
31 never seen before. So, like you said, the population
32 really is shooting up. It's growing just a lot. It's
33 going even outside of the area that where the main feed
34 usually is along the Yukon. It's spreading out in the
35 areas. If you travel during the wintertime and hunt
36 moose, you'll see the extent of the population growth
37 in that area. It's -- I couldn't believe what I saw.

38
39 But anyway I wanted to make that
40 comment in support of Mr. Riorden.

41
42 And at this time we'll get down to the
43 village, tribal, Native, tribal comments.

44
45 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

47
48 This Lower Yukon area is probably one
49 of the biggest success stories probably in the State
50 of Alaska that we've never see with an over-surplus of

1 moose not only for the local people, but also people of
2 the region.

3

4 I do understand the concerns of the
5 Staff from both Fish and also Fish and Wildlife Service
6 about the maximum carrying capacity for the moose. But
7 there are studies all across the world about moose.
8 And one of the studies in one of the Scandinavian
9 countries showed that.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If I may, if you
12 have discussions, could you please go out of our range
13 of hearing so we can -- we're trying to continue with
14 our discussion.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 Go ahead.

19

20 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
21 Chair. There are studies in various countries, mostly
22 in the Scandinavian countries, I believe. One of those
23 countries about one-eighth to one-fifth, perhaps, maybe
24 even less, the size of the State of Alaska carries over
25 3 to 400 moose. And we only have -- or 3 to 400,000
26 moose whereas in the State of Alaska perhaps we have
27 considerably less. And the way that they're able to
28 maintain the population of the moose in those countries
29 is through what we call -- what they've called a
30 private lands wildlife management program where
31 communities, counties, various regions of these
32 countries, what they would do is take the old growth
33 willow that they feed on, just crop those off, because
34 there's no nutritional value for the moose on the old
35 growth. But where the nutritional value is, is exactly
36 where Mr. Aloysius said, is that young growth.

37

38 In some of the Yukon River areas, if
39 you'll take a look at the areas where the ice, every
40 time it goes over through the area, it just crops the
41 willows down to almost grinding it down to the sand.
42 But as soon as them shoots come up within several
43 years, there's moose all over there. One of the good
44 examples, when I used to fly quite frequently back to
45 Marshall is right around Devil's Elbow. We used to see
46 70 to 100 moose in that area, just in that small area
47 where there's that young growth.

48

49 So, you know, if those program -- if
50 programs like that were to be established in the Lower

1 Yukon area, you can probably increase the carrying
2 capacity. But currently as Mr. Riorden has said, there
3 are a lot of moose and way too small of a harvest
4 there. And, you know, we've tried through many efforts
5 to try to get people to travel up there to hunt moose
6 during the winter, but it's such a big expense and time
7 commitment for the local people, and also weather
8 dependence as well to get them to travel up that far to
9 harvest moose.

10

11 It's an incredible problem to have, and
12 probably an unprecedented problem to have way too many
13 moose and not enough harvest. Extending the season
14 from August 1st with the limitation of bulls only
15 harvest from September 1 to 30th, and then the
16 remainder of the year with perhaps an antlerless really
17 -- I think it would really help to control the moose
18 populations.

19

20 But once again, you know, this is an
21 important bread basket. A lot of people sacrificed a
22 lot to make sure that this population built up to where
23 it is today. To make sure and hold the State and
24 Federal game managers accountable to making sure that
25 there's counts frequently, making sure that there's
26 accurate bull to cow ratios, calf to cow ratios, just
27 to keep an eye on the population so we don't have a
28 negative effect on something that we've worked so hard
29 to build upon.

30

31 I don't know how we can possibly stress
32 it even more in this current political environment
33 where the Federal programs are being cut. We have a
34 Republican-controlled State house and legislature and
35 the governor as well, that does not really want to
36 spend money out here. You know, I don't know how we
37 can possibly with all the mixes, if we can possibly
38 keep a real good eye on this population.

39

40 But we do support the proposal. Thank
41 you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
44 Andrew.

45

46 Comments from the InterAgency Staff
47 Committee. Comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
2 Advisory group comments. Advisory group comments. Mr.
3 Charles, did your advisory have any comments.

4
5 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was there any
8 comments from the neighboring Regional Advisory
9 Councils.

10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. For the record,
12 Alex Nick, Council coordinator.

13
14 Seward Pen met last week and they took
15 up Proposal 45 and 49. Motion to support Proposal 12-
16 45 failed, and the ruling was that they took no action
17 on the proposal. Justification was the Council chose
18 to defer to the Y-K RAC.

19
20 On Proposal 12-49, Council supported
21 the proposal unanimously with nine to zero vote. Their
22 justification was the increase in the health of the
23 stock justifies the additional harvest.

24
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
28 Nick.

29
30 Fish and game advisory committees.

31
32 MR. CHARLES: No comment.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
35 Charles.

36
37 Summary of written comments, Mr. Nick.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde, go
44 ahead.

45
46 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. There's some
47 people and some of us, we support cow moose hunting
48 with the bull or a cow. As of Federal -- if it's
49 recognized, I think our people down there will be glad
50 to accept it.

1 Not cows with calf. It's got to be
2 without calf.
3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Where am I at.
5
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Written comments.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Written comments.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Regional
13 Advisory Council recommendations. Council
14 recommendations.
15
16 There was no public testimony.
17
18 MR. BEANS: I had a question. Mr.
19 Chairman.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sorry. Yeah.
22 Mr. Christopher Beans on WP-45.
23
24 MR. BEANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
25 the RAC Board. Christopher Beans, Yupiit of
26 Andreafsky.
27
28 We do oppose WP12-45. This species is
29 a new species in the area. It just happened within the
30 last maybe 15 years, 20 years. We don't see what's a
31 normal population. We can't tell you what's the normal
32 population. Nobody can tell us. Maybe the amount now
33 is normal.
34
35 With the cow, maybe I'd use Unit 22A as
36 an example. They didn't have a healthy population one
37 time. And they had the female openings from August 1st
38 to I believe December 31st. And now they depleted the
39 moose so low that today they just harvest 14 bulls.
40 And their season runs from September 1st to 15th, or
41 whichever comes first.
42
43 And we don't want that to happen. We
44 cannot go back into another moratorium. The price of
45 gas is too high to go into another moratorium.
46
47 So with that, we'd like to oppose 45.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Beans.

3
4 I don't have any other public testimony
5 besides this on -- did you sign in one of these? But
6 since -- well, go ahead. We'll have time, take time
7 out for you. But could you please fill this out for
8 our records so she can have it.

9
10 MR. JAMES: As far as the discussion
11 here, if they get, going to hunt two moose, are they
12 doing to get two harvest tickets or what are you going
13 to do with harvest tickets.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Game Warden.
16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's a good
20 question for you.

21
22 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. This is
23 Phillip Perry with Fish and Game here in Bethel.

24
25 I think that would probably be what we
26 would end up doing was if you -- you know, people can
27 get and take with caribou. The example I can use that
28 would be kind of analogous to this is with caribou,
29 like on the North Slope. You can get a caribou harvest
30 ticket with -- yeah, one caribou harvest ticket that
31 has 10 -- or, I'm sorry, 5 individual harvest tickets.
32 But the harvest limit in some of those areas is five
33 per day. So if you wanted to shoot more than that, you
34 can get more than one harvest ticket. So I think that
35 would be the -- we'd do something similar for moose.
36 Someone could get a harvest ticket. We're probably not
37 going to revamp the entire State system to make a
38 harvest ticket for moose that has two of them, but just
39 make it so that a single hunter could get -- be issued
40 more than one moose harvest ticket.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Does that
43 answer your question.

44
45 MR. BEANS: (No audible answer)

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

48
49 At this time we'll get down to the
50 Regional Council recommendation. Motion.

1 Mr. Andrew.
2
3 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. I move
4 to support Proposal WP12-49 and take no action on WP-
5 45.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the
8 motion. Do I hear a second.
9
10 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
13 Roczicka.
14
15 Council comments. Mr. Aloysius, I know
16 you've got something to say.
17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, I did. I was
19 looking this.....
20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: His mic.
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Sorry about that. I was
24 looking Page 106, and I don't really understand. It
25 says two moose, only one of which may be antlered.
26 Antlered moose may only be harvested September 1 to 30.
27 And I'm not real good at English language, you know.
28 It says two moose, only one of which may be antlered.
29 Can somebody clarify that for me.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How about you
32 trying that. Mr. McKee.
33
34 MR. McKEE: I'm not entirely sure what
35 the question is. You're having some.....
36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Up in the top of Page
38 106. The last bold line on Unit 18, moose.
39
40 MR. McKEE: Okay.
41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
45 Roczicka.
46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: What that says is that
48 if you want to shoot a moose with horns, the only -- on
49 the Yukon below Mountain Village, the only time you can
50 shoot a moose with horns is during the fall season. If

1 you see a moose in December with horns on it and you
2 shoot it, you're breaking the law.

3

4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, that must be a new
5 species of moose, because all the moose I know have
6 antlers.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: They do?

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Does that
11 clarify it, Robert? Okay.

12

13 Any further discussion on this by the
14 Council. Mr. Charles.

15

16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 What makes the moose move around like I used to see a
18 lot of moose over there in Taylor Mountain area when I
19 fly to Anchorage. Now I don't see any moose any more.
20 And I see downriver from here, downriver from Bethel, I
21 see a lot more than I see over there where I used to
22 see lots. What made them move around like that?

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any answers to that
25 question. Any answer. Mr. Perry, I know you could
26 answer that one.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. I'll
31 attempt to answer it. I think what James is referring
32 to is, you know, just as moose populations change in
33 different parts of the State, the Holitna and
34 Hoholitna, around the Taylor Mountain area, you know,
35 had 15, 20 years ago very good moose populations. And
36 those are a fraction of what they were. And I think,
37 you know, a lot of people sitting here remember
38 earlier, you know, 20 years ago here where below Bethel
39 there may have been a moose, but not many. And things
40 have changed. Obviously pretty drastically in this
41 case, where we're harvesting, I can't remember below
42 Bethel off the top of my head in this last past season,
43 you know, we harvested 15 or 20 moose, bull moose below
44 Bethel. so I think that's just a reflection of
45 variations in moose populations, and hopefully it's a
46 trend here that will continue, and a trend up there
47 that won't continue.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan.

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. We don't
2 have an elder that enlighten us in what's happening.
3 And I know that when things are (In Yup'ik). We didn't
4 have no beaver downriver. We didn't have no moose
5 downriver. We didn't have no bear downriver. That's
6 the elders tell us when the families going to get to
7 the Native people or to our area, all the upriver
8 animals will go down to the ocean. And that's what's
9 happening right now.

10
11 So I'd like to give you an elder's
12 advice, is to take care of your animals. Don't play
13 with them. And antler hunters don't hunt around here.
14 Go somewhere else, because we don't want you to be a
15 part of our want. We don't want wanton waste around
16 here, because we need to respect our neighbors like he
17 said, because they give themselves for use to be
18 sustained by them. So (In Yup'ik). So be mindful of
19 how you deal with the animals and respect them. (In
20 Yup'ik) Then we think something is happening, but you
21 should have elders come to your schools and talk to
22 them about signs of times in the Yup'ik culture.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Anaan.
25 And, you know, I've heard that ever since I was a
26 little boy, my elders have been telling me the same
27 thing.

28
29 Any further discussion. Mr. Robert.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, sir.

32
33 (In Yup'ik)

34
35 You know, the old people always tell us
36 that, you know, everything has a cycle. And when the
37 cycles of migratory animals changes, and because of one
38 thing or another, they migrate from the mountains to
39 the hills to the lower hills to the flatlands,
40 eventually out to the ocean.

41
42 And there's several people have told
43 me, people from Quinhagak up to Kotlik and even further
44 north, where they're out hunting seals, two, three
45 miles out from the land, and here's moose swimming out.

46
47 So, you know, it's something that --
48 you know, like Lester said, you know, we hear this from
49 the time we're able to sit up and listen, now things
50 change, and always to be prepared for that change.

1 Like Mary said, you know, hunger is always right in the
2 backyard. You know, food is not always plentiful. And
3 we are instructed to, like I said earlier this morning,
4 love, honor and respect all of our relations, because
5 without them, we're nothing. And once they vanish,
6 we're going to vanish, too, because what are we going
7 to eat? Mud? Dirt?

8
9 So there are lots and lots of what the
10 unknowing people call myths, but these are stories that
11 have a base, because our people have been here for over
12 20,000 years. And they know what those cycles are in
13 life. Life of the people, life of the animals, life of
14 the berries, life of the plants. And even the water.
15 They tell us these things for our own good, to prepare
16 for bad times.

17
18 And being in this modern age, we say,
19 ah, we'll never get to that point. Look around the
20 world. Things are changing. And as people change, so
21 does Mother Earth. You know, the old people would say
22 (In Yup'ik). Following the change of people, your
23 Mother Earth is going to change.

24
25 And there's a lot of people I know, our
26 brothers and sisters in the Lower 48 who have been
27 there for tens of thousands of years like us, always
28 say, what is the first sign of a child being sick? The
29 first sign is they have a fever. Our Mother Earth is
30 going through that phase right now. There are people
31 who don't want to call global warming global warming;
32 they call it climate change. But the globe is warming
33 up. So that's the first sign that Mother Earth is not
34 well. Think about it.

35
36 And nature is something that we have no
37 control over. I don't care who you are or where you
38 come from, you cannot buck nature. There's no way.

39
40 I feel that us Native people of the
41 world are fortunate that we follow the seasons and
42 harvest the bounty of those seasons and not try to
43 change. There's so many stories in our Yup'ik culture
44 that are coming true today. And when you're young, you
45 think, ah, it will never happen. But as you get older,
46 like me, some of these things start making sense,
47 because we are now more observant. We have time to sit
48 down and look at what's going on the world, and look at
49 what's going on with ourselves and our people. And
50 sometimes it's very scary. Very, very scary.

1 And I know for a fact that when I was
2 growing up, we had no moose in our area. None.
3 Eventually the moose started coming, and eventually
4 they started leaving. And now they're going down to
5 what people call the lowest Yukon area. And eventually
6 they're going to disappear. So be careful.

7
8 And, you know, that's -- and it's very
9 hard for me to translate what's in my mind, my heart,
10 and my spirit, because those are Yup'ik things I have.
11 I don't have the mastery of English language to
12 translate what goes into my mind, my heart, and my
13 spirit.

14
15 (In Yup'ik)

16
17 I'm a Yup'ik person. I'm nothing else.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

22
23 On the same grain of, you know, one
24 observance that I might is on the -- living out on the
25 coast in Hooper Bay and being around Scammon Bay, moose
26 out there is getting to be a common sight. At one time
27 there was absolutely no moose being sighted out in the
28 coastal villages. But even our school kids know what a
29 moose is, looks like now, because they pass right
30 through the village. And it's getting to be a pretty
31 common sight every year that we see -- if we don't see
32 moose out there, we wonder what's going on. But it's
33 so common out there it's getting to be expecting --
34 getting to be expected of us to see a moose at least
35 once or twice during the season. And there was one
36 time we have a group of people that are laying out a
37 black road, a plastic road to protect the tundra out
38 there. One morning they went to work and there was
39 seven of them. Seven moose in a row, marching down
40 towards the coast. Seven moose, which is truly
41 unbelievable for the flats out there.

42
43 We have a motion on the floor. Do we
44 have any more discussion on Proposal 45/49. Mr. Unok.

45
46 MR. UNOK: Well, I wouldn't support my
47 own proposal called Proposal 45, because they change --
48 it's almost a shame, but they added two more -- one
49 more moose.

50

1 Let me tell you a story. There was
2 poachers out there killing moose, cow moose with a
3 calf. The calf, we'd go out hunting, and we'd see it
4 running around. Pretty soon it grow up itself. It had
5 no cow. The one-year old calf grow on its own eating
6 willows. I seen that. I see two calves. There's
7 poachers out there killing cows. They're still growing
8 fast. And them calves are growing on their own,
9 they're not going back up to the hills. They're
10 staying down there. That's how they grow. They
11 migrate down and they go back up the hills, but the
12 calves with cows are staying down there. They're not
13 migrating back up. That's what's happened.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more discussion
16 on the Proposal 45/49.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MS. GREGORY: Question.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
25 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by
26 saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carries. At
33 this time let's take a 10-minute break.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (On record)

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are now down to
40 WP12-46. Proceed.

41
42 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
43 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
44 WP12-46 starts on Page 116 of your meeting materials
45 booklet.

46
47 Proposal WP12-46 was submitted by the
48 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and requests that the
49 Federal Moose season in portions of Unit 18 be changed
50 from August 25th to September 20th to September 1st to

1 September 30th. This same action was submitted and
2 approved as Special Actions SWA10-01 and SWA11-05 in
3 August 2010 and July 2011 respectively.

4
5 If adopted, the moose season would
6 align with the State season. This proposal would
7 lengthen the season by three days, shifting the season
8 to a time when bull moose are nearing peak rut and tend
9 to aggregate in lower elevations.

10
11 Conservation concerns are minimal due
12 to the establishment of a harvest quota and a
13 registration permit system.

14
15 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
16 support Proposal WP12-46.

17
18 Adopting this proposal would align
19 Federal regulations with State regulations and would
20 benefit Federally-qualified subsistence hunters by
21 avoiding potential confusion in determining Federal
22 land boundaries. In addition, this would allow
23 Federally-qualified subsistence users to use a single
24 permit to hunt on lands under both State and Federal
25 jurisdiction during the same season. The requested
26 change would add three days to the season and shift it
27 later when bulls may be more vulnerable. And
28 conservation is provided through a harvest quota.

29
30 The Native Village of Goodnews Bay
31 supports adoption of this proposal. In addition, the
32 Native Village of Goodnews Bay, Mumtraq Traditional
33 Council's proposal to the Alaska Board of Game
34 requesting a change to the moose season dates
35 demonstrates a preference for a later season.

36
37 Residents of Goodnews Bay and Platinum
38 have worked cooperatively with the Togiak National
39 Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game in building and managing this moose population.

41
42 Aligning Federal and State regulations
43 would help continue cooperative management.

44
45 I welcome your comments and edits.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for the
50 introduction.

1 Agency comments.

2

3 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
4 proposal's a product of a work group in which the
5 Department participated, and was submitted upon the
6 work groups recommendations. The intent of this
7 proposal is to align State and Federal subsistence
8 hunting seasons, and it is in response to changes the
9 Alaska Board of Game made the State -- in the State
10 season in 2009.

11

12 The proponent indicates that if the
13 proposal is adopted, hunter success may improve because
14 the season would be delayed and lengthened into the
15 rut. Adoption of this proposal may result in increased
16 success for Federal subsistence moose hunters in the
17 identified areas.

18

19 The current moose population in Unit 9
20 are considered stable with low density. Moose
21 population estimates by subunit are 9A is 300 moose; 9B
22 approximately 2,000 moose; 9C outside the Katmai
23 National Park, approximately 800 moose; and 9D
24 approximately 600; and 9E approximately 2,500.

25

26 Previous proposals submitted by this
27 proposer were withdrawn upon recommendations from the
28 work group, which supported this proposal, and the
29 Department does support this proposal, sir.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 **No official written comments
34 inserted/provided by State at this
35 time**

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
38 Pappas. Any questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, Mr.
43 Rearden.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comment. You
48 mixed me up. Usually you had something.

49

50 Mr. Aloysius.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there anyone from the
2 Togiak Wildlife Refuge.

3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.

5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I've got a question on
7 where they come up with this, on Page 118. It says
8 customary and traditional use determinations, rural
9 residents of Unit 18 and Upper Kalskag have a positive
10 customary and traditional use determination for moose
11 in the area relevant to this question. Where did they
12 get that information from for Upper Kalskag?

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I wouldn't know.
15 Mr. Nick.

16
17 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
18 the record.

19
20 I understand that Andy Aderman I think
21 was interested in conferencing in when you take up this
22 proposal. They might have tried to call in earlier
23 today, but we've had, as you know, we had some problem
24 with the conference equipment. We tried several
25 phones. Finally this one's working. So we don't know
26 if he's on line.

27
28 Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Can we find
31 out who's on line at this moment, please. Is anyone on
32 line.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I guess not. Yes,
39 ma'am.

40
41 MS. PETRIVELLI: My name's Pat
42 Petrivelli with BIA subsistence.

43
44 Mr. Aloysius had a question about the
45 C&T determination including Upper Kalskag. With the
46 C&T determinations that were mainly adopted when we
47 took over from the State, and pretty much if you look
48 at the unit boundary lines, Kalskag at times has been
49 defined as Upper and Lower, and Upper Kalskag is part
50 of Unit 19A. And so when they made the C&T

1 determinations to make sure that there was no question,
2 the whole community of Kalskag was included within the
3 C&T determinations. That's where you'll keep seeing
4 Upper Kalskag. So to treat it as a whole community,
5 but at times data was collected for Upper Kalskag. And
6 that's why that says that, because the C&T
7 determination was just to make sure that portion of
8 Kalskag was not left out, the portion that's located in
9 Unit 19A. I know it's not a satisfactory answer, but
10 that's the answer it is.

11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Once again contrary to
13 your western education, you can go up to Kalskag and go
14 up above there and you'll never find an Upper Kalskag,
15 because there's no such place. Kalskag is -- the real
16 name is Kessiglik, but unknowing people call it
17 Kalskag, because they didn't know how to pronounce
18 Kessiglik. And Lower Kalskag's real name is Iamkolyok
19 (ph), place to go to the portage. And it always upsets
20 me when people ask me where are you from, I say
21 Kalskag. They say Upper or Lower. It's Kalskag, you
22 know, and there's no such thing as Lower Kalskag. And
23 in the old days it was Oxlik (ph) or Lower Village.

24
25 But if you look at the map on Page 119,
26 I don't know of anyone -- I grew up in that area. I've
27 never heard of anyone going over to that side of the
28 drainage to go hunting. So, anyway.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.
31 Pappas.

32
33 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
34 professionally apologize here. The information I read
35 about are there any conservation issues here on Page
36 122 here of the book is an editorial cut and paste
37 error. I'd like to retract the information about Unit
38 9. I apologize.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: I was going to just
45 speculate to Bob that the reason that Kalskag's even
46 mentioned there is probably the same reason that the
47 C&T for brown bear in Units 19A and is something that
48 includes all rural residents of Unit 19 and 18 within
49 the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from and
50 including the Johnson River. It's one of those cases

1 where in the full adoption of the regulations went into
2 place, they just dumped it over there without
3 consulting people. And because brown bear were an
4 issue specifically through the Western Alaska Brown
5 Bear Management Area Working Group, and that whole bit,
6 that specific villages were identified out that made
7 Unit 18 different for the brown bear. But I think it's
8 the result of one of those where as I say they just
9 dumped the whole C&T determination onto the hunt
10 because that's what's on the book for moose here.

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Are you
13 done? Any further comments from the Council.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, Mr. Andrew,
18 any comments.

19
20 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

22
23 This is an area that we know very, very
24 little about down on the far southern reaches of the
25 AVCP region. But in most conversations that I've held
26 with various hunters across the region, primarily from
27 the Yukon River where they have seasons that run until
28 late September, hunters that have travelled up to Unit
29 19, to various parts of Unit 19 to hunt, that the
30 seasons or the moose rut is starting to get further and
31 further delayed. It used to be toward the first part
32 of September, but now has shifted to the latter part of
33 September when moose really start moving and be more --
34 making themselves more available to hunters.

35
36 And this would be a very good fit for
37 the people of Goodnews Bay and perhaps Platinum. I
38 don't now if any folks from Togiak come over to this
39 drainage to hunt or not, but with the limited
40 population of moose down there and also limited
41 population of people, it just seemed ideal to move this
42 season from the former August 25th until September 20th
43 to September 1 through the 30th.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
48 Andrew.

49
50 InterAgency Staff comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Advisory
4 group comments. Mr. Charles, do you have any.
5
6 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. How
9 about any comments from the neighboring Regional
10 Councils.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments there.
15 Local fish and game advisory councils.
16
17 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comment. Was
20 there a summary of written comments.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No written comments
25 there either. There is no request for public testimony
26 on this proposal.
27
28 So we are now down to Regional Council
29 recommendations. Mr. Roczicka.
30
31 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Move to
32 support Proposal, what is it again, 12-46.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motions been made
35 to adopt WP12-46 by Mr. Roczicka. Do I hear a second.
36
37 MR. ONEY: Second.
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
40 Oney.
41
42 Any further discussion, Council. Mr.
43 Roczicka.
44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Just for
46 the justification, again it's the result of working
47 with the -- it's a fairly localized hunt in a remote
48 area. It's been in the works, and been adjusted and a
49 cooperative effort between all the relevant user groups
50 and management entities, and it's worth supporting for

1 that reason.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did you get that
4 justification okay, Mr. Kron?
5
6 MR. KRON: (No audible answer)
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We have a
9 motion and a second on the -- to adopt Proposal WP12-
10 46. Any further discussion. Mr. Unok.
11
12 MR. UNOK: What we're voting on, how --
13 okay. We're voting to open their moose hunt that side?
14 This side.
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Didn't you read
17 what the proposal said?
18
19 MR. UNOK: I was daydreaming.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, if you could
22 quit daydreaming and start doing your work it might
23 help us out a little bit.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
28 comments. Do you have any other comments. No.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MR. CHARLES: Question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
35 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by
36 saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
41 sign.
42
43 (No opposing votes)
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion on the
46 proposal is passed.
47
48 We are down to WP12-47. Mr. McKee.
49
50 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the

1 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
2 WP12-47 starts on Page 123 of your meeting materials
3 booklet.

4
5 Proposal WP12-47, submitted by Stanley
6 Sheppard of the Mountain Village Working Group,
7 requests the addition of a special provision to limit
8 aircraft use for the moose season in portion of Unit
9 18.

10
11 The proponent states that there are
12 concerns among Unit 18 residents regarding non-local
13 users flying into Refuge lands to harvest moose. The
14 proponent states that there have been reports of non-
15 local fly-in moose hunters claiming areas of Unit 18
16 for their exclusive use and have asked local tribal
17 members to leave hunting areas.

18
19 The proposal requests a special
20 provision to create a Unit 18 Federal controlled use
21 area to restrict the use of aircraft during moose
22 seasons for users harvesting moose, including
23 transportation of any moose hunter or moose part. The
24 controlled use area would encompass the Lower Yukon and
25 remainder areas of Unit 18.

26
27 The controlled use area would not apply
28 to transportation of a moose hunter or moose part by
29 aircraft between publicly-owned airports.

30
31 A companion proposal was submitted to
32 the Alaska Board of Game.

33
34 This population is highly productive.
35 It continues to grow and is capable of supporting an
36 increased harvest.

37
38 A little bit of harvest history.
39 Airplanes are used by both Federally-qualified
40 subsistence users and non-Federally-qualified users in
41 Unit 18. Three to seven percent of all users listed
42 airplanes as a primary means of transportation. You
43 can find this in table 2, which is on Page 135. But
44 this accounted for less than four percent of the
45 overall harvest as evidenced on table 3.

46
47 Airplane use has been more prevalent by
48 non-Federally-qualified users. 64 to 72 percent of
49 airplane by those users, but overall effort for these
50 users was low. 5 to 12 percent of non-residency hunter

1 using airplanes.

2

3 Use of airplanes and harvest of moose
4 by users utilizing airplanes dropped in 2009, 2010.

5

6 The proposal would affect all
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users and non-
8 Federally-qualified users.

9

10 Between 2007 and 2009 6 to 17
11 Federally-qualified subsistence users reported using
12 the airplane as the primary method of transportation.

13

14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 oppose WP12-47, because the Federal Subsistence Board
16 does not have jurisdiction to restrict access methods
17 on State and private lands or to restrict spotting
18 moose from aircraft. Both Federal and State
19 regulations currently prohibit taking moose the same
20 day the hunter is airborne.

21

22 There are no conservation concerns for
23 the affected moose population that would require
24 regulatory restrictions.

25

26 I welcome your comments and edits.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
31 McKee.

32

33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
34 Mr. Riorden, if you would -- Mr. -- we're going.....

35

36 MR. RIORDEN: Spencer Riorden with Fish
37 and Wildlife Service.

38

39 I just wanted to point out that the
40 Refuge does had some restrictions on transporters and
41 guides for the Yukon area. Currently the Refuge does
42 not allow transporters or guides to drop off moose
43 hunters, one, along waterways accessible by boat; two,
44 within one nautical mile of Native allotments; and,
45 three, within three nautical miles of other hunting
46 camps. However, the only exception is that hunters
47 could be dropped off on the North Fork of the
48 Andreafsky River above Allen Creek. If hunters are to
49 float the North Fork of the Andreafsky River, they have
50 to be pulled out before Allen Creek.

1 Now, Gene Peltola, our Refuge manager,
2 is trying to reduce these user conflicts through this
3 way. So I just wanted to make sure that you guys
4 understood that also.

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Riorden, could
7 you make a copy of that and present that to all of us
8 here so that we can have a copy of that just in case,
9 in the event that we do need to clarify some of those
10 restrictions on Unit 18.

11
12 MR. RIORDEN: Yes, I could -- I'll go
13 ahead and make copies and get these in here for you
14 tomorrow, if that works for you. I'm just reading off
15 of notes that I had in an email for myself. So I could
16 do that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

19
20 Mr. Pappas.

21
22 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 The proposed access method closure
25 would eliminate opportunity for non-Federally-qualified
26 subsistence users to hunt moose on Federal public lands
27 in Unit 18 that are presently opened to hunting and
28 currently accessed by aircraft. This closure would
29 apply to friends and relatives of Federally-qualified
30 subsistence users eligible to participate in the hunt
31 under State regulations and would concentrate hunting
32 by non-local residents into limited State and private
33 lands. If adopted, non-Federally-qualified moose
34 hunters would be restricted to ORV or boat access,
35 which may concentrate hunters near the waterways where
36 locals traditionally hunt.

37
38 If adopted, Federal subsistence moose
39 hunters in Unit 18 may opportunistically harvest
40 additional moose. Users would be burdened with
41 differentiating unclear boundaries in the field.

42
43 There are no conservation issues to
44 justify this proposal.

45
46 The Federal Subsistence Board does not
47 have the authority to manage or control methods of
48 access for hunts on Federal public lands in Alaska.

49
50 The Department recommends opposing this

1 proposal. Under its closure policy adopted in 2007,
2 the Federal Subsistence Board will not restrict the
3 taking of fish and wildlife by users on Federal public
4 lands unless necessary for conservation of healthy
5 populations of fish and wildlife resources, or to
6 continue subsistence uses of those populations, or for
7 public safety, or for administrative reasons, or
8 pursuant to other applicable law. None of these
9 conditions apply to moose hunting on Federal public
10 lands open to moose hunting in Unit 18, and a closure
11 to access by aircraft would be an unnecessary
12 restriction on non-Federally-qualified subsistence
13 users would be in violation of Section .815 of ANILCA.

14
15 *****
16 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
17 *****

18
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
20 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

21
22 Wildlife Proposal WP12-47:

23
24 This proposal requests eliminating air
25 transport as a method of access used by non-federally
26 qualified moose hunters in Western Unit 18 Controlled
27 Use Area.

28
29 Introduction:

30
31 The proponent requests the federal
32 subsistence board eliminate aircraft use for
33 transporting hunters or moose parts in a portion of
34 Unit 18. The proposal seeks to provide additional
35 opportunity for federally-qualified subsistence users
36 in Unit 18 by eliminating competition from other
37 hunters through eliminating the most effective form of
38 transportation.

39
40 Impact on Subsistence Users:

41
42 The proposed access method closure
43 would eliminate the opportunity for
44 non-federally-qualified subsistence users to hunt moose
45 on federal public lands in Unit 18 that are presently
46 open to hunting and currently accessed by aircraft.
47 This closure would apply to friends and relatives of
48 federally-qualified subsistence users eligible to
49 participate in this hunt under state regulations and
50 would concentrate hunting by non-local residents onto

1 limited state and private lands. If adopted,
2 non-federally qualified moose hunter would be
3 restricted to ORV and boat access which may concentrate
4 hunters near the waterways where locals traditionally
5 hunt. If adopted, federal subsistence moose hunters in
6 Unit 18 may opportunistically harvest additional moose.
7 Users will be burdened with differentiating unclear
8 boundaries in the field.

9

10 Opportunity Provided by State:

11

12 In the affected portion of Unit 18, the
13 state moose hunting is allowed for residents of Alaska
14 by registration permit RM 615 and is open September 1-
15 September 10 with a bag limit of one antlered bull.
16 Meat-on-the-bone salvage is required, therefore, meat
17 taken prior to October 1 must remain on the bones of
18 the front and hindquarters until removed from the field
19 or processed for human consumption.

20

21 Conservation Issues:

22

23 None to justify proposal. The Lower
24 Yukon River moose population is growing rapidly and
25 currently is not a conservation concern. If the moose
26 population continues at a high rate of growth,
27 over-browsing may result in future management and
28 conservation considerations. There are no conservation
29 issues that justify restricting non-federally qualified
30 moose hunter access to federal public lands in the
31 affected area in Unit 18. Moose are abundant in areas
32 of Unit 18 currently open for hunting, thanks to the
33 success of the moratoria. Information presented to the
34 Federal Subsistence Board in 2007 indicated that the
35 moose population in areas targeted in this proposal is
36 highly productive and is continuing to grow. The moose
37 population is so abundant in this portion of Unit 18 in
38 2010 the Federal Subsistence Board granted the most
39 liberal bag limit known of two moose per federally
40 qualified hunter per year.

41

42 Enforcement Issues:

43

44 Differences in federal and state
45 regulations resulting from adoption of this proposal
46 create enforcement problems in areas with mixed land
47 ownership. The boundaries between federal and state
48 lands are not clearly marked and often difficult to
49 locate on the ground.

50

1 Other Comments:

2

3 The Federal Subsistence Board does not
4 have the authority to manage or control methods of
5 access for hunts on federal public lands in Alaska.

6

7 Recommendation:

8

9 Oppose.

10

11 Under its closure policy adopted in
12 2007, the Federal Subsistence Board will not restrict
13 the taking of fish and wildlife by users on federal
14 public lands (other than national parks and park
15 monuments) unless necessary for conservation of healthy
16 populations of fish and wildlife resources or to
17 continue subsistence uses of those populations, or for
18 public safety or administrative reasons, or pursuant to
19 other applicable laws. None of these conditions apply
20 to moose hunting on federal public lands open to moose
21 hunting in Unit 18, and a closure to access by aircraft
22 would be an unnecessary restriction on non-federally
23 qualified subsistence users in violation of section 815
24 of ANILCA.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

29 Pappas.

30

31 Any questions of Mr. Pappas.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you.

36

37 Mr. Riorden, does -- you have no
38 comments. Mr. Andrew.

39

40 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.

41 Chairman.

42

43 I'd like to reference some of the
44 comments that I made earlier about some user conflict
45 that are occurring, and historically what happened upon
46 the Yukon River.

47

48 This proposal just goes to show that
49 the villages are not being consulted in the placement
50 of these hunter camps.

1 The guidelines that were told to you by
2 Mr. Riorden in some cases would not necessarily keep
3 people away from the traditional subsistence hunting
4 areas. One good example is the federal land or the
5 area that they had placed the transporters -- or they
6 had provided the transporters a permit to operate out
7 behind Marshall, not very far from Native Allotment not
8 very far from village corporation lands. Although they
9 -- although the local people may not have accessed by
10 boat, they do have access by canoe. And there's
11 traditional portages, routes that they utilize to hunt
12 in those back areas.

13

14 And, of course, the Refuge is not going
15 to know anything about this unless they consult with
16 the local people. And the failure to consult with the
17 local people leads to this user conflict that occurs on
18 Federal land, regardless of how many moose are out
19 there.

20

21 And it's really important that perhaps
22 this body express to the Federal managers that they
23 have to consult with the villages in the placement of
24 these hunter camps if the villages so much as allow
25 them to hunt within their customary and traditional
26 hunting areas.

27

28 Several years ago when I believe it was
29 one of the local transporters were operating up on the
30 Yukon River, they were operating way far away from
31 where anybody ever goes. Nobody had any problems with
32 that. But when it start -- when they start encroaching
33 upon areas that people normally go, even though there's
34 no access by boat, but people have access by canoeing
35 through -- dragging canoes through various portages to
36 get to their hunting areas, then the conflicts do
37 arise.

38

39 And I'd encourage you to direct the
40 regional management body, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
41 Service, Yukon Delta Refuge to consult with the
42 villages before placing these hunters out there. I
43 don't know what they're afraid of. Are they afraid
44 that people are going to go to their camps and destroy
45 their camps? I don't think so. But at least provide
46 the opportunity for the people in the villages to
47 express their concerns to try and minimize user
48 conflicts.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Andrew.
3
4 InterAgency Staff Committee.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No InterAgency.
9 Advisory group comments. Mr. Charles.
10
11 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. Mr.
14 Nick, neighboring Regional Councils.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments either.
19 Local fish and game advisory comment.
20
21 MR. CHARLES: No comments.
22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
24 Summary of written comments.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
29
30 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Public testimony.
33 There isn't any requests.
34
35 Region Council recommendations.
36 Motions.
37
38 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: Turn his thing on.
43
44 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I think people in
45 this area, when they try to reach the moose in that
46 area, we didn't get no support from State and Federal.
47 We do it ourself. Now is the moose are, what they call
48 them, a lot of moose down there now. That's what they
49 say. We do it with the support of our even children.
50

1 Right now today you never see hardly
2 anybody catch big horn bulls. Big horn bulls that we
3 call them the moose makers. There's some people in our
4 original hunting area from their ancestors, the people
5 come in there, drop off by plane and all that. When
6 you ask them, how come you come over with the
7 airplanes? We don't even hunt with the airplane. They
8 drop off. They say, well, we're just out looking for
9 big horn. What is big horn? I don't know. I could
10 tell you what is a big horn is. It's a moose maker.

11
12 In our Lower Yukon hunting area,
13 there's 13 villages and outside in Mountain Village,
14 Upper Yukon helping us before we get any kind of moose
15 down in that area. So we are given them also support
16 if they need help down that way.

17
18 During the moose opening, we're not
19 support people spotting moose by airplane. We're
20 willing to help them if they need help, but we're not
21 helping anyone that come in with the airplane and
22 looking for big horn, what they call.

23
24 Also drop off, we're not anxious to be
25 with them, but we help them when they have a problem.
26 There's one guy there have a motor problem and we had
27 to help him. Yeah.

28
29 But if we -- we always think that if we
30 advertising this for sport hunters, I don't think that
31 that many moose would be right now today.

32
33 We were -- in the Yukon we were trying,
34 because we've been going up in above Marshall and
35 around Marshall, above Holy Cross and all over before
36 we get this moose in area. Right now today we got a
37 lot of people coming in to drop off and all that.
38 That's something that we're not supporting. We want to
39 see the people that come in to hunt, to hunt like us.

40
41 And sometimes we feel uncomfortable
42 when our younger people help us, saying, how come this
43 so and so is over here with a plane? Well, we cannot
44 answer and it seemed like we couldn't say nothing,
45 because they themselves could go.

46
47 When we're closing that area for the
48 hunting moose, when the moose wasn't that many they
49 listen to us. Our children, hunters listened to us.
50 That's why today they have a place to go hunt.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
4 Wilde.
5
6 Regional council recommendations.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move to
9 adopt Proposal 12-47.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
12 to adopt Proposal 12-47.....
13
14 MR. ONEY: Second.
15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:by Ms.
17 Gregory. Do I hear a second to the motion.
18
19 MR. ONEY: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Ray
22 Oney. Any further discussion. Council members. Mr.
23 Charles.
24
25 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Does this proposal mean that local people are
27 authorized to pick up and drop off moose in the local
28 area like here in the Kuskokwim or Yukon or Kuskokwim
29 areas.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Can anybody answer
32 that question. I don't know.
33
34 MR. CHARLES: Anybody else know that.
35
36 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. I can't answer
37 that question either.
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let's go back to
40 the proposal.
41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Greg.
45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: If I understand James'
47 question correctly, this would apply to all airplanes
48 regardless of locals. So the only place you'd be able
49 to pick up or drop off anybody, if you've been doing
50 it, you know, you fly for years, I know you're one of

1 those other folks that have done it locally with
2 airplanes, the only place you'd be able to do it would
3 be at the airport in the village. You wouldn't be able
4 to do any other.

5
6 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

9
10 MR. CHARLES: I ask that question,
11 because we got a lot of new pilots now at -- they're
12 training over here in Bethel. Anyway, when they start
13 flying, they may be afraid to fly in this kind of
14 areas, because I've been flying for over 40 years, and
15 I watch out for closed areas or controlled areas, even
16 it's not for game only. Sometimes it's for military
17 training areas. And it states that in Alaska
18 supplement. The pilots look at those books to see
19 where things are closed.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
24 discussion, Council members. Mr. Polty.

25
26 MR. POLTY: Could I have Federal,
27 State, I have questions for them. Could one of them
28 come up here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Which one do you
31 want? Federal or State?

32
33 MR. POLTY: Federal first, yeah, would
34 be fine. I have a question concerning issuing for the
35 sports hunters. Do you go through that? They go
36 through your agency to apply to hunt, sportsman hunt in
37 that area, Unit 18?

38
39 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
40 Polty, I do know that for guides and outfitters, if
41 they're making money off of hunting, that the refuge
42 does limit them. And only -- and limits them to an
43 area and limits the amounts. I don't know the detail
44 as to how many or -- how many people they're allowed to
45 hunt, but I do know Gene Peltola puts limitations on
46 them, but I don't know the details as far as how much
47 of those limitations.

48
49 But as far as sports hunters like say
50 hunters from the Lower 48 or Anchorage that come and do

1 it on their own, we don't have control of that, because
2 they're able to hunt using the State regulations, using
3 the non-resident regulations for themselves. And so,
4 yes, they can hunt where they.....

5
6 MR. POLTY: On Federal land?

7
8 MR. RIORDEN: Yes, they can.

9
10 MR. POLTY: They have designated area
11 where you showed them that's where they could hunt in
12 that area?

13
14 MR. RIORDEN: Only for guides and
15 outfitters. Or guides, outfitters, or transporters.
16 That's it.

17
18 MR. POLTY: Okay. They're aware of
19 where to transport the hunters then?

20
21 MR. RIORDEN: Well, like I mentions
22 before, they just can't -- we set the -- for
23 transporters, like I mentioned earlier, they're not
24 allowed to bring hunters to areas that are accessible
25 by boat on the Yukon River generally, other than that
26 one exception up on the Andraefsky I mentioned.

27
28 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you. The
29 other one's under State.

30
31 Yeah, the reason I'm concerning is, do
32 you have the same regulations as Federal or do you have
33 the different policy where they hunters come in and --
34 do you have similar policy what Federal have, that if
35 they don't have an access area by boat that they could
36 be able to hunt in that area, designated area by plane
37 or what?

38
39 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. No.
40 The State regulations simply state it's for residents
41 of the state and for non-residents of the state, so
42 when you look at Unit 18 and the different areas, some
43 of the areas we have more moose on the Yukon drainage,
44 there's a resident season that goes from the 10th of
45 August until the end of September, and that refers to
46 all residents of the State of Alaska.

47
48 MR. POLTY: With boat and a plane or
49 just by boat? When it's accessed by boat, they go by
50 boat, right?

1 MR. PERRY: Well, there is no
2 restriction as far as the State is concerned by any --
3 you know, we don't differentiate. Any state resident
4 can get a harvest ticket and hunt in that. And then a
5 non-resident has a different season, just the month of
6 September. If you're a non-resident of the state, if
7 they're going with a friend that's a state resident or,
8 you know, has -- or, you know, that's a resident of --
9 or even a non-resident, and they can get there on their
10 own without using a commercial service, then they could
11 hunt where they want.

12
13 I think what -- where the restrictions
14 come in on the Federal side is with the, you know,
15 commercial operators that get paid to haul people into
16 somewhere. So we don't have any additional
17 restrictions. The restrictions that they're talking
18 about with the Federal side are really the only
19 additional restrictions to then -- other than getting,
20 you know, a moose harvest ticket and a moose tag if
21 you're -- a metal locking tag if you're a non-resident.

22
23 So there's no extra restrictions with
24 the one exception of there is a controlled use area
25 that's been in place for, I don't know, probably 30
26 years or so, upriver of Russian Mission. It goes from
27 Russian Mission to Kalskag and follows the north bank
28 of the Yukon River. And within that controlled use
29 area, hunters may not be transported within that area
30 by plane. They can land in Russian Mission and then go
31 by boat in that area, or anyone can go by boat, but no
32 one can be transported, big game hunters may not be
33 transported into that area.

34
35 MR. POLTY: To that area. Do you have
36 any similar thing like around Chuilanuk (ph), above
37 Pilot? Do you have that -- you don't have that there?

38
39 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. No,
40 that's the only place under State regulation that has
41 any sort of restrictions is just that area upriver of
42 Russian Mission. The rest of the areas don't have
43 a.....

44
45 MR. POLTY: They don't have that.

46
47 MR. PERRY:State restriction.
48 Yeah.

49
50 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you very much.

1 That's all I wanted to know. Thank you.
2
3 Thank you, Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
6 further comments.
7
8 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
11 comments by Council members.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We have a motion on
16 the floor that's been seconded.
17
18 MR. J. ANDREW: Question.
19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's
21 called for. Mr. Aloysius, please call the roll.
22 Please.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Indiscernible, mic not
25 on)
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. This is roll call
30 for voting on the issue before us, Proposal WP12-47.
31 James Charles.
32
33 MR. CHARLES: I'm sorry, Bob. Mr.
34 Chairman. If you'd clarify the motion, how it was.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's always
37 in the positive.
38
39 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, I just -- it's
40 here. I know. But would you clarify it before we move
41 -- or we vote?
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Clarify what?
44 Mary.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
47
48 MR. CHARLES: And what does it say?
49
50 MS. GREGORY: It says.....

1 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, I understand the
2 (indiscernible, mic not on). That's the one.
3
4 MR. J. ANDREW: Page 123.
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, according to
7 this, WP12-47, it's a general description, what I can
8 see from here states that Proposal WP12-47 requests the
9 addition of a special provision to limit aircraft use
10 for the moose season in a portion of Unit 18. It does
11 not say what portion. I believe it might be.....
12
13 MR. J. ANDREW: Remainder.
14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 125. You could see
16 the map. Okay?
17
18 MR. CHARLES: Okay. Thank you.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Wow, long day.
21
22 (In Yup'ik)
23
24 How do you vote. James Charles.
25
26 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.
29
30 MR. N. ANDREW: Yeah.
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.
33
34 MR. POLTY: Yes.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde, Sr.
37
38 MR. H. WILDE: Quyana. Yes.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.
41
42 MR. ONEY: Yes.
43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
45
46 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Lester Wilde,
49 Sr.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
4
5 MR. UNOK: Yes.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. Yes.
12 John Andrew.
13
14 MR. J. ANDREW: Yes.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ten yes, one no. Motion
17 carries.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carries.
20
21 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, ma'am.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: I have snacks for the RAC
26 members.
27
28 (In Yup'ik)
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, ma'am. After
31 this next proposal, we'll have a break.
32
33 MS. GREGORY: Okay.
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Our next proposal
36 is WP12-50. Mr. Jenkins.
37
38 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Council
39 members. Good afternoon. This starts on Page 139 of
40 your Council books.
41
42 Proposal WP12-50 was submitted by the
43 Association of Village Council Presidents, and it would
44 allow moose to be taken from a motor-driven boat that
45 is moving under power. The request addresses the
46 remainder area of Unit 18, which you can see on your
47 map on Page 140.
48
49 The proponent states that the proposed
50 states that the proposed regulation change reflects the

1 current method of harvesting moose in the region, and
2 that the practice has been ongoing since motorized
3 boats became available in the area. It is a common
4 practice of subsistence users in the area to hunt moose
5 for a motor-driven boat under slow power in the early
6 morning and evening hours when animals frequent the
7 river banks. Slow speed is used to avoid scaring moose
8 from river banks by keeping motor noise to a minimum.
9 A motor-driven boat under slow power provides a stable
10 platform for shot placement, and there have been not
11 accidents reported as a result of this activity.

12
13 Statewide Federal subsistence
14 regulations don't allow a harvest -- the harvest of
15 wildlife from a boat under power with some exceptions
16 allowed under special provisions. For example, caribou
17 may be taken from a boat moving under power in Units
18 18, 23, 25 and 26; and moose may be taken from a boat
19 moving under power in a portion of Unit 18, that is the
20 Lower Yukon River drainage below Mountain Village, and
21 also in Unit 25.

22
23 Adoption of this proposal would allow
24 the current practice of Federal subsistence users in
25 the remainder area Unit 18 to harvest moose from a
26 motor-driven boat while it is moving under power. The
27 practice is not anticipated to have any -- to affect
28 the moose population in the remainder of Unit 18. And
29 the proposal is consistent with current regulations
30 allowing this practice in Unit 18 and in other
31 management units.

32
33 OSM supports this proposal.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
38 Jenkins.

39
40 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Adoption of this proposal may increase Federal
42 subsistence hunter success rates. Additionally,
43 adoption of this proposal is not required to ensure
44 continuation of subsistence uses by Federally-qualified
45 subsistence users on Federal public lands in Unit 18
46 remainder.

47
48 Under State regulations, it's
49 prohibited to shoot an animal from a motor-driven boat
50 unless the motorized boat is completely shut off and

1 the progress of the motor power has ceased, except
2 there are exceptions for hunting swimming caribou in
3 Unit 23.

4
5 Changing the Federal subsistence
6 methods to take -- to include boats under power will
7 contribute to enforcement issues related to the take of
8 big game while swimming and taking other game, for
9 example, waterfowl hunting. Adoptions of methods --
10 adopting methods of take regulations that are divergent
11 from State hunting regulations will increase user
12 confusion and increase enforcement problems across a
13 vast area encompassing two dozen communities with mixed
14 land ownership patterns.

15
16 Federal subsistence hunting regulations
17 only apply to Federal public lands and Federal
18 subsistence hunting regulations do not apply on non-
19 Federal lands and waters, unlike Federal subsistence
20 fishing regulations.

21
22 The boat accessible waters in Unit 18
23 remainder cover thousands of square miles and encompass
24 multiple moose populations of varying status. Much of
25 the Kuskokwim River and most of the shoreline
26 surrounding the communities are not Federal public
27 lands or are not subject to Federal subject to Federal
28 subsistence wildlife regulations.

29
30 Currently the Department opposes this
31 proposal.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 **No official written comments
36 inserted/provided by State at this
37 time**

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any comments. Mr.
40 Roczicka.

41
42 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 George, when this analysis was taking
45 place, was it noticed at all that it's referring
46 directly to the remainder of Unit 18 and the
47 description completely excludes the Kuskokwim, so it
48 would be just, you know, from the Johnson River over to
49 the Yukon. Not that it would change your
50 recommendation any.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. We
2 started -- I hoped I wouldn't have to explain this
3 today. We started a new electronic process of our
4 review for our comments. It's internet based. It's
5 supposed to be user friendly. And if you notice, even
6 the conservation concerns here have a mistake. This is
7 -- we've had errors throughout our comments here. And
8 you'll notice that half our comments are in the book,
9 so it's been an uphill challenge to evolve. So I
10 apologize for the misinformation that you see here.
11 And I will definitely bring it to leadership's
12 attention that this needs to be fixed.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: That actually does
19 explain it quite well, because I noticed we don't have
20 them -- we don't have your recommendations in probably
21 about three-quarters of the proposals, and I like to
22 see them ahead of time, too. But I've had the same
23 situation or frustration explained to me by local
24 department staff as well about that system. But that
25 does explain a lot so it's -- thank you.

26

27 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. That's
28 why I did bring the most recent copies back there,
29 which include the other 10 that weren't included here.
30 And you'll see on our next one we -- 51, actually we
31 did amend it from what's in your book on ptarmigan, so
32 we're working through this process. It's evolving.
33 It's supposed to be more efficient and more accurate in
34 theory.

35

36 MR. ROCZICKA: If all the Staff can see
37 it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
40 Pappas.

41

42 Mr. Riorden.

43

44 MR. RIORDEN: Spencer Riorden with Fish
45 and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge.

46

47 The only concern -- the one concern
48 that we have, the Refuge has, is we understand that
49 people often stay under power to steady a shot. Slow
50 power, especially when there's current.

1 However, this regulation potentially
2 could allow someone to be at a higher speed, which
3 poses a hazard we believe, a potential hazard, shooting
4 from a boat that may be on step. I mean, that's very
5 difficult, and I don't think many people would try
6 that, but this regulation could potentially allow
7 someone to do that.

8
9 And then the other concern is wounding
10 loss. If someone does not have a steady shot, they
11 could hit an animal and lose it, and then that animal
12 goes on and dies and never recovered. So that is just
13 one concern.

14
15 But we do understand what this
16 regulation will do in a positive note, whereas it can
17 be used to steady a shot, but at the same time it could
18 be abused. So just to point that out.

19
20 Thanks.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
23 Riorden. Mr. Tim Andrew.

24
25 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. Timothy Andrew with AVCP. And we are the
27 proponents of this proposal.

28
29 And the reason behind the proposal was
30 we've been hearing a number of concerns from people
31 being cited for trying to harvest moose under power in
32 the various parts of the Yukon River, and also the
33 remainder of Unit 18 as well.

34
35 It's been -- ever since, as far as I
36 can recall for me personally, it's been a standard
37 practice that's been utilized since moose came into the
38 area when people used to hunt in the unit and in Unit
39 21E. And likely a practice that was utilized in Unit
40 19 as well.

41
42 And as was earlier indicated, very
43 little or no accidents or anything of that type has
44 ever been recorded while we've been doing this for
45 quite some time.

46
47 And the other thing I'd like to note is
48 that subsistence hunting is for food. And antler
49 hunting is for the biggest possible antlers that you
50 can possibly. And in doing so, when you're going after

1 an animal for the biggest antler value that you can
2 possibly get, many of the hunters that are called sport
3 hunters utilize the fair chase concept to put you on
4 equal footing with the animal that you are pursuing.

5
6 But when you're hunting for food,
7 you're trying to put food on the table. And you're
8 going to utilize whatever method you can possibly get.
9 The most efficient way to get food on the table to feed
10 your families and our families for the winter. So, you
11 know, as barbaric as it may sound, it's reality.
12 People are out there to get food when they're
13 subsistence hunting or subsistence fishing.

14
15 And that is -- and the primary reason
16 was to address the law enforcement issue that we've
17 encountered, and the concerns that people have
18 submitted from our villages that, you know, we need to
19 address this situation to minimize law enforcement
20 contacts. I don't know if they've ever been cited,
21 maybe perhaps a warning. But regardless, those law
22 enforcement contacts wanted us to submit this proposal.

23
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
27 Andrew.

28
29 Any InterAgency Staff comments.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Advisory group
34 comments. Mr. Charles.

35
36 MR. CHARLES: No.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. Local fish and
39 game advisories. Mr. Charles.

40
41 MR. CHARLES: No.

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. Summary of
44 written comments -- or is there any comments from
45 neighboring Regional Advisors.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. There are no
50 written comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's no requests
4 for public testimony.
5
6 So at this time Regional Council
7 recommendations. Mr. Unok.
8
9 MR. UNOK: My question is if it's not
10 passed so it will be like poaching hunting. If anybody
11 could answer that question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Poaching is an
14 altogether different thing.
15
16 MR. UNOK: Yeah. Okay.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're hunting
19 under.....
20
21 MR. UNOK: No, it's -- yeah, it's
22 moving.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:legal season,
25 so if you're a licensed and permitted hunter, you are
26 not poaching.
27
28 MR. UNOK: Yeah. But under power, if
29 it's not passed, you've got to stop your motor and
30 still shoot from the boat. You can do that.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: According to the
33 regulations now, I guess that's what it is.
34
35 MR. UNOK: Yeah.
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay?
38
39 MR. UNOK: I guess.
40
41 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
44
45 MS. GREGORY: I move that we adopt 12-
46 50, the proposal.
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made
49 by Mary to adopt WP12-50. Do I hear a second.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
4 Oney.
5
6 Council members discussion. Mr.
7 Aloysius.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The author
10 of this proposal, could you explain to me what they
11 mean? It's just -- it would take moose from a boat
12 moving under power in the following portions of 18.
13 And in the end it says excluding all Yukon drainages
14 upriver from Mountain Village. And the next line
15 contradicts what that says. It says the remainder area
16 of 18, which starts where that restriction applies.
17 You know, it's -- is that on purpose to confuse the
18 hunter or -- on Page 138.
19
20 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Through the
21 Chair. Timothy Andrew.
22
23 This was not meant in any way to try
24 and confuse the hunter. It is trying to include all
25 the open areas, the current areas of the Yukon River.
26 And to include Unit 18 remainder. If you take a look
27 at the map on.....
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's a map on 140.
30
31 MR. T. ANDREW: 140, okay. Yeah. If
32 you take a look at the Lower Yukon area, it includes
33 that area and also Unit 18 remainder. Adding that
34 sentence down at the bottom, it includes the remainder
35 of Unit 18. And I don't see any language excluding the
36 Lower Yukon area.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, it says north and
39 west of a line from Kashunuk Rover, including the north
40 bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old
41 village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik
42 to Mountain Village and excluding all Yukon River
43 drainages upriver from Mountain Village.
44
45 And if you look at the map on Page 140,
46 that means all of the drainages from Mountain Village
47 up to Paimiut. And that next sentence says, and the
48 remainder of the area of Unit 18. So, you know.....
49
50 MR. T. ANDREW: Well, I guess I'll give

1 it my best shot here. I can only assume that those --
2 that area excluding all of Yukon River drainages
3 upriver from Mountain Village was not taken out when
4 this was prepared. That would be my only assumption at
5 the moment; you know, that might not be fact. But it
6 is intended to include the villages -- or not the
7 villages, but the area above Mountain Village to
8 include the Unit 18 remainder as you can see in the
9 following sentence.

10

11 And I don't know if the regulatory
12 impact -- I don't know what the regulatory impact of
13 this would be.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Go
16 ahead, Mr. Roczicka.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I actually was looking at that, too, exactly the same
20 thing that Bob mentioned as far as confusing language
21 when I reviewed these proposals. And I guess I'd offer
22 -- I was wondering why you didn't just strike
23 everything after the first words, that you may take
24 moose from a boat moving under power, and just say in
25 the remainder area of Unit 18, because that is the
26 intent of it. And all that other language that's in
27 there in that subparagraph 1 and that just goes away if
28 this proposal passes. That's the way I read it, and
29 that is the intent, so unless I hear anything different
30 I was ready to offer an amendment just to do that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We have a wise old
33 man over here to give us the statistics.

34

35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. The original
36 regulation was passed for the Lower Yukon two years
37 ago, supported by this Council, supported by OSM. It
38 was passed.

39

40 The proposal by AVCP is to enlarge the
41 area to include the area, to include the entire Yukon
42 area of Unit 18. Their original proposal, which is
43 here in the brown book, just talks about adding the
44 remainder area to the original area that was -- where
45 shooting a moose under power was allowed. So it's not
46 an AVCP issue. I think it's a regulatory issue. We
47 try to -- we want to try to make the regulations as
48 simple as they can be for the users. And the intent is
49 to make this regulation apply to the Yukon River.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's including
4 the remainder area?
5
6 MR. KRON: Yes.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And everything
9 below it?
10
11 MR. KRON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Okay.
14 Is that understood.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for your
19 clarification, Mr. Kron.
20
21 MR. UNOK: I have a comment. It says
22 slow speed. It works good. I know I used down there,
23 too, slow speed. They put it on the proposal on
24 discussion. Like Spencer said, people, if they put
25 word in, how fast the boat, motorized boat can go, if
26 they could -- maybe they'll just -- because if you're
27 going fast, you're not going to be shooting right. So
28 if the words slow speed, like maybe five miles an hour
29 would be great. I don't know.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I don't know
32 either.
33
34 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.
37
38 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 I would support this proposal, because I'm a hunter,
40 too, and I've done it illegally some shoot the game
41 from moving boat. And if this pass, I would do it
42 legally then.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MR. CHARLES: Because I've shot game
47 from moving boat or moving airplane long time ago. But
48 now I'm glad this came up, because it would add to
49 other regulations.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

4

5 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I'm going to support it as well. And about the
7 concerns, if you look right above it, it says you may
8 take caribou from a boat moving under power in Unit 18,
9 the whole place. There doesn't seem to be a problem
10 there.

11

12 But also along those lines is that on
13 some creeks or rivers, whatever it may be, it could be
14 a safety issue and actually stabilizing your boat and
15 giving you a better shot by keeping your boat under
16 power when you've got -- when you're going into a
17 current and you don't want to get tossed into a bank or
18 go under a sweeper, or something to that nature. So it
19 does work both ways.

20

21 Anyway, but to make it clearer I think
22 to the intent, I'd just like to put out the amendment
23 now to say that you may take moose from a boat moving
24 under power in the remainder area of Unit 18, and
25 everything else would be struck. And that would get to
26 the intent so that basically for Unit 18 it would
27 exclude what would be the current Kuskokwim moratorium
28 area, but all the rest of it you'd be able to. It
29 would legalize shooting moose from a moving boat.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The modified
32 version of the proposal is to just include.....

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: I don't have a second
35 yet.

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do I hear a second
38 to the motion.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'll second it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Robert.
43 Mr. Aloysius. So that would just include that
44 remainder area.

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Correct.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
49 question on the amendment.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. UNOK: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been
6 called for. All in favor of the amended proposal.....
7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: It's not amended yet.
9 We've got to vote on the amendment.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: On the amendment,
12 I'm sorry. It must be getting a little bit late here.
13 Any further discussion on the amendment to the motion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was there a
18 question called.
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: There was.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sorry. Okay.
23 Let's continue on with business here then. All in
24 favor of the amended.....
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, the amendment.
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Amendment, say aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
33 sign.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Carries. All in
38 favor of the proposal.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Of the amended proposal.
41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The amended
43 proposal. Mr. Robert Aloysius, could you please take
44 the roll.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: I lost my paper.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I don't want to
2 look like I'm the only one being confused.
3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: Roll call vote for the
5 proposal in front of you that has been amended. Okay.
6 John Andrew.
7
8 MR. J. ANDREW: Yes.
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
11
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. Yes.
15 Aloysius Unok.
16
17 MR. UNOK: Yes.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Mary Gregory.
24
25 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.
28
29 MR. ONEY: Yes.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde, Sr.
32
33 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty, Sr.
36
37 MR. POLTY: Yes.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew, Sr.
40
41 MR. N. ANDREW: Yes.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: James Charles.
44
45 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm missing one. Oh,
48 Noah Andrew.
49
50 MR. N. ANDREW: Yes.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Guyana.
2 Unanimous support for adoption of the amendment -- of
3 the amended proposal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion.....

6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Motion carries.

8
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let's take a 10-
10 minute break before we tackle the next one.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We'd like to get at
17 least one more proposal done this evening so tomorrow
18 we don't have to be in such a rush. And the proposals
19 after 51 should be pretty easy to handle. This last
20 proposal is 51 concerning ptarmigan. WP12-51. Mr.
21 McKee.

22
23 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
24 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for
25 WP12-51 starts on Page 146 of the meeting materials
26 booklet.

27
28 Proposal WP12-51, submitted by the
29 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, requests an
30 extension of the season and an increased harvest limit
31 to ptarmigan in Unit 18. The proponent states that
32 ptarmigan migrate westward from interior portions of
33 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta as spring progresses, but the
34 current season closes as ptarmigan arrive in coastal
35 areas, thereby precluding Federally-qualified
36 subsistence users from harvesting ptarmigan.

37
38 The proponent also states the daily
39 harvest and possession limits restrict the total number
40 of ptarmigan Federally-qualified subsistence users can
41 harvest.

42
43 The proposed change would increase the
44 harvest limit from 20 ptarmigan a day, 40 in
45 possession, to no limit in Unit 18 and extend the
46 ptarmigan season in Unit 18 from August 10th to May
47 30th to August 10th to June 15th. A companion proposal
48 has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game.

49
50 Population data are lacking for

1 ptarmigan in Unit 18, but reported as seasonally
2 abundant in the fall and spring.

3
4 Harvest of ptarmigan is assessed during
5 the Alaska migratory bird subsistence harvest estimates
6 household surveys; however, this provides very limited
7 information. It does not allow managers to assess
8 impacts of management decisions, such as increasing
9 harvest limit or season length.

10
11 Overall harvest has been variable, but
12 the majority of harvest takes place in the spring. The
13 average annual ptarmigan harvest for all users in Unit
14 18 from 1986 to 2009 has been just under 16,000 birds.
15 Most of the harvest took place in mid-coast and Lower
16 Kuskokwim areas. The mid-coast spring harvest ranged
17 from 1100 to 10,750 ptarmigan from 2004 to 2009. South
18 coast and the areas near Bethel received relatively
19 moderate harvest levels. A few harvested in the north
20 coast, the Lower Yukon and central Kuskokwim areas.

21
22 If adopted, the proposal would provide
23 additional harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified
24 subsistence users, especially those living in coastal
25 areas that have limited access to ptarmigan during
26 portions of the year.

27
28 It could adversely impact the ptarmigan
29 population by extending the harvest season to overlap
30 with breeding season. Higher harvest could occur,
31 especially during certain times of the year, such as
32 when males defend territories, or when ptarmigan are
33 flocked up during migration for winter.

34
35 Harvest is more likely to be additive
36 during or after periods of higher natural mortality.
37 And populations have been shown to sustain much higher
38 harvest rates in the fall than spring.

39
40 It's difficult to predict how an
41 unlimited harvest would affect the population dynamics
42 of ptarmigan in Unit 18.

43
44 Two alternatives were considered. Only
45 extend the season, but this was not supported due to
46 potential impacts with harvesting during the breeding
47 season. And also to increase the harvest limit but
48 retain an upper limit to 30 to 60 in possession, 40/80,
49 and 50/100, but these were not supported due to limited
50 ability to assess impacts of the regulatory changes.

1 However, if the harvest limit were increased, a smaller
2 increase such as 30/60 would be preferred.

3
4 To make an informed management decision
5 regarding sustainable harvest, managers should have
6 some knowledge or whether harvest is additive or
7 compensatory. We don't have enough information on the
8 population to make an informed management decision.
9 Studies have shown that compensatory harvest mortality
10 should not be assumed even for game bird populations.
11 Most of the harvest takes place in the spring, which
12 can have a higher impact on the population than the
13 fall harvest.

14
15 There are no means to monitor the
16 effects of the proposed harvest limit increase.
17 Current household surveys may serve as a limited index
18 to relative abundance, but the survey does not
19 adequately account for variation in harvest estimates.

20
21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 oppose WP12-51.

23
24 I welcome your comments and edits.
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
28 McKee.

29
30 Agency comments. Alaska -- we'll get
31 to you when your turn comes around. Mr. Pappas.
32 There's a chair right next -- there you go.

33
34 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
35 I mentioned earlier, the Department did amend this
36 particular set of comments. We amended them on
37 September 16th.

38
39 For opportunity provided by the State
40 in Unit 18, the seasons August 10th through May 30th
41 and the limit is 20 per day with 40 in possession.

42
43 For conservation issues, a change to
44 unlimited Federal subsistence harvest of ptarmigan in
45 18 may lead to conservation concerns due to lack of
46 Federal in-season management tools.

47
48 By mid-May, male ptarmigan are
49 defending their territories, and they become very
50 tolerant of human presence and therefore are very

1 vulnerable to hunting. Female ptarmigan typically
2 begin nesting in May and chick rearing occurs in June
3 and July.

4
5 Late winter and spring hunting has been
6 demonstrated in other populations of ptarmigan to be of
7 a concern due to additive effects of mortality on the
8 population.

9
10 Currently in Unit 18 no methods or
11 studies are being used to index ptarmigan abundance,
12 seasonal distribution patterns or harvest as they are
13 related to the proposed extended season.

14
15 The proponent indicates this proposal
16 will also be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game.
17 The Department has concerns with removing both the bag
18 and possession limits and recommends an incremental
19 approach to liberalizing the Federal subsistence hunt,
20 if information can be provided which proves eliminating
21 the current harvest limits is necessary for continuance
22 of subsistence uses. Additionally, the Department's
23 unaware of any management tools used to determine if
24 the Federal subsistence users have exceeded said
25 harvest goals.

26
27 The Department opposes changing the
28 season closure date to June 15 as requested in Proposal
29 No. 20 that's going to go to the Alaska Board of Game.

30
31 The Department recommends supporting
32 this proposal with modification. The Department
33 opposes extending the Federal subsistence hunt in 18,
34 but recommends changing the harvest limits to 50 per
35 day and 100 in possession. And I believe the North
36 Slope and some other areas do have that same harvest
37 daily limit and possession under State regulations.

38
39 *****
40 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
41 *****

42
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

45
46 AMENDED 16 SEPTEMBER, 2011

47
48 Wildlife Proposal WP12-51:

49
50 This proposal requests liberalizing the

1 federal subsistence Unit 18 Ptarmigan hunting season
2 from August 10 through May 30 to August 10 through June
3 15 and requests eliminating daily bag and possession
4 limits.

5

6

Introduction:

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Impact on Subsistence Users:

If adopted, federal subsistence hunters targeting Ptarmigan near the coast in Unit 18 may harvest additional birds during the first two weeks of June. If adopted, federal subsistence hunter Ptarmigan harvest and possession would be unlimited.

Opportunity Provided by State:

In Unit 18, the state ptarmigan hunting season is August 10 through May 30 with a daily bag limit of 20 ptarmigan per day with a possession limit of 40.

Conservation Issues:

A change to unlimited federal subsistence harvest of Ptarmigan in Unit 18 may lead to conservation concerns due to the lack of federal inseason management tools.

By mid-May, male ptarmigan are defending their territories and they become very tolerant of human presence and therefore vulnerable to hunting. Female ptarmigan typically begin nesting in May and chick rearing occurs in June and July. Late winter and spring hunting has been demonstrated in

1 other populations of ptarmigan to be of concern due to
2 additive effects of mortality on the population.
3 Currently in Unit 18, no methods or studies are being
4 used to index ptarmigan abundance, seasonal
5 distribution patterns, or harvests as they relate to
6 the proposed extended season.

7

8 Other Comments:

9

10 The proponent indicates this proposal
11 will also be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game.
12 The department has concerns with removing both bag and
13 possession limits and recommends an incremental
14 approach to liberalizing the federal subsistence hunt
15 if information can be provided which proves eliminating
16 current harvest limits is necessary for continuance of
17 subsistence uses. Additionally, the department is
18 unaware of any management tools used to determine if
19 federal subsistence users have exceeded set harvest
20 goals. The department opposes changing the season
21 closure date to June 15 requested in the Board of Game
22 proposal 20.

23

24 Recommendation:

25

26 Support with modification.

27

28 The department opposes extending the
29 federal subsistence Ptarmigan hunting season in Unit 18
30 and recommends changing the harvest limits to 50 per
31 day with 100 in possession.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

36 Pappas.

37

38 Any questions. Mr. Polty.

39

40 MR. POLTY: Yeah, I have a question.

41 Thank you, Chairman.

42

43 I support the no limit, but it says
44 August 10 to June 15. Now what time of the year does
45 those ptarmigans lay their eggs? Around June 15 around
46 that area?

47

48 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

49

50 MR. POLTY: (In Yup'ik)

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
2
3 MR. POLTY: Well, she -- I got my
4 answer on that. You probably have that answer, too,
5 right?
6
7 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir, I could repeat.
8 They start nesting in May and chick rearing usually
9 occurs in June and July.
10
11 MR. POLTY: June and July?
12
13 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir.
14
15 MR. POLTY: Okay. Yeah. Thank you. I
16 have no objection on that.
17
18 Thank you, Chairman.
19
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Who came up
23 with the June 15 deadline, because that's -- you know,
24 I grew up in the spring camp, and I know that right
25 after the snow starts melting the ptarmigan start
26 mating, and they're -- you know, if you keep it open
27 until the 15th of June, you're wiping out the future
28 generation of the ptarmigan that's going to be coming.
29 So, yeah, it just doesn't make sense why anybody would
30 want to extend the -- even May 30 is way, way, way too
31 late.
32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Excuse me. Any
34 further questions. Comments.
35
36 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. We hunt for
37 eggs, and then when they start getting (In Yup'ik) and
38 they start getting to form -- embryos are forming, we
39 quit gathering them. And in like two or three weeks.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
42 Pappas, go ahead.
43
44 MR. PAPPAS: Yes. Through the Chair.
45 Mrs. Gregory, when do you stop? When is that? Is that
46 early June? Mid-June? Of it's just you know.
47
48 MS. GREGORY: Middle of May. Maybe end
49 of May.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: May.
2
3 MR. PAPPAS: Middle May. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Pappas.
8
9 Mr. Riorden.
10
11 MR. RIORDEN: Spencer Riorden, Fish and
12 Wildlife Service.
13
14 Our intent in proposing no limit was
15 basically to provide additional harvest opportunities.
16 We suspect that there's a lot of people that go out,
17 especially in the spring, and killing more than 20
18 ptarmigan a day. And we're kind of -- and that's been
19 going on for quite some time. So we want to make it
20 legal for people to shoot more than 20 ptarmigan a day.
21 Some of the data and some of the anecdotal evidence
22 suggests that ptarmigan are harvested most times during
23 the fall and definitely in the spring time, especially
24 when we have good snow years, and we see a lot of
25 ptarmigan come around town.
26
27 And given the size of Unit 18 and how
28 few people live in Unit 18, especially if you think
29 about what areas people hunt ptarmigan, we believe
30 there's a lot of area where they're not touched at all,
31 or people aren't traveling a long distance necessarily
32 just to hunt ptarmigan. A lot of folks, and a lot of
33 kids especially, learning how to hunt, hunt close to
34 town when they want to dry ptarmigan or whatnot.
35
36 And as far as the season date, the
37 season date, we came up with June 15th, because we
38 understand that on the coast that winter seems to be a
39 little longer out there, and often when ptarmigan are
40 coming down from the hills or the mountains, that they
41 may not reach the coast until later than they do say
42 Bethel or more inland. So that was the intent, to give
43 coastal people also an improved subsistence opportunity
44 on ptarmigan.
45
46 And we also understand that once the
47 geese and the ducks arrive, a lot of effort is spent
48 towards hunting those instead of ptarmigan, which as we
49 know a lot of them come in the end of April and May.
50

1 So like I said, our main intent was
2 just to increase harvest opportunities, subsistence
3 harvest opportunities for ptarmigan. Although we
4 understand data is lacking and the methods for tracking
5 the harvest to determine what impact harvest would have
6 on -- or increased harvest would have on ptarmigan, we
7 do feel given the size of this Unit 18, in this refuge
8 and this area, that we can sustain an increased harvest
9 of some sort.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any -- Mr.
12 Polty.

13
14 MR. POLTY: Yeah. Mr. Chair, thank
15 you.

16
17 The reason ask is because in the Yukon
18 area we usually have like one week to two weeks behind
19 in the area where the ptarmigan usually -- when we go
20 out around that old settlement, Chuathbaluk, that's
21 when the ptarmigan start, well, just about laying eggs
22 around that area, about the first week of June. So
23 it's possible if they decide to be able to modify that
24 a little earlier than June?

25
26 MR. RIORDEN: Through the Chair. Yeah,
27 Mr. Polty, you guys have the ability to support with
28 modification and change and do whatever you'd like.
29 And your comments definitely will be brought forward to
30 the Board and so forth, so, yeah, you guys can do that.

31
32 MR. POLTY: Okay. Thank you. Thank
33 you, Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
36 Riorden. Mr. Andrew.

37
38 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Mr. Chairman,
39 Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

40
41 I just got back from the Village of
42 Chefornak and had lunch there with a local person. Had
43 dried ptarmigan. Had some dried seal and dried
44 halibut. Dried herring eggs with sea oil, and it was a
45 great lunch. And I'm glad to see that ptarmigan is
46 part of their harvest out there.

47
48 But in regards to this proposal, when I
49 was talking to some of the law enforcement people, May
50 30th is a little too early for the coastal areas, for

1 them to close for their ptarmigan hunting. Any time
2 when you close a season early, it -- or like the May
3 30th deadline, sometimes the coastal people don't have
4 the opportunity to hunt within the legal time frame for
5 ptarmigan.

6
7 And as far as the limits, you know,
8 like Mr. Riorden, I don't have any numbers that I can
9 really point to, but anecdotal numbers. You know,
10 people love their ptarmigan here, and people love their
11 ptarmigan all around the entire region, especially
12 where it's more plentiful. And looking at the
13 ptarmigan out there whenever I go ptarmigan hunting,
14 there's a whole bunch of them that do come into the
15 area during the spring. And this proposal would
16 provide opportunity for the coastal people to
17 participate legally and harvest ptarmigan for their
18 needs.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're supporting
23 this late, June 10th to June -- I mean, August 10th to
24 June 15?

25
26 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
27 Like Mary or our Anaan says, that people have a self-
28 regulating mechanism. When they get to a certain
29 stage, whether it be June 15th or whether it be before,
30 people just quit harvesting the eggs or quit harvesting
31 ptarmigan. And harvest ptarmigan when there's an
32 opportunity to do so within their own self-regulatory
33 mechanism.

34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. That's
36 correct. I notice that in all the -- most of the --
37 all of the villages that I go to, that they self-
38 regulate their harvest. And I know if -- it would be
39 lucky in Hooper Bay if we got 50 ptarmigan in one day.
40 And if you saw 50 ptarmigan in one day, you'd think
41 there's a whole invasion of ptarmigan in that area, so
42 there isn't that many ptarmigan out there. And I know
43 that for a fact, that the people in our area and the
44 villages do regulate themselves on the dates.

45
46 So I kind of think that June 15 might
47 be a little bit late, but then it's up to the Council.
48 I'm just putting out my opinion.

49
50 Go ahead.

1 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah, if I can make
2 further comment. In talking with law enforcement and
3 people up here at the Refuge, when the May 30 closure
4 comes around and people are still harvesting ptarmigan,
5 they've -- the law enforcement people, you know how
6 they are, then they have to abide -- they have to act
7 by the law. And by giving the -- by giving the
8 subsistence hunters the opportunity to harvest legally
9 beyond the May 30 deadline. I think June 15th is a
10 good date.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
15 Andrew.

16
17 Any comments from the InterAgency Staff
18 Committee.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.
23 Advisory group comments. Mr. Charles.

24
25 MR. CHARLES: No, no comments.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any comments from
28 neighboring Regional Advisory Councils.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Local fish
33 and game advisory comments.

34
35 MR. CHARLES: No.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Is there a
38 summary of written comments.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. There is no
43 requests for public comments, testimony.

44
45 So the Regional Council recommendation.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move
48 that we adopt Proposal 12-51.

49
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been

1 made by Ms. Gregory to adopt Proposal 51. Do I hear a
2 second.

3

4 MR. ONEY: Second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
7 Oney.

8

9 Regional Council comments. Mr.
10 Aloysius.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm not going to support
13 this at all, because simple fact, when I was growing
14 up, the old people tell us, if you want to conserve
15 your food source, you leave it alone when it's time to
16 make new ptarmigan or whatever. So, you know, it just
17 goes against my grain to even think of extending the
18 harvest time. Back in the old days, it was only like
19 June -- I mean, April 15, which was great. But now I
20 see it's May 30, and now they want to move it to June
21 15. Give me a break. I will not support it for a
22 simple fact that it -- you know, what you're doing is
23 taking the food away from their children and the
24 generations that come after them. So think about it,
25 you know.

26

27 It's like the old people always told
28 us, in the summertime up the Aniak River, about 15
29 miles from the mouth there's the first log jam. When
30 you go up in the summertime, you better not go beyond
31 the first log jam, because that is the nursery. From
32 there up to the headwaters of the Aniak River, salmon
33 are spawning, and you don't want to disturb them during
34 the time that they're spawning.

35

36 The same thing with ptarmigan, you
37 know. Leave them alone.

38

39 So, you know, I just -- it just irks me
40 that somebody would extend the harvest time to a time
41 when -- you know, after a ptarmigan lays eggs and their
42 mother gets shot, who's going to take care of those
43 eggs? Nobody.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

48

49 Did you have a comment?

50

1 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 We hunt for ptarmigan in the wintertime and until March
7 I think when they're -- before the geese come. So when
8 waterfowl comes, we quit hunting them and we even --
9 even this date is late, it didn't bother me, because we
10 quit hunting them voluntarily when the other birds
11 come. So I'm neutral to this. And I don't know if I'll
12 support it or not support it, so it don't bother me too
13 much.
14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Charles.
19
20 Do you have any comments.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.
25 Mr. Roczicka.
26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Well,
28 when I thought it over first, I wondered -- I mean,
29 it's not going to really make any different one way or
30 the other, at least for our area right in here, because
31 from June 1 to June 15th the only effort that might go
32 on in collecting ptarmigan might be kids, because
33 they're running around in fish camp, because
34 everybody's busy in fish camp trying to get their fish
35 in. So it's not going to make any kind of a dent or an
36 effect.
37
38 But as I listen more, also I recognize
39 the concerns, what Mr. Aloysius mentioned, but yet it's
40 not just our own area. If we need a regulation or
41 something put into place so that folks out on the coast
42 where it is a different story and a different climate
43 than it is in the Lower/Middle Kuskokwim, then I think
44 we should provide it. And just as the argument goes
45 sometimes where even if there's -- it's not legal to do
46 it, we're going to do it, because that's what we've
47 always done. The same thing should apply I guess or
48 would apply, that even if it is legal to do it, but it
49 goes against people's personal beliefs, they wouldn't
50 do it. And that's I guess where I'm coming down on it.

1 I kind of wonder about the unlimited,
2 but I don't know if we want to bother making an
3 amendment in there. But I'm ready to support the
4 proposal. I mean, it's still -- when I looked through
5 the reasons for the -- or justifications and so forth
6 and the background on effects of the proposal, and the
7 concern that the OSM Staff had about the male guarding
8 its area and becoming so much more vulnerable, and I
9 just wondered if you can have a concern there -- again,
10 the number just going to be so insignificant of what
11 harvest there might be, but compare that to when you're
12 driving through the fields of popcorn with legs and
13 beaks and feathers in late March and early April when
14 those birds been eating fermented berries for so long,
15 and you can go walk around and pop them with a stick,
16 as many as you want, and fill your gunnysack or fill
17 your whole sled quite easily.

18
19 Like I say, if it's going to provide an
20 opportunity that is not there for someone in the other
21 part of our region that I wasn't -- I mean, I had no
22 idea that -- I know that the snow sits out there on the
23 Lower Yukon now that I think about it, and it does make
24 sense, and so to provide the opportunity for those
25 folks, I'd support the proposal.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok.

28
29 MR. UNOK: It will make no difference
30 in where I come from on the Lower Yukon. We hunt our
31 -- now in middle of winter and April. That's it.
32 We're done.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Polty.

35
36 MR. POLTY: Yeah. After I listen to
37 testimony concerning their late, mainly food, that I'm
38 going to remain neutral on this, because in our area we
39 go further out toward old settlement to hunt them, and
40 during winter only. Okay.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other Council
45 comments. Mr. Andrew.

46
47 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.
48 Chairman.

49
50 Back from where I live in Kwethluk,

1 most of them right about this time they're migrating up
2 to the hills, and they winter up in the foothills,
3 depending on how much snow they got, depending on how
4 much snow we've got in the foothills. They start
5 migrating down in numbers by sometime in March. And
6 they pick up by end of March to the middle of April
7 there, most of them are gone west of Bethel area.
8 They're still going towards the coast, because I used
9 to hunt them a little bit towards -- by end of March
10 I'd be hunting out there for my families and neighbors,
11 all the way to roughly second or third week of April.
12 As soon as the migratory birds hit the area, most of
13 them are gone further west.

14

15 And I have no problem -- the only
16 problem I've got with the existing proposal is that no
17 limit on it. They could -- they need to put a number
18 in it or something like 50 a day, 100 in possession.

19

20 Not too many people go out after them
21 nowadays, but people that really do need them, they go
22 out and try to get them. And if they bring a whole
23 bunch of them, they don't keep that. They share it
24 with their neighbors and the elderly people. That's
25 our way of life.

26

27 And on the seasons, I feel if you -- we
28 don't hardly hunt them in the falltime, but a little,
29 like two or three weeks in the spring right before the
30 migratory birds hit the area, my area.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

35 Andrew.

36

37 Any other comments. Council comments.

38

39 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

42

43 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I think I try to
44 survive out there, we've got nothing but the rules and
45 regulations. We can't even -- even our people couldn't
46 even read what they are in there. All our life we can
47 go out there without no regulations. Try to survive
48 out there. Now getting today we're nothing but the
49 books all over and I don't now what's in there half the
50 time, and so I don't think -- I'm not supporting this

1 ptarmigan eggs and try to survive so much a day and all
2 that.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
7 Wilde.

8

9 We have a motion on the floor. Any
10 further discussion. Mr. Unok.

11

12 MR. UNOK: I move.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You move where?

15

16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 MR. UNOK: On the motion.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: I think he's calling for
23 the question.

24

25 MR. UNOK: I so move.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What do you mean?
28 The motion's already made. The motion has been made.

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Call for
31 the question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Question's been
34 called for.

35

36 MR. UNOK: Nobody seconded it.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, they did.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been
41 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by
42 saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

47

48 IN UNISON: Nay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How many nays? Can

1 we have a roll call vote, Bob, please.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I hollered at the wrong
4 time. I wasn't awake until -- because I'm not
5 supporting it. Why the heck did I say yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, that's what I
8 wondered, because I thought it might be a good idea if
9 we have a.....
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Too late in the day.
12 Okay.
13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: You wanted to support
15 them coastal folks.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: The motion before us is
18 to approve the Proposal WP12-51. I've got to go find
19 my roster here. And I'll go up from the top this time.
20
21
22 James Charles.
23
24 MR. CHARLES: No.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.
27
28 MR. N. ANDREW: No.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.
31
32 MR. POLTY: Say neutral.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes or no. No, he
35 says no.
36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. Harry Wilde.
38
39 MR. H. WILDE: No.
40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
42
43 MR. ONEY: Yes.
44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory
46
47 MS. GREGORY: No.
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Lester Wilde.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.
4
5 MR. UNOK: Yes.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. No.
12 John Andrew.
13
14 MR. J. ANDREW: Yes.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Six, seven no's and four
17 yes. Motion fails.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's failed.
20
21 We will recess this meeting until 9:00
22 a.m. tomorrow morning.
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 210 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically by our firm on the 29th day of September in Bethel, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of October 2011.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14