

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

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Bethel, Alaska
October 3, 2009
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Lester Wilde, Chairman
- Bob Aloysius
- John Andrew
- William Brown
- James Charles
- Mary Gregory
- Edgar Hoelscher
- Elias Kelly
- Joseph Mike
- Raymond Oney
- Greg Roczicka
- Harry Wilde

Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong (Acting)

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/3/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting back to order. Robert, for the record, please call the roll.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Roll call. James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.

MR. ONEY: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just walking in the door.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.

MR. HOELSCHER: Good morning. Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.

(No response)

MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.

MR. KELLY: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Here.

MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.

(No response)

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Here.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Here.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. Here.
10 All present accounted for, sir.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
13 We are down to Item 11, next meeting. Establish date and
14 place of winter 2010 meeting. Barbara.
15
16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, sir. Good
17 morning.
18
19 (In Native)
20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: On Page 78 there's
22 some dates I need to fill you in on. If you turn to Page
23 78. The first week of February 14th, Northwest Arctic
24 will be meeting on February 19. Seward Pen will be
25 meeting March 3 and 4. This is for the winter meeting
26 2010. For the fall meeting on the next page, Northwest
27 will meet on September 1. Seward Pen will meet October
28 13 and 14.
29
30 When you set up these meeting, you guys
31 have to stay away from Seward Pen because your
32 coordinator Alex Nick will be also working with Seward
33 Pen now from now on. He has two councils now to work
34 with, Y-K Delta and Seward Pen. Whatever dates you
35 decide on now I'll mark down for you so the discussion is
36 open for you to decide which dates you want.
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any suggestions on
39 the winter meeting. Sometime in March.
40
41 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman. March 9
42 and 10.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anybody have any
45 problems with March 9 and 10.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, 9 and 10.
50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Y-K Delta, March 9 and
2 10. Place of meeting.
3
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How about St. Mary's
5 since we've got to meet in the hub areas.
6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's your choice.
8 Whenever they have problems they'll move you back to
9 Bethel anyway. I don't have no say in saying, no, you
10 can't. I just work with you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: In the hubs we have
13 Emmonak, St. Mary's and Bethel. Quinhagak is also a hub.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is it wildlife or fish?
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Fish. Any
18 suggestions on the place for the meeting. Mr. Roczicka.
19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Since we did try for St.
21 Mary's and because of some kind of paper difficulty that
22 they weren't signed up, if they've gotten that squared
23 away maybe we should try for St. Mary's again.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, I believe that
26 would be a good idea. Since we try to meet on the
27 Kuskokwim and then on the Yukon the next meeting.
28
29 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. We were
30 going to have a meeting at Mountain Village, but they had
31 paperwork problems, so they moved it here.
32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The only thing I would
34 have to say is -- I'm sorry. Excuse me. Our office has
35 a list of hub places and that's the one that Alex has to
36 work with. You can suggest wherever you want to meet and
37 then Alex will get with you and talk with you about it.
38 I'll leave it at that. I'm just here just for this
39 meeting just to cover for him.
40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
42 Brown.
43
44 MR. BROWN: How about in Anchorage?
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: What?
47
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anchorage, he said.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't know why they keep
4 talking about the hub. We met in Lower Kalskag and
5 Marshall and those are not hubs, so I think any village
6 is open.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Barbara, do you know
9 the new policy that OSM has that we meet in the hub since
10 last year I think it was.
11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's been ongoing for
13 like the last couple years that they requested us --
14 required us to meet in the hub places because our money
15 is going low.
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any suggestions?
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move we have our next
20 meeting on March 9 and 10 at St. Mary's.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: A motion has been
23 made to have our next meeting on March 9 and 10 in St.
24 Mary's. Do I hear a second?
25
26 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.
27
28 MR. ANDREW: Second.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
31 Hoelscher. Any discussion.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All in favor say aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.
40
41 (No opposing votes)
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion is carried.
44 So the next meeting will be on March 9 and 10 at KSM.
45
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So for your
47 fall 2010 meeting, you can discuss where and what times
48 to meet and be sure not to meet close to Seward Pen.
49 That's on October 13 and 14.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We try to stay away
2 from September because of moose season in this area. So
3 any time in October?
4
5 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.
8
9 MR. CHARLES: How about 5 and 6? What's
10 wrong with that? That's after the moose hunt.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 5 and 6 has been
13 suggested by Mr. Charles. Mr. Roczicka.
14
15 MR. ROCZICKA: I just want to mention
16 that week of October 5, 6 and 7 AVCP has their
17 convention. We did try that one time and it was
18 difficult people being involved in both meetings at the
19 same time. That week there probably isn't a good one.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How about 7 and 8?
22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: I was going to suggest
24 September 30 to October 1 in case there's anything that
25 comes up here that people may want to bring to the AVCP
26 convention.
27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any problems with
29 September 30 and October 1?
30
31 MR. ANDREW: What dates?
32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: September 30 and
34 October 1, Thursday and Friday.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We'll try for
39 September 30th and October 1. And the place? Any
40 suggestions for the place? Preferably on the Kuskokwim.
41 Quinhagak? Bethel?
42
43 MR. HOELSCHER: How about Aniak?
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's Western
46 Interior.
47
48 MR. ROCZICKA: Let's try for Quinhagak.
49 It is part of our region.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Does anybody have any
2 problems with Quinhagak.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.
7
8 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. If we're
9 going to Quinhagak, maybe try to make it on Thursday and
10 Friday, not on Friday. Wednesday and Thursday. Not
11 close to the weekend.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Why is that?
14
15 MR. ANDREW: Because sometimes when the
16 weather is not going well for us, we'll be handicapped
17 out there.
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, weather is a
20 problem in any village we meet. I know it is. We'll
21 just have to chance it if that's where you want to meet.
22
23 MR. HOELSCHER: That's why I'm trying to
24 choose Aniak so we'll have a place to stay.
25
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If we were.....
27
28 MR. HOELSCHER: Like we're here in
29 Bethel, we've got hotels. Aniak has hotels also down
30 there.
31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aniak has lots of bed and
33 breakfasts, but there's no hotel.
34
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.
36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Quinhagak also has a large
38 fish plant down there that has huge bunkhouses and so
39 forth to put up, what did they say now, 100 to 150
40 workers through the course of the summer. They should be
41 done.
42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One problem we might
44 have is with private companies. They don't exactly agree
45 with the work that we do in bycatch, so I don't know
46 whether we'll be welcome there or not. That's something
47 you've got to think about too.
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there any rule against
50 meeting in another RAC area?

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I don't know. I'd
2 have to ask Madam Armstrong.
3
4 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The only problem they
5 have there is the requirement you meet in your own region
6 because in case some people usually come to your
7 meetings. I notice that here people do come, public from
8 the other regions do come here for your meeting. That's
9 the only requirement that they have is that you meet in
10 your own -- inside your boundaries.
11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. If
13 somebody would make a motion we could shoot them down or
14 agree with them.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move that
17 we have our fall 2010 meeting in Quinhagak on March 30
18 and October 1.
19
20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: September.
21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: I mean September 30 and
23 October 1.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the motion.
26 Do I hear a second?
27
28 MR. BROWN: Second.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
31 Brown. Any discussion. Go ahead, Mr. Charles.
32
33 MR. CHARLES: I'd go along with
34 Quinhagak, but use Bethel for an alternate again.
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you use Bethel
37 as an alternate.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, the alternate has to
40 be in a separate motion.
41
42 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.
45
46 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik) as a friendly
47 amendment (in Yup'ik).
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Go for it.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the motion.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question is
6 called for. All in favor say aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
11 sign.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So the next meeting
16 will be on September 30th -- the fall meeting, 2010 will
17 be on September 30th and October 1 at Quinhagak with
18 Bethel as an alternate.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Should we
21 select an alternate for St. Mary's.
22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any suggestions for
24 an alternate for St. Mary's? Mr. Brown.
25
26 MR. BROWN: Last year we had a problem
27 with the weather, so I remember some of the members
28 saying they can't come. Remember that?
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I couldn't quite
31 understand what you were saying.
32
33 MR. BROWN: The weather was a factor last
34 year when we were going to have a meeting in Yukon, so we
35 relocated the meeting here.
36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, the weather is
38 not something that's always the same every year. The
39 next time we meet there it might be a beautiful day. You
40 never know. We'll go ahead with the dates. Is there an
41 alternate for St. Mary's?
42
43 MR. HOELSCHER: Bethel.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bethel as an
46 alternate. Is there any opposition to Bethel as an
47 alternate for St. Mary's?
48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I was going
50 to suggest if we're going to try for the Yukon that maybe

1 we should try for Emo as the alternate.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's a good idea.
4 Emo as an alternate from St. Mary's. Go ahead, Mr.
5 Wilde. Did you have a suggestion?

6

7 MR. H. WILDE: Alternate St. Mary's.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, we have St.
10 Mary's as a meeting place. We need an alternate for St.
11 Mary's.

12

13 MR. H. WILDE: Tuntutuliak.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: On the Yukon. We're
16 meeting on the Kuskokwim this time. The next meeting
17 should be on the Yukon. That's been our policy when we've
18 met.

19

20 MR. H. WILDE: Well, Mr. Chairman, St.
21 Mary's could be because they have the place to sleep and
22 all that and they've got a little restaurant they use.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The meeting's already
25 going to be in St. Mary's. We need an alternate for St.
26 Mary's on the Yukon. Emmonak is another hub. Any
27 problems with Emmonak as an alternate for the Yukon
28 meeting?

29

30 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I think
31 transportation is a problem coming in from Anchorage. I
32 think Frontier goes to Emmonak.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: They do. If there
35 are no objections, since this is going to take a little
36 while, I think I'll declare Emmonak as an alternate for
37 St. Mary's for the winter meeting. Anything else you
38 got, ma'am?

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's all I have.
41 Qu yana. I've always wanted to come and be a coordinator
42 for a Y-K and this is my wish come true, and you are
43 gentleman that I can always work with and be friends with
44 you. (In Yup'ik) The Lord will be with you wherever you
45 be.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. We are at
48 Item 12. I don't mean to move so fast. You guys want us
49 to slow down, we'll slow down. Agency and organization
50 reports. First on the agenda, revised schedule/calendar

1 for program. Which program is that, OSM?

2

3 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. That's all of
4 our program, Council and Federal Board program. The
5 summary of the schedule is on Page 80 in your books.
6 I'll just real quickly go through it. Again, this
7 meeting is looking at -- yesterday you talked about
8 wildlife regulatory proposals. This is the meeting to
9 submit proposals should you choose to do so. Robert
10 Sundown yesterday talked about some proposals that the
11 refuge is considering proposing. Also you voted
12 yesterday on recommendations for the Fishery Resource
13 Monitoring Program.

14

15 Kind of moving down from those issues to
16 start with. In January, the Federal Board is going to
17 have a meeting to look at the special action regs.
18 They're going to vote on the Fishery Resource Monitoring
19 Program proposals, the ones that you made recommendations
20 on yesterday.

21

22 The closure issues are not going to be
23 addressed at that meeting, so that issue is crossed off
24 the agenda. If we keep working through the schedule,
25 your winter meeting, which you just scheduled. You'll be
26 looking at making recommendations on wildlife proposals.
27 At that time we'll have the analysis for you. You'll
28 make recommendations to the Federal Board on wildlife
29 proposals. At that meeting, you can also develop fishery
30 proposals to submit. There's the deferred Yukon
31 regulatory proposals and we're going to be asking this
32 Council, the Seward Peninsula Council, Western and
33 Eastern to develop recommendations on those deferred
34 fisheries proposals. So that will be happening at your
35 winter meeting.

36

37 The Federal Board is going to meet in
38 April specifically to deal with those deferred Yukon
39 proposals. Those are the mesh depth and the mesh size
40 proposals that came in. In May, the Board will have its
41 normal wildlife meeting to basically deliberate on
42 wildlife regulatory proposals. Basically next fall
43 you'll be looking at fisheries proposals that come in.
44 What the Board is going to be looking at is essentially
45 having the Board meetings in the winter.

46

47 So that's the general scheme, but we just
48 wanted to give you a future perspective on what the
49 schedule looks like. If it's okay, I can move on to the
50 next informational item.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Tom.

2

3 MR. KRON: Mary Gregory has been
4 representing your Council on the bear claw working group.
5 She volunteered to represent you at the last meeting.
6 There's some summary information presented on Pages 81
7 and 82. I'll give a brief history and then we'll turn it
8 over to George and we can answer any questions you have.
9 I see Mary is here. Perfect timing, Mary.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let the record show
12 that Mary came in.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: Good morning.

15

16 MR. KRON: The material is presented in
17 your books on Page 81 and 82. This issues was discussed
18 at the Federal Board meeting in April and May of 2008.
19 Essentially what the Board did was to defer a decision on
20 this. There was a desire to get input from the Councils
21 and to have Staff work on it some more to try and flesh
22 it out. A status briefing on the issues was presented to
23 the Councils six months ago when you met here in Bethel.
24 At that time, as I mentioned, Mary Gregory volunteered to
25 represent you on the working group.

26

27 The discussion so far has talked about
28 typed of tracking systems, how to track bear handicrafts
29 and various things were discussed, but they've been
30 focusing on how to do it basically with paper kinds of
31 issues rather than looking at microchips and those kinds
32 of things that are used on some other critters in other
33 parts of the world.

34

35 Council members that participated in the
36 process had questions on some various topics and they've
37 been responding back to those representatives. Again, I
38 think it might be good to hear from Mary what her
39 perspective was. My understanding is there's a desire to
40 have -- to bring all of the Council reps in for a
41 discussion on this issue this fall later. It might be
42 good to hear from Mary since she participated in the
43 discussion on this issue earlier this year.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: Mary Gregory. I attended
46 that meeting. It was kind of like educational for me.
47 They were talking about different -- not just bear claws,
48 but people copying or stuff like that. They were trying
49 to keep it around here. We were supposed to have another
50 meeting, but we didn't get around to it yet. My notes

1 are in my house. I forgot to bring them. It was kind of
2 educational for me because we don't use bear parts here
3 other than the fur.

4
5 MR. KRON: Again, Mr. Chairman, we just
6 wanted to continue to keep you up to date on the issue.
7 If you've got any questions, George Pappas and I will try
8 to answer them. If not, the commitment is to continue to
9 work with Mary. The intent is that she would be able to
10 come in for a face-to-face meeting with the others on
11 this issue later this fall. I'm guessing there will
12 probably be another briefing at your winter meeting.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I notice on Page 82
17 there were several suggestions how to track it. One
18 stated together allocate a tag information as a possible
19 example for tracking sales. Did they come up with any
20 suggestions that could be used?

21
22 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
23 Department of Fish and Game. I monitor the work group.
24 Yes, CITES is in place, the Convention on International
25 Trade of Endangered Species of wild animals. There's
26 already a mechanism in place to track polar bears,
27 alligator claws.

28
29 Greenland has a very well established
30 process. It's permitting. It's a paper tracking
31 mechanism. Fortunately one of the people on the
32 committee, on this work group, worked with customs and
33 understood what's required to import and export
34 handicrafts in and out of United States into Europe and
35 other countries. There is a mechanism in place that
36 would work for this. The work group's charge was to come
37 up with options to bring to the RACs, to the bring to the
38 Federal Subsistence Board to make a decision.

39
40 I believe the alligator tag situation is
41 a small tag with each claw. If you buy a claw and you
42 want to take it to Europe or some other place, you'd have
43 the piece of paper to prove that it was a legally-
44 harvested, sustainably-harvested animal. That the
45 handicraft was legal to own and it's done in a
46 sustainable manner. Something along those lines could be
47 recommended by the RACs, by the work group, to the
48 Federal Subsistence Board to review. Some type of means
49 to totally separate the Federal subsistence users and
50 their handicrafts from any other user group, any illegal

1 activity, poachers, anything along the lines. Something
2 to totally protect the subsistence users and the resource
3 by saying this is a legal item. This item can go
4 anywhere in the world. That's along the lines of what
5 they were trying to find during this work group, sir.

6

7

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.

10

11

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Not having
12 tracked brown bears much, I'd be curious where -- are
13 they listed as endangered in the Lower 48 to fall under
14 CITES? What other countries? I was thinking Siberia
15 maybe.

16

17

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Basically the
18 black and brown bear are in fine shape. We think in
19 parts of the state we've almost got record numbers of
20 them in Alaska. The challenge there is there are other
21 parts of the country, other parts of the United States
22 where black and brown bear are endangered or threatened.
23 Again, you can't tell when a claw shows up in some other
24 state where it came from. So the hope was to have some
25 kind of a tracking system to make it crystal clear that
26 these bears that were being harvested in Alaska were from
27 a sustainable population that's managed.

28

29

Again, as George was talking about and
30 Mary's been involved, the intent is to try to have a
31 system that's simple, easy to understand and isn't going
32 to cost a lot of money to operate.

33

34

MR. ROCZICKA: Would it be possible to do
35 the same thing you did like the walrus ivory handicraft
36 where it's a little infrared stamp or something that's
37 visible under a fluorescent light?

38

39

MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. That was
40 talked about, the different technologies available. One
41 of the big items the work group discussed where would
42 that technology be available. The most common
43 denominator in the world would probably be some type of
44 paper permitting process.

45

46

Along the same lines as you're talking
47 about, that's the idea, but how to do that where
48 everybody has a level playing field to be able to
49 understand whether or not it is legal. As a biologist,
50 I like the idea of a pit tag or radio tags or something,

1 but that's just not possible. Maybe 20, 30 years from
2 now, but not now.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: If it's good enough for a
7 walrus ivory to separate it out from elephant ivory or
8 whatever else, it ought to be adequate for bear claws.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other Council
11 members have any questions concerning the bear claws.
12 Mr. Hoelscher.

13

14 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 The first paragraph in item number 3 where it says sales
16 of brown bear handicrafts made of claws, bones, et
17 cetera, only be allowed between Federally qualified
18 subsistence users. Does that mean only the qualified
19 users are able to purchase from each other?

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. That was the
22 original proposal, but that's not what the Federal
23 Subsistence Board wanted. The Federal Subsistence Board
24 deferred the proposal so we can discuss a mechanism to
25 meet the needs for tracking. That was not passed
26 through.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are there any further
31 questions. What was your suggestion? You wanted the
32 Council to -- go ahead, Mr. Kron.

33

34 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, it's
35 just an informational item. We briefed you on it six
36 months ago and we're briefing you again. Again Mary is
37 involved now. The intent is for this working group to
38 have a face-to-face meeting later this year. I just
39 wanted to give you an update. I'm guessing there will be
40 another update when you meet in the winter.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
43 questions concerning bear claw before we move to the next
44 item? Go ahead.

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department of
47 Fish and Game, through the Chair. The first meeting we
48 had we had representatives from different RAC meetings on
49 the telephone and asked us a whole list of questions and
50 we spent all summer during four or five meetings to come

1 up with answers for those questions. We have not been
2 able to arrange another work group with the RAC members
3 because of subsistence during the summertime and people
4 were busy, so we want to have a face-to-face meeting to
5 put all the answers in front of the representatives and
6 then possibly come up with some recommendations to bring
7 forward to the Federal Subsistence Board. That's where
8 we're at and we will have an update for you at the next
9 RAC.

10

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any further questions on bear claws.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There being none, we'll go on to the next item. Thank you. Mr. Kron.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council. The next informational item starts on Page 93 and it continues on and you've got a copy of the draft of the regulations. They haven't been included in the Federal regulatory process yet. They haven't been adopted and put out, so we're still in the early part.

Essentially what these are is an update to the special action regulations. What is being considered is included, the regulatory wording is included in the following pages. Looks like 84 through 93. When they wanted to update these, we're on a two-year cycle now, so that was originally the first thing that they wanted to look at. The other things that they built into this is a requirement for more input from the Councils than we had in the original regulations, the current regulations. Again, they have not actually been posted on the Federal Register yet. We just wanted to let you know that this is in process. I think when they are posted on the Federal Register they'll be open for public comments. I do have a copy of the current standing regs if anybody wants to see those.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Kron on Section 19 regs. Mr. Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Tom, do you have any summary of the major changes that have occurred?

MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The major

1 changes relate to going from a one-year cycle to a two-
2 year cycle. As I noted earlier briefly, the re-write
3 incorporates more solid requirements for input from the
4 Councils on the various special actions that come in.
5 Seeking input as you're developing recommendations before
6 the Board meets on the special actions.

7

8

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
11 Any further questions. Mr. Charles.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. How much
14 time did you say we need to get our special action
15 proposals in before the Board meets.

16

17 MR. KRON: I think on special actions
18 they come in throughout the year depending on what the
19 issues are. I've seen the Board address special actions
20 within a week. Other times it takes more time. Other
21 times it takes months. People send special actions in
22 when they see something that is an emergency. Things have
23 changed erratically since the last regulatory proposal
24 cycle. Then basically the Staff work with the Board to
25 try to get a response back to that special action. To do
26 things in between cycles there's requirements about what
27 has to be met in order for it to be changed. Again,
28 these particular regs that are in your book have been
29 submitted but they haven't actually been entered into the
30 Federal regulatory process yet. Again, they're open for
31 comment and we just wanted to let you know that this is
32 being considered and in the process shortly.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tom. Mr.
37 Roczicka.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Tom, what
40 other sections of the Federal regs are incorporated
41 in.....

42

43 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. I was -- I don't
44 have the ability to listen to two people at one time.

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: I stopped talking when I
47 noticed that.

48

49 MR. KRON: Okay. Jerry has some input.
50 He's been involved in this process. I guess I'd

1 recommend maybe he could provide that input and then Greg
2 can ask his question. I apologize.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Jerry.

5

6 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Jerry
7 Berg with Fish and Wildlife Service. Yeah, there's been
8 a number of us that have been involved with reviewing
9 these. I think probably the biggest change is that the
10 current regs say that the Board will only accept a
11 special action if there are extenuating circumstances
12 basically so they don't want to review everything all the
13 time. They mainly want people to go through the normal
14 regulatory process. If there's extenuating circumstances
15 such as a change in the population or a change in people
16 being able to meet their subsistence needs, then they
17 would accept a special action request.

18

19 Now that's been changed. If you go to
20 Page 92, letter C on the right side of the page, now says
21 the Board may reject a request for either an emergency or
22 temporary special action if the Board concludes there are
23 no time-sensitive circumstances. That's probably the
24 biggest change. We've gone away from extenuating
25 circumstances to, you know, if there's no time sensitive
26 circumstances, then the Board might reject that request
27 and defer it on to the regular proposal cycle. So that's
28 probably the biggest change that's been made here.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
31 Berg.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Berg. Mary. What do
34 you mean by that? Can you say that in layman's terms?

35

36 MR. BERG: Like if somebody submits a
37 special action now, we have to determine has there been
38 a significant change in the population to warrant
39 addressing that change now or can we just go ahead and
40 wait a year to address it.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: Like closing the season.

43

44 MR. BERG: Yeah, such as closing the
45 season because the population has taken a sudden turn for
46 the negative. Now nobody really knows what's a time-
47 sensitive circumstance. We haven't really gone there,
48 but that's what the solicitor's office has recommended
49 that we use that language. We really haven't used those
50 regulations yet, so we don't really know. Kind of a

1 small change, I think.

2

3 MS. GREGORY: My concern is that the way
4 the Lower Yukon people were deprived of getting their
5 subsistence fish last summer or this summer. How do I
6 address that?

7

8 MR. BERG: Well, I don't think it would
9 change that type of situation. If we have a time-
10 sensitive situation where the fish population is
11 obviously -- the fish are not returning to a stream like
12 we expect them to, that kind of situation I think would
13 be addressed under both regulations.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: That's somebody else's
16 opinion. We think it's otherwise. We think there were
17 a lot of fish and the people who were watching it weren't
18 doing their job.

19

20 MR. BERG: But it was still a change in
21 the population and we could address that. This change
22 wouldn't have affected that situation, I don't think,
23 either way.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Jerry. Go
26 ahead, Mr. Kron.

27

28 MR. KRON: I just wanted to make a
29 comment. Again, I think the definition of time sensitive
30 or extenuating or some of the other words that are used
31 in here kind of is in the eyes of the beholder. What's
32 time sensitive to you might not be time sensitive to
33 somebody else. I'm sure there's going to be a lot of
34 discussion at the Councils and at the Board about what's
35 time sensitive and what isn't. That's just the reality,
36 but I think to put that word in there the indication is
37 that we need to look at issues that really do need to be
38 addressed because it's critical in terms of meeting
39 subsistence needs or the population from a time
40 standpoint.

41

42 As Greg knows in the State system,
43 there's a lot of deliberations about which requests for
44 reconsideration to accept and which ones not to and
45 trying to schedule something in outside the normal cycle.
46 There's debate in the Board process on the State side and
47 the Federal side about whether or not it meets the
48 requirements. The intent is to be more sensitive to the
49 timely issues. Again, like I said earlier, the new
50 wording here builds in more requirements for input from

1 the Councils, which to me is a good thing.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any other
6 information. I notice there's a young lady talking with
7 Jerry. We'll recognize you, ma'am.

8

9 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi. This is Pat
10 Petrivelli, BIA subsistence. One other change that's in
11 there is that in accepting emergency special actions it
12 added the provision that the Board may also reopen public
13 lands. It's on Page 91, Section A, and it's the last
14 paragraph of Section A. They added that it may reopen
15 public lands to non-subsistence uses if new information
16 or changed conditions indicated that the closure is no
17 longer warranted. I think before it was just part of the
18 regulatory cycle and this adds it to special actions.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
21 Roczicka.

22

23 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Thank you, Pat. I was getting to that. Since this
25 special provision is put in there to reopen for non-
26 subsistence uses by the Federal Subsistence Board, if new
27 information or changed conditions indicate that the
28 closure is no longer warranted, that should also be
29 provided for circumstances such as we have, time
30 sensitive circumstances, for the petitions that were
31 given to you earlier this year specifically for that
32 boundary change that would have allowed people to hunt
33 the Johnson River, so people have to forego. I mean it's
34 lost opportunity. A lot more people could have got moose
35 this year that didn't, both on the Yukon and the
36 Kuskokwim, for those petitions that were but forward.

37

38 So there's been a special provision put
39 in that says if new information or changed conditions
40 indicate -- indicate, not absolute, give the same
41 provisions that you're giving to non-subsistence users to
42 subsistence users under your special action, whether you
43 do it under temporary or wherever you do it. Or include
44 it under Item C. Put it in there somewhere. But if it's
45 going to be done for non-subsistence uses for the Board
46 that's supposed to be providing for subsistence first and
47 providing for that opportunity, that is totally wrong to
48 have that there and not give the same latitude.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any comments to that.

1 Jerry.

2

3 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman. I think Tom
4 said it. It's all in the eye of the beholder on how do
5 you define time sensitive. I think it's referring to the
6 Board's closure policy. You reopen lands that were
7 previously closed.

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: Like west of the Johnson.

10

11 MR. BERG: Right. The boundary closure,
12 whether that's a time sensitive action or not, I don't
13 know how the Board would have reacted if we had these
14 different regulations in place when they reviewed that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Jerry.

17 Mr. Kron.

18

19 MR. KRON: Just to comment. If folks are
20 going to submit a special action request, a lot of them
21 are going to look at the regs and see what wording is
22 used. If you know now that in the future if these are
23 adopted, that time sensitivity is going to be an issue,
24 when you write your special action request you're going
25 to talk about the time sensitive issues related to that
26 special action knowing that that's going to be one of the
27 things that they're looking at.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Pippa.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Everything that's been said
34 is true and accurate, but just to clarify a little more.
35 The regs have different levels. There's different
36 sections in the regs for special actions. By and large,
37 special actions refer to requirements for the taking of
38 animals and for subsistence uses. In general, items that
39 fall outside of seasons and bag limits or harvest limits
40 will not be considered through the special action process
41 by and large. So the issue of the topic that you just
42 brought forward about the boundary change, that's one of
43 the reasons why it fell outside.

44

45 MR. ROCZICKA: It refers directly to
46 the.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Please go through the
49 Chair.....

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:so you can be
4 recognized. Thank you. Mr. Roczicka.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It's
7 related directly to the taking if you open a piece of
8 ground for someone to be able to go in there and legally
9 take it. Again, it's just running off into semantic
10 dances basically and the bureaucracy. I want to
11 encourage that change be put in there that new
12 information or changed conditions indicate that these
13 closures are no longer warranted should apply directly to
14 the special actions that come from the subsistence users
15 and the people of the area as they are being given
16 consideration to non-subsistence users to reopen areas.
17 That needs to be incorporated to provide that same
18 consideration to subsistence users and people that are
19 there to supposedly represent and provide their
20 priorities under Title VIII of ANILCA and everything
21 else.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead,
24 Jerry.

25

26 MR. BERG: I would say that could be a
27 recommendation from the Council to the Board. I don't
28 know how the solicitors would respond to that, but I
29 think it's a good suggestion for the Board to consider.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I move that
34 that does be incorporated into it as I just explained
35 again. I don't need to repeat myself if it's on the
36 record. Perhaps I might also suggest if we have a
37 representative from this Council to attend that meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: A motion has been
40 made. Do I hear a second.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Discussion. Mr.
45 Aloysius, do you have a question? You look like
46 something is bothering you.

47

48 MR. ALOYSIUS: I am totally lost.
49 There's too much arguing between people and somebody
50 trying to outdo somebody else. I'm totally lost.

1 Forgive me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There is no argument.
4 There's just discussion on that. The motion is on the
5 floor and it's been seconded to include -- could you
6 paraphrase that again. Could you go over that motion to
7 include suggested language.

8

9 MR. ROCZICKA: Under the special actions
10 that are undertaken by the Board that when a proposal
11 comes from the subsistence users of an area, the criteria
12 -- if new information or changed conditions indicate that
13 a change is warranted, it should be provided to the
14 subsistence users as well.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions on the
17 motion. Mr. Kron.

18

19 MR. KRON: Again, consistent with what
20 Jerry was recommending and I think what I heard in Greg's
21 motion, but if you could put this down in a letter to the
22 Federal Board, I think it would be really good. It's on
23 the record, but I think a letter to clarify. Again, as
24 I mentioned earlier, this is one issue -- again, if it
25 gets posted in the Federal Register soon enough, the
26 Board was hoping to look at it in their winter meeting.
27 If it doesn't get posted soon enough, it may not happen
28 then. It might happen next spring. I don't know. In
29 any case, it would be good to get that input into the
30 process. Since it's not in the Federal Register, the
31 input can't occur at that level, but communications with
32 the Board with a letter I think would be very good.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Berg.

37

38 MR. BERG: I just wanted to point out
39 before you guys vote on this that if you look at the very
40 first sentence in that paragraph what you're suggesting
41 may already be provided in that it says in emergency
42 situation the Board may immediately open or close lands
43 for the taking of fish or wildlife for subsistence uses.
44 So maybe what you're suggesting does look like maybe it's
45 already provided in the first sentence of that paragraph
46 unless you were thinking of something different. Mr.
47 Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess
2 that's part of where I was starting to go in the first
3 place. I was wondering where criteria is in some other
4 section of the Federal subsistence law that's overriding
5 what's laid out in here. Every criteria that I see in
6 here has been met by the special actions that came from
7 this Board here because it didn't meet the extenuating
8 circumstances or because it says it's a boundary change
9 instead of the actual taking of the animal with the
10 harvest regulations. Basically denied subsistence
11 opportunity that was available to people by being able to
12 reopen. So these criteria were essentially thrown aside
13 through argument and debate, but they're very clear right
14 here.

15
16 So it needs to be made more clear to the
17 Board that when that opportunity is available, when new
18 information or changed conditions show, that they will
19 take that action. They won't meander around and debate.
20 It needs to be stated more clearly because there's
21 opportunity denied for absolutely no biological reason.

22
23
24 When we have conditions such as this and
25 that special action comes forward and the chance to
26 provide the subsistence opportunity that's otherwise
27 being denied, they should take that action. That's what
28 I'm looking to get here.

29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Pippa.

31
32 MS. KENNER: Greg, I understand your
33 sentiments. I even share some of them and there's quite
34 a bit of support for that sentiment within OSM, but some
35 of the changes that were recommended here were to help
36 with something else. You might remember that last year
37 we had a special action for C&T for 21E for communities
38 that involved Lower Kalskag, which is why this RAC got
39 involved. There were some people who thought that the
40 special action regulations that C&T didn't qualify
41 because it wasn't a take issue and it wasn't a
42 conservation issue. Because of the way the regulation
43 was written and it was pretty unclear, our leadership
44 decided that we should take this up.

45
46 We took it up and we went through the
47 public comment period and we had the other RAC
48 teleconferencing. What we found out going through all
49 that was that a C&T, especially of the nature of this
50 C&T, we were told that people needed to think about it

1 and it needed to go through the regular process. It
2 needed the deliberation of the Council to be analyzed,
3 for people to have it beforehand, a copy of the analysis
4 beforehand.

5
6 When we went to the every other year
7 regulatory cycle, we started getting a lot of proposals
8 for special actions that were actually proposals for
9 regulation change because people were getting used to
10 that every other year cycle.

11
12 There was a court case where the judge
13 said I can't understand when you're using these special
14 action regulations and what they mean. So because of all
15 these things coming together, it was realized that we
16 needed to rewrite it and make it a little bit more clear
17 regarding those actions, but that doesn't deny what
18 you're saying and things can be interpreted differently
19 by different people.

20
21 To help the public understand the process
22 and for us not to take requests for regulation changes
23 out of order to deny an adequate comment period, that's
24 the main reason why these changes were made. I just
25 wanted to inform the Council that it was a positive move
26 rather than to block access to the process.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
29 discussion on the motion.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Everybody understand
34 the motion. Mr. Charles.

35
36 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. Why I
37 seconded Greg's motion was thinking about State's ACR,
38 agenda change request. The way I understand Greg was to
39 make it easier for us to make our request for special
40 action when we have some proposal that our people who we
41 represent wants. Is that what your point was or did I
42 misunderstand it?

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Greg.

45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It was more
47 to the point of -- well, ACR or a petition, what it would
48 be on the State side. Actually, when you have all the
49 managers agreeing and the people agreeing and the
50 Councils agreeing of an area, to put more clear language

1 in there on how the Board will not deny the opportunity
2 for people when it's there. Give the Board less latitude
3 to wander off on tangents that may apply in the Florida
4 Everglades but they don't apply in rural Alaska.

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
7 discussion.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question has been
14 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
15 aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same
20 sign.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So ordered. Thank
25 you. Next item on the agenda. Status of deferred Yukon
26 River fisheries proposal. Mr. Kron.

27
28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. On page 94 and
29 95 of your book it gives some history of the two
30 proposals that I mentioned, the mesh depth and mesh size
31 proposals. They've been deferred until after the Board
32 of Fish meets this coming winter, at which time then the
33 Councils will have an opportunity to weigh in and the
34 Board will take a look at the issue as well. We wanted
35 to let you know what the plan and schedule is, but
36 they're in a holding pattern right now.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
41 questions on the deferred fisheries proposals.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, let's go to
46 Item 5, NPFMC update regarding chinook and chum salmon
47 bycatch. Mr. Kron.

48
49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. As I think all
50 of you know, and it was discussed yesterday, the North

1 Pacific Council met last spring and made some changes to
2 the chinook salmon bycatch issue. The Western Interior,
3 Yukon Council, Bristol Bay, Seward Pen, as well as the
4 Federal Subsistence Board weighed in and were
5 recommending a 29,232 bycatch limit. What the council
6 ultimately did was considerably higher than that and has
7 generated a lot of discussion and concern. We provided
8 some summary information there on that process.

9
10 In June this past summer the North
11 Pacific Council reviewed and revised a suite of
12 alternatives for chum salmon bycatch as well. The chum
13 salmon bycatch issue is on their agenda as well. The
14 public will have an opportunity to comment and testify
15 when the North Pacific Council works its way through the
16 process this coming year. Again, I'm sure that OSM will
17 be seeking involvement and input from the Councils in the
18 process.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
23 Kron on the bycatch issue.

24
25 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

28
29 MR. H. WILDE: I went to meetings of
30 North Pacific Fishery when they're talking about king
31 salmon and chum salmon and there's some people there they
32 don't support subsistence. When we have a meeting Native
33 to Native, those supporters of North Pacific Fishery
34 they're saying subsistence is not important.

35
36 I was over there when the man from the
37 Federal was saying I wish there was more advisors from
38 Yukon-Kuskokwim when they're talking about chums and king
39 salmon. It's kind of hard to represent subsistence when
40 other Native supporters of North Pacific are saying
41 subsistence is not important to them. I think when a
42 person has a chance to represent his own people or the
43 subsistence users, it would be good for someone who has
44 a chance or a way to go in and represent. Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I believe it was
47 Coastal Villages Region Fund organization that brought in
48 a lot of their employees to testify on behalf of the
49 pollock theme that they have within the organization and
50 they have a lot more money than we have as far as

1 bringing in people from other -- and other organizations
2 that work within the Yukon on the bycatch. Can't really
3 cotton to the money those guys are making, so I think
4 that was a reason why we didn't have as many people
5 testifying on our behalf as the organization that I work
6 for. Coastal Villages came in and was able to bring in
7 all those people. They brought in just about every
8 employee they had working for them at the time. That was
9 one big area where we were lacking due to funds
10 available.

11

12 Mr. Charles.

13

14 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. I was
15 elected CFC for this Council last year and I thought they
16 might have sent me to the North Pacific Council meeting,
17 but nobody asked me, so I stayed home and didn't go.
18 Since I was elected fisheries coordinator for this
19 Council I was expecting to go to that kind of fisheries
20 meeting, but I wasn't asked, so I kept my mouth shut.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think one of the
25 reasons why our CFCs weren't called in there, was that
26 due to funding or what was the problem there? Go ahead.

27

28 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. We funded one
29 person from each of the Councils to come in. Up there
30 under the first bullet, Chairman of the Board Mike
31 Fleagle my understanding was there, as was Ray Collins,
32 Ray Oney, Randy Alvarez from the Bristol Bay area, and
33 Weaver Ivanoff from Seward Pen. Those were the
34 representatives basically that the Federal Subsistence
35 Program had at that meeting to testify. Maybe Ray has
36 something to say.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Yeah, I was there, as you see in the outline of what was
44 said during that meeting. This is one area, the bycatch,
45 that we've identified as being one of the causes for the
46 decline of the chinook salmon and it needs to be
47 acknowledged by the Fish and Wildlife, OSM, whoever the
48 Federal people are that are regulating these fisheries.
49 We need to let them acknowledge that this is one area
50 that we've identified that we could work toward coming to

1 a resolution, whether it be sanctions or whatever it
2 takes to try and eliminate that bycatch.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kron.

7

8 MR. KRON: Just to clarify, and it's in
9 that first bullet, from the Councils to OSM to the
10 Federal Board, there was a unified presentation to the
11 Pacific Council and that was that they wanted a hard cap
12 of 29,232 chinook. So the OSM program, the Federal
13 Subsistence Program, the Councils, were all united. That
14 isn't what the North Pacific Council did. Again, our
15 part of the program, what we've got control of, was
16 united in the presentation there to the Council.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There were also other
21 organizations involved with that. I think YRDFA was also
22 one of those people that suggested 29,000 as a cap. They
23 worked with you guys on that. Any further questions on
24 the bycatch.

25

26 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

29

30 MR. H. WILDE: We're at Mountain Village
31 tribal and city and corporation, we get together meeting
32 because we're on a target area for some things, fisheries
33 and subsistence mostly. We get together meetings and we
34 put down money together and sometime send a couple
35 people, like city, tribal and corporation, they get
36 together and put the funding. Sometime they send two
37 person to Anchorage.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any more
40 discussion on the bycatch issues.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you.
45 Mr. Kron. Going to Item 6, Department of the Interior's
46 position on compensation for Council members.

47

48 MR. KRON: This has been an ongoing
49 issue. OSM and Federal Board have a number of times in
50 the past eight years made requests to the Secretary of

1 Interior different -- we've had several different
2 Secretaries of Interior with different administrations to
3 allow payment of stipends to Council members. In addition
4 to per diem and travel expenses, those requests have been
5 denied. My understanding is there are a number of
6 councils for various functions across the country and
7 basically what they're saying is that there are no
8 exceptions with regarding compensation of committee and
9 council members. So basically they're saying it is what
10 it is and they're not going to change it.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
15 Any questions. Mr. Aloysius.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Has anybody
18 ever approached
19 the Department of Interior that instead of paying a
20 stipend that each Council member be provided an
21 honorarium.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kron.

24

25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Armstrong.

28

29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: A few years ago --
30 we've been working on this a very long time. When North
31 Slope brought it up, we talked with the Chair at the
32 time, who was Mitch Demientieff and he did write a letter
33 on your behalf to the Secretary of Interior requesting an
34 honorarium for the Council members and it was still
35 denied. And there was another letter that followed after
36 that and they were all denied because the money was
37 getting lesser and lesser. So there was a request.

38

39 Thank you, sir.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ms.
42 Armstrong. Okay. We are down to -- I'm a little
43 confused on this one. On the National Wildlife Refuge I
44 got a note here that B(1) is moved on to.....

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's here. Buzzy's
47 here. He's going to do both.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll have a
50 10-minute break.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know there are some
6 people that would like to get home today, so let's see if
7 we can keep moving right along. We're down to National
8 Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Peltola.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
11 Members of the Council. My name is Gene Peltola, Jr.
12 I'm the refuge manager for Yukon Delta National Wildlife
13 Refuge. The refuge doesn't have very much to report from
14 the last meeting we had this spring. I'll run down a
15 brief summary. Steve Miller, one of the fisheries
16 biologists we have on staff, will run through some of the
17 fisheries projects he's been working on this summer.

18

19 First off, we had a typical summer where
20 we did some banding work. We banded a total of 1,500
21 Pintail and Mallards. We met our quota of 250 Cacklers.
22 These are national targets. Then we banded 150 swans.
23 The swan work was done north of Bethel. The ducks were
24 over by Mud Volcanoes. The goose work was over by the
25 (indiscernible).

26

27 The refuge hasn't conducted any moose
28 surveys since we last met. We try to do moose surveys
29 during the winter on the tributaries of the Kuskokwim,
30 but bad weather precluded that, so we were unable to pull
31 those off. One thing is that the refuge takes moose
32 management seriously. We spend hundreds and hundreds of
33 thousands of dollars a year to address moose management
34 on 18.

35

36 Part of that effort is this summer we
37 brought on a grad student to do browse work on the
38 tributaries of the Kuskokwim and also the Lower Yukon.
39 With the last three winters reports of localized die-offs
40 first with calves and then adult moose on the Yukon, we
41 kind of stepped up our timeframe to try to address browse
42 quality and quantity earlier than we had anticipated. So
43 we started establishing plots on the Kwethluk and then
44 down in the lower mouth of the Yukon to look at browse
45 status.

46

47 The refuge is in the process of drafting
48 a Brant Colony Management Plan of the five colonies on
49 the Delta. We have two of the colonies which have not
50 had very good productivity the last several years. One

1 of those being Tutokuk (ph), which is south of Hooper.
2 The other is Kokechik Bay. Part of that management plan
3 may address manipulation of arctic fox populations and/or
4 gull populations. That will be a tool available in the
5 future if need be.

6
7 Another project we initiated this past
8 winter. As we all know, our fall storm surges,
9 especially on the coast, used to happen on a 20, 30, 40
10 and longer series, the time between these big storm
11 surges. Since 2004 and 5 they've been coming more
12 frequent, especially during September, October when we
13 get those fall storms. We started noticing that some of
14 our -- I guess you could call them inland waterways, some
15 of the rivers. We felt we were getting a little higher
16 salt content in those spring surges and some of the lakes
17 we have on the coast were increasing the salinity or the
18 salt content due to that saltwater coming in the fall.

19
20 One aspect of the project is that Dan
21 Gillikin, our fisheries biologist, is excellent at water
22 analysis. So we went out and did a series of up to 100
23 lakes where we took core and ice samples to measure if we
24 got down to water to see what the salinity content or the
25 amount of salt was in that water and monitoring that over
26 time.

27
28 In addition, we're in the process of
29 purchasing some high quality very expensive satellite
30 imagery which allow us to -- you know, the refuge itself
31 is 20 million acres. So we have targeted the middle
32 coast, the area between Askinuks and Nelson Island.
33 We're acquiring imagery there so that we can have a long-
34 term data set and see physical changes due to the sea
35 level rise.

36
37 We did a couple in-house small modeling
38 projects where we could significantly alter our coastline
39 and some of the lake systems we have and river system
40 with as little as one meter increase in sea level rise.

41
42 More immediate concern is the increase in
43 freshwater lakes here in the last few years by when we
44 get those storm surges that push saltwater in as far as
45 25 miles inland. When they recede, which we didn't
46 anticipate but we're starting to see is that when some of
47 these lakes flood we increase the salt level in those
48 lakes, but when they also recede the overflow coming out
49 is more or less making a trench from the lake down to the
50 sloughs and rivers. So instead of having a freshwater

1 lake system we either have a higher salt content or some
2 of the worst case scenarios we're seeing is that these
3 trenches when they drain the lake we end up with a big
4 mud flat where we used to have a lake. So that's one of
5 the more recent projects we initiated this past spring
6 and summer.

7
8 One thing that a lot of people are
9 interested in is amount of sport harvest we have on the
10 refuge. We used to have a guide use area which was
11 occupied up until a couple years ago on the Kilbuk
12 Mountains going towards the Kuskokwim Hills. That's one
13 of three designated guide use areas that the refuge has.
14 One of the areas is the Andraefsky, which is currently
15 vacant. The other is Nunivak Island. Nunivak Island
16 guide use area is established so local residents could
17 guide sport hunters out for muskox.

18
19 The area up here is basically a bear
20 hunting area. We haven't in the past, but when we put
21 this out to bid, per se, we put a limitation on it. No
22 more than five bear can be taken per year. That's the
23 spring and summer. That was based on our biologist's
24 best scientific guess at what we could remove from the
25 population without adversely hurting the population.

26
27 About a month and a half ago awarded that
28 guide use area to a local guide here in Bethel and if we
29 go through the process, the guide which was not selected
30 can appeal it and if it goes to appeal, it goes to the
31 regional director and uphold or delay our selection. So
32 we have a guide that will be operating the Kilbuks.
33 Right now, since there's no moose season, it's not open
34 to moose harvest, and the guide has stipulated if and
35 when the caribou do return, that he may offer guided
36 caribou hunts, but that's not anything he plans on doing
37 in the near future.

38
39 In addition too on the refuge we have
40 this fall two permitted transporters, who take out
41 typically non-local or non-residents of the state, drop
42 them off on the moose hunt. Last year we had 26 parties.
43 All indications from the two transporters we have out of
44 Bethel were that they had a total of 11 clients to drop
45 off, which is about a third of what we had last year.
46 The gut feeling is that because of the economic downturn
47 in the country, a lot less people have expendable income,
48 so they're not spending as much money on hunting.

49
50 What we have reported so far is a total

1 of 11 clients dropped off. Majority of those, that
2 hunting effort is centered upon from Devil's Elbow to
3 about the upper Kashunuk. I think there's one party in
4 there. In order to issue a special use permit on the
5 refuge for commercial activity, I, as refuge manager,
6 have to take a couple steps.

7
8 First we have to do a compatibility
9 determination, meaning that that activity is consistent
10 with the purpose of the refuge, which has already been
11 done. Most refuges in Alaska do those on a 10 or 12 year
12 schedule.

13
14 The second thing I, as a refuge manager,
15 have to do is that there's not significant impact on
16 local subsistence users, Section .810 of ANILCA. The
17 refuge had not done it, but we started initiating it last
18 fall. Before a transporter could take out a moose
19 hunting client he had to come into our office, give us a
20 lat/long and say I want to bring somebody to this point.
21 After we had a list of potential drop-off points, between
22 myself, our deputy and our third level manager, we'd go
23 through and the criteria utilizes that the drop-off point
24 was not within one nautical mile of a Native allotment,
25 was not in any high-density area of Native allotments and
26 was not boat accessible. If it met those three criteria,
27 we authorized the location for a drop off.

28
29 The boat accessible criteria doesn't hold
30 true when we talk about the Nageethluk, up in there,
31 north of Marshall. There have been a couple people that
32 have hunted that drainage in the past by float hunting.
33 A lot of times they're dropped off outside the refuge.
34 They float down the river stream and they're pulled out.
35 We have authorized that activity because it's a different
36 type of hunt in addition to -- we had one boat based
37 operator who wanted to provide transport services up on
38 the same drainage in the past.

39
40 Compared last year to this year, we've
41 gone from five permitted transporters down to two. I
42 think that's just based on economics. They're dropping
43 off hunters elsewhere, but not on the refuge.

44
45 We had a field camp on the Kwethluk doing
46 our Soran work and that's where we use imagery to try to
47 catalog the Kwethluk River regarding salmon rearing
48 habitat. That camp, we had a camp fire there about five,
49 six weeks ago, so the majority of our staff is either at
50 a commitment in Anchorage, which I came back early from

1 this morning so I could be here today, or cleaning up the
2 campsite on the Kwethluk.

3

4 We have Steve Miller, who is from the
5 Kenai fisheries office, who is stationed here in Bethel
6 and works with us. We consider him one of our refuge
7 biologists even though he actually works for somebody
8 else and he has a summary of the weir and fisheries
9 projects he's been involved in.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair. Steve Miller,
14 Fish and Wildlife Service, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field
15 Office. I'm stationed here in Bethel. Mr. Aloysius
16 asked that maybe I could give a brief overview of some of
17 our projects that we worked on. OSM related projects or
18 subsistence funded projects here on the Kuskokwim. I put
19 together three handouts quick. Two of them address our
20 two weir projects, which one is the Kwethluk River and
21 one is on the Tuluksak River. Those are both long-term
22 monitoring projects. The last three-year cycle of
23 funding ended here in '09 and then those projects have
24 been forwarded by the TRC and to you for approval for
25 2010 through 2013.

26

27 Again, we tried to incorporate other
28 studies into those long-term monitoring projects. One
29 example would be the juvenile outmigration project done
30 by USGS in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge where
31 we looked at outmigrating chum smolt and looking at
32 fecundity issues with the numbers of adult chum returning
33 to that system. We also did a study with the Tuluksak
34 looking at another fecundity issue in chinook salmon.
35 That project ended here in 2009 and we'll have a report
36 on that hopefully in the next year.

37

38 One of the other projects we did was
39 looking at the subsistence harvest in the chinook harvest
40 specifically in the Tuluksak area. That study ended this
41 year and we should have a report on that next year where
42 we're basically looking at the harvest composition and
43 looking at the age structure, the percent females and the
44 subsistence take there at the village of Tuluksak and
45 we're comparing that to the escapement data at the weir.
46 Again, that's where we've incorporated other studies into
47 these long-term monitoring projects.

48

49 One of the things we noticed this year
50 and last year too is that the percents of females

1 harvested at the Tuluksak fishery are basically the same
2 as the percentage of females that go through the weir.
3 We don't see any big discrepancies there. That's just
4 some of the information that we get. We have money from
5 the national initiative where we collected samples for
6 ichthyophonous, which is a parasite that's prevalent in
7 chinook. Again, we took advantage of the subsistence
8 project at Tuluksak. We took 200 and something samples
9 from subsistence harvested fish. We took more samples
10 from the Kwethluk weir and we took samples at the
11 Tuluksak weir, so that data will be forthcoming here in
12 the next year or so.

13

14 Our whitefish work, we're in the
15 reporting phase of that. Hopefully after the strategic
16 plan is done there will be funding available to do more
17 whitefish work here in the Kuskokwim drainage. I think
18 we can all agree that's an important subsistence fish in
19 this region.

20

21 Again, that's just a quick overview. I
22 have three handouts in the back and then the reports for
23 this last year will be forthcoming here in the next year.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions. Ms.
26 Gregory.

27

28 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Steve. The
29 other day, my boy has a whitefish (In Yup'ik). He caught
30 a silver salmon and when they tried to cut it up to hang
31 and make (In Yup'ik) out of it, it had icky stuff on it.
32 It had those white blotches in the flesh.

33

34 MR. MILLER: It was a coho salmon?

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

37

38 MR. MILLER: There's different funguses
39 and there's different parasites associated with different
40 species. There's a pathology department in the State
41 that you might send some of that tissue to or contact
42 them and I could get that information if you'd like and
43 give it to you.

44

45 MS. GREGORY: I have it outside in the
46 dog food to be cooked. It's not cooked yet.

47

48 MR. MILLER: Don't cook it if you want it
49 analyzed.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
4 questions. Mr. Aloysius.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't have a question.
7 I have a comment. The reason I asked them to do this is
8 because it's very important for me to see people being
9 involved in projects and utilize local talent. The other
10 thing is that there's students that go up to these camps.
11 That's the thing we need to push, get our young people
12 involved so that they can be here when we're gone.
13 That's the easiest way for them to get involved is to be
14 involved actively.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
19 Any more questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

24

25 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
26 one thing about that. The Fish and Wildlife Service and
27 most government agencies we get criticized for not having
28 local individuals. I think with Steve's projects in
29 particular he does an excellent job incorporating local
30 individuals. He has one, maybe two technicians that come
31 out of the Kenai to help set up the weir at the beginning
32 of the season, but the majority of the year he has four
33 to eight individuals from Kwethluk and Tuluksak that man
34 the weir projects and work with Steve on a regular basis.

35

36 One of the other projects that Bob made
37 me think of is that we have a fishery science camp during
38 the summer and we run anywhere from 15 to 25 kids through
39 that science camp, including this summer up at Boundary
40 Lake. It started off just being with Kwethluk students
41 and it expanded to where we're bringing these students
42 from all over the delta into the science camp. It runs
43 about 10 days. It's a significant expense to run this
44 camp, but I think the benefit is well worth it.

45

46 Part of it is education and I kind of
47 equate that to like when you fight a fire, you don't
48 fight the fire from the top down, you start from the base
49 up and that's what we're trying to do with the youth of
50 the Delta, get people involved in the process.

1 Through the ANSEP program we have some
2 students that work with us. We had a total of four
3 students that worked with us last year and this year from
4 Kwiguk, from Chefornak, from Bethel and I don't recall
5 where the fourth is, but they've been working for us two
6 seasons now. One of them is on the verge of successfully
7 attaining a cooperative education position, which means
8 when he graduates from school he could be picked up by
9 the Fish and Wildlife Service non-competitively. All
10 four of the students working for us told us they wanted
11 to come back and they wanted to take Dan Gillikin's job,
12 they want to take Steve Miller's job, they wanted to take
13 my job, and that's a great goal.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
16 questions. Mr. Charles.

17
18 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Talking about whitefish, Mary reminded me of one
20 whitefish that got caught in the river down below during
21 silver salmon commercial fishing and this lady showed me
22 a whitefish that she was going to cook. She opened the
23 belly and there was all kinds of eggs inside. One was
24 big as chicken egg yoke and it scared her.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. CHARLES: What kind of -- first time
29 I see that kind. The biggest one was like chicken egg
30 yolk and the rest of them were smaller, but they're all
31 inside, not all together inside this whitefish.

32
33 MR. MILLER: James, those are the
34 telemetry tag and then a pit tag, so we put two tags in
35 a lot of those fish and that's to track them within the
36 system, but I've never called them eggs before.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. MILLER: Over the process of the last
41 four years we have had those returned. I think I've
42 mentioned before Atmautluak and some of the tundra
43 villages I went out there with a presentation is that
44 fish that are harvested in the tundra villages spawn in
45 the Swift River, so it's amazing the distance that those
46 fish are traveling. I'll remember to tell the staff
47 we're putting eggs in those fish. If she still has them,
48 I'd like to get them back.

49
50 MR. CHARLES: I don't know. Maybe the

1 lady threw it away. I don't know what happened to it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Hoelscher.

4

5 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 As you know in the earlier years a few years back there

7 was a push for the conservation of the four geese.

8 Things have kind of quieted down, so I assume they're

9 doing pretty well. Can we get a status update on those

10 species or what's going on.

11

12 MR. PELTOLA: The Delta is operated under

13 a goose management plan for a long time starting back

14 with the Hooper Bay agreement in the mid '80s. Recently

15 the last goose management plan expired in 2006. Our

16 office, the Migratory Birds and the AMBCC have put a lot

17 of effort in getting back to the table to negotiate a new

18 goose management plan.

19

20 In April of this spring, myself, the head

21 of law enforcement division in Alaska, AVCP's Water

22 Conservation Committee, AMBCC representatives and

23 Migratory Birds representative met in Portland on April

24 12th. We sat down for a total of three days and we

25 agreed to a new draft goose management plan. We also had

26 representatives from California, Washington and Oregon

27 there also. It's a diverse group, a lot of differing

28 opinions, but we came out where everybody felt it was a

29 workable plan.

30

31 AVCP has that draft and they're going to

32 present it at the convention to their delegates and

33 villages for ratification. If that occurs, then it will

34 be presented to the signatories, being California,

35 Washington, Oregon, the regional director of the Fish and

36 Wildlife Service and AVCP to implement that new goose

37 management plan.

38

39 As for the goose species, with Brant

40 historically we've seen anywhere from 1 to 3 percent

41 decline for the whole population for numerous years

42 running. Now that varies. What we're seeing on the

43 Delta is we basically talk about five specific colonies

44 on the Yukon Delta Refuge. The way that we monitor them

45 is we normally do winter surveys in Mexico, the bays and

46 estuaries down in Mexico. What we're seeing with warmer

47 winters in Alaska is we're having a higher segment of the

48 population overwintering down in the Alaska peninsula and

49 the chain area. So we're trying to work out an adequate

50 means to monitor the Brant population.

1 We have some localized concerns with a
2 couple of the colonies, mainly Kokechik and Tutokuk.
3 That is why we have initiated -- we're in a draft form of
4 a Brant managing plan for Y-K Delta.

5
6 The White Fronts, the best thing we can
7 say to the sport hunters or whoever it may be in
8 California, including California Department of Fish and
9 Game, said shoot as many White Fronts as you can. We're
10 approaching 700,000 White Fronts, so they're doing
11 extremely well and probably too good.

12
13 When you come to Emperors, we have seen
14 an increase in this last spring's survey, but well below
15 the three-year average, which would allow for a harvest.

16
17
18 When it comes to the Cacklers, my concern
19 as the manager for Delta was that if we didn't have a
20 goose management plan in place that the 250,000 threshold
21 for Cacklers would not be honored especially by some of
22 the southern states, particularly Oregon. We're seeing
23 that northern California agricultural practices have been
24 changing. So they have White Fronts overwintering in
25 California. We don't have the Cacklers, we don't have
26 the Aleutian Canada goose or the other kind of goose
27 species overwintering in northern California the way we
28 used to. Those are all going out to Oregon. Oregon
29 would be happy if we killed every Canada goose we could.

30
31 So my concern as a manager was that if we
32 don't have a goose management plan in place, we don't
33 have that 250,000 threshold or 125,000 threshold,
34 depending what you're looking at, but then because it is
35 an important subsistence species on the Delta for the
36 residents out here, we're not going to ask or we're not
37 going to expect people to stop hunting and put pressure
38 on -- if we didn't have any limitations, the northwest
39 states would recognize that we could end up not only one
40 species of concern being the Emperor, but we could have
41 multiple species if they're allowed depredation take,
42 increase their harvest on the fields down in Oregon.

43
44 When we were down there, the Waterfall
45 Conservation Committee went on a tour with the Oregon
46 waterfall biologist and he'd have a field, the Canada
47 geese would come and land, mainly Cacklers and Aleutians,
48 and it looked like they were lining up in a line, they
49 were just like mowing through a field and you'd have a
50 farmer there that was just irate. There went his

1 livelihood. So I understand why they're upset. With a
2 lack of a plan, we strongly felt no one would honor the
3 population goals we had in the past. So that was a
4 strong push to get a new goose management plan negotiated
5 and try and get it in place.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further questions
8 for the refuge. Mr. Charles.

9
10 MR. CHARLES: So how are Cacklers doing
11 now in this region? Are there more? I seen more at the
12 airport and they get in the way when we take off and
13 land.

14
15 MR. PELTOLA: Cacklers are doing real
16 well. I personally am pleased to see that. That's one
17 of the goose species that people really like besides
18 Emperors. There population is good, but we could easily
19 turn that around if we didn't have a goose management
20 plan in place to protect the population levels, which we
21 established under the old plans.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further questions
24 for the refuge. Mr. Brown.

25
26 MR. CHARLES: I have more.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Charles.
29 You may have the floor back again.

30
31 MR. CHARLES: Would we be cited for
32 hunting at the airports because there are signs not to be
33 on the runway, but there's too many birds on the runway
34 at home eating the new grass because the grass stays
35 green even if it freezes or in the fall. When the
36 runways are new, there's too many birds on the runway and
37 nobody -- we cannot hunt them because there are signs not
38 to be on the runway.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Peltola.

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: I agree with you. We did
43 a steel shot clinic in there when I was flying ammo, the
44 thrower and shells and people in there. I was dodging
45 them like everybody else was doing. Actually, I think
46 the signs are on the runway not to stop hunting but for
47 safety concern. I recall as a kid a couple people in the
48 river in front of town getting hit by props. When I was
49 a kid in Aniak, the same thing occurred up there.

50

1 One thing we do up here with the Bethel
2 Airport is they're issued a permit to haze or
3 crackershell and if there's a DOT employee that is
4 responsible for clearing the runway, we could probably
5 work with the State and get that permit modified and
6 include the village runways.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other question,
9 Mr. Brown.

10
11 MR. BROWN: I have a question about those
12 rainbow trouts. I used to take home after I commercial
13 fished and a friend of mine told me they were
14 contaminated with mercury, so are these Dolly Varden
15 affected too?

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Gene, could you
18 answer that?

19
20 MR. PELTOLA: I don't have any specific
21 information on contaminants, but I hope rainbow trout
22 don't have mercury because I just got a box from
23 Quinhagak the other day. Some fish do have mercury
24 poisoning. My recollection is the majority of the
25 discussion I've heard with mercury poisoning is in pike,
26 which are a long-lived species. There are natural
27 occurrence of mercury deposits in the Kuskokwim drainage.
28 Some of the mining here may have increased it in the
29 system. I haven't heard anything specific about Dolly's
30 or rainbow, but more specific to pike. We haven't done
31 any rainbow work per se at the refuse since the mid to
32 late '80s.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown, continue.

35
36 MR. BROWN: Last year in Anchorage area
37 those pikes were poisoned. What kind of chemical were
38 they using to dispose of those pikes?

39
40 MR. MILLER: I'm not sure what they used,
41 William, but I would suspect it may have been Rotenone,
42 which effects the oxygen intake through the gills, but
43 it's not harmful to people. I suppose one of the reasons
44 they were poisoning them in that system is because
45 they're non-indigenous to that area and somebody's put
46 them into the system. Maybe Mr. Kron knows what they
47 were using.

48
49 MR. BROWN: I have one more.
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Brown.

2

3 MR. BROWN: About tagging. A friend of
4 mine that retired from the military he says that
5 radiation can hurt fish if the power is strong.
6 Radiation can affect the meat on the fish too. I'm
7 concerned about this that you guys are using for counting
8 by your aircraft, the radio tox, can they affect the fish
9 meat?

10

11 MR. MILLER: First of all, Mr. Brown,
12 it's not radiation. It's similar to just a radio
13 frequency. No different than our cell phones and our
14 TV's. If it's going to effect anything in that realm, I
15 guess we're going to have to quit using cell phones too.
16 It has nothing to do with radiation or anything that's
17 harmful to the tissue or us eating it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
20 questions. Mr. Kelly.

21

22 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 I've got a question for Gene regarding your presentation.
24 The refuge has identified some designated use areas for
25 sport hunters or transporters to drop off sport hunters.
26 The refuge does recognize areas for subsistence users.
27 You guys do try to avoid any conflict between the two
28 users. Last year in Pilot Station we had some local
29 hunters who ran into some hunters that were dropped off
30 by transporters out of Nome. During your presentation
31 you had mentioned that last year the refuge had
32 recognized five areas designated for transporters and
33 this year you've only got three areas. Does that number
34 change from year to year or is that based on requests.

35

36 MR. PELTOLA: We didn't have designated
37 areas in a sense, but we had permitted transporters. In
38 a sense, the majority, like the two operating out of
39 Bethel this year, they're operating in similar areas from
40 Devil's Elbow up towards Pilot. What we've tried to do
41 is keep them on lakes which are not accessible by boat.
42 We try to get them out of areas where we may have boat
43 transport. What we do is not perfect. We will have some
44 overlap at times.

45

46 The one segment of the hunting population
47 which is non-local which the refuge does not have control
48 over is if someone from Bethel or Anchorage or Fairbanks
49 or Kotzebue or Nome wants to come down to hunt in their
50 own aircraft, we don't regulate those people at all.

1 The difference between the two permitted
2 transporters this year and last year is that there just
3 has not been the demand this year I think due to the
4 economy there was last year.

5
6 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Gene. I don't
7 really know whether the refuge has any guidelines on, for
8 example, what type of gear the transporters could allow
9 the hunters to carry out in the field. Following State
10 regulations, probably there's no restrictions on the gear
11 that they could use. If the transporters allows the
12 hunters to come out with inflatable boats and be able to
13 boat anywhere and later be picked up at different
14 designated areas, does the refuge have any guidelines on
15 that?

16
17 MR. PELTOLA: We do not have guidelines
18 on what the transporter provides to their clients on an
19 outfitted hunt. A lot of people have their own gear and
20 some just show up with their wallet, the money to buy a
21 hunting license, their gun, and say I'm going to rent
22 everything else from you.

23
24 We do allow raft type of hunting with our
25 transporters. One thing we do with those hunts is we
26 have approved drop off and pick up points. Like I said,
27 it's not perfect. At times we do get some overlap, but
28 we try to minimize that exposure. Last fall we had three
29 of the transporter clients which did floats up in the
30 drainages and they came across local individuals and
31 actually they said it was a good experience.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further questions
34 for the refuge.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, gentlemen.

39
40 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Council members.
41 Thank you, Chair.

42
43 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anybody here from
46 Togiak Refuge.

47
48 MR. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Togiak Refuge
49 could not send a representative over from Dillingham to
50 be here today. This morning I dropped off a packet with

1 Barb Armstrong with a summary of their projects, which
2 you should have before you. If you have any questions on
3 that, I can try to address it as best I can.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. At 11:00
6 our designated coordinator will be leaving because of
7 some illness in her family, so you'll be excused at
8 11:00.

9

10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Bureau of Land
13 Management came up and told me that they didn't have a
14 report, so we're down to Alaska Department of Fish and
15 Game, wildlife conservation update. Phillip Perry.

16

17 MR. PERRY: I apologize. If we could
18 take just a few minutes to hand things out.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Perry.

23

24 MR. PERRY: The two handouts, one is for
25 the first topic I have, which is just a brief update
26 mainly on the recent hunt here on the Kuskokwim. That's
27 the three-page handout that has mainly some graphs and
28 charts. The other part, at the request of Member
29 Roczicka, Board of Game proposals for the Board of Game
30 meeting that's coming in November for the Western and
31 Arctic Region, Units 18, 22, 23 and 26. There's five
32 proposals that were submitted for Unit 18.

33

34 I'll go through the first part. If you
35 look at the charts I have, the first one is showing for
36 this most recent -- it used to be the moratorium area and
37 I'm now calling it the Kuskokwim hunt area. RM 615 was
38 the designation for the registration hunt for the
39 Kuskokwim area. This shows the reported harvest by day.
40 It was a 10-day hunt. We harvested 106 moose in those 10
41 days. You can see the first few days people were pretty
42 successful.

43

44 The next page gives some of the same
45 information, showing the cumulative harvest by day, so
46 trying to break up how many were harvested by what day in
47 that hunt. To give just a little bit more information,
48 this was a 10-day hunt, a registration permit. The
49 permits were only available in Bethel and the local
50 villages in the Kuskokwim area from August 1st through

1 August 25th. We had just under 1,400 hunters get
2 permits. I had 1,200 permits printed. We quickly ran
3 out of those and had several hundred more printed and we
4 had run out of those and had to give some people permits
5 that gave us all their information a day or two after
6 that August 25th deadline.

7
8 So a new hunt. Participation was very
9 high. You know, about 1,400 people got permits. Of
10 those 1,400 people we have 106 that harvested moose. We
11 have about 100 people that have reported did not hunt.
12 So we had a minimum of about 1,000 people that hunted.
13 We still have about 300 permittees that we have not heard
14 from yet. So all of these numbers I'm presenting are
15 preliminary. They'll change a little bit in the next few
16 weeks.

17
18 The last page gives a breakdown of where
19 moose were harvested. It surprised me some how many
20 moose were harvested below Bethel and below Napaskiak,
21 the lower part of the river. It was 21 moose basically
22 below Napaskiak, 51 moose above Napaskiak on the main
23 river, then on the tributaries, which I included the Eek
24 River, Kwethluk, Kisaralik, Kasigluk and Fog and
25 Tuluksak. There were 26 harvested. We have eight moose
26 that were harvested that we didn't get the information of
27 exactly where they were harvested. Hopefully we'll get
28 that information soon and be able to have that not
29 unknown.

30
31 Just generally talking with hunters, it
32 was a new hunt, there was a lot of participation, a lot
33 of people hunting. That was, I think, one of the
34 negatives I heard from people was it was pretty crowded.
35 There were a lot of people on lots of the tributaries.
36 There weren't many places that were open that there
37 weren't hunters. This year, with low water levels, the
38 areas upriver of Bethel, up the Gweek, up the tributaries
39 and even up the mainstem, hunters weren't able to access
40 a lot of areas that in higher water years or more normal
41 water years they would. They were restricted pretty much
42 to the main channel of the Kuskokwim and not very far up
43 some of the little creeks and sloughs.

44
45 I thought we would have a higher
46 proportion of the harvest above Bethel than we did. You
47 always learn something new in a new hunt, so that's kind
48 of what I have to say for the Kuskokwim hunt for this
49 year. I guess I'll pause at this time if anybody has any
50 questions or comments.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. One
4 clarification real quick. When you mentioned the
5 tributaries, I didn't hear you say the Gweek. Did you
6 include the Gweek harvest in your tributary?
7
8 MR. PERRY: According to my notes, the
9 Gweek is included in the tributaries.
10
11 MR. ROCZICKA: One other real quick. You
12 mentioned if you had roughly 1,100 people reporting so
13 far, have you had time to do a breakdown of how many of
14 those people reporting actually did go out and actively
15 hunt?
16
17 MR. PERRY: Yeah, 1,100 have reported.
18 It's about 90 that did not hunt. So at least 1,000 that
19 did hunt.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further questions
22 for Mr. Perry on the moose. Mr. Aloysius.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Any break down on the
25 Johnson River drainage?
26 MR. PERRY: I don't have it in the
27 handout. In my notes I have written down that we had
28 four moose that were harvested on the Johnson River
29 drainage that were reported.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other questions.
32
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr. Perry.
37
38 MR. PERRY: I'll also note this was just
39 on State managed lands. Most of the Johnson River is not
40 private or corporation lands or State lands, so most of
41 the Johnson River was not open to hunters. Federal lands
42 start just north as the Johnson River goes into the lakes
43 north of the tundra villages and extends almost all the
44 way up to what you called Big Lake just north of Kalskag.
45
46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
48 questions.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, go on to your
2 next subject, please.

3
4 MR. PERRY: For the Yukon River, I don't
5 have any hard data yet because with general harvest
6 tickets we don't get harvest reports until much later.
7 That's one good thing about having a registration permit
8 is I get very timely reporting and get to know exactly
9 how many people hunted in that. Talking with hunters on
10 the Yukon, I think they were dealing with low water and
11 that restricted where people were able to hunt quite a
12 bit. I think there was a fair amount of success, but I'm
13 anticipating that harvest will be average or maybe below
14 average on the Yukon just talking with hunters and people
15 I know from St. Mary's or Emmonak and further upriver.
16 They all said it was a little difficult to hunt because
17 of where they were restricted to.

18
19 If I change species here a little bit
20 with caribou, this year again this summer was a year that
21 the State attempted to do a caribou photo census and the
22 second year in a row that we weren't able to do that
23 between weather and just uncooperative caribou this year
24 that we weren't able to get a photo census that was
25 helpful. One of the high priorities for the State for
26 caribou management next year is to try to get a
27 population count of the Mulchatna Herd.

28
29 According to what the numbers were last
30 fall for calving and for bull/cow ratios, we don't expect
31 that herd to be growing at this point. We're hoping that
32 it's not declining. It's kind of on the edge if you look
33 at calf/cow ratios of a stable herd or maybe a slowly
34 declining herd. I don't see any major changes in caribou
35 in the next year or two. That's about all I had to say
36 with caribou.

37
38 If there are no further questions, I'll
39 go into our next section with the Board of Game.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Does that
44 mean there's not going to be no caribou hunt this year or
45 what are you saying?

46
47 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. I guess
48 I'll clarify. I don't see any changes in the caribou
49 hunt. The season is open right now both on Federal and
50 State lands. In the fall, the hunters can harvest one

1 caribou. In the winter, the seasons are slightly
2 different. On State managed lands, which are those areas
3 closer to the main river and the lower tributaries, a
4 person may only harvest one bull per year and they may
5 only harvest one animal from the first of August until
6 the end of January and on Federal managed lands the
7 season is slightly different. One caribou in the fall
8 and then after November 30th they can shoot two
9 additional for a total of three caribou after November
10 30th. Those won't change this year. There are no
11 proposals to change caribou hunting in Unit 18 for the
12 upcoming November meeting.

13

14 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. The Federal
15 people have a hunt for other program. You don't have
16 that?

17

18 MR. PERRY: I'm sorry?

19

20 MS. GREGORY: Like you can hunt for
21 people who can't hunt for themselves.

22

23 MR. PERRY: Ours is slightly different.
24 It's a little more restrictive. It's called proxy
25 hunting, is the term the State uses. What that means is
26 someone may hunt for someone else if the beneficiary, the
27 person they're hunting for, is 65 years or older, if
28 they're blind or if they're 70 percent or more disabled.
29 Then there's a one-page paperwork that we can fill out
30 and then someone can hunt for someone else for moose or
31 caribou. It's more restrictive than the Federal
32 designated hunter program.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
37 questions. Mr. Roczicka.

38

39 MR. ROCZICKA: You mentioned doing your
40 caribou census if possible and so forth and being unable
41 to. What plans are there for moose hunts this fall,
42 through this coming season, winter season?

43

44 MR. PERRY: Our plans this year -- every
45 year we try to do some composition work in November if we
46 get snow conditions, so we plan on that. Then starting
47 late January, early February, we'd like to do what we
48 weren't able to do last year, the tributaries of the
49 Kuskokwim. It's a new area we got a little bit of work
50 done in last year. We got what we call the

1 stratification done, which we go through our blocks and
2 classify a moose survey block as either high density or
3 low density.

4
5 We got that done in late January. The
6 following day or two we got one day of flying. Fish and
7 Wildlife in that same time attempted to get some done.
8 I think they got a couple done and then multiple bad
9 storms had happened all through February last year came
10 upon us and we didn't have snow conditions or flying
11 conditions for the rest of the winter. We got started
12 last year and then just weren't able to complete the
13 survey. We got eight or nine survey blocks done and we
14 needed 40 or 50, 60 done, so we needed three or four more
15 days of good weather and it just didn't cooperate.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further questions
18 for Mr. Perry. Mr. Brown.

19
20 MR. BROWN: Is the hunting season open
21 under March 15th, caribou?

22
23 MR. PERRY: That's correct, for caribou,
24 for both Federal and State managed areas the season is
25 open until March 15.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
28 questions. Mr. Brown.

29
30 MR. BROWN: An additional question. I
31 was supporting when they tried to amend it previous years
32 ago because of the young families, the young folks in the
33 village they don't have a job, so I tried to support it
34 until spring in order to support young families.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have another
39 subject, Mr. Perry?

40
41 MR. PERRY: Yeah. It looks like I gave
42 away all my handouts for the Board of Game proposals.
43 I'll grab one and we'll go through those. There are five
44 proposals pertaining to Unit 18 for the area the Council
45 covers kind of all on one subject, all on moose or
46 boundaries or moose hunting areas.

47
48 If we look at Proposal 1, this is a
49 proposal from Goodnews Bay. They have a similar hunt.
50 They're in their second year of registration hunting in

1 Goodnews. Their season runs from August 25th to
2 September 20 or until we get to the quota of 10 bulls.
3 Last year they harvested 12 bulls. This year they
4 harvested 10 animals. There was about 40 to 45 people
5 who get permits. Most of them are residents of either
6 Goodnews or Platinum.

7
8 This proposal talks about that. It's
9 asking for a September 1 to September 30 season without
10 a quota. I don't know what the Council wishes on making
11 a comment on this proposal. It's a pretty
12 straightforward proposal.

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any suggestions from
15 the Council on Proposal 1. Mr. Charles.

16
17 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Is there enough moose to catch on the dates of the
19 proposal?

20
21 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. Last
22 winter, I don't remember what month, the Togiak Refuge
23 did a minimum count on the Goodnews River, both the north
24 fork, the south fork, and the middle fork. I think they
25 came up with about 145 moose. So we still feel that a
26 quota of 10 bulls is probably where we need to stay at
27 least for a few more years. The State has not commented
28 directly on these proposals yet. We're in the process of
29 doing that. I don't see a problem with changing the
30 season dates, but we'll probably ask to stay with a quota
31 of 10. We may ask for the language from the Board of
32 Game to be able to have a higher quota, an up-to number,
33 up to 15, up to 20 or something like that so that gives
34 us the flexibility if we do count 300 moose or something
35 in the area that we can set the quota higher, but I don't
36 think at this time we're going to support just a general
37 season hunt there.

38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

40
41 MR. ROCZICKA: What's the current
42 bull/cow ratio then before and after these hunts have
43 taken place?

44
45 MR. PERRY: Before the hunt two years ago
46 the bull/cow ratio was about 90 bulls per 100 cows.
47 We're only talking about 120 animals. It's close to 60
48 or 65 now. It's a very productive population. There's
49 a high percentage of calves and of yearlings. Having a
50 120 moose and having a quota of 10 is normally higher

1 than what we would suggest except that it was an un-
2 hunted population and that bull/cow ratio was high.
3 We're not worried about it right now.

4
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

6
7 MR. ROCZICKA: Any idea what the
8 pregnancy rate is as well or birth rate?

9
10 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. There are
11 several moose down there that are collared and the Togiak
12 Refuge is monitoring those. Between the Goodnews and the
13 Togiak Drainage pregnancy rates are in the 90 percent or
14 higher. Twinning rates are well above 50 percent.
15 They've documented that two year old cows down there have
16 had calves. For those sorts of parameters the
17 productivity of that population is very, very high.
18 Survival appears to be very high of adults and young
19 animals too.

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka, go
22 ahead.

23
24 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I don't
25 have any questions, but I would move at this time this
26 council make a recommendation to the Board regarding this
27 proposal that they do put in the language that they adopt
28 this with the amendment that the quota will be up to 20
29 moose when they do their survey this coming winter and
30 they do find that the population is growing like it
31 possibly could, that they would be able to kick that
32 quota up rather than have to go through another
33 petitioner, agenda change or something like that with the
34 Board. It's not going to automatically give the folks
35 here what they're asking for, but it opens the door so it
36 can be done.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion has been
39 made by Mr. Roczicka.

40
41 MR. MIKE: Second.

42
43 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Second by Mr.
46 Hoelscher. Any further discussion.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MR. CHARLES: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question has been
2 called for. Does everybody understand the motion. Could
3 you restate your motion, please, so that it's understood.

4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. The
6 language would be for the harvest quota to be up to 20
7 moose, anywhere within that range. Right now it's at 10.
8 If that population is doubled from where it's at right
9 now, it would give them the option to also double the
10 harvest without having to go through a bunch of paperwork
11 hoops and this takes care of this ahead of time. It
12 takes the burden off the village right there from having
13 to follow up at that time.

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

16
17 MS. GREGORY: Question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you call the
20 roll, please, Bob.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.

23
24 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.

27
28 MR. ONEY: Yes.

29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.

31
32 MR. BROWN: Yes.

33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

35
36 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.

39
40 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.

41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.

47
48 MR. KELLY: Yes.

49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.
4
5 (No response)
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Yes.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius. Yes. James
16 Charles.
17
18 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: All in favor.
21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried. Go
23 to Proposal 2.
24
25 MR. PERRY: Proposal 2 starts at the
26 bottom of the first page and goes about halfway to the
27 second page. It's from the village of Kwethluk and it's
28 asking for a season extension on the registration hunt
29 instead of having a September 1 to September season for
30 the Kuskokwim hunt area they're asking for the season to
31 be September 1 to September 20. Very straightforward
32 proposal. At this time with moose numbers what they are
33 and harvest what it is, I don't think we'll probably
34 support this as a Fish and Game. Maybe in the future if
35 we need to increase the quota on the Kuskokwim we would
36 support it, but at this time I think a 10 day season
37 we'll be able to harvest all the moose we need to harvest
38 or we can harvest in those 10 days.
39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.
41
42 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Where it
43 says -- can you clarify residents only. Is it for only
44 Kwethluk or just for Kuskokwim area?
45
46 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. What
47 that's showing is the language that is in the regulation
48 book. In the State regulation book when it says
49 residents only, that means residents of the state of
50 Alaska.

1 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
4 discussion on Proposal 2.
5
6 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Mike.
9
10 MR. MIKE: I'm in favor of Proposal 2.
11
12 MS. GREGORY: Second the motion.
13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion has been made
15 to support Proposal 2.
16
17 MS. GREGORY: I will make that motion.
18 He just said he was supporting the proposal, so I move
19 that we approve it.
20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Support Proposal 2.
22
23 MS. GREGORY: Support Proposal 2.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: A motion has been
26 made to support Proposal 2 by Ms. Gregory. Do I hear a
27 second?
28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Second by Mr.
32 Roczicka. Any discussion.
33 Mr. Roczicka.
34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: This is one of those tough
36 ones where sometimes you wish you're not sitting on this
37 Council. Regarding the hunt we have over here and
38 following up on the whole moratorium that we had, I'd
39 fall back on how the Lower Yukon succeeded in getting the
40 population that they have of moose. We had a five year
41 moratorium. They had a five and chose to go an extra two
42 years.
43
44 We have a lot more people here and it's
45 just a real fear that if we expand that right now and
46 double that harvest, we're going to end up losing what
47 little we've gained right now and be right back to square
48 one. For me, it seems like it's too early to look at
49 expanding the season. We've got to take it slow at
50 first. I can't see supporting this at this time. I have

1 a no vote for this one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more discussion.
4 Mr. Charles.

5

6 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 I'm thinking like Greg there because like I said
8 yesterday if we clean the area too much, we won't have
9 any more moose left for future hunting. This 20-day hunt
10 would double the time, but I might go along for 15 days,
11 but not 20 days because people will keep hunting and
12 clean our area and we'll be back to the same way as
13 before. We want our young people to catch their moose
14 later on. If we let them hunt too long now, they'll be
15 catching all the moose that's legal for catch, like
16 bulls. They won't grow back as fast. This body last
17 year proposed for extension, but we got it opened this
18 year on State side. So I'm thinking like Greg there. I
19 know Kwethluk needs to hunt moose and they are our
20 people, but, like I said, we want to save some for
21 future.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
26 discussion. Mr. Mike.

27

28 MR. MIKE: I still support it if it was
29 September 1 to September 20.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Hoelscher.

32

33 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Listening to the public yesterday, it's my understanding
35 that the season was opened a little too early. The
36 population count stays 1,100 and 101 were caught, so
37 that's about 10 percent of the population.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
40 further discussion. Mr. Kelly.

41

42 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
43 understand where Kwethluk is coming from. With any
44 proposals regarding with the State, the language has to
45 be careful. As it applies, this proposal is for Unit 18
46 residents. Right now the Board of Game recognizes
47 separate areas within Unit 18. What this proposal would
48 do is restrict all of Unit 18. For those of us on the
49 Yukon, it would shorten our number of hunting days from
50 what we've got now to 20. I really feel for what

1 Kwethluk is trying to do, but for those of us on the
2 Yukon perhaps you might want to address the areas where
3 this covers.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
6 discussion. Mr. Aloysius.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: I agree with Mr. Kelly.
9 It means all of Unit 18 to me and it's very restrictive.
10 I'm not going to support this at all.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
13 discussion. Mr. Andrew.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
16 John Andrew, Kwethluk. The original intent of this
17 proposal came from Kwethluk IRA and Kwethluk,
18 Incorporated. The intent is to give the rural
19 subsistence hunters, people in the villages a chance to
20 harvest because we've been hearing a lot of complaints
21 the season was too short. There was well over 1,000
22 hunters and they were real aggressive and less than 10
23 percent were successful.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.
28 Roczicka.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. First I wanted
31 to say I noticed that there's several hands waiving out
32 there and the Chairman has announced several times please
33 fill out one of those cards and get it up there so he can
34 call your name.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Phillip Peter.

37

38 MR. PETER: I'm confused. Which land are
39 you talking about, Federal or State? This year the moose
40 opening was on State side. The Federal was closed. The
41 boundaries are from upper Kalskag area all the way down
42 to Nelson Island and then coming up back. I'm really
43 concerned about this. If we extend it 20 days, if we
44 overhunt, we'll be going back to where we started. The
45 controlling of this moose is pretty good this year even
46 though there are a lot of hunters, over 1,000 are
47 registered, but a few catch. One lucky person shares the
48 meat through their partners. Like I stated yesterday, why
49 can't we move that date to September 1 and hunt for 10
50 days.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. James Nicori.

4

5 MR. NICORI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
6 was one of the original people that was discussing this
7 proposal. I was surprised they came up with 20. When we
8 discussed this proposal, the writer was instructed to
9 write 15 instead of 20. That was what we were discussing
10 about. Not to double the days but slowly extend the
11 number of days each year to hunt. Our original number
12 was 15 days, not 20 days. I'd like to correct you on
13 that. The writer that wrote it had wrote it to 20 days
14 and we were to correct you. We were asking for 15 days
15 on this proposal.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What's before us is
20 20 days and that's what we're going to be acting on. Any
21 further discussion. Mr. Aloysius.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. If the proposal was
24 written to specify the area, then it would make sense,
25 but it just says that you extend Unit 18 moose season
26 September 1 to 20. That is all of 18. It doesn't
27 specify this moratorium area. If the originators of this
28 proposal would go back and rework it to a very specific
29 area, then I would consider it, but not doubling the
30 time. I have a lot of concerns about maintaining the
31 herd that we have. That wasn't the original intent of
32 the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee. We need to bring
33 the moose back up because they never had any. Now they
34 have some, but they don't want to let them go. They want
35 to keep them. I was just smiling at James because what
36 he told me this morning was Billy McCann and it's
37 something we can't bring out here in public.

38

39 But, anyway, I'm really concerned if we
40 extend this thing here. It's too liberal and
41 restrictive. It's liberal in the sense that it covers
42 all of Unit 18 and restrictive in the sense that only the
43 people around here are entitled to one moose in 20 days
44 for all of Unit 18. Like Mr. Kelly said, there's three
45 different areas that are addressed in the regulations on
46 Unit 18. The ones on 18 Yukon are more liberal than they
47 are on this side.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

2

3 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. John Andrew,
4 Kwethluk. If you take a look at the proposal closely,
5 the top line says Unit 18 registration hunt RM615. It
6 doesn't describe the whole unit. Like James earlier
7 stated, the discussion on the draft proposal they were
8 shooting for two weeks or 15 days. Somewhere between the
9 person that drafted it and the person that typed it up,
10 there was a slight typo somewhere.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Like I said before,
15 we're working on a proposal that asks for 20 days and for
16 all residents of Unit 18. Any further discussion. Mr.
17 Roczicka.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. John is
20 correct. Since they say their issue is with the RM615,
21 that's the registration hunt, which is specific to this
22 Lower Kuskokwim hunt. So what's being asked in this
23 proposal pertains only to that. I didn't see that before
24 either. Like John said, the intent of this proposal
25 being so that people have a chance to catch their moose.
26 But even as it sets, I mean it's too early to make any
27 changes at this point. Let's hold it where it's at for a
28 couple years. We haven't even really got an idea as to
29 what kind of effect it actually had on the population.
30 What they gave us for 1,000 moose was an extrapolation.
31 They don't even know if there's that many to start with.

32

33 We want to have a limited harvest while
34 we still let it grow so that in a couple years instead of
35 only 10 moose, instead of going backwards, we can keep
36 going forwards and instead of 10 moose per village we can
37 get 20 moose per village and a couple years after that we
38 can get 40 or 50 and a couple years after that if we keep
39 it up we might have where we can be proposing open season
40 from the 1st of September to the end of March and have it
41 two moose like we're doing on Lower Yukon. That's where
42 Lower Yukon is at right now and they did it by being
43 careful and going slow. I really want to follow that
44 model. I wish we had their problem.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Hoelscher.

47

48 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Where this proposal originally came from there's no
50 consensus of the numbers. There's also issues from

1 another village within the area stating to change the
2 dates. I would refer this back to the proposee to get a
3 clearer and better understanding of the proposal instead
4 of trying to change it right here at this meeting.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The proposal will
9 stand as is written. Mr. Mike.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Thank you. As we all know,
12 every hunter has to have a hunting license. Any person
13 can hunt any place as long as they have a hunting
14 license. In Unit 18 we could hunt in this area no
15 problem. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
18 discussion. Mr. Brown.

19
20 MR. BROWN: I had an understanding I
21 believe last year when you guys were surveying you
22 surveyed from Bethel to Kalskag. Did you guys include
23 tributaries like Eek when you were surveying the numbers.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Perry.

26
27 MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. The
28 survey two years ago, March 2008, was just between Bethel
29 and Kalskag. Last winter the survey we attempted to do
30 was a pretty good chunk of the Eek River, the Kwethluk,
31 Kisaralik, Kasigluk, so it was including those
32 tributaries, but that's the area we were not able to
33 survey last year because of weather. That's our plan
34 this year, to do those areas.

35
36 MR. BROWN: Do I understand last winter
37 that you guys were only counting between here and
38 Kalskag, excluding other tributaries?

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I didn't even
41 understand or hear what he said. Did you need an answer?
42 What exactly did you say?

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Speak into the mike.

45
46 MR. BROWN: To my understanding, the last
47 survey numbers that you mentioned you counted from here
48 to Kalskag and by the time you gave the numbers you
49 didn't include Kwethluk and Eek.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any answer to that
2 question or is that a question or statement? Mr. Perry.
3
4 MR. PERRY: The numbers we presented last
5 year at this meeting were from the previous winter and it
6 was just from Bethel to Kalskag. Our intention last
7 winter was to survey the areas, the additional areas
8 outside of that area and be able to add those two
9 together to come up with our estimate kind of the entire
10 area. That's where we were not able to get a survey done
11 last year. It still is our intention to count all the
12 moose in the hunt area, but we need weather to cooperate
13 and we hope to do that this year.
14
15 MR. BROWN: So I do support the
16 resolution.
17
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.
19 I, myself, will not support this proposal because I have
20 a lot of relatives here that are living on the Kuskokwim
21 and I would like to see them have the same problem that
22 we have on the Lower Yukon where they're able to go out
23 and get their moose and be pretty much assured they will
24 get one. So I'll be voting against this proposal. Mr.
25 Roczicka.
26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess to
28 try to put it in a few words, the purpose of the proposal
29 is to give people more chance and more opportunity and
30 voting for it is to take it away and give them less. I
31 think we've pretty much chewed it up and know what it is.
32 I'd call for the question.
33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question has been
35 called for. Roll call vote, please.
36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Was there a motion?
38
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There was a motion
40 seconded and the question has been called for.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
43
44 MR. ONEY: No.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.
47
48 MR. BROWN: Yes.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

1 MR. H. WILDE: No.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.
4
5 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
8
9 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.
12
13 MR. KELLY: No.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.
16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No.
18
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.
20
21 (No response)
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.
24
25 MR. MIKE: I abstain.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
28
29 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Bob Aloysius. No. James
32 Charles.
33
34 MR. CHARLES: No.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.
37
38 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Anyone keep track? Tom.
41
42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I heard three
43 yeses, eight nos, one abstain and one absent.
44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Motion
48 failed. Go ahead, Mr. Perry.
49
50 MR. PERRY: Proposal 3 is proposed by the

1 same entity, by Kwethluk IRA and Kwethluk, Incorporated.
2 It's asking for a winter season this upcoming winter
3 January 1 to January 5. Again, it says the issue is the
4 Unit 18 registration hunt RM615 and just asking for a
5 winter hunt for the same area that we just had our permit
6 hunt in the Kuskokwim.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Proposal 3. Any
9 discussion or questions for Mr. Perry. Mr. Aloysius.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: This proposal is the same
12 as the last one because it doesn't specify what area they
13 want to have this winter hunt in. It just says Unit 18.
14 There are already Unit 18 moose hunts in the wintertime.

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Perry, you're
17 looking at me like you have something to say.

18

19 MR. PERRY: Thank you. It doesn't say
20 it. Bob is correct, in the first part it doesn't say
21 anything about the part of Unit 18, but in the issue
22 statement it is referring to RM615, the permit hunt area,
23 so I take it that is the area they're talking about, is
24 what I consider the Kuskokwim hunt area. Maybe I'm being
25 too liberal in my reading, but in that issue statement I
26 think that's their intention.

27

28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
29 discussion on Proposal 3.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: I move to support the
36 Proposal 3 for the purpose of discussion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: A motion has been
39 made to support Proposal 3. Do I hear a second to the
40 motion.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any discussion. Mr.
45 Roczicka.

46

47 MR. ROCZICKA: I can just incorporate by
48 reference the whole discussion we just said. The
49 previous proposal applies to this proposal only twice as
50 much because wintertime in my mind is the thing that

1 really killed off the moose population and we used to
2 have a fairly decent one down here if you traveled by
3 boat in the early, mid '80s, 1970s during fall time, you
4 could quite often run into moose. You'd certainly see
5 their tracks up and down along the banks pretty regular.
6

7

8

9 When the dividends rolled in and we had
10 really good high fish prices and so on and lots of people
11 started getting sno-gos and there is no place to hide in
12 the wintertime for a moose around here. That, in my
13 mind, is what killed off our moose population. If we
14 would have kept it only a fall hunt.

15

16 I know it's a difficult thing, especially
17 for younger generation, but we're using the tools of
18 technology nowadays and it's that way with anything that
19 comes from Western society. We hear a lot of people
20 complain about how it's ruining things. Like so many
21 things that come from that outside country and
22 modernization, if you use it the wrong way, it's going to
23 mess you up and it's going to mess you up bad.

24

25 Voting for something like this to me is
26 like let's go wet in Bethel because that stuff that comes
27 from Western society called alcohol, if you use it right,
28 you can live with it and do fine, but, boy, you use it
29 wrong and it's going to mess you up and it's going to
30 mess you up bad.

31

32 The snowmachine to me, the same thing out
33 here in this country. You've got the ability now to
34 catch every animal to poke its nose out of the brush.
35 The really hard part is talking to the younger
36 generation. They don't want to listen to us. Now is not
37 the time to do it. A change in regulation isn't going to
38 change that. I do recall Emo folks and younger people
39 coming up to me in the past when they first opened too
40 and when they had their closure, we tried to go out and
41 we got scolded, we got chewed out by our Council and just
42 for even going and looking at them. They got talked at
43 hard. I didn't mean to go off.

44

45 The discussion that applied for the
46 previous proposal applies double on this one, so I can't
47 support it certainly. Way too early for this. As far as
48 the moose season goes, you've got an alternative now.
49 Just go over the hills 40 or 50 miles across the Yukon.
50 Gas is a lot cheaper with a sno-go than it is with a
boat.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
2 discussion on Proposal 3. James, Mr. Charles.

3
4 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 If this proposal passes, it would be a good tool to
6 overharvest. I know my own kids. They don't catch moose
7 now. They were hunting last 10-day hunt. They didn't
8 catch moose, but in wintertime they catch moose over in
9 Yukon. They've been hunting over there in Yukon. Even
10 they're not from there, but they get their license to
11 winter hunt in Yukon and they've been catching moose. I
12 think for this area that we are trying to raise the moose
13 population give the moose population a chance to grow.
14 If this passes, it would be a tool to overharvest. So,
15 like Greg, I don't go along for this one.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
20 discussion. Mr. Hoelscher.

21
22 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 I agree with Greg and James. I feel this is moving fast.
24 The moratorium just got over. The Yukon waited an extra
25 two years. Maybe two years from now I might support it.
26 I just want to comment on that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
29 Hoelscher. Any other comments on Proposal 3. Mr.
30 Aloysius.

31
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: The only comment I have is
33 I can't support the motion as written because it does not
34 again specify what area because it's generally called
35 Unit 18.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
38 discussion.

39
40 MS. GREGORY: Can you show me where RM615
41 is at?

42
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Perry.

44
45 MR. PERRY: RM615 is the registration
46 hunt we just had. That includes Unit 18, the upriver
47 border at Kalskag, downriver to include the Eek River
48 drainage and then the line on the north side of the
49 Kuskokwim is from the Ishkowiik River to the eastern most
50 point of Dall Lake to Takslesluk Lake and then including

1 the Johnson River drainage. So that was RM615, the
2 boundary of that hunt.

3
4 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I'm from the
5 coast originally and I heard moose is going to the coast
6 villages sometimes, even to my village of Kipnuk.
7 They've seen them. They're not confined to an area.
8 They're all over the place.

9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
11 discussion. Mr. Brown.

12
13 MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
14 just have a comment about myself. Back in the '70s I
15 used to experience traveling from my hometown Eek to
16 Yukon. I used to worry about my equipment and I had a
17 hard time to find a partner, traveling partner. I had to
18 worry about breaking down because a great distance from
19 my area to Yukon. Sometimes those hunters they have
20 worries about that. I just brought my concern.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
23 discussion on the proposal.

24
25 MR. ONEY: Question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Roll call, please.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.

30
31 MR. BROWN: No.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

34
35 MR. H. WILDE: Yes. Sometimes I don't
36 understand

37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: We're voting on the
39 motion. The motion was to approve Proposal 3.

40
41 MR. H. WILDE: I'm having a little
42 problem, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What's your problem,
45 Mr. Wilde?

46
47 MR. H. WILDE: The problem is people of
48 Kuskokwim. If you want it, I suppose it depends on how
49 many moose we have. If they want it for subsistence, I
50 could say yes.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It's up to you on how
2 you vote. Are you voting yes for the proposal for the
3 winter hunt for the moratorium area?
4
5 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.
8
9 MR. HOELSCHER: Supporting my statements,
10 I vote no.
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
13
14 MS. GREGORY: I vote no because I made
15 the motion for discussion.
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: What?
18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: She voted no.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.
22
23 MR. KELLY: No.
24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.
26
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.
30
31 (No response)
32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.
34
35 MR. MIKE: Yes.
36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. No.
42 James Charles.
43
44 MR. CHARLES: No.
45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.
47
48 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.

1 MR. ONEY: No.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: We have three yeses, one
4 absent, nine nos.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion failed.
7 Proposal 4, Mr. Perry.

8

9 MR. PERRY: Proposal 4 and 5 are much
10 longer, but they're actually Department of Fish and Game
11 proposals and they attempt to mirror the proposals we
12 already talked about that Robert Sundown talked about on
13 the Federal side to change the boundaries. So Proposal
14 4 is to change the boundary of the Kuskokwim hunt area so
15 that north of the Johnson River is in the remainder of
16 Unit 18 and south of the Johnson River would be in the
17 hunt area. That's the quick way to explain what this
18 language is for.

19

20 This is our attempt, when the Federal
21 proposal was put in and when this proposal was put in, we
22 tried to get the words exactly the same. I think there's
23 a couple small discrepancies. This one specifically is
24 about the boundary for the Kuskokwim hunt area and having
25 south of the Johnson River in the hunt area and north of
26 the Johnson River in the remainder of Unit 18 for the
27 more liberal season.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for Mr.
30 Perry concerning Proposal 4. Mr. Brown.

31

32 MR. BROWN: From my area last open season
33 last fall they said there was a lot of folks didn't get
34 their game. There was some complaints it was too early
35 to open the season. They wanted to move it further down
36 because those bulls don't roam around when it's too warm
37 in the early part of the month. I just want to try to
38 extend that to 15th or 20. That's my comment.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just like we stated
43 before, if you have any suggestion, I think the best
44 thing to do is to put in a proposal to do what you want
45 done. We're working on the proposal as written. Any
46 other discussion on Proposal 4. Mr. Roczicka.

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: Move to support.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion has been made

1 to support Proposal 4. Do I hear a second.

2

3 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.

6 Hoelscher. Any further discussion. Mr. Roczicka.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. We've

9 already gone on record supporting this concept for the

10 Federal system. I mean this is where we can do it and

11 have the opportunity to provide additional harvest for

12 folks. It can also help ease the congestion on the

13 mainstem Kuskokwim of this hunt area as well. It can do

14 nothing but help our current situation. It's been fairly

15 well determined we're talking about two different

16 populations here. I call it the west side of Johnson.

17 I don't know why you call it north side. It depends on

18 which bend you're on, I guess.

19

20 So the same concerns don't apply that we

21 just got done speaking about on the Lower Kuskokwim

22 registration hunt. I would be in support of this one,

23 the same as we were under discussion yesterday with the

24 forthcoming Federal proposal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further

27 discussion on Proposal 4. Mr. Aloysius.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Too bad our big map is

30 missing because I'd like to see exactly what that area

31 is. I'm a very visual person. If I can't see something,

32 it doesn't sink in. You're talking about using the

33 Johnson River as a boundary line? North side is what

34 they call remainder for Unit 18 and the south side is the

35 restricted area, right?

36

37 MR. PERRY: That is correct.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further

40 discussion on Proposal 4.

41

42 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Phillip, will this proposal

47 align with Federal proposal like Sundown was talking

48 about yesterday?

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's exactly what

1 it is. Go ahead, Mr. Perry.

2

3 MR. PERRY: Yeah, we wrote them kind of
4 at the same time and submitted them and I think we have
5 a couple small differences. I don't remember the Federal
6 and exactly the difference when you get to Arhymot Lake
7 or Big Lake, as Bob calls it. I think we defined those
8 small differences differently. I'm going to try to
9 coordinate to make sure we have that. When the Board of
10 Game has it, I'd like to have some coordination with
11 Robert and with the Refuge here to make sure our language
12 is exactly the same as their language so we don't have
13 any gray areas.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: I beg to differ because
18 the Federal one starts at the mouth of Asunuk (ph) and
19 goes straight line to -- I didn't hear a Federal law
20 proposal on this area here.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: That's a totally separate
25 one. It was also put forth that this proposal is coming
26 from the special action that went in from Nunapitchuk and
27 it was automatically then forwarded when it was denied by
28 the Federal Subsistence Board. I'll mention it one more
29 time. We shouldn't even have to be dealing with this
30 here. We would as a State proposal, but it should
31 already be in place under Federal law if the Federal
32 Subsistence Board would have followed their own criteria
33 as it is at face value.

34

35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further
36 discussion on Proposal 4.

37

38 MR. HOELSCHER: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question is
41 called for. Mr. Aloysius, a roll call vote please on
42 Proposal 4.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

45

46 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.

47

48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.

49

50 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.
2
3 MS. GREGORY: Yes.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.
6
7 MR. KELLY: Yes.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.
10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.
14
15 (No response)
16
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Yes.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. Yes.
26 James Charles.
27
28 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.
31
32 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
35
36 MR. ONEY: Yes.
37
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.
39
40 MR. BROWN: Yes.
41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: 12 yes, one absent.
43 Motion carried.
44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carried.
46 Proposal 5, Mr. Perry.
47
48 MR. PERRY: Proposal 5, I actually think
49 that we have exactly the same language as the Federal
50 proposal, so that is the change in the boundary for the

1 area below Mountain Village to go from the current
2 boundary of Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak to Mountain Village
3 and this would go from the mouth of the Kashunuk River
4 upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik and then
5 straight line to Mountain Village. That would just
6 change that boundary. I think we have the same language
7 for the State proposal to try to mirror the Federal
8 proposal.

9

10 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion is to
13 approve Proposal 5. Do I hear a second.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.
18 Andrew. Further discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

23

24 MR. ANDREW: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question has been
27 called for. All in favor -- roll call vote, please.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Edgar Hoelscher.

30

31 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.

32

33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.

34

35 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Elias Kelly.

38

39 MR. KELLY: Yes.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Lester Wilde.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Paul Manumik.

46

47 (No response)

48

49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Joseph Mike.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. Yes.
8 James Charles.
9
10 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: John Andrew.
13
14 MR. ANDREW: Yes.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Ray Oney.
17
18 MR. ONEY: Yes.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: William Brown.
21
22 MR. BROWN: Yes.
23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.
25
26 MR. H. WILDE: Yes.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: 12 yes, one absent.
29
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.
31 We have a unanimous decision on that. We will break for
32 lunch until 1:30.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (On record)
37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We're down to
39 subsistence baseline study.
40
41 MS. RAY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. My name
42 is Lily Ray. I work for Fish and Game Division of
43 Subsistence. I'm here to present today a baseline
44 project that we're going to be doing in the central
45 Kuskokwim this spring. It's a project that's mostly a
46 little outside of this region other than Kalskag, but it
47 might be extended next year possibly into this region, so
48 I wanted to present it to the Council and get any input
49 or concerns.
50

1 Basically a baseline survey is to find
2 out how people are using all types of wildlife and fish
3 resources, so it's similar to what's done with the salmon
4 eggs. People are asked about just about everything that
5 could be harvested in the area. You also get information
6 about families and income, do some mapping of subsistence
7 areas and do some questions on traditional knowledge as
8 well. It's a chance to also learn about local concerns.

9
10 Why are we doing this project? One, it
11 is part of the mission of the Division of Subsistence to
12 collect information on subsistence and comprehensive
13 surveys have never been done in the central Kuskokwim
14 region. Baselines are a great way to get a complete
15 picture of what subsistence looks like right now so we
16 can see in the future if it's changing.

17
18 This is also part of the process for
19 Donlin Creek Mine and this information will be used in
20 the NEPA process. It's funded by NovaGold through DNR,
21 so DNR is paying Fish and Game and they got the money
22 from NovaGold.

23
24 This year the communities that are going
25 to be asked to participate are Aniak, Chuathbaluk,
26 Crooked Creek, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Red Devil,
27 Sleetmute and Stony River. In all cases, we're going to
28 go to the communities, present to the Councils. They
29 have the option to decide to participate or not. If they
30 do participate, they have the right to have input and
31 suggestions into the terms of the project and the
32 surveys.

33
34 The research is going to be going on this
35 spring between January and March and we should have final
36 results probably just over a year after that in June of
37 2011. We are going to be hiring locally in all the
38 communities, so we're going to have Fish and Game staff
39 paired with local hires working together to go to the
40 households. It's a pretty large project. We're looking
41 to get a 90 percent sample, so we're going to be going to
42 most households and doing a survey and also doing
43 mapping.

44
45 The survey questions are a lot like the
46 surveys that people are probably familiar with with
47 salmon in that it's mostly numbers about the amounts
48 people are harvesting. There will be some questions
49 about sharing as well. They will have a smaller number
50 of key respondent interviews, which are more of the

1 traditional knowledge, so that will not be a 90 percent
2 sample. That might be four to ten people in every
3 community looking for elders and people with a lot of
4 experience to get some of the background story behind the
5 resource harvests in the area. Those are more like a
6 conversation as opposed to asking people for numbers.

7
8 Basically I just wanted to put that out
9 there for the Council's consideration and I'm interested
10 in if people have any suggestions for topics of interest
11 that we might consider, including in the surveys or the
12 interviews, although the final say goes to the Council in
13 any community, but right now we're still sort of putting
14 together our survey and our interviews and we're curious
15 to know what's on people's minds.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions or
20 suggestions. Mr. Roczicka.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Lily, there
23 was a project of almost exactly the same nature of this
24 that was just supposed to have been completed here in the
25 last year or two. I think it was 2004, 2005, Division of
26 Subsistence. Tracy Krauthoefer had received funding and
27 I believe it was through OSM to do this exact same sort
28 of survey.

29
30 When I saw this was going to be a
31 baseline study, I was going to ask you the status of
32 that, if you're looking to create another technical paper
33 from Fish and Game and I wonder where is that one. I
34 received informal notice that it's sitting there as
35 Technical Paper No. 310 but hasn't been released yet and
36 I'm wondering why and where is that and how is this
37 different.

38
39 MS. RAY: Mr. Chair. Can I ask which
40 communities was that in. Was that the one that was in
41 Aniak and Chuathbaluk or was that a different one.

42
43 MR. ROCZICKA: As I recall, it was the
44 middle Kuskokwim villages. Central Kuskokwim.

45
46 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner with
47 OSM, Mr. Chair. The communities, I think it was Crooked
48 on down to Lower Kalskag and it was basically large land
49 mammals. That included, I think, bear, wolf, caribou and
50 moose. The data has been processed and probably is

1 available in a public format. It was funded through the
2 auspices of the Office of Subsistence Management or Fish
3 and Wildlife Service. I don't know why it hasn't been
4 released, but it's still under review there.

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other questions.
7 Mr. Hoelscher.

8
9 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I notice this project is funded by NovaGold. The mind is
11 going to be back there if it goes through, the Donlin
12 Creek Mine. My assumption is that it's funded for one
13 year. If Donlin Creek does go through, the activity is
14 going to be increasing up that river area, so I'm
15 wondering is this just a one year or it's going to be an
16 ongoing project.

17
18 MS. RAY: Mr. Chair. Yes, right now we
19 have funding and plans for one year, but there are plans
20 to extend and to do more baselines in the Kuskokwim.
21 They haven't selected which communities yet, but I think
22 there is a good chance that there will be future years
23 and more communities.

24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Suggestions.
30 Questions.

31
32 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Madame Gregory.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done,
39 An'anaq?

40
41 MS. GREGORY: I understand you're doing
42 surveys, household surveys of subsistence users. What is
43 the purpose of this? We already have that with ADF&G, I
44 thought.

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ma'am.

47
48 MS. RAY: Mr. Chairman. These are
49 comprehensive baselines, so they ask about pretty much
50 everything, from small mammals to large mammals to salmon

1 to non-salmon fish. So a lot of what's been done to date
2 have been maybe a few species, but not comprehensive of
3 all species.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: I feel like a rat under a
6 microscope. We've been studied and surveyed and I'm so
7 tired of it. Because if we have one thing going we
8 shouldn't be duplicating and wasting the money that could
9 be used for other things like that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ma'am.

12
13 MS. RAY: Thank you for letting me know
14 about your concern. I appreciate it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

17
18 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I guess
19 kind of a little bit along those lines I mentioned about
20 that prior study with Tracy, but I notice your next slide
21 says comprehensive subsistence surveys have never been
22 done in these communities. I'm thinking I know Sleetmute
23 for sure had one done back in the early '80s when
24 Subsistence Division first came out. I think Kalskag got
25 one as well. Akiachak and Kwethluk both had theirs done.
26 Quinhagak should have one as well. There was intent to
27 do a lot more.

28
29 MS. RAY: Pippa has informed me that
30 Chuathbaluk is the only one with a baseline and I know
31 that.....

32
33 MS. KENNER: At this point out of those
34 communities.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: Except for Sleetmute.

37
38 MS. RAY: Possibly Sleetmute. So one
39 thing I do know is having looked through some of the
40 older technical papers is some of them were not very
41 thorough. Even if it does exist, that is, I guess, an
42 opportunity to compare change. But I think that's a good
43 point. I'll look into changing the phrasing on that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Did you come
48 to our group to conduct this survey or is that
49 automatically done by those regulators?

50

1 MS. RAY: Mr. Chairman. We'll be going
2 to each community and presenting to the Council and
3 getting permission in each community.

4
5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mary.

8
9 MS. GREGORY: I think the starting point
10 should be here and I am surprised these things are going
11 on behind our back. Do you know anything about it, Mr.
12 Aloysius?

13
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't think it's done
17 behind anybody's back. It's something that had to be
18 done is being done. I was involved in the interviews and
19 I think it was really important. Baseline is just a
20 beginning. How much are people using. It's not compared
21 to somewhere else or sometime else, but it's right now.
22 What are people using. Later on the information that's
23 gathered is going to be compared to what's down the road,
24 maybe 10, 15, 20 years. A lot of the questions are what
25 was it like before, so it's really important that we get
26 this information. It's going to go back to the people
27 she's talking to in these villages. To me it's really
28 important and it's going to be something the young people
29 can look at in print.

30
31 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

34
35 MS. GREGORY: As long as you contact the
36 people before you do that and not just impose questions
37 on them, that's okay with me. I don't want people to
38 come in my house and start asking me questions without
39 making an announcement first.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sure that's
42 understood.

43
44 MS. RAY: Yes, thank you very much. I
45 appreciate that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Not a question, but a comment. Bob was saying what they

1 have in mind. On the Kuskokwim we now have that Donlin
2 Creek that they plan to work on the mine later. If this
3 subsistence harvest is kept going now, if the resource is
4 going down, like the fish or animals, in this area, we
5 would see. That's the problem we have up there, the
6 mine. Our young people would see we used to catch a lot
7 of fish, we used to catch a lot of animals. If the
8 resource declines, that's what we want to keep a record
9 of. So Bob brought out what I had in mind. I'm for this
10 subsistence harvest surveys because we don't know what's
11 going to happen later on.

12

13 Like Billy McCann said yesterday, we used
14 to catch lots of fish and our smokehouses were bigger and
15 put more fish in the smokehouse. That's what I had in
16 mind when Bob said about the future. It also helps our
17 Federal and State managers in the area like for salmon or
18 other resource.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

23

24 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. Along those
25 lines, if you haven't already incorporated in it, there's
26 one thing that folks have been telling me and it's come
27 up in meetings as well, the climate change affects people
28 not being able to get back into creeks where they used
29 to, whether it's a beaver dam or dropping water levels
30 and concern of what it might do to rearing or growth
31 areas for whitefish, overwintering.

32

33 I understand this one is more on the
34 anthropological side, but there's other work to try to
35 get those scientific baselines as well, biological
36 baselines.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. My favorite
41 subject. Before beaver dams we used to have lots of
42 fish, our Native fish, whitefish, sheefish, pike, brown,
43 especially behind Kalskag. Ever since the influx of the
44 beaver population exploding and leaving behind their
45 beaver dams our fish have declined in numbers. That's
46 something I brought out to her time and time again when
47 she was doing the interview. There's not only climate
48 change, but terrain change caused by the influx of beaver
49 moving in and moving out, leaving their dams behind.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

2

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

4 John Andrew of Kwethluk. My concern is the fish because
5 there's always been subsistence and all the people on the
6 Kuskokwim drainage depend on the availability of either
7 a species of salmon, all freshwater fish like whitefish,
8 pike, sheefish and blackfish. Take a look at this one.
9 This baseline study is only proposed for a handful of
10 Central Kuskokwim villages. The whole drainage is going
11 to be affected, including the coastal area. I feel that
12 should be included in this baseline study.

13

14 If something happens because of a spill
15 on the Kuskokwim or a spill up in the proposed mining
16 area, it will be disastrous, it will be irreparable.
17 We'll be at fault too if we support this one. I feel if
18 I support this one, I'll feel guilty about it too.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

23

24 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I'm going to
25 say something here that not all of us are familiar with
26 because our elders will tell us that if the (In Yup'ik).
27 We used to have a lot of things, but times are changing,
28 the world is changing and that's what's happening right
29 now. If you listen to your elders, go and consult them,
30 they know what's happening because (In Yup'ik). We're
31 heading for the end of the world and all these things are
32 happening because the world is going to come to an end.
33 Not in my lifetime, but after I die.

34

35 You should go to your elders while
36 they're still alive and ask them about these things. Get
37 some wisdom from them. That's what Jim Nikolai used to
38 tell us before he died that when famine is coming, the
39 beavers will leave their habitat upriver and go down to
40 the ocean and the whitefish and the sheefish will be
41 prominent in the sloughs. Those are the signs of time.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any
44 further questions or discussion on the baseline study.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you
49 very much.

50

1 MS. RAY: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to Item
4 E. Anyone here from Association of Village Council
5 Presidents.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's no one here.
10 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. I don't
11 believe anybody from that organization is here either.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any tribal
16 representatives from Orutsararmiut Native Council Natural
17 Resources. Mr. Roczicka, do you have any information
18 that you would like to pass on to us.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: I should put this back.
21 Am I going to have to go sit out there?

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. ROCZICKA: I can give you a brief
26 overview of the projects that we do have going. The main
27 ones. Not everything, of course. Several you've heard
28 before. We do have contracts through OSM. We do run the
29 in-season harvest monitoring program. Forty to 50 camps
30 within the vicinity of Bethel essentially from the top of
31 Church Slough on down to Napaskiak on a weekly basis that
32 we bring in to the Kuskokwim working group to help make
33 in-season management decisions for a six-week period
34 during the course of the chinook run.

35

36 In conjunction with that we also do a
37 biosampling of the king salmon, collecting scale samples,
38 age/sex/length, for which we pay people per sample. I
39 mentioned before, we have folks tell us that they make
40 more doing that going around to the neighboring fish
41 camps than they ever did commercial fishing, even years
42 ago. Both of those are funded I believe right now
43 through 2011 or 2012.

44

45 We also talked about the post-season
46 subsistence survey yesterday that the Department does for
47 the whole Kuskokwim drainage. We do that for Bethel just
48 because of its size. We used to do every household but
49 recently went to more of a random sampling which is a
50 change from their statistical department rather than

1 being any easier to do it because they had us going back
2 to the same house here even though it was supposed to be
3 only one third to one half the houses.

4
5 We also contract with Fish and Game to
6 help staff their test fishery. Along with that we also
7 contract with Fish and Wildlife doing coho genetics
8 sampling study to help establish some genetic stock
9 identification data for future use. That one actually is
10 going to be ending this year and then they will spend
11 another year or two putting that together. In the course
12 of these projects we employ anywhere from eight to ten of
13 our local folks per year. As I said before, several of
14 our people have ended up getting hired on by either Fish
15 and Game or Fish and Wildlife Service. Keeping the money
16 in our own region.

17
18 In the last couple years we were
19 successful in getting our foot in the door and under the
20 Partners for Fisheries Program and we got funding enough
21 for a part-time fisheries biologist that we have on
22 staff. Within that we also picked up just this fall an
23 ANSEP student, Alaska Native Science and Engineering
24 Program. We're quite fortunate. She's sitting there in
25 the back. She'll be working with us at least through
26 December right now and when the funding becomes active in
27 2010 she'll be picked up under that program as well.

28
29 We have a couple active programs that is
30 in partnership with other tribal councils. One is with
31 Emmonak. These aren't formal papers, but it's a
32 partnership program nevertheless. We don't sit down and
33 write up agreements with each other. We just work close
34 together for a specific purpose.

35
36 With Emmonak, they have helped us -- ONC
37 runs the senior center that's based here in Bethel for
38 the old folks which actually are from all around the
39 region. Working with Emmonak because of the abundance of
40 moose they have down there. Emo goes out and designates
41 a person to go out and harvest moose for us. Hagelund
42 Aviation flies it over -- I'm sorry, Hagelund doesn't fly
43 anymore. Grant Aviation flies the meat back for free on
44 a space available basis and helps to offset our food
45 costs for the old folks up here and running that center.

46
47 About three to four years ago with a
48 proposal that came forward to the State Board of Game on
49 a statewide meeting we worked with Sleetmute Tribal
50 Council on that. The proposal was to make it into a

1 separate game management unit and it was going down in
2 the water, so Sleetmute had been asking for over 20 years
3 to have that Holitna Basin made into a Fish and Game
4 Refuge, so we helped them put together the language for
5 that and shepherded it through the Board of Game process.
6 It did get changed into -- instead of a game refuge, to
7 bring in the whole concept, because as everyone knows the
8 Holitna is such a productive area that's been so
9 important for everybody up and down the Kuskokwim -- we
10 changed the name to a hunting, fishing and trapping
11 reserve.

12

13 What has happened in other areas of the
14 state there are game refuges. It's now being talked
15 about where it's illegal to even carry firearms, no
16 hunting, because it's a refuge for the animals. The
17 clear purpose we wanted to have here is that this area
18 needs to be managed to provide for the subsistence and
19 the human harvests that come from that and its
20 productiveness to the Kuskokwim.

21

22 That all took place back in 2006-2007 and
23 we did get the endorsement from the Board of Game. The
24 Board of Fish looked at it and referred it to a habitat
25 committee. It was supposed to be set up that the
26 legislation would be introduced because it would require
27 action from the State legislature. It did not get put in
28 at that time when Representative Harren came on, we
29 reopened talks with him on it. He has introduced
30 legislation and we now have House Bill 227, which does
31 establish a hunting, fishing and trapping reserve for the
32 Holitna Basin. The language is set up so that other
33 areas of the state can recognize areas that are highly
34 important for them as well. Kind of bread-basket areas
35 if you will. We've got high hopes that it's going to
36 pass this year. That's one of the major ones we're
37 working on right now.

38

39 That's in a nutshell for a few things
40 we're doing.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Greg.
43 We're down to KNA. Any representatives from.....

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Comment.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Robert.

48 I'm sorry.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'd like to make a comment

1 on the in-season surveys. They are one of the most
2 important tools that the Kuskokwim River Salmon
3 Management Working Group has because it's happening right
4 here at the beginning of the run of the salmon. They do
5 it in-season. They check fish camps I don't know how
6 many days. They get the numbers of how the fish are
7 doing, how many are getting what. Are they early, are
8 they late. It's really important because upriver always
9 blames downriver for catching all their fish. It's not
10 true. They don't get all of our fish. They get some of
11 them. But it's something that the working group really
12 needs to determine, what the fish are doing. ONC does a
13 really wonderful job of making sure that they give us
14 that information on the spot, so it's really helpful.

15
16 Another thing is that Greg has been
17 instrumental in getting that hunting, fishing and
18 trapping reserve. That should be done by people that are
19 upriver, right, because it's up there, but we don't have
20 anybody with that expertise, so I really appreciate
21 Greg's efforts on that.

22
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Bob. It's one
24 you got to be sensitive about when you're talking about
25 the reserve. There's no way I would have been able to do
26 it. Yeah, I know how to write up the paper and move
27 those papers through the process, but without the support
28 of the villages up there -- that's why I call it a
29 partnership program. It would never go anywhere.

30
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

32
33 MR. CHARLES: I, myself, want to thank
34 ONC for participating in the working group because they
35 are a big help to us. The surveys they do are really
36 good, like Bob said. They give reports at every meeting.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.

41 Mr. Aloysius.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: One of the most important
44 things I forgot is that ONC is using our own local people
45 to make these things go on.

46
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments,
48 questions.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Greg.
2 Anybody here from KNA.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to Item
7 H, municipal government representatives. Anyone that
8 would like to address the Council.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Makes my job
13 a lot easier. ANCSA village corporation reps.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No one here. Other
18 organizations who would like to address the Council.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Aloysius.

23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: The Central Kuskokwim Fish
25 and Game Advisory Committee. We're working on defining
26 or clarifying the Game Management Units 18, 19 and 21
27 boundaries because they're so ambiguous right now. It
28 says a straight line from Paimiut to Lower Kalskag, but
29 where? Where does that line start?

30
31 So we're working on clarifying that
32 language and especially clarifying that area Fish and
33 Game troopers call No Man's Land. It's the land between
34 Kalskag, Lower Kalskag and what we call the High Portage
35 Ridge. According to the troopers, that's in 21 and it's
36 not. It's in 19 because it flows into the Kuskokwim
37 River. All those drainages flow into the Kuskokwim
38 River.

39
40 We have about five different
41 alternatives. Some of them are really simple and one of
42 them is really wordy because it follows landmarks,
43 streams, lakes, portages. We're going to decide on which
44 one is simplest because we want to make sure that people
45 understand exactly where Unit 19 starts on the Kuskokwim
46 and we want them to understand exactly where it starts in
47 21 on the Yukon River.

48
49 So we'll be probably calling James to see
50 if he can back us up and whoever is on the Lower Yukon

1 AC. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

8

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

10 I am like Bob Aloysius. Bob Aloysius is the chairman for

11 Middle Kuskokwim. Starts from Kalskag on up. I chair

12 the Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee

13 starting from Kalskag on down to the mouth of Kuskokwim.

14 We plan to have our meeting in end of October for Lower

15 Kuskokwim AC. We just got a new coordinator, the guy in

16 Dillingham.

17

18 I talked to Perry this morning about our
19 meeting. So State proposals can be brought to us at that

20 time. The Board of Game will meet in Nome in November and

21 that was mentioned yesterday. Remember that for this

22 area. Board of Game will meet in Nome in November. We

23 plan to have Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory

24 Committee meeting at the end of October. I just wanted

25 to bring that out to let the people know because there

26 are some State proposals we worked on this morning.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, we are down

35 to.....

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Can i say something?

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: My name is Mary Gregory.

42 I'm the co-chair of the senior center, Kauffman Center

43 Advisory Committee for ONC. We get all kinds of people

44 from the Y-K Delta and I'd like to see those of you that

45 are here to start maybe sending some food for our elders

46 to eat. I want them to eat their own food from their own

47 areas. We've been losing elders. I'd like for them to

48 enjoy life as much as they can while they can. So I'm

49 asking you to send food from your area, like Yukon and

50 Nelson Island and wherever they can.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Any
2 other organization would like to speak.

3

4 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, we are down
7 to.....

8

9 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Wilde.

12

13 MR. H. WILDE: I am with a village
14 corporation at Mountain Village. We have a meeting with
15 city and corporation once a month taking care of some
16 problems in the village. Not only that, talking about
17 problems that come up in our village. When we start
18 doing that, it's very helpful for Mountain Village.
19 Certain time, the school time, 9:00 o'clock, teach the
20 children that they could survive in hunting and all that
21 and make sure they listen to their parents or older
22 families, take them out for a while to handle guns. Like
23 what we're having right now, there are about three stores
24 in Mountain Village and a gas station. Those three
25 stores don't have any lead shells anymore. The boys
26 start training in the work. They also organize a group
27 of boys in older school. Children helping the elders and
28 all that.

29

30 In the meeting, when we get together
31 twice a month, we invite older children. It really helps
32 looking at some things they've never seen before and try
33 to let them learn how to handle the gun and certain
34 things. Try to let them obey the rule and regulation of
35 State and Federal law enforcement. It's really helpful.

36

37 I think it would be good. We are right
38 now, people, elder, I don't know how many elders get
39 together and they see that -- they're saying that we are
40 a target for everything down here. We're not getting any
41 subsistence king salmon. I think this summer it's not
42 for -- Federal people come down. When we get chum salmon
43 fishing and when we get the king salmon, they let them
44 keep for us for subsistence and the elders was really
45 happy and thanking Federal. They're saying that I wish
46 -- I'm glad that someone is thinking about because we've
47 been used to those people from right there, Mountain
48 Village and below.

49

50 We used to have first king salmon come

1 in. We used to have for subsistence and we catch. Right
2 now this summer they have quite a bit, a lot of problem
3 enforcement because they tell them not to take a king
4 salmon unless tail fins are cut off and you cannot sell
5 no king salmon. You catch them with 6-inch mesh. Now it
6 make it worse this Council upriver people that write a
7 proposal this coming summer subsistence fishing with 6-
8 inch. If you catch a king salmon, dead or alive, you have
9 to throw it overboard. It's really bad, the regulation
10 proposal right now that's on the table.

11
12 They tell Lower Yukon people that if they
13 happen to catch this coming summer using a subsistence or
14 smaller, if they happen to have a king salmon go through,
15 you have to throw overboard some salmon or otherwise you
16 will get enforcement if this proposal pass.

17
18 Elders, we try to do everything we can.
19 When I was up at North Pacific Fishery meeting on
20 subsistence, one of the elders called me in Anchorage and
21 said, Harry, I want you to thank the Federal people that
22 let us have king salmon for subsistence, especially those
23 people in Emmonak, because they were having a problem.
24 I know how to be hungry and all that and those children
25 were really hungry and their parents, their grandfathers,
26 grandmothers. One of the workers helping them he pass
27 away and they couldn't do nothing. He said sometime the
28 children, evening time, cry, hungry. Tribal people get
29 together and make sure that writing to governor and all
30 others so they could get help.

31
32 When you can't get that king salmon and
33 look at -- in order to keep, you've got to take those
34 fins and cut off. If you don't, you'll get enforcement
35 problem. I hope some way, some how that problem wouldn't
36 come again because of our elder people and those children
37 that are hungry in their home. That's all I'm saying.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Wilde.
42 Anybody else.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One more call just in
47 case I get surprised. Anybody else would like to address
48 the Council.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, we're down to
2 Item 13, 2008 annual reply letter which was addressed to
3 me. You can find that letter on Page 100. It was a
4 reply to a letter we wrote to the Federal Subsistence
5 Board. It is as follows:
6

7 Dear Mr. Wilde. This letter responds to
8 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Alaska Subsistence Regional
9 Advisory Council's 2008 Annual Report approved at its
10 February 25 and 26, 2009 meeting. The Federal
11 Subsistence Board appreciates your effort in developing
12 the Annual Report and values the opportunity to review
13 the issues brought forward concerning your region.
14 Annual Reports allow the Board to become more aware of
15 the issues that fall outside the regulatory proposal
16 process and affect subsistence users in your region.
17

18 The responsibility to respond to these
19 reports has been delegated to the Board by the
20 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. The Board
21 has reviewed your Annual Report and offers the following
22 responses.
23

24 Issue 1: Kuskokwim Moose Moratorium.
25 The Council recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board
26 work with the Alaska Board of Game to extend the
27 Kuskokwim moose moratorium for another year or more to
28 allow moose numbers to grow in the area. The Council
29 further recommends that the Federal Subsistence and the
30 Alaska Board of Game, after the extended moratorium,
31 conduct a careful survey of moose presence in the
32 moratorium area and findings should be provided to all
33 cooperating parties shortly after the survey is
34 concluded.
35

36 Response. The five year moose hunting
37 moratorium in the lower Kuskokwim River drainage was
38 established to allow the moose population to increase to
39 1,000 animals before a limited harvest could be allowed.
40 The State's goal was to establish a season after the
41 five-year moratorium ended or upon reaching the
42 1,000-moose objective, both of these criteria have been
43 met. The Alaska Board of Game established a registration
44 hunt with a one bull harvest limit and a September 1
45 through September 10 season for the 2009/2010 regulatory
46 year, based on January 2, 2008 surveys that revealed that
47 the moose population was likely to reach the 1,000-moose
48 objective. This registration hunt will allow a harvest
49 of up to 75 bulls.
50

1 Federal public lands in the lower
2 Kuskokwim River portion of Unit 18 remain closed to the
3 hunting of moose by all users and will remain closed
4 until the Federal Subsistence Board eliminates the
5 closure. To date, the Board has not received a proposal
6 to lift the closure; however, the Board recently received
7 a proposal from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
8 requesting the establishment of community harvest quotas
9 for communities that harvest moose in the lower Kuskokwim
10 River drainage of Unit 18. Like the State's 10-day moose
11 season, the refuge proposed establishment of community
12 harvest quotas and is intended to serve as a modest
13 transition from the current Federal moose hunting
14 closure. However, since the Board has not received a
15 proposal to open a season, simply establishing community
16 harvest quotas will not, in itself, provide moose harvest
17 opportunities in the Kuskokwim River portion of Unit 18.

18
19 The Council will have opportunity to
20 review the Federal proposal analysis and provide a
21 recommendation to the Board at its winter 2010 meeting,
22 along with any further management options it may want the
23 Board to consider. During its May 2010 meeting, the Board
24 will review the proposal analysis and the Council's
25 recommendations prior to making any decision on the
26 proposal.

27
28 Issue 2: Beaver Problems in the
29 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

30
31 The Council continues to seek action from
32 land managers to manage the population explosion of
33 beavers in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Pleas from village
34 elders were heard that action should be taken on the
35 beaver population which causes drastic environmental
36 changes.

37
38 The response to that was the Yukon Delta
39 Refuge Manager, Gene Peltola discussed beavers with the
40 Council at its February 25-26, 2009 meeting in Bethel,
41 and the Refuge included 70 pages of information
42 concerning beavers in the Council book for that meeting.
43 Mr. Peltola explained that beavers fall within the Yukon
44 Delta Refuge's mandate for natural diversity and that
45 beavers and beaver dams are a net benefit to the Refuge
46 ecosystem. He stated that the refuge is willing to help
47 set up the beaver trapping clinics or seminars that could
48 help bring in a cottage industry, making beaver mittens
49 for example.

50

1 Refuge Manager Peltola also offered to
2 assist villages, councils, or individuals go through the
3 process when an Alaska Department of Fish and Game permit
4 is required for beaver dam removal. The refuge contacted
5 ADF&G, Division of Habitat to ask for its policy on
6 beaver dam removal. The Division of Habitat responded
7 through an e-mail from William D. Frost on February 26,
8 2009. Mr. Frost stated that, When beaver dams become a
9 nuisance, the Division of Habitat does not require a Fish
10 Habitat permit to remove beaver dams using hand tools.
11 Mechanized means to remove a beaver dam will require a
12 Fish Habitat Permit. Before a beaver dam removal, an
13 individual should contact our office to discuss the need,
14 location and method of dam removal. Please refer to our
15 web site at www.habitat.adfg.alaska.gov/ for information
16 concerning our statutory authority." A copy of the
17 ADF&G, Division of Habitat email was provided to the
18 Council at its February 2009 meeting in Bethel and its
19 enclosed with this letter.

20

21 Over the years, in response to several of
22 the Council's Annual Reports, the Board has explained the
23 Federal Subsistence Management Programs limitations
24 regarding beaver control and has referred the Council to
25 agencies that might be able to address the Council's
26 concerns as they were described in the Reports. Mr.
27 Peltola recently offered to assist regional residents as
28 much as is possibly under the Refuge's legal mandate.
29 The Board recommends that the Council accept Mr.
30 Peltola's offer of assistance.

31

32 Issue 3: Muskox Management Strategy in
33 Unit 18

34

35 The Council hereby recommends that the
36 Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Department of
37 Fish and Game provide funding for a strategic plan to
38 start research project on the population of muskoxen in
39 Unit 18 mainland. The Council believed that this proposed
40 project would play an important role in supplementing the
41 subsistence food supply.

42

43 The response to that was muskoxen are
44 considered a valued resource by some Unit 18 residents.
45 While muskox populations exist in clumped distribution,
46 Unit 18 mainland population numbers are unknown. The
47 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with
48 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, would like to
49 conduct a muskox radio telemetry monitoring project of
50 the mainland population pending the availability of the

1 necessary funds. Federal land management agencies, in
2 this case the refuge, have the lead role in identifying
3 large-animal monitoring projects and producing project
4 status reports. The Board and the Office of Subsistence
5 utilize information gained from project status reports
6 for decision making through the Federal regulatory
7 process. The Board appreciates the Council's
8 identification and recommendations on project and
9 information needs.

10

11 Issue 4: Salmon Bycatch Hard Cap in the
12 Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

13

14 The council encourages the Federal
15 Subsistence Board to increase its involvement on the
16 salmon bycatch issue in the pollock fishery industry in
17 the Bering Sea. The Council recommends that the Board
18 convey to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
19 its obligation to provide salmon for subsistence harvest
20 for rural residents of Alaska.

21

22 The response to that was over the past
23 three years, the Board has been actively engaged in
24 efforts to minimize salmon bycatch in the Bering
25 Sea/Aleutian Islands commercial pollock fishery,
26 including:

27

28 The Board kept up to date on salmon
29 bycatch issues through Office of subsistence Management
30 staff attendance at several meetings of the North Pacific
31 Fishery Management Council.

32

33 The Board submitted its comments and
34 recommendations in letters to the NPFMC, including its
35 recommendation for the Chinook Salmon Bycatch
36 Environmental Impact Statement, that the NPFMC adopt a
37 bycatch hard cap of 29,323 chinook salmon, the
38 alternative with the least amount of bycatch. This cap
39 was also recommended by the Bristol Bay, Yukon-Kuskokwim
40 Delta, Western Interior and Eastern Interior Subsistence
41 Regional Advisory Councils. Each of the Councils chairs
42 should have received a copy of the Board's February 2009
43 letter to the NPFMC with this recommendation.

44

45 The OSM funded representatives from five
46 Regional Advisory Councils to attend and testify at the
47 June 2008 Kodiak and April 2009 Anchorage NPFMC meetings
48 on salmon bycatch.

49

50 Mike Fleagle, Board Chair, testified in

1 person during the April 2009 NPFMC meeting in Anchorage,
2 again advocating the 29,323 hard cap. Mr. Fleagle also
3 testified on the importance of Chinook salmon as a
4 subsistence food resource for many Federally-qualified
5 subsistence users in Alaska.

6
7 The Board will continue to monitor salmon
8 bycatch issues and provide further comments and
9 recommendations, as warranted.

10
11 Issue 5: Proactive Management Strategies
12 of subsistence Resource Populations to provide and
13 Maintain Adequate Resources to meet subsistence Harvest
14 Needs

15
16 The Council encourages the Federal
17 Subsistence Board to proactively manage not only the
18 human aspect of harvest, but to develop management
19 strategies for each conservation unit. The purpose of
20 these management strategies would be to ensure that
21 subsistence resources are maintained at a healthy level
22 and are able to sustain subsistence uses. The Council
23 strongly recommends that the Federal Subsistence Board
24 consider this request as a priority item.

25
26 The response to that was the Board
27 appreciates your interest in and concern for the Boards
28 commitment to developing management strategies to ensure
29 that subsistence resources are maintained at a healthy
30 level and are able to sustain subsistence uses. The Board
31 also appreciates your ongoing interest in having the
32 Board meet with council representatives to discuss
33 wildlife resource management issues.

34
35 In terms of the latter request, the
36 council chairs and the Federal Subsistence Board have a
37 longstanding practice of discussing regional and
38 statewide administrative matters in conjunction with the
39 Boards regulatory meetings. At the most recent meeting
40 in January 2009, the discussion was scheduled to occur at
41 the end of the meeting and was specifically intended to
42 be an open discussion between the council chairs, the
43 Board, and ADF&G staff regarding ways to improve the dual
44 management system. We intend to keep those types of
45 discussions on the agenda for public meetings and
46 encourage you to bring items of concern up for
47 discussion.

48
49 In response to your request that the
50 Board develop management strategies to ensure that

1 subsistence resources are healthy and able to sustain
2 subsistence uses, we believe this is already occurring.
3 The Federal managers pay close attention to population
4 data and make management recommendations based on this
5 information. The agencies do communicate and coordinate
6 efforts where possible. The Federal Subsistence
7 Management Program has and will continue to coordinate
8 management efforts between the Federal and State agencies
9 to address population declines and other issues involving
10 wildlife statewide.

11
12 The Memorandum of Understanding between
13 the Board and State of Alaska is an effort to facilitate
14 better collaboration between the agencies. Program staff
15 has been working to address the management issues brought
16 forth at the April 29, 2008 Board meeting. Since the
17 meeting, there have been ongoing discussions between the
18 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the ADF&G to address
19 the concerns raised by the council chairs. However, at
20 this time, no resolution has been reached. If an answer
21 to these issues is reached, we will inform the Council.

22
23 In closing, I thank the members of the
24 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
25 Council for their continued involvement and diligence in
26 matters regarding the Federal Subsistence Management
27 Program. I speak for the entire Board in expressing our
28 appreciation for your efforts and our confidence that the
29 subsistence users of the region are well represented
30 through your work. Sincerely, Michael R. Fleagle, Chair,
31 Federal Subsistence Board.

32
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are now on Item B,
34 annual report topics. It was supposed to be by Ms.
35 Barbara Armstrong, but she had to leave. Would you cover
36 that, Mr. Kron.

37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Members of the
39 Council. This is an opportunity for the Council to start
40 thinking about what questions and requests you would like
41 to include in your upcoming annual report. You start it
42 at the fall meeting and I believe it's finalized at the
43 winter meeting. Normally there's some general discussion
44 about what topics you'd like to see on the annual report
45 this year.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Alex Nick will be
50 at his office and if you have any concerns concerning

1 that annual report or if you have any suggestions you
2 could call him at his 800 number. Okay.

3

4 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

7

8 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. I'm going to
9 bring it out again and keep beating my head on this wall
10 regarding that issue 5 is an example of how words can be
11 turned. A statement that's put in there regarding able
12 to stay sustained subsistence uses where words were
13 chosen out of a lengthy submission on what they responded
14 to and what they didn't. To say that they're able to
15 sustain subsistence uses that can be interpreted. If
16 you've got somebody harvesting at least two of something,
17 then, by God, there's subsistence uses going on, so
18 they're being sustained, but there's no realistic efforts
19 happening to make sure that the subsistence needs are
20 being met.

21

22 For them to say that they believe all of
23 this in their last paragraph on developing management
24 strategies that they're healthy and able to sustain
25 subsistence uses, et cetera, and where they say we
26 believe this is already occurring, it is absolutely not
27 occurring. If we're having hunts that have been
28 restricted for many, many, many, many, many, many years,
29 generations in fact, sustain much larger levels of
30 harvest under previous management programs until the
31 Federal system came in. There's nothing wrong with the
32 habitat. There's no limiting factor there. Your weather
33 and your environmental factors are not reducing that
34 population in any way, shape or form. The human harvest
35 that was there did not reduce the species that we're
36 talking about, specifically moose and the whole predator
37 management issue.

38

39 It is not occurring. It is not occurring
40 other than just being able to say that they're talking
41 about it. When hunts are being shut down and we're in a
42 Tier II situation where hunts have been closed
43 altogether, no, it is not occurring.

44

45 We should try to draft this again and put
46 it down in a straightforward language and get that
47 response. I will say that this topic and most of you got
48 the paper here that I gave to the Cabinet when they were
49 out there, which I did receive prior approval from the
50 Chairman. I also called up OSM to make sure that I

1 wasn't out of line. Since we discussed it at length at
2 our spring meeting they didn't see a problem with it
3 because, of course, the Council is restricted from any
4 kind of public statements with the exception of
5 responding to proposals and things of that nature.

6
7 In the course of making those phone calls
8 I was also informed regarding following that April 29
9 board meeting of '08 where I did represent the Council at
10 that meeting and received full support of the exact same
11 concerns from the Western Interior, Eastern Interior,
12 Cook Inlet Region, North Slope, Seward Peninsula,
13 everyone that was there, all were in full support of
14 this. Those negotiations that were supposed to take
15 place have evidently been off again, on again.

16
17 I was told at that time at this meeting
18 we were supposed to be receiving a report on that and I
19 don't recall what the fellows name is, has a Z in it,
20 head of the fish and wildlife negotiations group or
21 issues for OSM. He said we should be receiving a report
22 that we should find very favorable in this regard and I
23 was looking forward to seeing something about that, but
24 I haven't seen it as yet.

25
26 This, I believe, is something that we
27 need to continue pressing on because it gets back to the
28 same time that it's -- to me, it's stated in this one
29 that I gave to the cabinet. It's like a breach of
30 treaty. And then coming up again under this special
31 action request where things are laid out, it's like,
32 yeah, we know that's what we say, but that's not really
33 what we mean. If they're only managing the human harvest
34 and not managing their populations to provide for those
35 human harvest needs, they are not doing their job under
36 ANILCA.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kron.

39
40 MR. KRON: As Council Member Roczicka
41 pointed out, the predator management issue was addressed
42 at the April/May 2008 Board meeting. The Board at that
43 meeting committed to work on that issue. We apologize
44 for the lack of timeliness in the response to the Council
45 Chairs on predator management. The new administration
46 hasn't yet had the opportunity to weigh in on this issue.
47 It is my understanding that there is nothing in Fish and
48 Wildlife Service regulations or ANILCA to prevent
49 predator management on Fish and Wildlife Service lands in
50 Alaska. With that said, as you know, there's a

1 tremendous amount of sensitivity around this issue.
2 There's a need to assure that information is accurate and
3 that refuge specific considerations are addressed.

4
5 Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 Service, Region 7, Alaska, the Solicitor's Office and the
7 Secretary of the Interior's Office representative here in
8 Alaska are working on drafting a response to the Council
9 Chairs on predator management. That draft still has to be
10 reviewed by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture.
12 The hope is that the response to the Council Chairs will
13 be ready when the Board meets to consider wildlife
14 proposals next spring.

15
16 I think Gene Peltola had some
17 perspectives on this as well as it relates to the Yukon
18 Delta Refuge. He was unable to be here. He left me some
19 of his comments. In addition to what I've provided, he
20 said he thought that given the number of people that are
21 going to be focused on this kind of issue that it would
22 definitely require an environmental assessment or an
23 environmental impact statement process to be addressed.
24 Again, he pointed out that I think as many of you know
25 various control efforts have been done. There was a lot
26 of news media coverage around the Rat Island issue, the
27 removal of rats from the island. Out in the Aleutians
28 there's a number of programs in place to try to protect
29 endangered eiders, both on the North Slope and here on
30 the Delta.

31
32 Again, these kinds of issues have been
33 addressed in those situations. My understanding is that
34 they're working on a response on that issue.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Roczicka.

37
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Kron.
39 We are down to Item 14, closing comments. We will start
40 with Mr. Andrew. Do you have any closing comments.

41
42 MR. ANDREW: Yes, thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank all of you
44 guys for showing up here and our Staff and Fish and Game
45 Staff. One of them made an impression on me with his
46 PowerPoint presentation. We need to see more of those.
47 The people that testify, it would be very helpful if they
48 could put their testimony in writing or if there are
49 documents to provide copies for us. If we can see it in
50 black and white, it would be more understandable for us

1 and our recorders.

2

3 (In Yup'ik)

4

5 MR. ANDREW: That was my other point.

6 Quyana.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just one comment. We
9 don't have our translator here, so our comments are not
10 being recorded by our recorder, just in Yup'ik. If
11 there's some way that we're able to discuss -- do this in
12 English, would you please do it in English.

13

14 An'anaq.

15

16 MS. GREGORY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 My name is Mary Gregory. I'm a member of this Council.
18 My first concern is directed to the OSM people. I said
19 do not take a coordinator to another area during our
20 meeting because I felt I was very handicapped because
21 there was no housekeeping things announced. As a result,
22 we had some kind of a meeting that we didn't have to --
23 everybody just came before us without proper procedures
24 that were followed eventually.

25

26 Another thing is next meeting I'm going
27 to collect money from the people, take up a collection,
28 because my time when we meet in Bethel is total voluntary
29 and I don't mind doing that for my elders, especially my
30 people and my elders because I want them to continue to
31 enjoy their way of life as much as they can. I noticed
32 that the lady who was taking Alex's place gave money to
33 Jerry Berg to get some bagels for us.

34

35 Another thing that I wanted Alex to be
36 here is because he knows what we want and how we are and
37 he can accommodate us. I'm finding out about getting
38 registered so that my organization at my church can start
39 making proposals to accommodate the meeting. We have
40 kitchens there, we have a large place and it's quiet and
41 it has a lot of parking space. I saw that the State and
42 Federal organizations, we are starting to work together.

43

44 I want to thank Akiachak and Kwethluk for
45 coming down here to testify. We want you to come to our
46 other meeting and make proposals. If you do, make sure
47 that Alex Nick is involved because he knows how to make
48 proper proposals that are not confusing. I'm glad that
49 you stayed together with us, those people who came from
50 the villages, because that shows me how much you care

1 about your subsistence way of life. Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Quyana, Mary. Mr.
4 Aloysius, any closing comments.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Over the years
7 I've been sitting here and other places, one thing that's
8 striking to me is the word subsistence has been watered
9 down more and more and more and more by bureaucracy.
10 It's scary to see how the system works.

11

12 They don't really listen to our concerns
13 and when they do answer a question or request, they
14 rubber stamp year after year after year. All of the
15 people up on the top are paper educated. They have no
16 concept of what it's like to live on Mother Earth and
17 depend on Mother Earth and how it's our responsibility as
18 people to take care of Mother Earth.

19

20 We have to respect all life, especially
21 our relations and our relations are not only humans but
22 our sisters and brothers that fly, roost, climb, walk,
23 hop, crawl, slither, burrow, swim and grow on Mother
24 Earth. They're the ones we really have to look after so
25 that we, in turn, can benefit from them. In one word we
26 say (In Yup'ik), the daily pursuit of food, shelter,
27 clothing, comfort, companionship while hunting, fishing,
28 trapping and gathering with respect to all animals.

29

30 The bureaucracy has not been very kind to
31 us. Another thing please find another site to have
32 meetings in Bethel. A stand-alone building where there's
33 no traffic on either side, especially noise from an
34 adjoining room. Very distracting.

35

36 On a very personal note, I have a heck of
37 a time trying to find pages on this book, so whoever is
38 in charge of developing these manuals please make sure
39 that they put the pages on the top of the outside margins
40 because you can't find any pages by looking like that.
41 It's bothersome.

42

43 Just for the benefit of the village
44 people, please, when you write a proposal, make sure you
45 specify exactly what area you want to address, not a
46 general statement like Unit 18. If you're concerned
47 about your specific area, please put it down and it will
48 make it more understanding for me and I know exactly
49 where you're coming from.

50

1 Last but not least, thank you all for
2 putting up with me because sometimes I get really
3 frustrated and I get -- somebody said, when I get tired,
4 I get mean. (Laughs) But I don't, really. I can't say
5 things I really want to say from my heart and a lot of
6 times it comes out from my head. So please bear with me
7 and thank you again for the opportunity to serve our
8 people.

9

10 Quyana.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert,
13 Bob. Mr. Mike, do you have any closing comments.

14

15 MR. MIKE: My name is Joseph Mike. I
16 have been with the Council for many years. In Kotlik
17 we've been talking about the proposals that were made by
18 upriver. We were supposed to have a meeting about the
19 proposals in Emmonak sometime with Lower Yukon people.
20 I'd like to know when that will be. We were supposed to
21 have a grand opening for a new clinic, but the Swine flu
22 that we've been hearing postponed the grand opening until
23 November 13. I'm really happy about the new clinic.
24 We've been having a problem with turnover for the health
25 aide, but once they submitted their resignation I told
26 her it's getting harder and harder for people with no job
27 and hard for us to support the children and we cannot
28 keep up with places in Alaska. Those are the things that
29 I told the health aide that was going to retire, resign,
30 but she throw away her resignation and start working.

31

32 Quyana.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Mike.
35 Mr. Hoelscher, do you have comments.

36

37 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 A couple things. One, next week our 50 plus villages are
39 meeting. It would be nice if we had a designated
40 representative listening in on those meetings because
41 there will be fish and wildlife concerns that will
42 probably be coming up.

43

44 The other thing is the boundaries of our
45 important officers should not be overstepped just because
46 they are important officers, like for instance what we
47 heard where their grub boxes were looked into to see when
48 there was actually nothing in there.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
2 Hoelscher. Mr. Charles, do you have any closing remarks.

3
4 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I just want to thank everybody here who came and all the
6 Council members and people from villages who came from
7 Akiachak, Kwethluk and there was some people, ADF&G
8 people. I just want to thank everybody for a good
9 meeting here. Quyana.

10
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown, do you
12 have any closing comments.

13
14 MR. BROWN: I have a comment about what
15 the people from back home wanted me to bring out about
16 commercial fishery. I mostly participate the commercial
17 fish for an American group. Whatever happens in my area
18 they call me and ask me about what happened. So mostly
19 I tell them that I'll bring it out to the appropriate
20 officials that can handle the problem.

21
22 Last commercial fishing in that one area
23 in the Kuskokwim there was some patrolling problem during
24 the commercial openers and we couldn't control it, but I
25 could bring it out to the officials here as a comment.
26 It's not right patrolling during their commercial openers
27 because they legally fishing during their permitted
28 hours. The last time there was some disturbance. The
29 plane was flying too low and circles around. Some of the
30 permit holders -- one time there was a lady and she got
31 scared during the six-hour opener. Instead she quit
32 after three hours of fishing because she didn't want to
33 get involved in taking pictures from the aircraft. So I
34 wanted to bring that out.

35
36 I just want to ask how high those planes
37 are supposed to fly. Are they supposed to fly less than
38 500 feet or do they have rights to fly that low. That's
39 one of my problems that I should ask you guys from Fish
40 and Game.

41
42 That's my comment. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any answer to the
45 question about the height of the flight in the areas?
46 Tom, could you maybe touch on that. I know you're not a
47 pilot, but you might be from FAA.

48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I'm not a
2 pilot. I'm not from FAA. I do not know the answer to
3 that question. Perhaps a refuge staff would, but they're
4 not able to be here. Mr. Peltola had to leave for family
5 reasons. I'll ask Gene when he gets back in the office
6 and ask him to get a hold of Mr. Brown.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would that be okay
11 with you, Mr. Brown?

12
13 MR. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

14
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that it?

16
17 MR. BROWN: Not too long after that what
18 happened I just called Fish and Game and I was calling
19 the head biologist. He just passed the word to the
20 troopers, so I appreciated that. I hope in the future
21 they don't do that, scaring ladies.

22
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think if you
24 brought that up to the people that are involved in it,
25 that you might get more results out of them than you
26 would probably from this body. Mr. Kelly. Go ahead,
27 James.

28
29 MR. CHARLES: Many times when people
30 complain about planes flying low we tell them to get the
31 date, the time, the color of the plane and the tail
32 number to report to whoever we want to take the case to,
33 managers or FAA or anybody.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
38 Charles. Mr. Kron.

39
40 MR. KRON: Again, if I can follow up with
41 Mr. Brown, Mr. Chairman. Do you know what day and time
42 and color of the plane? Was it a Fish and Wildlife
43 Service plane or a State plane or private plane, do you
44 know?

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 MR. BROWN: That plane was an operator.
49 He used to land a few times and he was a trooper. I
50 forgot his name, but he was using a SuperCub, blue color.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Sounds like it might
2 be an ADF&G airplane.

3
4 MR. ALOYSIUS: State doesn't have a
5 plane.

6
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. If not, we'll
8 go to Mr. Kelly.

9
10 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11 would like to thank the Council and the elders on the
12 Council. It's always good to hear your stories and your
13 accounts. I'd like to thank the representatives who are
14 on the Yukon side. This year we've got a lot of issues
15 regarding our fisheries. It's not the first time and
16 it's probably not going to be the last time.

17
18 This Council was recreated to advise for
19 subsistence issues in our portion of Alaska. As part of
20 a public policy procedure, I'd like to thank Tina and the
21 recordkeeping she's able to do. The way the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service makes public these records. Since the
23 early 1990s I can go back and read reports of these
24 meetings, so it's not like we've got any secrets to hide.
25 I hope in our future more involvement we are with -- the
26 clearer we are with addressing our issues, that's only
27 going to give us strength eventually.

28
29 I do appreciate being here and I'd like
30 to thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Kelly.
33 Mr. Wilde, do you have any closing comments.

34
35 MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36
37 What I'm saying is we are from Lower
38 Yukon and most of them from Kuskokwim. One of the men
39 was telling me I don't know what you will do. Kuskokwim,
40 Lower Yukon, they're not going to help you if you need
41 help. No, I don't believe in that. We work together
42 ever since when we start these meetings and meetings. I
43 think Tom Kron knows we go through a lot of things. Him
44 and I, we go through negotiations and all that. We've
45 done something. People, if they work together, they've
46 always done something. You work together for the benefit
47 of your people. I've been trying. I've been doing the
48 best I can. When a person needs help, I do my best.

49
50 I seen these Advisory Boards here. I

1 knew them all. Like each one of us if we work together
2 nothing is impossible. If we work together, we can
3 always accomplish something. Qu yana.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Harry.
6 Mr. Oney, do you have any closing comments.

7

8 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 just want to thank everyone that came and participated in
10 this meeting. Many of those people came far and wide to
11 share their concerns in their area. Also the Staff,
12 especially the Council that are sitting here for being on
13 time every day.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Oney.
18 Mr. Roczicka, do you have any comments.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 I echo everybody here. I appreciate folks showing up,
22 especially Akiachak, Kwethluk. You guys coming down. We
23 don't often get that. Especially to sit through the
24 whole meeting, not just come in to say your peace and
25 then walk out and later on say we never listened to what
26 you said. It's sometimes very frustrating to sit up here
27 and try to balance current desires versus obvious future
28 needs.

29

30 Deal with that on one side and then
31 looking on the other side with a whole bureaucratic
32 structure that we have to deal with. It's like false
33 promises are coming out from the Federal system. When
34 they take issues like this and say that they have to do
35 an environmental impact statement, the bottom line is
36 that when these refuges were created throughout the state
37 and the Federal lands were created and Title VIII went
38 into place, it was to put subsistence as the priority
39 use.

40

41 There's no other way for it, but it's
42 weasel words to get out of it and say that they're going
43 to do an environmental impact statement, which puts the
44 whole other 49 states in the Lower 48 into the mix and
45 uses words like they're not going to do management
46 activities unless there's a biological emergency. Which,
47 when you take that down to it's final line, means there's
48 only two moose left and they're both males or both
49 females, whatever. It drives you nuts sometimes.

50

1 Andy Sharp had a good word for it -- (In
2 Yup'ik). Anyway, I just appreciate it. I think it was
3 a really good meeting. I appreciate everybody for
4 coming, Staff especially.

5
6 Quyana.

7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Roczicka. Before I say anything, I'd like to thank my
10 brother for passing me on these two pieces of --
11 mechanical, whatever they are. Sure made it a lot easier
12 to call you guys back to order. Anyway, I've inherited
13 this from Harry. He got these from the very first
14 meeting when he chaired the Council in 1993 and he's also
15 the oldest standing member of our Council. He started
16 serving on this Council in 1993 and talked me into
17 joining him in 1996.

18
19 (Applause)

20
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One thing I wanted to
22 say was that we, on the Yukon River, and the people on
23 the Yukon River are going to be needing a lot of help at
24 the next meeting with the Board of Fish. If we can get
25 any kind of help from the Kuskokwim. Whenever we've
26 needed help from each other we've always come together
27 and made our points known. As it stands right now, we
28 have seven members from the Yukon with the other six
29 members coming on the Kuskokwim, so we're pretty well
30 evenly divided on this Council.

31
32 I know that if push comes to shove that
33 every one of us will be here supporting those people on
34 the Yukon River that will need our support in the next
35 coming Board of Fish meeting.

36
37 I want to thank everybody from the bottom
38 of my heart people that came over and testified because
39 we're all dependant on our subsistence resources that
40 come from the land. As Robert says, every bit of the
41 resources that come from the land are important to us and
42 we should be here and take care of the resources that
43 were given to us.

44
45 Thank you very much for coming. At this
46 time, the Chair will entertain a motion for adjournment.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: Before I make the motion to
49 adjourn, Mr. Kron brought us some subsistence food he
50 made, so if you want to take some before you go. I move

1 that we adjourn.
2
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion has been
4 made to adjourn. Do I hear a second to the motion?
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Second on the motion.
9 No discussion. All in favor say aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sorry, but
14 adjourning motion. You could make an afterthought.
15
16 MR. NICORI: I'd like to make the
17 suggestion to the Council what we do in our village is
18 support our representative to the IRA and provide him
19 with meal and meeting stipend from our IRA tribal
20 council. I would ask you to solicit your tribal or
21 Native council to support you on that like we do.
22
23 Thank you.
24
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. An'anaq,
26 could you say our departing prayer, please.
27
28 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik).
29
30 Amen.
31
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. The
33 meeting is adjourned.
34
35 (Off record)
36
37 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 137 through 242 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by our firm on the 3rd day of October 2009, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Bethel, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of October 2009.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:9/16/2010