

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

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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6 VOLUME II

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

11  
12 September 30, 2011  
13 9:00 a.m.

14  
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16  
17  
18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 9/30/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting to order.

Before we start, do we have any announcements, Alex.

MR. NICK: Good morning. For the record, Alex Nick, Council coordinator.

What I just wanted to remind RAC members who are going to be travelling back tomorrow is that, you know, we've had travel policy that's becoming more restrictive. I mean, the travel policy is becoming more restrictive due to things that we have to do, you know, in order to change your travel.

For those of you -- I understand that there's three RAC members who are going to be changing their return travel. What's going to happen is your return travel was scheduled for tomorrow morning, on Saturday morning. If you change and attend other meeting, if you have plans to change other meetings, your per diem will end and your lodging will end by check-out time tomorrow morning, because if we have to make any changes to add another day, your per diem will end on the approximate time you're supposed to reach home, weather permitting. Weather factor is something that, you know, we can't control, so that could change.

But before the end of the day today, by noon today at least, I need to know exactly what time you're planning to return home, if you are going to change your travel. I know that one of you is returning to Anchorage. We will not be able to pay for your way from Bethel to Anchorage. So your ticket will end right here in Bethel, this meeting, if you are going to go places like Anchorage, for example.

I need to know by noon today your travel changes. I know that Bob told me, and Evan Polty, and there's one more person who is going to be attending another meeting right after this. So what I don't want is I don't want to have to deal with one

1 travel change that I didn't know about, because it will  
2 have to go through me. Any changes have to go through  
3 me, and then I will change your itinerary with our  
4 travel agency. And then your hotel, if you have some  
5 issues with hotel, there's another person who will be  
6 involved. And there are at least two other people  
7 besides me will be involved for any changes that you  
8 might want to make.

9

10 If you have any questions, I'll try to  
11 answer your questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

14

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

16

17 Coming over two days ago weather was  
18 good, but the plane was two hours late. What happens  
19 to that kind of stuff? The weather was good, but the  
20 plane didn't make it on time, and my scheduled travel  
21 time, I didn't travel when I was supposed to. What  
22 kind of -- what do I do about that kind.

23

24 MR. NICK: Things like that, that you  
25 can't control, that's, you know, relating to weather  
26 factors, you know, as long as there's no change fees,  
27 that's okay. As long as it's on the same day or next  
28 day. Next available flight is okay as long as you guys  
29 let me know. I mean, like if you're going to make  
30 change -- rather, if you're going to change your travel  
31 from that travel day to next day, then I would need to  
32 know.

33

34 Any more questions.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

37

38 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Andrew. Thank you,  
39 Mr. Chairman.

40

41 In my case, if I go back in the late  
42 afternoon or evening, there's nobody to meet us at the  
43 airport. And the airport's a mile and a half out. And  
44 those scheduled flight fee agents don't usually work on  
45 weekends. If you go back -- like if I go back  
46 tomorrow, I might have to walk back to the village.  
47 I've done that before. On two other times I had to  
48 walk all the way back, leave my baggage at the airport,  
49 walk to the village. There's usually nobody -- if you  
50 go in -- go back late, there's nobody there to meet

1 you.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.  
6 Andrew. Those kind of things we don't have any control  
7 over in the village.

8

9 Any more.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions  
12 for Mr. Nick concerning travel or anything.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I guess not. Thank  
17 you, MR. Nick.

18

19 Jeff. Is Jeff here. I wonder if  
20 he's.....

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If he's not ready,  
25 we'll go ahead and work on the next proposal until he's  
26 done, and suspend the rules at the time.

27

28 Okay. At this time we're down to Item  
29 52. WP12-52.

30

31 But before we get into our proposals,  
32 I'd like to remind the public that public comments are  
33 welcome for each agenda item as long as -- make sure  
34 that you fill out a green card -- this blue card prior  
35 to the -- and let us know up here so we can call you  
36 and make sure that you get on to be heard.

37

38 Public testimony time limits will not  
39 be given since we seem to be working pretty well  
40 without time limits. And as Council members, we like  
41 to hear what everybody likes to -- what everybody wants  
42 to say in its entirety, so that you don't get rushed.  
43 I know there are times when we don't get to say  
44 everything that we would like to say when we're rushed.  
45 so that's the reason why the Council prefers not giving  
46 any time limits to any items. So you're welcome to  
47 speak on any agenda item, or anything else that's  
48 concerning subsistence in your are.

49

50 Thank you.

1                   At this time we're going down to item  
2 WP12-52. Mr. McKee. Or Mr. Jenkins.

3  
4                   DR. JENKINS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
5 Council members. David Jenkins, OSM.

6  
7                   You have in front of you WP12-52, which  
8 is a proposal submitted by Brian William of Alakanuk  
9 Native Corporation, which requests a change in  
10 regulations to an hunting by non-Federally-qualified  
11 subsistence users along the Yukon River and into  
12 Canada.

13  
14                   The proponent states that subsistence  
15 practices need to have priority over sport hunting in  
16 order to preserve wildlife for future generations and  
17 their subsistence needs.

18  
19                   I should point out that Title VIII of  
20 ANILCA specifically prioritizes subsistence uses over  
21 any other consumptive uses such as commercial or sport  
22 hunting on Federal public lands. And then when a  
23 conservation concern exists for any resource,  
24 commercial and sport uses are restricted before  
25 subsistence uses are restricted.

26  
27                   Because the proponent's concerns are  
28 already addressed in Federal subsistence management  
29 regulations and in ANILCA, t he proposed regulatory  
30 changes are unnecessary and should be opposed. As I  
31 noted, subsistence uses, including hunting, already  
32 have priority over other consumptive uses, including  
33 sport hunting.

34  
35                   In addition, sport hunting along the  
36 Yukon River into Canada is outside the purview of the  
37 Federal Subsistence Board, and the Board cannot address  
38 that particular issue.

39  
40                   And for these reasons, OSM opposes this  
41 proposal.

42  
43                   Thank you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. You've  
46 heard the presentation. And Mr. Pappas is already  
47 racing up to get his.....

48  
49                   MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
50 and members of the Council. I'll be summarizing from

1 our comments.

2

3                   If adopted, Federally-qualified users  
4 would be prohibited from participating in the State  
5 moose sport hunting seasons on Federal public lands  
6 along the Yukon River. If adopted, Federal subsistence  
7 users moose hunting on Federal public lands along the  
8 Yukon River may have higher success rates due to less  
9 competition with sport hunters. Federally-qualified  
10 users may experience lower success rates while hunting  
11 on non-Federal public lands because of a shift in  
12 effort will likely take place by displaced hunters.  
13 Displaced hunters will shift to those lands open to  
14 them, which includes all lands surrounding communities  
15 along the Yukon River.

16

17                   Moose population conservation issues  
18 vary along the Yukon River, depending upon which  
19 population is addressed. The State of Alaska manages  
20 each moose hunt to ensure the sustainability of each  
21 population.

22

23                   If adopted, this proposal would result  
24 in confusion for all members of the public.  
25 Differences in State and Federal regulations resulting  
26 from the adoption of this proposal will create  
27 enforcement problems in areas with mixed land  
28 ownership. The boundaries between Federal and State  
29 lands are not marked and often difficult to locate on  
30 the ground.

31

32                   The Department opposes this proposal  
33 due to lack of substantive evidence that a Yukon River  
34 drainagewide conservation concern exists and no  
35 evidence that a closure is necessary for continuance of  
36 subsistence use by Federally-qualified rural residence  
37 for the entire Yukon River drainage. The Department  
38 opposes this proposal.

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STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

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

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Wildlife Proposal WP12-52:

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50 public lands along the Yukon River to non-subsistence

1 users.

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Introduction:

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Impact on Subsistence Users:

Opportunity Provided by State:

Conservation Issues:

Enforcement Issues:

If adopted, this proposal would result in confusion for all member of the public. Differences

1 in federal and state regulations resulting from  
2 adoption of this proposal create enforcement problems  
3 in areas with mixed land ownership. The boundaries  
4 between federal and state lands are not marked and  
5 often difficult to locate on the ground.

6

7

Other Comments:

8

9

The Department opposes this proposal  
10 due to lack of substantive evidence that a Yukon River  
11 drainage wide conservation concern exists and no  
12 evidence that the closure is necessary for continued  
13 subsistence use by federally-qualified rural residents  
14 for the entire Yukon River Drainage.

15

16

Recommendation: Oppose.

17

18

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

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21

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
Mr. Pappas.

22

23

(No comments)

24

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CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Greg.  
Mr. Roczicka.

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CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There you go, Mr.  
McKee.

MR. ROCZICKA: So why do you -- where  
do you stand on that?

1 DR. JENKINS: Well, I think Title VIII  
2 of ANILCA is quite clear in that subsistence needs have  
3 a priority. And that -- I can't speak to the wider  
4 management issues, but I can emphasize that again that  
5 Title VIII of ANILCA is very explicit that sport and  
6 commercial uses are secondary to subsistence uses.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Rebut.

9  
10 MR. ROCZICKA: No.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
13 comments.

14  
15 (No comments)

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

19  
20 I notice that we have our Refuge  
21 manager here, Mr. Gene Peltola. Could you come up and  
22 since the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, any  
23 comments.

24  
25 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair and RAC  
26 members. I appreciate the opportunity. Good morning.

27  
28 The Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
29 Refuge permits sport hunting activity on the Yukon and  
30 anywhere else on the Refuge. As a refuge, one of the  
31 priority uses of the Refuge is to provide for hunting  
32 opportunities, both for subsistence and sport.

33  
34 The way we address sport hunting is via  
35 guide use areas which we have established on the  
36 Refuge. One is in the Kilbuck Mountains. One is the  
37 Andreafsky and Atchuelinguk, you know, and then Nunivak  
38 Island. We have a majority of the Refuge where guided  
39 sport hunting does not occur, and that's mainly in the  
40 mainland portion of the Refuge.

41  
42 Now, for non-guided sport hunting  
43 activity, that is addressed via transporter permit  
44 which are issued. The Yukon Delta probably regulates  
45 the transport industry more than any other refuge in  
46 the State of Alaska. Some of the stipulations we have  
47 in our permits are that you cannot drop anybody off in  
48 boat-accessible waters. The exception for that would  
49 be the Atchuelinguk, north of Marshall, because we had  
50 a local individual that was providing boat transport

1 services for a few years once the GMU was opened up to  
2 non-residents of the unit.

3

4 We also do not allow dropping off  
5 individuals within one nautical mile of a Native  
6 allotment. We do not allow a camp to be placed within  
7 three nautical miles of another camp.

8

9 If you look at the numbers of  
10 transporters over the last five years that the Yukon  
11 has been available to nonresidents of the unit, the  
12 first couple of years it was minimal, but, yes, it is  
13 increasing. But that moose population is also  
14 increasing.

15

16 Preliminary numbers from this years,  
17 which we still have people to be removed from the  
18 field, while I may be off just a little bit, but we had  
19 a total of 47 non-residents of the units which were  
20 dropped off by transporters. Eight Federally-qualified  
21 users utilized the same services. And then the total  
22 of three residents of the State of Alaska.

23

24 Now, last year when I addressed the  
25 Council here, a lot of concern was addressed for the  
26 Andreafsky area of the Yukon. And I'm not saying that  
27 there wasn't any concern for elsewhere. One of the  
28 stipulations we put in the permits this year is that  
29 you do not drop anybody off again in boat-accessible  
30 waters in the Andreafsky wilderness unit. In there we  
31 have the North Fork, the East Fork and a portion of the  
32 Atchuelinguk Rivers. Additional limitations we put on  
33 transporter permits operating in that particular area  
34 of the Refuge were that you could not drop of more than  
35 two parties on any one particular drainage to try to  
36 spread out the effort. You could not -- in addition to  
37 that, you cannot use one landing location more than  
38 once in a given year; and in that one landing location,  
39 you couldn't do more than five round trips or take offs  
40 and landings at one location.

41

42 So we have been very sensitive to the  
43 local subsistence user, but also realizing that because  
44 of the status of the land, it is Federal public land,  
45 we have to provide access to individuals that may not  
46 be residents of the unit or residents of the State of  
47 Alaska.

48

49 Right now if you look at the population  
50 of -- the moose population in the Yukon, we break it up

1 into Lower -- when we do surveys, the Lower Yukon,  
2 basically Mountain downstream; the Middle, which kind  
3 of goes -- our survey block goes from St. Mary's on up  
4 to about Ohogamiut; and then Upper portion from  
5 Ohogamiut upstream until the Refuge border, which is  
6 over by Paimiut, the mouth of Paimiut Slough,  
7 confluence of Paimiut to Yukon.

8

9                   Based on our composition data last  
10 November, that population is still growing at a rapid  
11 rate. What we are seeing is a slightly depressed bull  
12 to cow ratio within a five-mile radius around each  
13 village. Is that of great concern? No, it's not. But  
14 other areas, the further you go away from a village,  
15 the higher bull/cow ratios you get. It's still growing  
16 at a very rapid pace, an example being the middle  
17 section of the Yukon. We haven't surveyed it for  
18 several years, but our density or our trend data that  
19 we did last fall, we did composition. The number of  
20 moose we looked at composition was more than the  
21 estimate from our total survey from three, four years  
22 prior. So it's still growing.

23

24                   And because the moose population has  
25 been growing over the years, I mean, last fall I  
26 reported to the Council here that I had local members  
27 from the villages calling up, complaining, seeing moose  
28 meat in the dump. This was a first for us where we had  
29 non-local hunters from the unit reporting, you know,  
30 that they're coming down and seeing cows which were  
31 shot and left on the bank.

32

33                   And so there's a lot of moose out  
34 there. We're trying to provide an opportunity for the  
35 local, the non-local, the resident of the state and the  
36 non-resident of the state to access that resource. But  
37 in addition to, we're very sensitive to the local  
38 subsistence user, and we have a lot of limitations in  
39 place to try to protect, one, the population, and, two,  
40 the continued opportunity for subsistence local  
41 residents.

42

43                   Now, the Refuge has a couple of items  
44 or ideas in place that we would like to implement with  
45 regard to transporters, but at this time it would be  
46 premature to address those. If we go down the road,  
47 you'll probably -- we will do a series of scoping  
48 meetings on the Yukon, present our proposal with regard  
49 to, you know, actions we may take with transporters,  
50 and get village and local comments, you know, at that

1 time.

2

3

And that's just a brief summary.

4

5

Oh, let me get back to this year's numbers. We've had 37 moose taken by non-residents of the unit, if I recall the numbers from this morning, looking at them. We have eight Federally-qualified users take six moose, two grizzly bear, and a black bear. And also we have a couple -- a transporter that also had non-hunters accompany the family member in the field. And so the number of moose that we are actually taking from the sport harvest is not enough to adversely affect the population on the Yukon, although there is potential, you know, in the future if we get increasing numbers, to have the potential for overlap between the local and non-local user, and that is why the Refuge is taking the steps to put all these conditions in, to minimize that overlap.

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I'd be more than happy to address any

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Here for the first time with our moose hunt on the Kuskokwim with the registration hunt, this is the first year that we've seen, you know, Federally-qualified users utilizing a registration permit being

1 dropped off. And, you know -- on the Upper Gweek. And  
2 that's a first. I think we had two parties drop off on  
3 the Upper Gweek which took moose.

4  
5 And the potential for increase is not  
6 from -- it won't necessarily occur from those that we  
7 have permitted over the last five years. The potential  
8 for increase in the activity will be people coming from  
9 the outside. Outside of the unit, outside of the  
10 Delta, coming out here to provide this service. And in  
11 a sense that might -- may be self-regulating. In order  
12 to operate out of Bethel, you need a float operations  
13 base. You need to be able to access fuel, which is  
14 very limited in capacity.

15  
16 There are other communities along the  
17 Kuskokwim where that is a lot easier attained, so we  
18 may see increase. We received five to seven calls this  
19 winter inquiring about a permit to provide transport  
20 services on the Refuge. In discussions with those  
21 individuals, we told them that we would hold them to  
22 the same standards we have everybody else for the last  
23 four years and here's what they are. A couple of them  
24 said, oh, that might be a bit too much, and declined  
25 interest. And others had said that, well, if you get a  
26 report of me flying around out there, you know, I'm  
27 hunting, doing exactly what you may ask of me if I  
28 would apply next year.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Anaan.

31  
32 MS. GREGORY: This is for Mr. Jenkins,  
33 is it?

34  
35 DR. JENKINS: Uh-huh.

36  
37 MS. GREGORY: Under your justification,  
38 Page 162, I have a question on the last sentence, which  
39 said, additional sport hunting along the Yukon River in  
40 Canada is outside the purview of the Subsistence Board.  
41 How far up outside of Alaska?

42  
43 DR. JENKINS: The proponent's proposal  
44 was to ban sport hunting along the Yukon River and into  
45 Canada. And it wasn't specified in the proposal how  
46 far, but the border is the border, and that -- and the  
47 Board's purview ends at the border.

48  
49 MS. GREGORY: I don't think you  
50 answered my question. I wanted the location of the

1 affected area. When Yukon River stops running in Alaska  
2 and goes into the Canadian side.

3  
4 DR. JENKINS: Well, as soon as it does  
5 go into the Canadian side, then it's outside of any  
6 kind of Federal jurisdiction, and.....

7  
8 MS. GREGORY: I know, but where does it  
9 go? What village? Tok or (indiscernible, mic not on).

10  
11 DR. JENKINS: Oh, beyond -- you mean  
12 specifically which village is at the end of the Yukon  
13 before it goes into Canada; is that what you're asking?

14  
15 MS. GREGORY: Wherever it goes into  
16 Canada from Alaska.

17  
18 DR. JENKINS: From Canada, yeah.

19  
20 MS. GREGORY: I mean, wherever they  
21 separate.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Up around Eagle.

24  
25 DR. JENKINS: It's right near Eagle,  
26 yes.

27  
28 MS. GREGORY: Eagle, Alaska?

29  
30 DR. JENKINS: Yes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
33 questions of either of the two gentlemen sitting up  
34 front. Mr. Polty.

35  
36 MR. POLTY: Yes, I have a question for  
37 Gene. Yesterday I had the Federal and State  
38 questioning about controlled area and they informed me  
39 where that controlled area is, and up around -- from  
40 Pilot Station above there, are you aware of that river,  
41 they call it Chuilanuk. There were some rumors that  
42 there were some transporters that come in possibly.  
43 And it's just a rumor that I heard that they left three  
44 bull moose, only removing the antlers and left the  
45 carcass to rot. So I didn't do any research on that,  
46 because I wasn't sure who was doing that. So those  
47 people that transport hunters and those guides aware  
48 that they're not supposed to be wasting food that they  
49 guide for those people.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Like I said,  
4 you know, every year we get reports of wanton waste,  
5 whether it be potentially a sport hunter, whether it be  
6 a local hunter who may have accidently shot a cow. And  
7 we address those.

8

9 Example, last week I received a call  
10 about a moose that was found with its antlers removed.  
11 I was given a phone numbers. I attempted personally to  
12 make contact with the individual who reported on three  
13 different times and was not able to get through. I  
14 received a phone call from AVCP making me aware of it.  
15 I made a personal attempt, you know, to contact the  
16 individual who had reported it. I wasn't able to make  
17 personal contact with the individual. And so I passed  
18 it on to one of our law enforcement officers. And we  
19 do take such reports very seriously. And I'm not  
20 saying that it does not occur, but at times we  
21 investigate and find out that a violation has occurred  
22 and other times we find out that a violation has not.

23

24 One thing I could say about the  
25 advantage of having local individuals providing  
26 transport services is that they make it perfectly clear  
27 from the -- with their clients what the laws and  
28 regulations are. Over the five years that we have  
29 authorized via regulation the harvest of moose from  
30 residents outside the unit, these same transporters who  
31 are making money from dropping off people also turn  
32 their hunters in if they come back light on moose meat,  
33 or if they leave meat in the field. And that is the  
34 advantage of having local transporters provide the  
35 service. They're just as sensitive about the resources  
36 as we are. You know, they're making economic benefit  
37 off of providing the hunter transportation to the  
38 field, but they also live in our communities, and they  
39 have been turning in hunters over the years.

40

41 MR. POLTY: Thank you.

42

43 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair. If I can  
44 follow up to it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 Gene, this triggered a question in my mind. I don't  
50 know if it's on the books with Federal, but one of the

1 State regulations is that the meat must be removed from  
2 the field prior to the horns coming out. Do you know,  
3 is that under the Federal anywhere? Or even a policy  
4 or something that you may have?

5  
6 MR. PELTOLA: We don't have a specific  
7 Federal regulation to address that, although under --  
8 with our law enforce -- Federal badges, they also carry  
9 Department of Public Safety commissions. But also  
10 there's a mechanism within our general regulations  
11 where we could write a ticket, violation of a State law  
12 in the NWR.

13  
14 Myself, before I became the manager  
15 here at Yukon Delta, carried a State and Federal badge  
16 for 10 years and I utilized that particular regulation  
17 to cite individuals on National Wildlife Refuges from,  
18 you know, Middle, Upper Yukon to the Selawik and other  
19 areas where I used to work.

20  
21 Because we don't have a specific  
22 Federal regulation does not mean that we cannot enforce  
23 the other regulations in place. So we basically  
24 assimilate State law via, you know, a -- we have one  
25 Federal regulation that says the violation of a State  
26 law on a National Wildlife Refuge regarding hunting, or  
27 hunting violation of State law. And that was utilized.

28  
29 Here in the last couple years, the  
30 Federal forfeiture or the bail schedule when you get a  
31 ticket increased. And so it is a very significant  
32 violation now in order -- if you take antlers from male  
33 first -- field first.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
36 questions of the two gentlemen up here. Mr. Oney.

37  
38 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39  
40 Yesterday we heard from the director  
41 from AVCP stating that Federally-qualified users do  
42 have -- do go to hunting grounds through portages and  
43 through winter trails to get to their hunting grounds.  
44 What do they do if they happen to see, you know,  
45 hunters out there that are hunting in that area, in  
46 their area, in their hunting area?

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 MR. PELTOLA: Raymond, is that question

1 in regard to privately owned lands, Native corporation  
2 lands or Refuge lands?

3

4 MR. ONEY: Could be either. Oh, I'm  
5 sorry. It could be either private, corporation, but  
6 they do have access through winter trails or through  
7 portages to get to their -- wherever they may be  
8 hunting.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: One thing I'd like to  
11 clarify is that when we issue a transporter permit to  
12 people to operate on the Refuge, it is only good for  
13 Refuge lands. Lands which may have been selected, but  
14 not yet conveyed to either an allottee or a particular  
15 village or regional corporation, those are not -- drop-  
16 off activity is not authorized on those particular  
17 lands. Even though they are still, quote/unquote,  
18 Refuge lands, because the title has not been  
19 transferred yet, we choose to not authorize activity on  
20 those selected, but not conveyed lands.

21

22 As far as individuals hunting on  
23 corporation or privately owned lands, it's not a Refuge  
24 issue, but we do inform the transporter of where -- the  
25 transporters that we do permit of where Native  
26 allotments are, because we do not authorize drop-offs  
27 within one nautical mile of those. We do inform them  
28 of where corporation lands, you know, are. And I know  
29 here in the last couple of years there's been interest  
30 by some of our permitted transporters and other people  
31 have contacting a village corporation and try to come  
32 to an agreement on a fee structure so that they could  
33 utilize those private lands, which the Refuge doesn't  
34 have any authority or jurisdiction on.

35

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

38

39 MR. BROWN: I have a question about,  
40 not too long about before moose season was open, on the  
41 last part of August, there was some down-drifters from  
42 upriver. Do you have those information on those guys  
43 on the Eek River?

44

45 MR. PELTOLA: Part of the permits that  
46 we issue are provide transportation service to the  
47 recreation rafters and sportsfishermen, or, you know,  
48 example, I have gone up and floated the Kisaralik with,  
49 you know, friends and family before. The transporters  
50 that provide the service for the moose hunters are also

1 the same transporters who provide the service to get  
2 dropped off on the Upper Eek.

3

4                   Those reports, we do not have the  
5 information for those at this time. Our permits for  
6 activity such as dropping off people to float the Eek,  
7 the Kisaralik, or, you know, the Kwethluk or any other  
8 river, those aren't due until the end of the calendar  
9 year. Normally our special use permits are based on a  
10 calendar basis from the beginning of January to the end  
11 of December. Then they have 30-day period in order to  
12 provide this report.

13

14                   And I'm able to now, for example, with  
15 the moose transporter situation, provide preliminary  
16 numbers, because we made a phone call and said, can you  
17 give me the total numbers of people that you took out  
18 moose hunting, break it down by resident of the unit,  
19 non-resident of the unit, and in the non-resident of  
20 the unit, can you break it down between the residents  
21 of the State of Alaska and non-resident.

22

23                   So with regard to your question, we  
24 don't have that information at this time, but we'll  
25 have it usually by the end of -- and some people  
26 providing those services provide the information once  
27 freeze up occurs, because they pull their float planes  
28 out, but legally they aren't required to provide us  
29 this information until the beginning of January.

30

31                   I could tell you that the Eek is  
32 probably -- of our clear water tributaries south and  
33 east of the Kuskokwim, the Eek is probably the least  
34 visited of our tributaries.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions.  
37 Keep the questions, if you can, as close to the  
38 specifics on WP-52 as possible, whenever possible. Any  
39 other questions.

40

41                   (No comments)

42

43                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you  
44 very much, Mr. Peltola, and I'm sure we're going to be  
45 seeing you up there again.

46

47                   MR. PELTOLA: Yep. Mr. Chair.  
48 Members. Thank you. Appreciate the time. And I'm  
49 going to have to leave here, I have a video conference  
50 at 10, and I'll try to make it back again this

1 afternoon. But we'll have other staff members here  
2 available to answer questions if I'm not available.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. Have a good day.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Next, Native  
9 tribal. AVCP. Mr. Tim Andrew. Mr. AVCP.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. T. ANDREW: Good morning. Timothy  
14 Andrew with AVCP. I hope and pray that everybody had a  
15 good night's rest and are ready to go this morning.

16

17 And I'm glad to hear that Mr. Peltola  
18 and the management of the Refuge is real sensitive to  
19 the local people and the subsistence users. However,  
20 there is still a need for tribal consultation, and this  
21 is probably one of the reasons why this proposal was  
22 put forward to this body and also to the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board.

24

25 The transporters and the guiding  
26 industry is pretty new to the area. We've never had  
27 them come in prior to the moose populations increasing  
28 on the Yukon River.

29

30 They are present in various parts of  
31 Alaska where there's high numbers of caribou and high  
32 numbers of moose prior. Like, for example, in Unit 19,  
33 Unit 21E, there's the Western Arctic Caribou area. And  
34 in those areas they utilize what they call a user  
35 conflict working committee under the State of Alaska  
36 Board of Game. And I think something like this would  
37 probably be really useful for the area, primarily for  
38 the areas that have high concentrations of moose, and  
39 also try and involve the local people as much as  
40 possible.

41

42 You know, at some point the Lower  
43 Kuskokwim is going to be facing this situation where we  
44 will encounter user conflicts. It's going to occur.  
45 It's -- I mean, as soon as the moose populations in  
46 this area increase to sustainable levels or beyond the  
47 amounts necessary for subsistence and also for -- that  
48 has a huge surplus. And it's going to occur. And, you  
49 know, let's learn from our mistakes that we have made  
50 in the past, try to get everybody involved in trying to

1 work together rather than continuously fighting. I  
2 think that would be the best thing for the subsistence  
3 hunter, and perhaps the transport industry, for the  
4 managers, for -- I mean, it's just a win/win situation  
5 for all, and we can work together rather than fight  
6 against each other.

7

8                   And like various people around the  
9 table had indicated, it's not a good thing to be  
10 fighting over the resources. It's better that we work  
11 together and try to make things work. And I just hope  
12 and pray that the Refuge has an open ear to utilizing  
13 the tribal consultation process to avoid these things  
14 from occurring in the future.

15

16                   Had the Refuge gone into the community  
17 of Marshall, Pilot Station, Russian in the past, and  
18 St. Mary's, and consulted with the local tribe about  
19 the hunting areas, traditional hunting areas, whether  
20 they're one mile or more beyond the rivers, it would  
21 have likely have been a better situation. And I just  
22 hope we can move in that direction.

23

24                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
27 Mr. Andrew.

28

29                   (No comments)

30

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

32

33                   Are there any Native village  
34 representatives here. Tribal village representatives  
35 that would like to make a comment concerning this  
36 proposal.

37

38                   (No comments)

39

40                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. There being  
41 none, is there any comments from the InterAgency Staff.

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No committee  
46 comments. Advisory group comments. Mr. Charles, do  
47 you have any comments from your advisory group.

48

49                   MR. CHARLES: No.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Are there  
2 any comments from neighboring RACS, Mr. Nick.

3  
4 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex  
5 Nick, Council coordinator.

6  
7 Excuse me. Seward Pen met last week,  
8 and they reviewed this proposal. Motion to support  
9 Proposal 12-52 failed with -- that led to no action by  
10 the Council. Their justification was that Seward Pen  
11 choose to defer to the Y-K Council.

12  
13 Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.  
16 Aloysius.

17  
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: You always forget Evan  
19 Polty when you ask for local AC input. He's the chair  
20 of the Lower Yukon AC.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I apologize for  
23 that. I'll make sure that we call on the next. I  
24 thought that Mr. Charles was the only one on the ACs,  
25 but.....

26  
27 MR. ROCZICKA: The Lower Kusko.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So we'll make sure  
30 that we get your comments. Do you have any comments at  
31 this time.

32  
33 MR. POLTY: No comments. Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

36  
37 Are there any written comments, Mr.

38 Nick.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. There is no  
43 need for public comments.

44  
45 We are down to our Regional Council  
46 recommendations. We need to motion to this effect.

47  
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move we  
49 adopt or accept WP12-52.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been  
2 made by Mary Gregory to adopt WP12-52. Do I hear a  
3 second.

4  
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
8 Roczicka. Comments. Deliberations. Council.

9  
10 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

13  
14 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 How much along the river, or Yukon  
17 River, is that -- are they going to be stopped? How  
18 far up from the river? This proposal said subsistence  
19 users along the Yukon River on into Canada. How much  
20 along the Yukon River? How far back?

21  
22 MR. J. ANDREW: Corridor.

23  
24 MR. CHARLES: Quarter? Quarter mile?

25  
26 MR. J. ANDREW: Corridor.

27  
28 MR. CHARLES: Corridor, yeah.

29  
30 DR. JENKINS: Yes. The proponent  
31 didn't provide any guidelines, and we just went on the  
32 language that the proponent provided, along the Yukon  
33 River was the suggestion. Nor did the proponent  
34 provide any regulatory language that we could work  
35 with. We worked with what we had, and that that was  
36 it. Along the Yukon River.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Does that answer  
39 your question.

40  
41 MR. CHARLES: No.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
44 questions. Mr. Aloysius.

45  
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't have a question;  
47 I have a comment, that, you know, from all I hear, this  
48 particular concern, the person is already covered in  
49 the law. So I don't see any sense in that deliberation  
50 of going for it or against. His concerns are already

1 covered in the law.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you like to  
4 defer this or what is your suggestion.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm just saying that,  
7 but I won't support it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
10 Sorry. Mr. Greg Roczicka.

11

12 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
13 Yeah, I was kind of struggling with that, too, there,  
14 Bob. There's not the ability to do that, I guess maybe  
15 the answer would be we could just take no action.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You could also make  
18 that motion.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: And I would so move at  
21 this time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been  
24 made -- I'm sorry, we've got a motion on the -- we've  
25 already got a motion.

26

27 MR. J. ANDREW: There's already a  
28 motion by Mary.

29

30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, there is. Go  
31 ahead. You're next, Mr. Andrew.

32

33 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.  
34 Chairman. Excuse me. My only concern is that they're  
35 addressing the Lower Yukon users, and.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, they're  
38 addressing the whole Yukon River.

39

40 MR. J. ANDREW: The whole Yukon River.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The whole Yukon  
43 River and into Canada it says, and we have absolutely  
44 no control of what goes on in Canada. So that's what  
45 the proposal as I read it is.

46

47 MR. J. ANDREW: Okay. Mr. Chairman.  
48 My only concern is that all the users should be  
49 consulted probably along with the ANCSA corporations  
50 before they work on this one. I'd rather -- I'm more

1 comfortable either tabling -- have it tabled or taking  
2 no action.  
3  
4 Thank you.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're welcome.  
7 Ms. Gregory.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I withdraw  
10 my motion.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's  
13 withdrawn by the maker. Do I hear it withdrawn by the  
14 second.  
15  
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes. Yes.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's  
19 withdrawn.  
20  
21 Mr. Unok, did you have your hand up?  
22  
23 MR. UNOK: Yeah, I did. We're going to  
24 vote now?  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No, we're not.  
27  
28 MR. UNOK: We're not.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's  
31 withdrawn.  
32  
33 Mr. Roczicka.  
34  
35 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 I'd put a new motion up that since the content and the  
37 intent of the proposal exceeds the authority of the  
38 management structure, that we take no action on this  
39 proposal.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made  
42 to take no action on this proposal. Do I hear a  
43 second.  
44  
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
48 Aloysius.  
49  
50 Any further discussion.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MR. UNOK: Question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
6 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by  
7 saying aye.  
8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
12 sign.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
17  
18 At this time we'll suspend the rules to  
19 go to item No. 11. I'm sorry, let me check my agenda  
20 here. Okay. Item 11 on the subsistence fisheries  
21 issues. The Yukon salmon season summary, and then  
22 after we have the Yukon season summary, we'll also take  
23 in the Kuskokwim season summary. These people need to  
24 leave early to catch a plane, otherwise they're not  
25 going to be getting home until 1:00 in the morning.  
26  
27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move to  
28 suspend our rules to put a new item on our agenda.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion -- it's not  
31 a new item. It's an agenda item.  
32  
33 MS. GREGORY: To move up one of the  
34 agenda items.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made  
37 to suspend the rules. Do I hear a second.  
38  
39 MR. J. ANDREW: Second.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
42 Andrew.  
43  
44 All in favor say aye.  
45  
46 IN UNISON: Aye.  
47  
48 (No opposing votes)  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion carried.

1 Yes, Jeff, go ahead.

2

3 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. Mr. Chair.  
4 Members of the Council. First of all, thank you for  
5 accommodating us here so that some of us can get out  
6 early. And I apologize for not being available a  
7 couple minutes ago. You caught me when I was making a  
8 quick call there. Anyway.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you give the  
11 Page number or is a handout? Just a handout.

12

13 MR. MEARS: It's being handed out now.

14

15 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chair.  
16 Members of the Council. We distributed both the State  
17 and the Federal summaries via email about maybe four  
18 days ago I think it was, so that you would have had an  
19 opportunity to take a look at this prior to us giving  
20 this. And then also we distributed the Kuskokwim  
21 season summary yesterday. So hopefully that you all  
22 had an opportunity to look at these before we discuss  
23 them.

24

25 MS. CARROLL: Just say all our names.  
26 We need to say our names.

27

28 MR. ESTENSEN: Right. And just for the  
29 record, my name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska  
30 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial  
31 Fisheries. I am the fall season manager for the Yukon.  
32 And then I'm also here with -- do you want to.....

33

34 MS. CARROLL: I'm Holly Carroll. I'm  
35 the assistant area manager for the Kuskokwim River for  
36 State of Alaska, Fish and Game, Division of Commercial  
37 Fisheries.

38

39 MR. MEARS: My name is Jeremy Mears. I  
40 work for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I'm  
41 working in Fairbanks for Yukon salmon fisheries,  
42 subsistence fisheries.

43

44 So I'm going to read a summary of the  
45 document that was just handed out to you.

46

47 Since 1998, Yukon River salmon stocks  
48 have experienced variable and difficult to predict  
49 production levels. The 2011 run of Chinook salmon was  
50 disappointing in that it performed below expectations,

1 which resulted in a well below average run. In  
2 contract both fall and summer chum runs came in strong  
3 with an above average run in 2011. Coho salmon have  
4 remained more stable in recent years with the run  
5 assessed to be near average.

6  
7 Management of both summer and fall  
8 seasons was challenging because of overlapped mixed  
9 stock fisheries with varying degrees of stock health.  
10 In-season management actions were necessary to conserve  
11 Chinook salmon. Subsistence periods were canceled  
12 during the summer season, sport fishing and personal  
13 use fishing were closed, and some commercial fishing  
14 opportunity for summer chum was foregone to conserve  
15 Chinook salmon.

16  
17 As a result, most escapement goals were  
18 achieved for Chinook salmon, and most summer chum  
19 salmon escapement objectives were met or exceeded.  
20 Fall chum and coho salmon stocks provided good harvest  
21 and met or exceeded escapement objectives.

22  
23 Preseason, the 2011 Chinook salmon run  
24 was projected to range from poor to below average.  
25 Summer and fall chum runs were projected to be average  
26 to below average. And coho salmon were expected to be  
27 near average.

28  
29 Because Chinook salmon have performed  
30 below expectation in recent years, the Yukon River  
31 Panel provided funds as it had in 2009 and 2010 to  
32 coordinate a special outreach preparation program.  
33 This effort was facilitated by Yukon River Drainage  
34 Fisheries Association and involved both teleconferences  
35 and in-person meetings. In addition, both U.S. Fish  
36 and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and  
37 Game Staff participated in numerous meetings to inform  
38 and receive input on conservation approaches.

39  
40 This spring, using input from  
41 stakeholders, ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 distributed a joint Yukon River salmon 2011 outlook.  
43 This sheet described expectation of run strength and  
44 management approaches for the coming season. Those  
45 approaches included no anticipated directed commercial  
46 fishery for Chinook salmon. It set starts date for  
47 beginning of the regulatory subsistence fishing windows  
48 and included protections of the first pulse of Chinook  
49 salmon.

50

1                   With the developed management strategy  
2 and run outlook in hand, Alaska Department of Fish and  
3 Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as  
4 YRDFA went to the communities of St. Mary's, Nulato,  
5 and Fort Yukon to discuss the run and management  
6 expectations with regional representatives assembled  
7 for these meetings.

8  
9                   Additional public outreach included  
10 posters mailed to villages by YRDFA and USFWS  
11 identifying the needs for Chinook salmon conservation.

12  
13                   The summer season followed the  
14 regulatory windowed subsistence salmon fishing schedule  
15 which was initiated on June 6th in District 1. This  
16 coincided with the typical initial build up of Chinook  
17 salmon and was implemented chronologically in upriver  
18 districts as the run progressed.

19  
20                   The southern portion of the coastal  
21 district, which includes Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay,  
22 did not have subsistence fishing time reduced, but did  
23 have subsistence gillnet fishing gear restricted to  
24 mesh sizes no larger than six inches.

25  
26                   Consistent with preseason management  
27 strategies, one subsistence salmon fishing period was  
28 canceled in District 1 and the northern portion of the  
29 coastal district beginning on June 13th. This was done  
30 in an effort to protect the first pulse of Chinook  
31 salmon and it was implemented in each district or  
32 subdistrict as the pulse migrated through each area.  
33 The longer subdistricts of 4A and 5D were further  
34 subdivided, which provided more precise closure timing  
35 around the first pulse, protecting significant numbers  
36 of Chinook salmon and minimizing lost fishing time due  
37 to the closure windows.

38  
39                   As it became apparent that the Chinook  
40 salmon run would fall below expectation, necessitating  
41 further conservation actions to achieve escapement  
42 objectives, two additional partial subsistence fishing  
43 periods were canceled in District 1, and one full  
44 subsistence period in Districts 2 through 5 were  
45 canceled as the second pulse of Chinook migrated  
46 upriver.

47  
48                   While Lower, Middle and Tanana River  
49 stocks appear to be on track for reaching their  
50 respective escapement needs, the Canadian-origin

1 stocks continued indicating weakness. Therefore a  
2 third subsistence fishing period was canceled in the  
3 middle and upper portions of Subdistrict 5D to provide  
4 protecting the third pulse as it migrated into Canada.

5  
6 All of these management actions  
7 resulted in achieving the U.S./Canada border passage  
8 target of 50,000 Chinook salmon. The total Chinook  
9 salmon passage at Eagle sonar was 50,800 and the border  
10 passage estimate was 49,800.

11  
12 The 2011 season was the first time that  
13 the new fishing gear regulation restricting gillnet  
14 mesh size to no larger than seven and a half inches  
15 came into effect. The intent of the change was to  
16 improve long-term Chinook salmon production by  
17 employing fishing gear that tends to decrease the  
18 number of large female salmon harvested in the  
19 commercial and subsistence fisheries. In addition to  
20 this, fishing gear in Districts 1 and 2 was further  
21 restricted to no larger than six-inch mesh once the  
22 commercial season began and the Chinook salmon run  
23 continued to be poor.

24  
25 Due to the overlap of Chinooks and  
26 summer chum salmon runs, openings to commercially  
27 target summer chum salmon were delayed until the near  
28 midpoint of the Chinook salmon run. At the time an  
29 above average summer chum run of approximately 2  
30 million fish was projected and significant actions had  
31 already been taken to conserve Chinook salmon. Sale of  
32 Chinook salmon was prohibited during summer chum  
33 commercial fishery, and strategic commercial fishing  
34 periods were open in the lower river districts to  
35 target the abundant summer chum salmon while making an  
36 effort to avoid incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.

37  
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game took  
39 unique commercial management actions this season during  
40 several periods in District 1 by opening only the south  
41 mouth to target summer chum and thereby avoid  
42 concentrations of Chinook salmon migrating through the  
43 middle and north mouth areas. Additionally, only the  
44 lower portion of District 2 was opened while the upper  
45 portions remained close where Chinook salmon remained  
46 present.

47  
48 In all, there were 11 commercial  
49 periods in District 1, 9 periods in District 2 and 11  
50 periods in District 6 during the summer season. The

1 total summer commercial fishery harvested 275,161  
2 summer chum with 4,470 incidentally harvested Chinook  
3 salmon. The incidental harvest was noted on commercial  
4 fish tickets and the Chinook salmon were utilized  
5 within subsistence communities.

6  
7 Most Chinook salmon escapements were  
8 met or exceeded exception the Tanana River tributaries  
9 where high water levels prevented accurate escapement  
10 estimates. However, an early aerial survey of the  
11 Salcha River indicated that the lower end of the target  
12 escapement goal was attained. Likewise, most summer  
13 chum salmon escapements were within or above escapement  
14 goal objectives or averages.

15  
16 The fall season went much better. With  
17 the summer chum run performing above preseason  
18 expectations, there was confidence that the fall chum  
19 would also meet or exceed expectations. Subsistence  
20 fishing schedules were relaxed throughout the drainage.  
21 Commercial opportunity was provided from the start of  
22 the fall season and was extended beyond the normal  
23 season closure date.

24  
25 Fall chum and coho salmon escapements  
26 are all expected to fall within or above escapement  
27 objectives.

28  
29 Post-season, the 2011 Chinook salmon  
30 run appears to have been well below average based on  
31 assessment projects. Because of the need to meet  
32 treaty objectives, the Canadian portion of the Chinook  
33 salmon run is -- the Canadian portion of the Chinook  
34 salmon run is of particular concern. In recent years  
35 First Nation fishermen in Canada have had to reduce  
36 their harvest to help spawning escapements when border  
37 passage was insufficient.

38  
39 As a result of conservative management  
40 actions restricting both the 2011 Chinook salmon  
41 subsistence harvest and targeted summer chum salmon  
42 commercial fishery, most escapement needs were provided  
43 for as was our U.S./Canada treaty objectives. It is  
44 recognized that the Yukon River fishing community is  
45 responsible for assisting in sustaining this important  
46 resource and incurred significant hardship and reduced  
47 harvest in following the preseason plan to achieve  
48 escapement goals this year.

49  
50 The outlook for 2012 will be prepared

1 by Alaska Department of Fish and Game after escapement  
2 information and age composition analysis are completed  
3 over the next several months. If poor Chinook salmon  
4 productivity continues for 2012, conservative  
5 management actions will be necessary to maintain the  
6 long-term health of the Yukon River salmon populations.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
11 Mears.

12

13 Do you have any questions for Mr. Mears  
14 concerning the Yukon salmon season overview. Mr.  
15 Roczicka.

16

17 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18

19 Jeremy, you mentioned the seven-and-a-  
20 half-inch just going into effect this year. Was there  
21 any kind of -- or what kind of feedback did you get  
22 from fishermen. I'm sure there must have been some,  
23 any kind -- I know very preliminary at this point, but  
24 can you offer any kind of assessment on how effective  
25 it's actually been?

26

27 MR. MEARS: I can't.....

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Feedback from fishermen  
30 and assessment on effectiveness.

31

32 MR. MEARS: I haven't heard any  
33 particular feedback myself on the mesh size. I could  
34 bring that comment to Fred and have him get back to  
35 you, or maybe Jeff can address that.

36

37 As for figuring out whether -- what the  
38 effect was, we met our goals. And once we have the  
39 data processed from 2011, we'll have a better idea of  
40 what happened, but to say that the reduction in mesh --  
41 we can't really look at the reduction in mesh size  
42 right now as to what that effect was.

43

44 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chair. If I  
45 may. Jeff Estensen with Fish and Game here.

46

47 Two. One's talking to the fishermen. I  
48 haven't and we're hoping maybe -- we've got some Yukon  
49 fishermen here, I assume that, you know, might could  
50 give us some insight on what they thought in how it

1 worked in terms of from the fishermen.

2

3 In terms of evaluating whether or not,  
4 you know, we're going to have the affect of putting  
5 this in, you know, basically shifting the harvest away  
6 to more proportionally to the age class or the run  
7 size, you know, we have to collect the information and  
8 we're going to have to evaluate that over the years to  
9 see if it indeed is working and targeting -- or  
10 accomplishing what it was meant to do. So, you know,  
11 we're obviously collecting information from our  
12 projects along the river. That will have to be  
13 evaluated, but, you know, I would be interested if  
14 anybody here from the Yukon wants to, you know, make  
15 any comments about how the seven-and-a-half-inch mesh  
16 worked for them during the summer season.

17

18 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And I understand  
19 it's the first year and very preliminary. I just  
20 wondered you observations.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

23

24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is there any information  
25 on the size of the Chinooks passing through to Canada?  
26 Are they bigger this year than all the other years that  
27 we've been making noise about them?

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Quality versus quantity.

30

31 MR. ESTENSEN: Say that once again,  
32 Greg? I didn't hear you.

33

34 MR. MEARS: Quality versus quantity.

35

36 MR. ESTENSEN: Oh, right. Right.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: Quality versus quantity  
39 is what he was trying to get at. I guess maybe  
40 that's.....

41

42 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. And, Mr. Chair,  
43 through the Chair. You know, one of the things we'll  
44 have to look at and I haven't seen this yet, I've been  
45 pretty busy with my policies right now to really have a  
46 chance to talk with the summer season manager, who is  
47 Steve Hayes. But, you know, again looking at  
48 information that we collect from Eagle sonar, which is  
49 basically our last, you know, shot of what's going into  
50 Canada with the kings. They collect ASL, their age,

1 sex and length. And I would have to talk with him.  
2 I'm assuming that later on in the -- you know, maybe as  
3 we get to our spring meetings that we'll have more  
4 information to provide you on how this worked, but  
5 we're all interested in seeing how this panned out, so  
6 we'll be looking at it.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
9 questions concerning the Yukon salmon report overview.

10  
11 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok.

14  
15 MR. UNOK: I have a question. How long  
16 with the Chinooks and bycatch during chum will the  
17 fishermen be able to fish -- sell their kings?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Mears.

20  
21 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure  
22 if I -- you're talking about the bycatch and then  
23 whether we'll be able to sell the kings in the  
24 commercial fishery?

25  
26 MR. UNOK: Yeah. Like this summer we  
27 can't the kings. That doesn't make any.....

28  
29 MR. ESTENSEN: Oh, the bycatch of the  
30 Chinook.....

31  
32 MR. UNOK: Yeah.

33  
34 MR. ESTENSEN: .....the incidental  
35 harvest of the Chinook. We don't like to use the  
36 word.....

37  
38 MR. UNOK: It doesn't make any sense  
39 because upriver can sell parts of the -- strips. And  
40 why can't commercial fishermen sell their kings.

41  
42 MR. ESTENSEN: Right. Mr. Chair. We  
43 like to use the word incidental and not bycatch,  
44 because it does get used. The Chinook that are caught  
45 are taken home and required to be taken home, and it  
46 does to subsistence fishermen or for use for  
47 subsistence.

48  
49 As far as whether sales is concerned,  
50 again I don't want to be speaking for Steve Hayes too

1 much on what the plans are going to be for the future.  
2 I know that, you know, you can expect that if we don  
3 have conservation concerns, it will all be, you know,  
4 dictated by how we see our preseason forecast and then  
5 how the run is shaping up, whether we'll allow that.  
6 But, you know, the reason why we're doing it is that we  
7 are in conservation concern for the Chinook and that is  
8 why we're not allowing the sale out of the commercial  
9 fisheries. That's why we didn't do it this year.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Polty.

12

13 MR. POLTY: Yeah, on that seven-and-a-  
14 half mesh for subsistence, my daughter used that seven-  
15 and-a-half mesh, and when he finally drift he said he  
16 had a short drift and he caught over 40 different  
17 variety of jacks and larger kings with that seven-and-  
18 a-half mesh. And when I went up to -- when I went up  
19 to see them where they drop off all that -- or where we  
20 subsistence in our camp, fish camp, there were more  
21 jacks in that tote, and large kings. Variety. And he  
22 said she just did short drift and he catch more with  
23 that seven-and-a-half, a variety of fish. Kings.  
24 Chinook. They previously use eight-and-a-half. He  
25 usually drift, a longer drifting to catch an amount of  
26 Chinook for our consumption, for our subsistence. But  
27 for this seven-and-a-half, it didn't -- they did short  
28 drift with that seven-and-a-half.

29

30 Thank you, Chair.

31

32 MR. ESTENSEN: And, Mr. Chair, if I  
33 may. And so what I'm getting is that you did catch a  
34 mixture of both jacks and large chums, but you also had  
35 a good mix of kind of going from the smaller to the  
36 larger fish?

37

38 MR. POLTY: Yes.

39

40 MR. ESTENSEN: And did you -- were you  
41 catching a lot of -- what about the chum, was it  
42 working for not hitting the chum too hard, or.....

43

44 MR. POLTY: They didn't catch any chum.  
45 They didn't catch (indiscernible, mic not on).

46

47 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Okay. Good.  
48 That's good information. Thank you very much. I'll  
49 pass it on to Steve.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions  
2 of Mr. Jeff.

3  
4 Mr. Oney.

5  
6 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. Maybe a question and maybe a comment. Is  
8 there any roe stripping happening to the Chinook salmon  
9 anywhere along the Yukon?

10  
11 MR. ESTENSEN: To the best of my --  
12 through the Chair. To the best of my knowledge,  
13 there's no roe stripping going on. But that's  
14 something I may not be aware of. That would be a better  
15 question for the -- but as far as I know, there's not,  
16 no.

17  
18 MR. ONEY: Okay. Thank you. And a  
19 comment regarding the seven-and-a-half-inch, it's  
20 pretty much similar to what Evan stated, that  
21 fishermen that I've talked to that used the seven-and-  
22 a-half-inch do catch a variety of big and small salmon.  
23 They said -- they're saying that, you know, they catch  
24 a lot more salmon using the seven-and-a-half-inch,  
25 whether it be big salmon or small salmon.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

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

32  
33 How much in-season monitoring do you  
34 have over there, in the Yukon? Is it like Kuskokwim?  
35 Because you were in Kuskokwim and you know, we  
36 subsistence people report from where there are no weirs  
37 and other monitors.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Mr. Chair, if I  
42 may.

43  
44 Real briefly we do have a lot of in-  
45 season monitoring. Just for the fall season I'll give  
46 you the example. You know, our first look at fish  
47 entering into the Yukon River, and they do come in in  
48 pulses. It's a little bit different as we see on the  
49 Kusko. But the Lower Yukon test fishery, which is a  
50 test fishery we have at several sites is our first --

1 kind of our first indication that we have fish moving  
2 in. We have another one at Mountain Village, which is  
3 about a day and a half travel time for the fish to get  
4 to that site, and then obviously we have Pilot Station  
5 sonar, which is kind of our first indication of what  
6 our abundance is.

7

8 And interestingly, you know, we operate  
9 those three, you know, concurrently. That's our first  
10 in-season, that's basically what we manage for as far  
11 as, you know, abundance-wise. The upper river projects  
12 we have are more report card towards the end part of  
13 the season.

14

15 But we also look to see if those  
16 projects run -- or are kind of corroborating with each  
17 other, you know. If one shows a big pulse came in and  
18 we don't see it in the other two, then something's off,  
19 and vice versa.

20

21 Yeah. And then also as far as what we  
22 get from the subsistence fishermen, you know, we have a  
23 teleconference which is -- you know, it's something we  
24 do every week, and we basically start at one end of the  
25 river or the other and we get reports from the  
26 fishermen, stakeholders, whatever, about how things are  
27 going with them, which is very good information, too.

28

29 And then also we have a YAG advisory  
30 group which we -- we call it the Yukon Advisory Group  
31 which we started this year, which is made up of Panel  
32 members on the Alaska said. And it's kind of like  
33 whenever we have a big management decision we need to  
34 make, we will confer with these guys, and these  
35 individuals and try to get, you know, some guidance or  
36 some insight on how we should proceed. And this is  
37 usually -- that's not like the working group where we  
38 meet on a regular basis. This is more like when we  
39 have some big management decisions to make.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: What prompted Fish and  
44 Game to take a unique commercial management action by  
45 opening only the south mouth and, you know, closing the  
46 middle and the north mouth? Was there some indication  
47 that prompted you to do that?

48

49 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, that's a -- you  
50 know, I don't know if I can answer that. That's

1 something that Steve came up with. And I know that  
2 caused a lot of, you know -- you talk about taking a  
3 six-inch mesh restriction on the coast at the beginning  
4 on the first pulse or.....

5  
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, you know, in  
7 District 1, by opening only the south mouth, could  
8 target summer chum and thereby avoiding concentration  
9 of Chinook migrating through the middle and north  
10 mouth. What were the indications that led you to do  
11 that? I mean.....

12  
13 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Maybe Jeremy  
14 could answer that. He may be more -- that's probably a  
15 better question for Steve to answer that. I can't. I  
16 don't know if I can. Go ahead, take a stab.

17  
18 MR. MEARS: I believe it was  
19 indications from fishermen saying that there were  
20 Chinooks coming in through the north and middle, and  
21 the chum were focused on the southern mouth, as well as  
22 indications from the Lower Yukon test fishery. That's  
23 what they were -- they were looking at the data from  
24 fishermen and projects. I should say reports from  
25 fishermen and projects.

26  
27 MR. ESTENSEN: And if I may, Mr. Chair,  
28 I could try to follow up with the summer staff on that  
29 and try to report back to you if -- maybe a little  
30 paragraph or something on what the intent of that, what  
31 the strategy was behind that management action.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I'm sure that  
34 people would be interested to know the answer to that.

35  
36 Mr. Unok.

37  
38 MR. UNOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 have a question for Jeff. You got your boundaries  
40 north side on commercial straightened out yet? It's  
41 not Point Hope I know.

42  
43 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. through the  
44 Chair. I guess you're talking about Aproon Mouth?

45  
46 MR. UNOK: Yeah.

47  
48 MR. ESTENSEN: And the problem we had  
49 with the regulations stating that it's one nautical  
50 mile radius from the mouth. We are looking at that.

1 That did cause a lot of confusion, and I understand  
2 that, and I am talking with Steve about it. And we  
3 need to -- you know, we did get boundary markers out  
4 there. We did put it out in our news releases that,  
5 you know, this is what we're doing right now. But we  
6 do need to get that a little bit more clearer to the  
7 fishermen down there. I understand the problem and  
8 we'll get it straightened out.

9

10 MR. UNOK: Yeah. Point Hope is a long  
11 ways.

12

13 MR. ESTENSEN: It is. It is.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
16 questions on the Yukon.

17

18 Mr. Polty.

19

20 MR. POLTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21 Yeah, there was an improvement on sonar at Pilot  
22 Station site for reading more Chinook escaping. So how  
23 did that outcome of improving that came out this  
24 summer?

25

26 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Through the  
27 Chair. I think the improvement you're meaning is  
28 running the side scan down through the middle just to  
29 see if there was anything they were missing as far as  
30 Chinook was concerned.

31

32 MR. POLTY: Yes.

33

34 MR. ESTENSEN: There was also some  
35 hydro-acoustic tagging going on to try to look at the  
36 -- you know, where they were migrating and the depth.  
37 You know, again that would be somebody for research  
38 some more, the sonar experts, but my understanding from  
39 both of those that again it's just that the fish are  
40 not migrating out in that area.

41

42 That's something, if you want to, too,  
43 Holly, since you used to work on that project.

44

45 You know, the concern was that there  
46 was fish moving out outside of the -- out of the range  
47 of the sonars.

48

49 MR. POLTY: Yes.

50

1 MR. ESTENSEN: On both sides. And my  
2 understanding, preliminary, just from talking, not  
3 having any reports or not seeing any presentations on  
4 it, that that's still -- that they're confident that  
5 there's not a lot -- very little, if any, Chinook  
6 moving out in the area outside of the sonar range.

7  
8 MR. POLTY: Thank you. Mr. Chair.  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
12 questions on the Yukon summary.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, then we'll  
17 go to the Kuskokwim.

18  
19 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair and RAC  
20 members. Thank you so much for adding us to the  
21 agenda.

22  
23 Yesterday a document was handed out to  
24 you called Kuskokwim River salmon fisheries,  
25 preliminary 2011 season summary. I just want to make  
26 sure that you all have that. IT's a four-page document  
27 printed front and back.

28  
29 My name is Holly Carroll.

30  
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: We don't have that one.

32  
33 MS. CARROLL: You don't have it. Okay.  
34 I think Alex is distributing that. Sorry. We brought  
35 it yesterday in the hopes that you'd have time to  
36 review it, but I heard you were working until 7:00.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, we're not  
39 Fish and Game, we have to work until after.....

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MS. CARROLL: Yeah, and you're getting  
44 paid overtime, right?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And we don't get  
47 overtime either.

48  
49 MS. CARROLL: So I guess I would like  
50 to ask the Chair, I would rather not read this four-

1 page document, because I know you have a long day ahead  
2 of you. Would you like a brief summary of how the  
3 season.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, we would.  
6 That's what we wanted, a brief summary of the  
7 Kuskokwim.

8  
9 MS. CARROLL: Okay. Great. Well, on  
10 this document it starts with the commercial harvest,  
11 but I feel like that's a little backwards. I'd rather  
12 start with how we went into the season this year.

13  
14 And again I'm not the area manager, so  
15 I will try and give the best summary I can and answer  
16 any questions best I can, but anything I can't handle,  
17 I will defer to Chuck and I can get back to you guys.

18  
19 So basically the 2011 preseason outlook  
20 for Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim River was to be a  
21 below average return. And going into the season, we  
22 also knew that the Tuluksak River and the Kwethluk  
23 River had not made their escapement goals for at least  
24 the previous three years.

25  
26 With that in mind, Fish and Game and  
27 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service met beforehand to  
28 collaborate together on some preseason strategies for  
29 how we would deal with that issue. And one of the  
30 things we came up with was closing the Kwethluk River  
31 and the Tuluksak River starting at the beginning of the  
32 season from June 1 to July 25th. In addition to those  
33 two systems, the Kasigluk River and the Kuskokuak  
34 Slough were also closed, as was the Kisaralik River.  
35 Those actions started at the beginning of the season.  
36 Those actions were also reviewed in detail at the  
37 interagency meeting held in March with Federal Staff,  
38 Fish and Game Staff and the working group. So those  
39 actions were unanimously supported by the working  
40 group. So those were enacted at the beginning of the  
41 season.

42  
43 But it was also anticipated and  
44 discussed with the working group that if the Chinook  
45 returns appeared very poor in the main stem river,  
46 closures may have to happen for the subsistence  
47 fishery. And as it turned out, the Bethel test fish  
48 abundance indicated a low return for Chinook. So  
49 subsistence fishing was closed essentially three times  
50 this season, from June 16th to 19th, subsistence

1 fishing was closed on the Kuskokwim River. And then  
2 because Bethel test fish indices indicated low  
3 abundance still, another closure was enacted by Fish  
4 and Game June 23rd to the 28th.

5  
6                   These closures only affected District 1  
7 of the Kuskokwim River. So essentially the lower  
8 river.

9  
10                   And then June 29th through July 7th  
11 Bethel test fish abundance -- Bethel test fish indices  
12 indicated that abundance for Chinook was still  
13 relatively low, but that most of the run had past. So  
14 Fish and Game enacted a six-inch mesh size restriction  
15 instead of a full closure.

16  
17                   Fish and Wildlife did almost a  
18 simultaneous action where starting June 30th to July  
19 2nd they did an entire closure rather than just a six-  
20 inch restriction. But because their jurisdiction  
21 dictates that special actions take place over their  
22 whole jurisdiction area, that closure affected a little  
23 bit more than District 1. It went all the way up to  
24 Aniak River.

25  
26                   So those actions happened almost  
27 simultaneously which admittedly, and the working group  
28 let us know that it caused some confusion to the  
29 public. So I think we're admitting that that happened.

30  
31                   But the data was analyzed in-season  
32 through the normal channels, Bethel test fish project,  
33 the in-season subsistence harvest catch monitoring  
34 project which interviews fishermen along the river, the  
35 working group process where subsistence fishers all up  
36 and down the river gave us their subsistence harvest  
37 reports.

38  
39                   And overall, by the end of the season,  
40 it sounded like most fishers actually had been able to  
41 meet their needs despite the hardships that the  
42 closures caused. And currently we don't have any  
43 subsistence harvest information. The post-season  
44 subsistence harvest project is being started right now.  
45 The surveyors are starting to go door to door, ask  
46 people about their harvest.

47  
48                   So one plug I would say is that when  
49 you go back to communities, you know, make sure that  
50 you let your neighbors know that it is very important

1 to tell Fish and Game what were your harvest and did  
2 you meet your needs and do you have comments about  
3 anything about the closures or about anything. They  
4 record all of that information on the forms, and then  
5 all of that will be made available this spring to  
6 managers and to the working group staff. So definitely  
7 be involved in that post-season survey. That's your  
8 chance to tell us how you think the season really went.  
9 That will be a good report card for us.

10

11                   So the other thing I will say is that  
12 our escapement projects are pretty much wrapped up now.  
13 All the weir projects, sonar projects are finished.  
14 They've finished in the field, but now the data will  
15 still need to be analyzed and any missed periods of  
16 operation, they will interpolate data for that. So  
17 this data you have here is considered preliminary.  
18 We'll put more data out possibly at the end of November  
19 when the research staff have had a chance to finalize  
20 those numbers at the escapement grounds.

21

22                   But the general feeling of the research  
23 staff based on the escapement data we do have is that  
24 Chinook and sockeye salmon abundance to the escapement  
25 grounds was below average, but was better than 2010,  
26 which was a record low year. Chum salmon was above  
27 average, and coho salmon abundance was about average at  
28 the escapement grounds.

29

30                   The commercial fishery, because of the  
31 Chinook concerns, was started much later than normal.  
32 The first opening started with July 5th in District 1.  
33 The total harvest -- well, as you know, possibly, the  
34 Chinook salmon, it was agreed at the beginning of the  
35 season that commercial fishery buyers and processors  
36 would not purchase Chinook salmon, that all Chinook  
37 salmon harvested in the commercial fishery would e  
38 retained for subsistence use to help people make up for  
39 any loss in harvest they -- from the closures.

40

41                   So the total harvest of Chinook in 2011  
42 was 730 fish. And of those only 49 were accidentally  
43 purchased. The rest, 680 of them were retained for  
44 subsistence use.

45

46                   The total sockeye harvest was 13,480  
47 fish. The chum harvest was 118,085. And the coho  
48 harvest was about 74,000 fish.

49

50                   That's a brief summary. I'd be happy

1 to field any questions that I can at this time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Ms.  
4 Carroll.

5

6 Mr. Aloysius, got a question.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: I just have a comment.

9 And this comment comes from the people who did not  
10 experience the hardship of the closures. In fact,  
11 people up river were happy, because of the simple fact  
12 that, you know, we got more fish. Or they got more  
13 fish. I didn't catch any. I'm sorry to say that we.  
14 But they did, and they're really happy.

15

16 One thing that was really confusing and  
17 a lot of people, that if the rivers of concern were the  
18 Kisaralik, Kasigluk, Kwethluk and what's that other  
19 one, oh, Tuluksak, why did the Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service close the river from the Aniak River down to  
21 the mouth? Because the salmon already passed Bogus  
22 Creek. So why did they restrict that, the harvest of  
23 that salmon for that area? You know, that's the thing  
24 that people can't understand.

25

26 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
27 Aloysius.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you please  
30 state your name, please.

31

32 MR. GILLIKIN: My name is Dan Gillikin.  
33 I'm the fisheries biologist with the Yukon Delta  
34 National Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 Mr. Aloysius, that is just kind of an  
37 artifact of our jurisdictional authority. When we  
38 close a fishery, we have to close all of the waters  
39 within the conservation unit, which is from Aniak on  
40 down. We don't have specific, you know, jurisdiction  
41 to close just parts of the river. So when we use that  
42 tool, the big hammer, unfortunately we have to apply it  
43 to the entire conservation unit.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

48

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

50

1 Talking about those closures, we didn't  
2 -- our people downriver didn't get the information, or  
3 everybody didn't get the information. Some people did,  
4 but I myself broke the law that time, fishing when it's  
5 closed, because I did not know. I was fishing at  
6 Quinhagak, came back to Tuntutuliak and start  
7 subsistence fishing, and I didn't get the ticket or  
8 cited, but the ranger station said I got a ticket for  
9 that. And I always -- I try to keep my record clean,  
10 but that time I broke the law, not knowing the closure.

11  
12 But at that time, four of us here are  
13 working group members. At the working group meeting we  
14 accepted Fish and Game's recommendation to reduce the  
15 fishing gear to six-inch, and after we left, after the  
16 meeting adjourned, we found out that Fish and Wildlife  
17 Service closed the river, too. And people were not  
18 happy with that. I, myself, was not happy, because I  
19 already made marine radio announcement to my village  
20 that we are reduced to six-inch fishing on the  
21 Kuskokwim River. I did not announce the closure,  
22 because I didn't know. So the information was not  
23 passed on to everybody.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

28  
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: I made an error when I  
30 said the Fish and Wildlife Service closed the area.  
31 All they did was restrict the gear from, you know, from  
32 four inches down. Sorry about that.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown.

35  
36 MR. BROWN: During that time, there was  
37 some -- probably nine games of closure by Fish and  
38 Game, and I didn't know that there was three days  
39 closure again by Wildlife. I was going to fish that  
40 time. I was confused. This is the first time I heard  
41 Wildlife controlling the fish. And that time I was at  
42 my fish camp. I didn't know it until last -- you know,  
43 my wife was confused, because the month of June is the  
44 drying, the best time of the year to dry fish. And we  
45 lost the good drying days because of those Chinook low  
46 numbers. Why was you guys controlling that additional  
47 three days closed.

48  
49 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
50 Brown. Yeah, you know, it was a messy kind of

1 situation with that additional three-day closure by the  
2 Fish and Wildlife Service. As you know, as a member of  
3 the working group, we're always, you know, evaluating  
4 data as it comes in in kind of a real time situation,  
5 and we don't always a lot of time to try to make a  
6 decision.

7

8                   What happened in that particular  
9 instance is we got additional information and direction  
10 from our supervisors and managers that they didn't feel  
11 that just the gear size restriction would be adequate  
12 to conserve Chinook salmon for the systems that we  
13 could tell from the test fish data were probably not  
14 going to make escapement. So we had to make a very  
15 quick decision.

16

17                   We did the best we could outreach-wise  
18 to inform the public. We -- I personally was up until  
19 midnight faxing the special actions out to the various  
20 villages. We had announcements on the radio. We did  
21 the best we could and I know the working group was a  
22 little confused at that end of that meeting about what  
23 the position was. We had a follow-up meeting with the  
24 State after that. We tried to contact all of the  
25 working group members to let them know what the  
26 decision was.

27

28                   And our decision was really just based  
29 on we did not feel that the gear size restriction in  
30 itself would be adequate to try to meet escapement in  
31 these systems where we had a concern. And so that's  
32 why we enacted that additional three-day closure.

33

34                   Now, initially we were discussing even  
35 a longer closure period, but we backed off of that  
36 somewhat after talking with the State. So we  
37 understand that there were hardships and missed  
38 communications and we'll strive to do better in the  
39 future.

40

41                   But we have taken Federal action in the  
42 past on a few occasions, not very often, but it was not  
43 the first action that we've taken.

44

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Brown?

46

Any further question.

48

49                   MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman. I would  
50 like to add to that if I may.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.  
2 State your name.

3  
4 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5 Members of the Board. My name is Robert Sundown. I'm  
6 subsistence resource specialist among several other  
7 things I do there.

8  
9 And, you know, Dan is correct. We  
10 probably could have done, and we always can do a better  
11 job communicating special actions and things that are  
12 done in an emergency fashion.

13  
14 You know, with that said, you know,  
15 four of you are on the working group on the Kuskokwim.  
16 But at the same token we had a preseason agreement with  
17 the Board and the working group, that we were going to  
18 have much more severe restrictions, and given the  
19 background that this was the second worse run that we  
20 have on record, it was totally appropriate in my  
21 opinion.

22  
23 And, you know, you look back on the  
24 courses of events that happened this summer, they were  
25 predicted. We saw this ahead of time. We had  
26 preseason meetings about this, and we had a preseason  
27 meeting in March about this, and we knew the severity  
28 of the fisheries. And at some point we've got to make  
29 a decision. Is escapement more important, or is  
30 subsistence more important. And that's going to be a  
31 decision for all of you, but, you know, to say that,  
32 you know, Wildlife is coming in over-burdensome, I  
33 don't think is a fair characterization. I mean, we  
34 knew ahead of time we wanted to take more restrictive  
35 action, and I think out of all the actions we could  
36 have taken this summer, it was the least restrictive we  
37 could have done. And it deserved more in my opinion.

38  
39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
42 questions on the Kuskokwim.

43  
44 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. James Charles.

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

49  
50 Greg and I and Pop were at the

1 interagency meeting in Anchorage, and we were aware  
2 that it was coming, and we had conservation measures  
3 for Kuskokwim. And we, Greg and I, when we had AC  
4 meeting here in Bethel on April 7, we reported to our  
5 group that it was coming, and they know it. But we  
6 want to know when it's closed. We know it's coming,  
7 but we didn't know when. So we let the people know,  
8 our AC members know when we came back from interagency  
9 meeting.

10

Thank you.

12

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

14

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 Well, I was asked to address those two  
18 specific issues, and it has to do with the --  
19 essentially the actions of Refuge personnel.

20

21 And the first, of course, was the  
22 second week when the in-season survey technicians went  
23 out. They were barraged by questions of, is it really  
24 true it's closing this Saturday? And, of course, they  
25 felt kind of blindsided about it and rather surprised.  
26 They said, no, that decision's not going to be made  
27 until next Monday. Nobody even knows that yet. And  
28 right now there's no closures scheduled at all, because  
29 the run was actually tracking quite well in the Bethel  
30 test fishery.

31

32 And so it -- I mean, I understand it  
33 was a good faith effort and so forth, and the message  
34 was delivered as well as it could, but however it  
35 occurred, it -- that was the understanding that people  
36 got, that there was going to be a closure three days --  
37 or two days prior to the decision even being made.

38

39 And you can look back over the years  
40 upon years of test fishery data, you cannot see  
41 anything close to the flat line that occurred from the  
42 saturation fishing that resulted from again a good  
43 faith effort, but the understanding that people  
44 received. I mean, it was solid boats from Napakiak to  
45 Kuskokuak. And it was almost like commercial fishing,  
46 and nobody recalled seeing anything like that in living  
47 memory. And so, of course, in living memory, never.

48

49 And you look at that period of June 8th  
50 to 14th, that's when 20 to 40 percent on average. I

1 asked actually Subsistence Division to get the -- some  
2 of the post-season data that we have historically to  
3 try to get some kind of a 10-year average. And, of  
4 course, they had the change-over between Subsistence to  
5 the Commercial Fisheries doing it, but the years that I  
6 was able to get for regular average being '98 through  
7 '06, it includes both our worst years possible,  
8 disaster years, and the most bumper years possible, you  
9 know, '04 through 06 that we had for the Chinook  
10 return. And we're talking in the neighborhood of 20 to  
11 25,000 fish there.

12  
13                   And I know that there's no -- you can't  
14 substantiate it, but it's a perfectly realistic  
15 assumption to make that the results of that increased  
16 fishing probably resulted in 5 to 10,000 fish less on  
17 the spawning grounds, and it certainly would have been  
18 a much greater savings than any kind of closure later  
19 warranted. I mean, all this is in hindsight, and we'll  
20 never know. We never will know.

21  
22                   But what has happened from that, too,  
23 is that people don't forget. And it has placed  
24 probably a change in the commercial -- I'm sorry, in  
25 the subsistence fishery that's going to continue for  
26 years until the runs rebuild, and result in increased  
27 enforcement actions and so forth.

28  
29                   There's a very good likelihood that  
30 when that meeting occurred on the 13th of June that  
31 maybe it would have dropped off enough and the concern  
32 would have been there enough to have the closure that  
33 did occur, along with the savings, because people were  
34 fishing at their regular schedule, they weren't ramping  
35 up.

36  
37                   So again I was asked to express that  
38 specific question. We'd heard that it's been blown out  
39 of proportion. And again we don't know and we never  
40 will know.

41  
42                   So that aside, and then the other, of  
43 course, was the action, and I wasn't at the meeting,  
44 but -- at the end of June and July where you folks  
45 called a closure, but I certainly got a lot of feedback  
46 about it in that -- you know, when the working group  
47 meeting adjourns, and an action is agreed upon, I don't  
48 know if you guys specifically agreed to it or not. Or  
49 withheld -- you know, reserved expressing your public  
50 action at that time, or if you -- it was considered to

1 be upon, but usually when the working group leaves,  
2 it's done and there's an agreed upon action and a  
3 public announcement going out that that's what's going  
4 to happen. And again people felt blindsided but that.  
5 But you're all okay, we're out there, we're going  
6 fishing with our six-inch, and then find out, you know,  
7 like James said, and I got the same thing from  
8 fishermen around here that they were out there fishing  
9 with their six-inch gear. And I don't know if you  
10 ended up having to write bunch of tickets about that or  
11 not, Robert. Or you and your counterparts.

12  
13                                    Anyway, those two were the ones that I  
14 wanted to.....

15  
16                                    MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18                                    CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

19  
20                                    MR. SUNDOWN: I can address. Thank  
21 you, Mr. Chairman. Member Roczicka.

22  
23                                    You know, you're absolutely right. You  
24 know, there's a difference in-season between hearsay  
25 and a whole bunch of things that go on behind the  
26 scenes versus fact. And, you know, in one instance  
27 we're being accused of not providing enough  
28 information, and in another instance, in the very same  
29 10 minutes here, of giving too much information. So  
30 you guys have to decide, you know, which direction you  
31 guys want to go.

32  
33                                    And, you know, you're absolutely right.  
34 That was a good faith effort by our law enforcement  
35 staff to let people know there may be action in the  
36 coming future. And, quite honestly, these are actions  
37 that should have been provided by members of, the  
38 people attending the March working group meeting. I  
39 mean, that's our job. Our job is to go back and say,  
40 hey, listen, folks, we may have actions. And I think  
41 it's just one of those situations where, you know, it's  
42 -- you're, excuse my language, damned if you and damned  
43 if you don't. I mean, you know, law enforcement is  
44 never a popular issue out there, and it never is, and I  
45 perfectly accept that when I accepted the job. But,  
46 you know, it's something we do our best to do and try  
47 to do honestly, and I do characterize that as a  
48 misunderstanding by the general population. I mean,  
49 it's say one thing, and by the tenth iteration comes  
50 around, it's something totally different.

1                   But the intention there was to let  
2 people know ahead of time we may have pending closures,  
3 which I always think is a good thing for the  
4 population.

5  
6                   But, you know, by the same token, you  
7 know, I don't believe that the suggestion that if we  
8 didn't say anything, we would have made escapement. I  
9 just don't believe that. I think we were well on our  
10 way by the middle of the season to not make escapement,  
11 whether people were notified or not. It was just a  
12 rotten run, and I think we can all agree on that.

13  
14                   And the bigger question is what we can  
15 do collectively to improve upon that, whether it's  
16 through communication or management. But at some point  
17 it has to involve reduction in time, gear or fish  
18 taken. I mean, that's just a hard truth. And how we  
19 go about working together to achieve that is something  
20 we all collectively need to do, both the user groups,  
21 the State and the Feds.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

24  
25                   MR. GILLIKIN: Mr. Gillikin. Through  
26 the Chair. Mr. Roczicka.

27  
28                   If I could address your first question  
29 there or issue with the -- I think you were getting at  
30 the performance of the model and management strategies.  
31 Yeah, this was the first year that we've kind of  
32 employed this technique, and we've developed this model  
33 and these strategies of these closures based on these  
34 trigger points that we're interpreting from the catch  
35 per unit data from the test fishery.

36  
37                   Was it perfect? No. Can we improve  
38 it? Yes. And that's our intention, is to get with the  
39 State and the working group members and other  
40 interested parties over the winter, evaluate the  
41 performance of that model that's been developed and  
42 develop some strategies, and we invite anybody help us  
43 do this that we think will be effective, because the  
44 hardest part of this job is managing people and trying  
45 to figure out what people are going to do. I think  
46 that's where we kind of fell short this year was not  
47 anticipating, maybe, that there would be this rush to  
48 the fish. And I think we can improve on that in the  
49 coming season.

50

1                   And there's certainly some evaluation  
2 that needs to be done with the model. It can be  
3 interpreted in several different ways, but I agree with  
4 Robert. I think no matter what we would have done this  
5 year, we would have seen the same outcome in the end,  
6 which was we only met escapement at one system barely,  
7 the Kogrukluuk, for Chinook salmon. All the other  
8 systems are down, and either the second or third lowest  
9 year on record.

10  
11                   And I just wanted to mention, if you  
12 didn't get it, I have a summary of our justification  
13 and some of the background behind why we made our  
14 decision to close that fishery for that three-day  
15 period. If you don't have it, it's over on the table  
16 here.

17  
18                   And since Holly did such a good job of  
19 summarizing, I don't know if I need to talk more about  
20 it.

21  
22                   MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair.

23  
24                   MR. ROCZICKA: Before she does that,  
25 I'd -- there's something that I do want to address in  
26 what you mentioned, Robert, in that you were doing what  
27 the working group and the members at the preseason  
28 meeting, Inter-Agency meeting, should have been doing.  
29 We had been doing that. James was on the radio several  
30 times. I was on the radio. Beverly was on the radio.  
31 We had our -- the survey technicians were out at the  
32 fish camps and saying, it may occur right now. There's  
33 nothing definite, we don't know, and there was not the  
34 rush there until, I'm sorry, uniformed officers  
35 appeared at the camps, and that was the word for us.

36  
37                   And you mentioned it was a rotten run.  
38 Yes. Barely escapement at only one system. But I  
39 think 5 or 10,000 fish would have made quite a  
40 difference. and like I say, we may have ended up with  
41 same closure schedule anyway. Maybe not. At that  
42 meeting on the 13th, it was still tracking above, you  
43 know, the model that you mentioned here, Dan, and  
44 depending on how close it was, and, you know, I didn't  
45 bring the papers along, but you can see where the  
46 tracking was going, and kept at that same trajectory,  
47 that first closure may not have occurred and it may  
48 have.

49  
50                   But I'm sorry, I didn't want to get

1 defensive or anything, but the working group certainly  
2 made a good effort and those in the -- and like I said,  
3 we all did our best, yeah, there's certainly room for  
4 improvement. In hindsight, it could have been a lot  
5 better in my mind.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Noah Andrew.

8

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

11

12 On the whole Kuskokwim River as you may  
13 be well aware of now, from the Bogus Creek down to  
14 Akiak is one area that is changing all the time now.  
15 And what we did this summer, I appreciate the Federal  
16 people coming over there and working with us to develop  
17 some kind of strategy. And I think that is working.  
18 Within the Village of Tuluksak at least, we improved on  
19 all avenues, them personally coming to the village, and  
20 we worked on some issues here. And to a point where  
21 we, the subsistence users themself were also invited to  
22 come in and work some of the solutions that we were  
23 visit -- or the Department is coming out with. Some of  
24 the ways that we have constant communication is for  
25 them to sent fax to the community. And that is very  
26 well achieving some improvement. It's in our area,  
27 information that we need to do, because I overheard  
28 over here some of our subsistence users are constantly  
29 in the fish camp, and they don't have any information  
30 whatsoever to reach them, unless the community or come  
31 by, stop by and tell them.

32

33 I think what they did here throughout  
34 the summer was an excellent process, and I hope that  
35 somehow in that line that this process will probably be  
36 thought about in your meeting within your staff, and I  
37 think that probably is one of the ways that we can  
38 improve not only the communication, but also  
39 environment within the subsistence area.

40

41 Although I have some more, I didn't  
42 want to take your time here. Mr. Chairman. Thank you  
43 for the -- but I appreciate you guys coming over and  
44 working with us at one time or the other. I thought  
45 you guys take that time on your own to work with us,  
46 and I'd like to thank some on behalf of the people I  
47 serve. And that's one result that everything is not  
48 constant. We are improving nevertheless, and one more  
49 success is that I hope the river by itself would be  
50 considered as part of the upcoming unforeseen problem

1 both on a statement and process of coming up with some  
2 kind of solution. We personally bring this idea to the  
3 Federal side of water.

4

5 Sit and think about our requirements in  
6 there to work on the channel, because right now every  
7 which way you go, there's a sandbar. Sandbar. And on  
8 your fish sonar, I think they're affected from Bogus  
9 Creek down to Akiak. And I hope that you guys will  
10 look into that also so that we may have a better  
11 escapement for these fish. Right now if you revisit it  
12 from this summer, you're going to see a lot of beaver  
13 houses. They are eager to cover right there, the best  
14 engineer in the world. That's why in my testimony I  
15 was asking what's his name, Harbor, can the spite (ph)  
16 dynamite these, we can fix this problem.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown. Excuse  
21 me. Mr. Brown, go ahead.

22

23 MR. BROWN: What I have in mind is  
24 instead of -- if you guys going to close it like last  
25 spring, like 12 days, continuously, I wonder if you  
26 guys could resolved that long periods of time. Give us  
27 -- why not give us a change to fish between those long  
28 closure time, you know, in order to fish, you know,  
29 instead of long periods of closure.

30

31 You know in the fish camp, that was too  
32 long, what I experience last spring with the 12 days  
33 was too long for me, because June is the drying time  
34 for us, you know. Why don't you guys give us a chance  
35 like if it's like 12 days closure, give us a fishing  
36 between those closures.

37

38 I hope you understand what I'm trying  
39 to say.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.  
44 Sundown.

45

46 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 Thank you, Member Brown.

48

49 Yeah, I don't believe we had 12  
50 straight closure days. There might have been

1 collectively 12 days, but there was no period in time  
2 in which there was 12 days it was closed.

3  
4 But more importantly, the issue you're  
5 bringing up is how do you get your subsistence needs  
6 met during the course of the summer when we don't have  
7 fish available for escapement and subsistence at the  
8 same time. And that's just something we're going to  
9 have to work through together over the course of the  
10 winter, and really decide as a collective, you know,  
11 what our course of action is when we don't project to  
12 make escapement.

13  
14 And, you know, the last two years have  
15 been special year. And, you know, certainly we're  
16 going to see them again, whether it's next year or  
17 seven years from now, we don't know. But there's going  
18 to be periods again where the river cannot give fish to  
19 everybody. And it's at that point we have to decide  
20 preseason what it is we're going to do, and it may  
21 involve hardships. It may involve a little bit of  
22 fighting, it may have involved -- it may involve  
23 something, but I think all of us care enough, you know,  
24 how to proceed forward with being able to harvest your  
25 subsistence needs of king salmon, and still care for  
26 the resource enough where we have returns the following  
27 years. So, I mean, that's just going to take preseason  
28 effort on our part. So, you know, it's just something  
29 we have to do.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
32 questions. Mr. Brown.

33  
34 MR. BROWN: To that reason, one of my  
35 brothers was subsistence a long ways from home. He  
36 went down to Quinhagak to subsistence, because he  
37 cannot fish here in the area, closed area. So that is  
38 important to us. We're trying to collect fish during  
39 the closure time. He went down to Quinhagak to  
40 subsistence fish.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

43  
44 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you again, Mr.  
45 Chairman. Member Brown.

46  
47 You know, I guess the biggest theme,  
48 I'd like to reiterate with all of you from the Refuge,  
49 from the Yukon Delta Refuge, is we are going to provide  
50 you guys with as much subsistence effort as we can

1 afford biologically. You know, some of it you might  
2 not like, like the ptarmigan one yesterday. I mean, we  
3 wanted to give you as much ptarmigan, but you said, no,  
4 no, that's too much ptarmigan. You know, with lynx,  
5 with -- you know. And, you know, where we can afford  
6 to give it, with moose on the Lower Yukon, moose in the  
7 Unit 18 remainder, we're going to do our best to  
8 provide opportunity, because we realize it's a  
9 subsistence use area. And whatever way you can pack  
10 protein, and whether it's fish or game, we're going to  
11 do. And, you know, it's just something that we need to  
12 deal with preseason when it comes to issues where we  
13 don't and can't afford, like with Chinook salmon these  
14 last two years. That we just need to have a better  
15 plan on. And, you know, I say that, ourselves as well  
16 in terms of better planning.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
19 questions. Mr. Andrew, yes, you may.

20  
21 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
22 Chair. Timothy Andrew with AVCP.

23  
24 If it will help in the process of our  
25 discussion with salmon, during our annual AVCP  
26 convention we're going to have a state of the salmon,  
27 regional state of the salmon luncheon. It's going to  
28 happen on the first day. I believe it's going to be on  
29 the 11th. It will be probably about a 20-minute  
30 presentation, and then a chat about what's happening on  
31 the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers.

32  
33 And also we are also planning a mid-  
34 year convention, because salmon has become a pretty big  
35 issue on the Yukon River, and also starting here on the  
36 Kuskokwim River. Perhaps sometime in March we're going  
37 to have a special convention, and hopefully we'll get  
38 people like the Refuge and the Federal managers, State  
39 managers around a table talking about preseason  
40 planning, what's happening, what's going to be  
41 happening this coming -- or what they anticipate's  
42 going to happen this coming summer for both rivers, and  
43 also coastal areas as well.

44  
45 And certainly RAC members and everybody  
46 else are very welcome to come and participate as well.

47  
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

1 Andrew.

2

3 Any further question on -- from the  
4 Council on the Kuskokwim summary.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, Holly had her hand  
11 up several times, and I'm wondering what she wanted  
12 to.....

13

14 MS. CARROLL: Thank you, Bob. Mr.  
15 Chair.

16

17 I just wanted to say as the working  
18 group coordinator as well, that process has 13 members  
19 on it, but it is a public process. Not only do we meet  
20 sometimes twice a week during the season, but we do  
21 have our interagency meeting in the spring. And as Mr.  
22 Andrew touched on, we usually meet in March, the end of  
23 March, first day of April. We do that in conjunction  
24 with the ADF&G interagency meeting where all  
25 interagency staff are invited and often people from  
26 AVCP, universities, and we share all the latest  
27 information we have on Kuskokwim salmon and other  
28 issues affecting salmon in general.

29

30 And the working group meeting will  
31 again meet this March. And at the last meeting because  
32 we knew that we would be discussing these preseason  
33 management strategies, we wanted to bring in people  
34 from the villages that would be affected, like Kwethluk  
35 and Tuluksak. I know that Mr. John Andrew was  
36 available to come to our meeting. Unfortunately,  
37 because the working group process is funded quite  
38 specifically, it's well-funded by the Office of  
39 Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
40 Fish and Game, but it does not provide funding to be  
41 able to bring people from other villages. But those  
42 people are very much welcome to the meeting process,  
43 and that meeting process would be even better if those  
44 people could try to come.

45

46 So I'm putting the message out there  
47 that if you think that you'd like to be involved in the  
48 process, definitely get in touch with Fish and Game,  
49 and we can try and figure out ways to help provide  
50 funding, or if your village council can provide funding

1 or AVCP, to help make it more collaborative, that would  
2 be great.

3

4                   The other thing is that all the working  
5 group meetings are public. There's a free telephone  
6 line that you can call into. Anyone is welcome to get  
7 on the distribution list, and that tells you when the  
8 meetings are and send out the summaries after our  
9 meeting. Anyone can get in on that information.

10

11                   But also we started posting it on the  
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. So now you  
13 can go on there now, on the commercial fisheries, you  
14 can look for the working group stuff under Kuskokwim  
15 salmon. You'll see all the latest reports, you'll see  
16 all the summaries from the season. You'll see any  
17 special documents, like, for instance, Mr. Gillikin's  
18 document explaining why they took their special action.  
19 You'll find those documents on there, so you can even  
20 kind of read those things and things and catch up. And  
21 in-season as we get information, we'll post it on the  
22 web.

23

24                   So even if you can't be present, you  
25 can call in by phone. But like Mr. Andrew was saying,  
26 the more people that can be involved in these  
27 decisions, the much better it's going to be overall for  
28 everyone. So I just encourage people to get more  
29 involved in the working group season next year and to  
30 try to attend that interagency meeting in March if  
31 possible.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.  
34 Noah Andrew.

35

36                   MR. N. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38                   In addition to my comments earlier, I'd  
39 like to stress one more time on behalf of the fish, on  
40 behalf of the species, mouth of Tuluksak is an example.  
41 If we need to get this fish into escapement places, we  
42 constantly begin to channel the mouth of Tuluksak. The  
43 rivers below Tuluksak are beginning to be sanding up  
44 themselves. That was why I brought that up, because it  
45 is a very big concern with our subsistence users. I've  
46 heard it constantly, and am encouraged to bring it out  
47 as an information on the long-range process. And I  
48 think they are right, and I think we need to take care  
49 of the species. They're speaking in spirit somehow.  
50 And as a tribal member, I heard them.

1                   So for that information, keep it in  
2 mind. Maybe along the way you, too, might want to  
3 insert here and there of the waters and river channels.

4

5                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
8 questions or any -- of the Department or the Service.  
9 Mr. Charles.

10

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

12

13                  I've got an idea now that the  
14 commercial department, or commercial fisheries usually  
15 announce their commercial fishing times to the villages  
16 by fax. That works out good, and we have other ways to  
17 pass the word down to people, and even from subsistence  
18 department or Federal people, they can send the fax to  
19 village council office or tribal council office if you  
20 knew their number, but the Department of Fish and Game  
21 commercial fisheries are doing good job doing that.  
22 And people know when to go commercial fishing. And  
23 subsistence, the way -- subsistence closers could be  
24 announced that way, too, and that would help. So I  
25 want to work with everybody, but that's why I make my  
26 announcements on marine radio, because almost every  
27 home got marine radio in my village. And when the  
28 council gets the information about commercial fishing,  
29 the announce it, too, over the radio.

30

31                  Thank you.

32

33                  CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, sir.

34

35                  MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
36 Charles.

37

38                  Yes, that is a good way to contact the  
39 villages, and we did do that for our special action. I  
40 faxed it to probably over 70 different, you know,  
41 village organizations throughout the -- all the way --  
42 even over on the Yukon. And I know I have the records  
43 to show that. So why the message didn't really get  
44 out, it may be people didn't understand it as well,  
45 because they're not used to seeing a special action  
46 from the Service, so that could be part of it as well.

47

48                  CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sundown. Is  
49 that okay?

50

1 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 I just want to be a little bit more  
4 blunt. I mean, you know, James is absolutely correct.  
5 And the reason he did not understand it is because we  
6 have bluntly a disagreement with the State. And I  
7 think every one of us on Staff at the Refuge is in  
8 commitment to working better with the State to better  
9 send a unified message, or working more closely with  
10 the user groups when something like this does happen.

11

12 And for all of you on the working  
13 group, you all were there, and quite honestly, we  
14 diverged in our approach from the State of Alaska. And  
15 when that happens, that's never good for anybody in  
16 terms of the user groups. So, you know, we will -- you  
17 know, for our side, you know, continue to do our best  
18 to work for the resources and for the people with the  
19 State. And when we diverge in our message, the user  
20 groups are the ones suffering.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
23 question. Thank you.

24

25 Mr. Brown.

26

27 MR. BROWN: I have a question about the  
28 -- you guys. When I used to work with Commissioner Ray  
29 Baxter, we used to locate in by the mouth of the  
30 Kanektok River. We had a camp down there. And when  
31 those guys used to fish behind the buoys by the mouth  
32 they put a quarter mile out. And there used to be some  
33 few violators down there, them oldtimers. And they  
34 don't know much about the English, too, that I had to  
35 translate some of those people when they used to go  
36 down to patrol the area. And I wonder if you guys like  
37 Ray Baxter, he used to want them, not cite them. I  
38 wonder if that system change.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Answer to that, Mr.  
41 Sundown.

42

43 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 Member Brown.

45

46 You know, I can't speak for all law  
47 enforcement officers, but I personally, you know, do my  
48 best to give as many warnings as I can. Like I said,  
49 it's certainly not my favorite part of the job, and I  
50 certainly don't -- if there's a chance where I can

1 educate and let people know what the regulations are, I  
2 would much prefer to do that. I mean, I think, you  
3 know, the world is full of honest people, and I think  
4 the world is full of honest people that make mistakes.  
5 And if we can avoid issuing citations where we can, we  
6 do.

7  
8                   And, you know, I'm not going to say  
9 that uniformly, because there are a lot of law  
10 enforcement officers. So, you know, we -- you know,  
11 they all have discretion and they all have a mission to  
12 do. And, you know, when they're briefed on the second  
13 worse -- we're coming off the first worse salmon run on  
14 record, you know, some are more professional than  
15 others. And, you know, they certainly don't -- you  
16 know, to my knowledge aren't mean spirited about it,  
17 but, you know, they are professional in their jobs,  
18 and, you know, to them it's protection of the  
19 resources.

20  
21                   But to every extent that we can, you  
22 know, I certainly preach the idea that if we can  
23 educate people, then let's do that.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
26 further questions.

27  
28                   (No comments)

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you  
31 very much for your five minutes, Jeff.

32  
33                   (Laughter)

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: At this time we  
36 have one person before we take a break on the subject  
37 of subsistence closure, Chinook, on the Kuskokwim.  
38 Phillip K. Peter, Sr. And then after you, we'll take a  
39 break.

40  
41                   MR. PETER: My name is Phillip K.  
42 Peter, Sr. I'm from Akiachak Native Council.

43  
44                   We were frustrated when we heard on the  
45 news that Kuskokwim subsistence closure. And we didn't  
46 know that this closure affects the whole Kuskokwim  
47 subsistence users.

48  
49                   In 1970s when Chinook crash on  
50 commercial fishing, AVCP develop some sort of

1 committee, and those elders were talking to reduce mesh  
2 size on the king mesh nets. And we followed that rule  
3 ahead of time. Next year we used that system.

4  
5 All the Kuskokwim area were surprised  
6 this summer, because Association of Village Council  
7 Presidents did not consult with the local tribes. We  
8 all mad, you know, and I got phone calls that the  
9 government, IRA government is weak. Threatening as a  
10 leader. You had all kinds of threats from your tribes  
11 when they're frustrated.

12  
13 I understand on the news -- I didn't  
14 know that the Kuskokwim was closed for subsistence. I  
15 was fishing that morning. I didn't know. But a  
16 passerby came and that I'm not supposed to fish. I was  
17 drifting. I usually spent most of the time when this  
18 subsistence fishing comes up. I don't stay home, I  
19 just fish, and spent most of the time in the Kusko. I  
20 don't carry VHF radios or nothing, just to get survival  
21 for the winter.

22  
23 I know that Mr. Charles, when I heard  
24 it on the news that he was challenging the Department  
25 of Fish and Game not to do that. I understand. I  
26 appreciate he's working for the whole Kusko -- he's in  
27 the working group. I appreciate that when he challenge  
28 it, Department of Fish and Game not to close it right  
29 away.

30  
31 The way AVCP form the committee which  
32 is now a working group. Working group is the  
33 responsibility for only commercial fishing, not  
34 subsistence. It's for the commer -- it's designed for  
35 only to commercial fishing in Kuskokwim River.

36  
37 And this year -- I'm a commercial  
38 fisherman at the same time. You see it with your own  
39 eyes. See it with your own eyes, our people, when they  
40 get mad or -- when I sell my fishing this summer. They  
41 didn't buy Chinooks. Those young people that might  
42 throw out those fishes, after a while they going up.  
43 Those young people. Those young ones are fishing right  
44 now, even though we tell them not to do like that.

45  
46 Those young ones are hard to talk to,  
47 because they never heard any lectures like us from  
48 elders, from our elders, you know. These -- my kids,  
49 these generations, they don't care. They don't  
50 respect. They've got no respect. All they think in

1 their mind is money. Only money. They don't care  
2 about consumptions no more for those species, what we  
3 eat.

4

5                   You know, if we were -- I was really  
6 surprised and saddened that we're not working together  
7 no more I think, especially the Department of Fish and  
8 Game. You guys are doing what you know best to serve  
9 our country -- or to serve our village. But these  
10 challenges are real.

11

12                   And I heard Mr. Aloysius, that I  
13 appreciated, that they catch their seasons, good  
14 fishing upriver, good subsistence fishing upriver.

15

16                   When this opening on subsistence, we  
17 were fishing like the whole Kuskokwim looked like  
18 commercial fishing. And they used different kind of  
19 mesh sizes. Those small -- when we use, when I use a  
20 smaller mesh like six inches, I catch small, those good  
21 size average kings, and I look at them. These fish,  
22 these are producers. Producers for our fish.

23

24                   I know that when you're a chairman in  
25 your villages, it's really hard sometimes to deal with.  
26 Next time don't surprise those people out there through  
27 this law and regulations. You have to consult them  
28 before this happens.

29

30                   That's all I want to say. Thank you.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for your  
33 comments.

34

35                   Mr. Nick, did you have anything.

36

37                   (No comments)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: At this time we'll  
40 have a 10-minute break.

41

42                   (Off record)

43

44                   (On record)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Getting back to our  
47 agenda, the next item on the agenda is WP12-53.

48

49                   Mr. Jenkins, you have the floor.

50

1 DR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Council members.

3  
4 WP12-53 was submitted by the Yukon  
5 Delta National.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Can we please  
8 settle down. Can we please settle down before we get  
9 this.

10  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 Go ahead now, Mr. Jenkins.

14  
15 DR. JENKINS: Was submitted by the  
16 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Proposal 12-53  
17 would prohibit a hunter in Unit 18 from pursuing with a  
18 motorized vehicle a caribou, moose or muskox that  
19 fleeing.

20  
21 The Proposal concerns caribou, moose  
22 and muskox in Unit 18; however I should point out at  
23 the beginning that the Federal Subsistence Board has  
24 determined no Federal subsistence priority for muskox  
25 in Unit 18, because it's not recognized customary and  
26 traditional uses of muskox in Unit 18.

27  
28 Now, the proponent states that law  
29 enforcement has found it necessary to cite more than  
30 one hunter during the 2010/11 hunting season for  
31 chasing caribou that were moving at -- that were  
32 fleeing.

33  
34 And if you're looking for this, it's on  
35 Page 164. It starts on 164.

36  
37 So law enforcement has had to cite  
38 people for chasing caribou that were fleeing on  
39 motorized vehicles, snowmachines. And the proponent  
40 states that the adoption of this proposal would protect  
41 the declining Mulchatna Caribou Herd by prohibiting  
42 this activity. Chasing is biologically hard on a  
43 caribou herd, especially when animals are already weak  
44 or pregnant.

45  
46 The concern is motorized vehicles  
47 chasing caribou at a constant high speed. That's the  
48 concern of the proponent.

49  
50 Now, existing Federal regulations

1 already prohibit chasing wildlife with motorized  
2 vehicles with some exceptions, some of which we  
3 mentioned yesterday, motorboats. You can hunt an  
4 animal in some instances from a motorboat under power.  
5 But using a motorized vehicle to drive, herd, or molest  
6 wildlife is prohibits. That's the language.

7  
8                   Excuse me. Now, because it's already  
9 prohibited to drive, molest, harass by motorized  
10 vehicle wildlife, OSM thinks that this proposal is  
11 unnecessary. And, in fact, there would be no effect on  
12 Federal subsistence users in Unit 18, as I say, because  
13 the prohibition against chasing caribou or moose that  
14 are fleeing is encompassed in existing Federal  
15 subsistence provisions and other wildlife regulations.

16  
17                   The intent of the proponent is to make  
18 explicit that using a motorized vehicle to pursue an  
19 ungulate that is fleeing is prohibited. To this end,  
20 OSM Staff recommended that the language included --  
21 already included in the State booklet about chasing  
22 fleeing animals be added to the Federal booklet. And  
23 the language would then be, to make it explicit, would  
24 be, you may not take ungulates by pursuing with a  
25 motorized vehicle an animal that is fleeing. And this  
26 would then replicate what is in the State booklet in  
27 the Federal booklet and make explicit what is already  
28 prohibited in Federal regulations.

29  
30                   For these reasons, the OSM preliminary  
31 conclusion is to oppose this proposal.

32  
33                   Thank you.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
36 Jenkins.

37  
38                   Mr. Pappas.

39  
40                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                   Adoption of this proposal would have an  
43 unknown impact as the Department is unaware if Federal  
44 subsistence caribou hunters are illegally using  
45 snowmachines to pursue ungulates in this unit.

46  
47                   Under State regulations, unless  
48 otherwise provided from a motor-driven boat or  
49 motorized land vehicle, unless the motors been  
50 completely shut off and progress of the motor power

1 ceased, is prohibited from basically shooting from a  
2 moving snowmachine, what have you. And there are some  
3 exceptions here -- or not exceptions, but further  
4 definitions for Unit 22 and 23 where snowmachines can  
5 be used to position a hunter to select an individual  
6 caribou for harvest. And a caribou may be shot from a  
7 stationary snowmachine.

8

9                   Currently harassment of game or herding  
10 of game with a motorized vehicle, including  
11 snowmachines, is not legal.

12

13                   And for enforcement issues, the full  
14 gallop as written in the proposal may be difficult to  
15 determine, leaving enforcement of this measure to  
16 subjective and inconsistent determinations.  
17 Differences in Federal and State regulations resulting  
18 in adoption of this proposal may create enforcement  
19 difficulties in the field with the mixed land  
20 ownership.

21

22                   And the Department does oppose this  
23 proposal.

24

25                   But let pass along what the Seward  
26 Peninsula spoke about. One of their concerns is, okay,  
27 you're on a snowmachine -- you're off the snowmachine.  
28 You shoot an animal, you wound it. Can you chase it?  
29 It's going to be running from you if you have a wounded  
30 animal that doesn't have a broken leg or what have you.  
31 What are the regulations on that?

32

33                   In the State regulations, it breaks  
34 down to two parts. One is attempting to take an  
35 animal, you know, taking your shot. And the second  
36 half is salvaging an animal. Once the animal is  
37 wounded, what regulations apply. And no one had an  
38 answer on that.

39

40                   So I investigated with our enforcement  
41 personnel, and their reference was, you know, once you  
42 wound an animal, you're required to salvage the animal.  
43 And the regulations indicate that, you know, all  
44 reasonable efforts must be made to salvage that animal.

45

46                   Well, the further question is, okay.  
47 You wound an animal. What does that mean? You know,  
48 hop on the snow machine and go wide out aft -- you  
49 know, wide open after it? Well, they said basically on  
50 a case-by-case effort, it will be evaluated. You wound

1 an animal, you hop on a machine, you go -- you zoom up  
2 on the animal, hop off, you finish the animal. That's  
3 salvaging your meat. But if you, you know, nick the  
4 tail of an animal, and then you chase it down with a  
5 50-round clip, shooting while you're driving, they're  
6 going to likely cite you for that.

7  
8 So you do have to make all reasonable  
9 efforts to salvage the animal. And there's an  
10 interpretive line there of, you know, doing illegal  
11 methods to collect the animal afterwards.

12  
13 So that was one of the big questions  
14 the Seward Peninsula RAC had, saying, well, if I shoot  
15 an animal, do I have to go after it five miles an hour,  
16 until, you know, you hunt them down.

17  
18 I hope I tried to shed some light on  
19 that, but it comes down to the hunter's behavior of how  
20 fast you're going to go? Are you going to shoot from  
21 the moving machine? Are you getting up right next to  
22 it and shoot it while you're moving? Most folks  
23 understand that's likely not acceptable.

24  
25 \*\*\*\*\*  
26 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS  
27 \*\*\*\*\*

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

31  
32 Wildlife Proposal WP12-53:  
33

34 This proposal requests the federal  
35 subsistence hunting regulations be changed to clearly  
36 define how a snowmachine may be used to pursue  
37 ungulates in the Unit 18 federal subsistence hunts.

38  
39 Introduction:

40  
41 The proponent requests the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board further define the use of motorized  
43 snowmachines in the Unit 18 federal subsistence hunts  
44 targeting ungulates to better position them for  
45 harvesting in Unit 18. The proponent indicates  
46 adoption of this proposal will strengthen the existing  
47 regulations protection of ungulates. The proponent  
48 also indicates this proposal was submitted in response  
49 to federal subsistence hunters illegally pursuing game  
50 on snowmachines.

1                   Impact on Subsistence Users:

2

3                   Adoption of these proposals would have  
4 an unknown impact as the department is unaware if  
5 federal subsistence caribou hunters are illegally using  
6 snowmachines to pursue ungulates in Unit 18. If this  
7 proposal is adopted, federal subsistence users would be  
8 prohibited from pursuing ungulates with snowmachines.  
9 Need input here on BENEFITS or Detracts from fed sub  
10 users.

11

12                   Opportunity Provided by State:

13

14                   State methods and means prohibit use of  
15 snowmachine to position caribou hunters in Unit 18.

16

17                   General state methods and means  
18 regulations addressing off road vehicles:

19

20                   5AAC 92.004. Policy for off-road  
21 vehicle use for hunting and transporting game.(a)  
22 Off-road vehicles are a legitimate method of  
23 transporting hunters and game in the state, subject to  
24 requirements of federal, state, and local landowners.  
25 If the Board of Game, through its public process, finds  
26 that off-road vehicle use attributed to hunting  
27 activities in a specific area has resulted or is likely  
28 to result in one or more of the following conditions,  
29 it will, in its discretion, take action to avoid or  
30 minimize the conditions: (1) soil erosion or  
31 compaction, or vegetative changes, significantly  
32 affecting important wildlife habitat, including  
33 wildlife food sources such as fish and fish streams, or  
34 wildlife distribution or abundance; (2) harvest of a  
35 population, sex, or age class significantly affecting  
36 condition, abundance, or trophy size relative to area  
37 management goals; (3) wildlife disturbance  
38 significantly affecting reproductive success,  
39 abundance, or condition; movement patterns,  
40 distribution, or behavior; or avoidance of important  
41 habitats such as mineral licks, birthing sites,  
42 wintering habitat, or fish spawning, incubation, and  
43 rearing sites, and other wildlife feeding sites and  
44 food sources; (4) chronic conflicts with other user  
45 groups leading to a decline in the quality of the  
46 outdoor experience. (b) The provisions of (a) of this  
47 section do not prevent the board from taking other  
48 action that it considers necessary or advisable to  
49 adopt or modify off-road vehicle regulations that might  
50 affect hunting or the transportation of hunters,

1 hunting gear, or game. (c) In this section, "off-road  
2 vehicle" includes four-wheel drive trucks and  
3 automobiles, motorcycles, three- to eight-wheeled  
4 all-terrain recreation and utility vehicles, vehicles  
5 with two tracks, air-cushioned vehicles, and airboats  
6 operated outside of a navigable waterway.  
7 5AAC 92.080 Unlawful methods of taking game;  
8 exceptions. The following methods of taking game are  
9 prohibited: (4) unless otherwise provided in this  
10 chapter, from a motor-driven boat or a motorized land  
11 vehicle, unless the motor has been completely shut off  
12 and progress from the motor's power has ceased, except  
13 that a,,,(4)(B)(i.): in Units 22 and 23, a snowmachine  
14 may be used to position a hunter to select an  
15 individual caribou for harvest, and caribou may be shot  
16 from a stationary snowmachine.

17

18 Other Comments:

19

20 Harassment of game, or herding of game  
21 with a motorized vehicle including a snow machine is  
22 already illegal.

23

24 Enforcement Issues:

25

26 Full Gallop may prove difficult to  
27 determine leaving enforcement of this measure to  
28 subjective and inconsistent determinations.  
29 Differences in federal and state regulations resulting  
30 from adoption of this proposal create enforcement  
31 difficulties in areas with mixed land ownership. The  
32 boundaries between federal and state lands are not  
33 marked and often difficult to locate on the ground.

34

35 Recommendation: Oppose

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

40 Pappas.

41

42 The next on the agenda would be the  
43 Service. The Service. This Fish and Wildlife Service.

44

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

46 Members of the RAC. My name is Robert Sundown, and

47 I'll be fulfilling my role as head of the law

48 enforcement at the Yukon Delta National Wildlife

49 Refuge.

50

1                   And we introduced this proposal out of  
2 concern for a lack of this regulation existing on the  
3 Federal side. And while Mr. Jenkins from the  
4 Subsistence Office might assert that the regs are  
5 already on the book, there are no definitions for  
6 drive, herd or molest, which makes it exceptionally  
7 difficult to bring to the solicitor's office for  
8 prosecution.

9  
10                   And when that occurs, our only other  
11 cite for this situation is a State of Alaska cite that  
12 prohibits taking of an animal from a motorized vehicle  
13 that is fleeing. That comes with a mandatory court  
14 appearance; that comes with restitution of the animal  
15 of \$1,000 or greater, and seizure of the vehicle when  
16 we have it. And these are the State regs that we would  
17 enforce if the regulations aren't supported and passed  
18 by this body. Because that's really our only other  
19 avenue for chasing an animal.

20  
21                   If you look at the State regulation  
22 book, the State regulations have both the provisions  
23 where you can't drive, herd or molest and pursue with a  
24 motorized vehicle an animal that is fleeing. They both  
25 exist at the same time in the State regulation book.

26  
27                   So we made a proposal to OSM to make  
28 this a bailable offense as opposed to a mandatory court  
29 appearance and restitution. Because if we are unable  
30 to cite, using our own language, which has no  
31 definitions of drive, herd or molest, the only other  
32 option that we have is the State of Alaska regulations  
33 that prohibits pursuing with a motorized vehicle an  
34 animal that is fleeing. That's the only other recourse  
35 that we have.

36  
37                   So what we're trained to do is make a  
38 lesser offense, a smaller offense while still getting  
39 the message out that chasing an animal is illegal,  
40 because at all times there's two regulations that are  
41 in effect on the Refuge, both the State of Alaska  
42 regulations and the Federal subsistence regulations.  
43 So when, you know -- and think all of us would agree  
44 that chasing a caribou is probably not the best thing.

45  
46  
47                   So when we made this proposal, there  
48 was some language in there that concerned the  
49 Association of Village Council Presidents. And over  
50 the course of the winter we came to an agreement with

1 AVCP where we would support the regulation with special  
2 definitions. And if you look on Page 165, Unit 18,  
3 special provisions, we agreed that you may not pursue  
4 with a motorized vehicle an ungulate that is fleeing.  
5 So it's specific to caribou and moose. We really have  
6 no issues with muskox, because it's not a species that  
7 we manage for subsistence.

8

9 With the addition of defining what  
10 fleeing is, fleeing is an ungulate that is at or near  
11 full gallop. And the reason we want to put that in,  
12 and this was with the blessing of AVCP, is to make a  
13 lesser charge available, because the only thing we have  
14 at this point is a big hammer which is the State of  
15 Alaska cite.

16

17 And if you look at your State  
18 regulation book, and I don't know if we have a copy  
19 here, you will see those two regulations coexisting.  
20 You may not use a motorized vehicle to pursue an  
21 animal that is fleeing, and you cannot drive, herd or  
22 molest. We only have the drive, herd and molest in the  
23 Federal regulations. So, you know, despite the  
24 assertion that OSM says we have regulations in  
25 existing, you know, the Staff at OSM has never had to  
26 present a case before the U.S. Attorney's Office or the  
27 solicitor's office for prosecution, and we have on many  
28 occasions.

29

30 So what we're trying to do here is make  
31 a lesser charge, make a lesser bailable offense instead  
32 of a mandatory court appearance offense. And to us and  
33 AVCP, this is a much better option, because the only  
34 option we have at this point is a mandatory court  
35 appearance. And I'll leave that up to.....

36

37 MR. T. ANDREW: If I may, Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.

40

41 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah, this is a pretty  
42 rare occasion that I come up here and sit with Fish and  
43 Wildlife Service in the presentation of our proposal.

44

45 When the original call for proposals  
46 came out, AVCP did submit a proposal to allow people to  
47 position themselves utilizing snowmachines, because we  
48 responded to a number of citations that had occurred in  
49 the Delta from various villages. And there was a lot  
50 of concern about people pursuing caribou. I mean, this

1 was -- this proposal was directed to caribou; it wasn't  
2 directed to moose or muskox or any other ungulates that  
3 may be in the region, but it was directed towards  
4 caribou. And there was a lot of concern about running  
5 an animal down to death. I mean, that's something that  
6 we don't normally do, and it's probably not a good  
7 practice because the quality of meat kind of suffers  
8 after that type of activity.

9  
10 But we had met with Robert, that's  
11 myself and Myron, in further defining this regulation,  
12 making it a little bit more user friendly for our  
13 hunters that are out there. And we had moved towards  
14 prohibiting people from pursuing caribou at near or  
15 full gallop. But some way or another throughout the  
16 process of presenting this to you, the language has  
17 been changed to fleeing. Fleeing a little bit of a  
18 concern for me, because we may be faced back to the  
19 same situation that we were in before. You know, if  
20 perhaps one of the hunters from our villages were to go  
21 after caribou, if they moved toward the caribou on a  
22 snowmachine and it starts running away, and then you  
23 start moving in that direction, the caribou is actually  
24 fleeing from you.

25  
26 And does the Federal regulation have to  
27 mirror the State of Alaska's regulation? I don't think  
28 so. Like in my previous testimony that I had testified  
29 before, the -- you know, the act of a subsistence  
30 hunter is going after meat. Meat to feed the family,  
31 meat to provide for the family for the winter. You  
32 know, perhaps under the sport regulations somebody's  
33 out there trying to get the biggest caribou antlers  
34 that they can possibly get with not so much regard to  
35 providing for the family. And, you know, if you're  
36 operating under the sport -- being a sportsman, you'd  
37 follow the fair chase rules. And, you know, for a lot  
38 of the people in the region, they're primarily going  
39 out there for food, and fair chase is totally something  
40 that's totally out of the door.

41  
42 But in any case, you know, which  
43 regulation would I prefer as a hunter, or people from  
44 the villages prefer? You know, it's definitely not the  
45 \$1,000 plan, the mandatory court appearance or perhaps  
46 even the confiscation of primary transportation  
47 mechanism that we have out there. You know, that's  
48 something that it would be kind of hard to live with if  
49 I were to ever get cited for doing like this here.

50

1                   If we can possibly move towards a  
2 lesser type of a regulation that Robert had indicated  
3 earlier, that would be our recommendation.

4  
5                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:    One question.  
8 Tim, instead of using the word fleeing, is there a word  
9 that you would like to substitute in this proposal for  
10 the word fleeing.

11  
12                  MR. T. ANDREW:    Yeah, at or near full  
13 gallop is what we would -- what we had originally  
14 agreed to, but some way or another it got changed into  
15 fleeing.

16  
17                  MR. SUNDOWN:    Mr. Chairman.  If I may.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:  Yes, you may.

20  
21                  MR. SUNDOWN:    There was a world of  
22 communication with OSM, and we've got email trails two  
23 miles long between Tim, I and OSM.  And how it actually  
24 got here, I'm not quite sure.  So Tim and I were both a  
25 little surprised to see this in here, because we had  
26 come to an agreement between AVCP and U.S. Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta Refuge.  And I think the  
28 language on 165 where it says, Unit 18, special  
29 provisions, you may not pursue with a motorized vehicle  
30 an ungulate that is at or near full gallop was the  
31 agreed language that we put.  So if you removed fleeing  
32 and substituted fleeing with at or near full gallop,  
33 that would be the preferred language that the Refuge  
34 and AVCP would like to see come forward.

35  
36                  And all of this is very, very technical  
37 when it comes down to how you present cases in court.  
38 And what we're trying to avoid is the full hammer of  
39 the State regulations to kick in when we see people  
40 chasing caribou.

41  
42                  And we want to be -- we want to allow  
43 the practice of positioning.  People who want to meat  
44 hunt.  People who would like to get caribou, to be able  
45 to position themselves with a snowmachine to harvest an  
46 animal and have it recognized.

47  
48                  And without this language, we're not  
49 going to have that ability.  And what we have here, if  
50 we do see people chasing caribou to exhaustion, which

1 does exist, which does happen, you know, we have a non-  
2 criminal violation that we can issue in the field. Or  
3 it's a ticket. It's not a criminal offense, and they  
4 pay a fine and everybody moves on. And I think  
5 everybody here would agree that it would be a much  
6 better option than a mandatory court appearance with  
7 restitution, and a fine associated with it, which would  
8 be a criminal offense.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions of --  
11 Mr. Aloysius first, then Mr. James. I saw your hand  
12 and I recognized you, Robert.

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know,  
15 everything on paper is well and good, but in reality  
16 you know regulations are one thing that is off your  
17 mind when you see something you want to get to eat.

18

19 And the other thing is, you know, how  
20 many enforcement personnel do you have in the Delta?  
21 And how are you going to enforce this particular thing?  
22 Are you going to have somebody there watching all these  
23 hunters? You know, it's -- all these things are well  
24 and great, you know, for promoting something, but how  
25 are you going to enforce it? That -- it's just like  
26 traveling in a boat. You'll have somebody there that's  
27 going to be, for lack of a better word, a stool pigeon?  
28 Are you going to pay somebody to infiltrate all the  
29 hunters and ask questions about, how did you get you  
30 caribou? Did you run it to death, or did you shoot it  
31 in one place? You know, all of these things come to my  
32 mind, you know. How are you going to enforce something  
33 like that, that's my biggest question.

34

35 And somebody said something about fair  
36 chase. There's no such thing as fair chase any more  
37 with motorized vehicles. I don't care if it's a boat,  
38 an airplane or a snow machine or a fourwheeler, there's  
39 not such thing as fair chase any more.

40

41 So my biggest question is, how are you  
42 going to enforce something like this again.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sundown.

45

46 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
47 Member Aloysius.

48

49 The way we do it is we typically go up  
50 to Three Step Mountain or the hills surrounding Three

1 Step Mountain and we're on top of the mountains with  
2 binoculars and a video camera. And we sit there for 45  
3 minutes or so while watching the person chase the  
4 animal. Then once they shoot the animal, we go an  
5 visit them and let them know what they just did was  
6 illegal. And show them the footage of the video  
7 camera.

8

9 And, you know, our options at this  
10 point are limited what we can give them. And what I'm  
11 telling you is right now all we have is a hammer. And  
12 we've been writing weak citations lately because we're  
13 trying to avoid the hammer of the State regs.

14

15 And what we're requesting from you is a  
16 bailable offense when we see people doing this. You  
17 know, it's going to remind them that this is bad  
18 practice while still allowing hunters who are  
19 interested in positioning themselves to harvest a  
20 caribou to do so legally.

21

22 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Aloysius?  
25 Mr. James.

26

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

28

29 How fast is fleeing? Is the caribou or  
30 animal running or just walking away from you, or how is  
31 it -- what's fleeing? I don't understand how fast that  
32 is, because every time I hunt, when the animal sees me,  
33 it turns away and goes, not running, but walking. But  
34 when I see something running, I don't go after it,  
35 because it would be too fast for me.

36

37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sundown.

38

39 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 Member Charles.

41

42 Yes, the State regulations as they  
43 exist right now, if you were to approach a caribou, if  
44 you're caribou hunting, and that caribou starts  
45 trotting, walking, or moving off at the point you  
46 started, tried to position yourself, that would be  
47 illegal. That is the strict definition of one of the  
48 regs in existence. So if an enforcement officer saw  
49 you -- and I've got a State -- I've got a dual  
50 commission, one with the State and one with the U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service. So the strict definition is  
2 if we saw a hunter going after a caribou that was  
3 walking off, because of the activities of the motorized  
4 vehicles, that's in violation. And it's a small, small  
5 burden to prove. And it's heavy-handed in my opinion.

6  
7 So what we're trying to do here is  
8 provide opportunity, you know, while still discouraging  
9 people from chasing caribou. And I think we've come to  
10 a reasonable compromise in that effort.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
13 Sundown. Mr. Greg Roczicka.

14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16  
17 You mentioned that the three  
18 organizations here, or entities, being OSM, the Refuge  
19 and AVCP, had come to the agreement of the language  
20 pretty much of using that at or near full gallop, with  
21 that definition in place and that it disappeared from  
22 the proposal?

23  
24 MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman. I'm not  
25 going to speak for Mr. Jenkins or OSM. I can speak for  
26 the Refuge, and our point of contact for these  
27 discussions were Pippa. And emails for weeks on end  
28 circulated between myself, Tim Andrew and Pippa at OSM.  
29 And we thought we came to a happy medium with this, you  
30 know, with all technical discussions included.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka. Oh,  
33 Tim. Okay.

34  
35 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chair. Yeah. Like I said, AVCP submitted a proposal,  
37 it was WP12-41 in the original brown book when it came  
38 out for the proposal solicitation. And we were just  
39 directing it towards caribou. There was no moose,  
40 there was no muskox mentioned. And we did not -- and  
41 the agreement that we came up with between Fish and  
42 Wildlife Service and AVCP was at or near full gallop.  
43 There was no mention of fleeing. I don't know in the  
44 process of -- I don't know what process this go  
45 through, or who it goes through for it to come to you  
46 in the form of this, in this book. But something  
47 happened there that it got changed.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
50

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

2

3 I'd like to ask Mr. Jenkins if he an  
4 offer any idea here on how this may have occurred.

5

6 DR. JENKINS: Yeah, Mr. Roczicka. I  
7 was not involved in the drafting of this particular  
8 analysis nor involved in the flurry of emails that went  
9 back and forth, and so I can't speak directly to what  
10 happened here. I can certainly get back to you on  
11 that.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. Maybe in a more  
14 general sense, on several of the justifications or  
15 opposing proposals and in conclusions that criticize  
16 that there's a clear intent to insert or import State  
17 wildlife regulations into Federal management, and using  
18 that as the reason for opposition. Whereas in this  
19 case it appears that there's a clear intent in the  
20 opposition by OSM to -- or whoever put this together to  
21 actually have the State regulation be the superseding  
22 regulation that applies.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, I know for a  
25 fact this is not the first time this has occurred.  
26 This has happened to us in the past where a proposal is  
27 put in and whoever was going over the proposal at times  
28 have changed the wording in it, which changed the  
29 proposal in itself. And that's happened before, so we  
30 understand that it could happen, and we know that it  
31 has happened.

32

33 Mr. Andrew.

34

35 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
36 Chair.

37

38 And in reading through the analysis as  
39 well, there is no mention about the agreement that had  
40 happened between Fish and Wildlife Service and AVCP,  
41 and it should have been mentioned what the original  
42 language was, just to be fair to the proposers and what  
43 we came up with, and also fair to you -- oops, excuse  
44 me -- fair to you just so you can consider how we came  
45 up to this agreement.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, we've asked  
48 before that the proposals come to us in the form that  
49 they were presented at the time, but that -- I know  
50 that the proposals get changed, and I don't know how

1 this happened, but I think we're going to have to  
2 stress this a little bit more to our staff that  
3 whenever a proposal comes in that the working is -- and  
4 the meaning of the wording is as close as possible to  
5 the original wording. If you can't use the working  
6 then the substitutions must be as close to the  
7 definition of the wording in the proposal.

8

9 Mr. Sundown.

10

11 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 In this case it is the original proposal as it was  
13 written, and then unfortunately, you know, the  
14 Association of Village Councils agreed to withdraw a  
15 proposal pending changing this language. And that's  
16 what all the emails are directly addressing. so they  
17 gave up a proposal in hopes of seeing language modified  
18 on here. And we would have liked to have seen that I  
19 suppose in the analysis and the discussions for this  
20 proposal to move forward, because they gave up an  
21 opportunity to have a proposal before you in order to  
22 see this modified.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Jenkins.

25

26 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just  
27 wanted to point out that it is OSM's intention to  
28 present the analysis as closely to the proponent's  
29 proposal as we possibly can. So that is our intention,  
30 and if fail in that, I apologize, and we'll do better  
31 in the future.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
34 more questions.

35

36 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have.

37

38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know,  
41 listening to all this, and the justification, the last  
42 sentence in that paragraph reads, you know, that they  
43 want to change the wording in the Federal booklet to  
44 match the State. Is that what it says right here?  
45 Because it says, you may not take ungulates by pursuing  
46 with a motorized vehicle an animal that is fleeing at  
47 or near full gallop.

48

49 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Aloysius. The  
50 intention there from what I understand is for the

1 informal Federal booklet to match this informal State  
2 booklet. It's not in regulations itself, but it's the  
3 language in the booklet that goes out to the public  
4 that people have access to. So that's the intent of  
5 that proposed language from OSM, was to put that into  
6 the booklet, it's called the handy-dandy sometimes,  
7 that gets sent out. This sort of booklet. That's my  
8 understanding.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay Then my  
11 understanding is that Fish and Wildlife wants to change  
12 the wording to match this in regulation. I hear one  
13 saying yes, the other one's saying no.

14

15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.  
16 Sundown.

17

18 MR. SUNDOWN: No, we don't want to have  
19 a regulation that mirror's the State regulation in this  
20 case. We do, however, want to address the issue of  
21 people chasing caribou to exhaustion, or using a  
22 motorized vehicle unfairly to caribou, because we do  
23 have a declining Mulchatna herd, and that needs to be  
24 addressed. And part of that is, you know, having a  
25 motorized vehicle spook or disturb a whole herd instead  
26 of an individual animal that's going to be harvested.  
27 And the compromise we reached with AVCP is the  
28 language, and I'm going to say this, and, Tim, if this  
29 is good for you, just go ahead and agree, you may not  
30 pursue with a motorized vehicle an ungulate that is at  
31 or near full gallop. That is the proposed language we  
32 would like to see moved forward.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. And we  
35 have the power to modify the proposal, so if any of --  
36 if there -- a motion comes to that effect, then they  
37 could do so.

38

39 Mr. Andrew.

40

41 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chairman. If I understand Mr. Aloysius' question,  
43 whether we intended to mirror the State of Alaska's  
44 regulation, no, there was no intention to do that,  
45 because the State of Alaska's regulation is very  
46 strict. It's a lot stricter than the language that we  
47 were posing here. But the agreement was that there was  
48 no intention to mirror the State of Alaska' regulation.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Then this, on Page 165,  
4 Unit 18, special provisions, you may not pursue with a  
5 motorized vehicle any ungulates that is at or near full  
6 gallop, is that the words you want?  
7  
8 Mr. Chairman, I move that we.....  
9  
10 MR. ROCZICKA: We're not there yet.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you wait  
13 until we get to that? We've got a couple more agencies  
14 that we need to listen to, and then at that.....  
15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Remind me to make that  
17 motion.  
18  
19 (Laughter)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, I will remind  
22 you at the time when the time comes.  
23  
24 Any more discussions, any more  
25 questions of these two gentlemen up here. Mr. Andrew.  
26  
27 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.  
28 Chairman. John Andrew of Kwethluk.  
29  
30 I'm not too comfortable with this  
31 proposal in that -- because Robert mentioned that they  
32 could take away the snowmachines, too.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That was under the  
35 State regs.  
36  
37 MR. J. ANDREW: Under the State regs.  
38 And if they change the way it is written, it's going to  
39 create more hardships for the villagers. Maybe it was  
40 to give you authority to enforce it, but it's going to  
41 create hardships, because it doesn't even cover -- most  
42 often at the first sight when they shoot an animal, or  
43 they cripple an animal, they need to follow it and  
44 finish it. And the other -- maybe I could leave it at  
45 that point, because you need to talk to practically  
46 from all the villages in the surrounding area what our  
47 intentions will be on this proposal. Yeah.  
48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Sundown.  
2  
3 MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
4 Member Andrew.  
5  
6 I guess we're not understanding each  
7 other. My goal in this process is to have it go from a  
8 misdemeanor offense, restitution for an animal taken,  
9 to a non-criminal offense. We're trying to provide  
10 options that would make it more lenient from existing  
11 regulations.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You okay? You're  
14 all right?  
15  
16 Any further questions.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you,  
21 gentlemen.  
22  
23 Any comments from Native tribal  
24 villages.  
25  
26 (No comments)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any  
29 comments from advisory group comments. From the  
30 Kuskokwim, Mr. James Charles.  
31  
32 MR. CHARLES: No comments.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The Yukon, Mr.  
35 Polty.  
36  
37 MR. POLTY: No, no comments.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are there any  
40 comments from InterAgency Staff. InterAgency Staff  
41 people.  
42  
43 (No comments)  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. No  
46 comments. Okay.  
47  
48 Local advisory, Fish and Game.  
49  
50 MR. ROCZICKA: You just asked them.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Summary of  
2 written comments.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. Are there  
7 any comments from neighboring RACs.

8  
9 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex  
10 Nick, Council Coordinator for YK and Seward Pen.

11  
12 Seward Pen met last week and they  
13 reviewed the proposal as it is written in the books.  
14 And I was aware of some communication between the State  
15 and Federal before I left for Seward Pen, but I didn't  
16 know the recommended changes, so that was not brought  
17 up to the attention of Seward Pen Regional Advisory  
18 Council at the time when they reviewed the proposal.

19  
20 Seward Pen Council's recommendation is  
21 to oppose the proposal, and their vote was unanimous.  
22 Their justification for opposing the proposal is that  
23 this regulation would prevent hunters from pursuing  
24 wounded animals via motorized vehicles, and the Council  
25 did not agree with this.

26  
27 Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That was with the  
30 old proposal as presented prior.

31  
32 MR. NICK: It was the proposal as  
33 written as it is in the Y-K book.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.  
36 Thank you, Mr. Alex.

37  
38 There's no public testimony. At this  
39 time we'll entertain a motion or recommendation from  
40 the Council.

41  
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

45  
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move  
47 that we adopt.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Modify? Modify the  
50 proposal?

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: That we adopt Proposal  
2 WP12-52 with.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 53.

5  
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: .....a modification in  
7 the word, and that would be found under special  
8 provisions, and the wording would be, you may not  
9 pursue with a motorized vehicle an ungulate that is at  
10 or near full gallop, period.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. That is  
13 Proposal 53, not 42.

14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: I was going to second it  
16 under that condition, or clarify for the record.

17  
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I said 53. It says  
19 right WP12-53.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been  
22 made by Robert, seconded by Mr. Greg Roczicka.

23  
24 Any further comments, Council. Anaan.

25  
26 MS. GREGORY: I'd like to make an  
27 observation here that let the Department of Fish and  
28 Game speak for themselves and let the U.S. Fish and  
29 Wildlife speaks for themselves, because the U.S. Fish  
30 and Wildlife is supposed to help me and make sure that  
31 I survive as a human being with the food I eat, and  
32 less harassment from other people that don't know my  
33 way of life.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
38 other comments. Mr. Roczicka.

39  
40 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Along with that, within the justifications that go in  
42 from this Council as well, have it reflected on the  
43 history of this and the understanding and agreement  
44 that was reached that this language would have been --  
45 should have been included in the proposal, and also  
46 point out the error in the conclusion by OSM to oppose  
47 the proposal where right above it says, effects of the  
48 proposal, it says, if it's adopted that there would be  
49 no effect on Federal subsistence users in Unit 18, when  
50 in fact there substantial effect on the users,

1 subsistence users in Unit 18, that it changes their  
2 current enforcement from a misdemeanor and mandatory  
3 court appearances and all the other fines and  
4 restitutions, et cetera, that go along, to a non-  
5 criminal offense.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. And that's  
8 understood by.....

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Unok.

13  
14 MR. UNOK: Yes. I'm opposed to this  
15 proposal, because there's always been rules and  
16 regulations chasing animals even before regulations  
17 were written down by elders not to chase anything until  
18 they're worn down, unless they're wounded.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.

21  
22 (No comments)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's a motion on  
25 the floor that was seconded. Any other comments.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 MS. GREGORY: Question.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The questions been  
32 called for. All in favor the motion signify by saying  
33 aye.

34  
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
38 sign.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Secretary,  
43 would you please call the roll.

44  
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. In regard to  
46 Proposal WP12-53.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: As modified.

49  
50 MS. DOWNING: Your microphone, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Your mic. Your mic  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Sorry about that.  
4 William Brown.  
5  
6 MR. BROWN: I oppose. Oppose. No.  
7  
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: James Charles.  
9  
10 MR. CHARLES: No.  
11  
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Noah Andrew.  
13  
14 MR. N. ANDREW: No.  
15  
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Evan Polty.  
17  
18 MR. POLTY: No.  
19  
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde, Sr.  
21  
22 MR. H. WILDE: No.  
23  
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Raymond Oney.  
25  
26 MR. ONEY: Yes.  
27  
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mary Gregory.  
29  
30 MS. GREGORY: No.  
31  
32 MR. ALOYSIUS: Vacant. Lester Wilde,  
33 Sr.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.  
36  
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Is that a yes?  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's a yes.  
40  
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Aloysius Unok.  
42  
43 MR. UNOK: No.  
44  
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg Roczicka.  
46  
47 MR. ROCZICKA: No.  
48  
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Robert Aloysius. No.  
50 John Andrew.

1 MR. J. ANDREW: No.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: We have 10 no's and two  
4 yeses. The motion fails.  
5  
6 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I call  
7 for a reconsideration of this propose upon return from  
8 lunch. And I had to vote no to ask, to be on the  
9 prevailing side to vote no when we work under Robert's  
10 Rules of order.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What was that  
13 again, Mr. Chairman -- or Mr. Roczicka.  
14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: I call for a reconsider  
16 of this proposal.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call for  
19 reconsideration of this proposal. And your  
20 justification?  
21  
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I believe  
23 there is.....  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Some  
26 misunderstanding.  
27  
28 MR. ROCZICKA: Some misunderstanding,  
29 yes.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Reconsideration of  
32 the vote is requested, because due to the -- could you  
33 state your reason again, please.  
34  
35 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I don't  
36 believe that there is a full understanding of the  
37 importance of this proposal to keep our people that we  
38 represent here from being fined, put in jail, have  
39 their show machines taken away, and things of that  
40 nature rather than appear in court, because that is --  
41 if we don't do anything, that's what's on the books.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That is absolutely  
44 right. So I want to make sure that the Council totally  
45 understands what is at stake here. In the event that  
46 this proposal does not pass, the Department or the  
47 Service will have to revert to the Fish and Game's  
48 regulations on this as far as the proposal is  
49 concerned. It goes, and we would have to -- that would  
50 mean.....

1                   Could I have Mr. Sundown come up here  
2 and explain the difference between this proposal once  
3 again and the State's proposal. And Mr. Andrews.

4  
5                   And, please, if you would listen to the  
6 consequences that this may have. Please listen to it  
7 carefully.

8  
9                   Could you try that again, Mr. Sundown.

10  
11                   MR. SUNDOWN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman. Members of the Board.

13  
14                   I just -- let me go through the options  
15 here of what happens we see a violation. Let's say we  
16 are up on Three-Step Mountain, which is the hills east  
17 of Bethel, and we see somebody on a snowmachine hunting  
18 caribou. When we see a snowmachine hunting caribou and  
19 the caribou moves off, runs off, right now on the books  
20 under the State regulations, that is a violation. It's  
21 a criminal misdemeanor violation with restitution, a  
22 fine, and possible seizure of the snowmachine.

23  
24                   There are two regulations in the  
25 books on the State. One of says, you cannot pursue  
26 with a motorized vehicle an animal that is fleeing.  
27 Another says you may not drive, herd or molest with a  
28 motorized vehicle an animal. On the Federal side in  
29 the subsistence regulation book there is a regulation  
30 on the books that says you may not drive, herd, or  
31 molest an animal with a motorized vehicle. Those are  
32 the three things we have to choose from.

33  
34                   The most obvious and easy one to pick  
35 from is the State's you may not pursue with a motorized  
36 vehicle an animal that is fleeing. It is a criminal  
37 misdemeanor citation, mandatory court appearance with  
38 restitution for the State if we can make the case.  
39 Which is the easiest one to make for us. It's one that  
40 we rarely use, because we feel that it's -- for a meat  
41 hunter, it's pretty heavy handed. That's not to say it  
42 doesn't happen, because it does.

43  
44                   What we're trying to do is give an  
45 alternative, a more reasonable alternative for people  
46 who are meat hunting, that is not a criminal citation,  
47 it's a non-criminal violation, as an alternative to  
48 what's already in the books. You are not making -- or  
49 you're not looking at a regulation that would make it  
50 more restrictive. You're looking at a proposal that

1 would make the existing regulations more lenient. That  
2 is the proposal before you.

3

4                   If you would like our enforcement  
5 officers to go with the existing regulation books,  
6 we'll -- if that's your intent, we'll be happy to do  
7 that, but I don't think that's your intent. Oh, no, I  
8 take that back. We wouldn't be happy to do it, but if  
9 that's your wishes, that's how we will proceed.

10

11                   (Laughter)

12

13                   MR. SUNDOWN: So I mean, you know,  
14 you've seen here and maybe it's confusing, because you  
15 guys have seen over the past couple of days proposals  
16 that make life a little bit easier for life out here,  
17 and that's certainly the intent. We know that we have  
18 meat hunters out here that are not sport hunting. And,  
19 you know, to be able to allow hunters to position  
20 themselves when taking a caribou is our intent. That's  
21 the intent of this regulation. And if people wish to  
22 take the extreme of that, which is chasing down an  
23 animal to exhaustion, which is the extreme end of that,  
24 that we have the option of giving a non-criminal  
25 violation. And the world of law enforcement is a very  
26 technical, very drawn out process, and the easiest one  
27 to cite is always the State one that says, you cannot  
28 pursue with a motorized vehicle an animal that is  
29 fleeing, because it's a very low burden with very high  
30 consequences.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Mr.  
33 Andrew.

34

35                   MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
36 Chairman. And thank you, Member Roczicka, for the  
37 reconsideration.

38

39                   The consequence of not adopting this  
40 proposal, or not encouraging its adoption of proposal  
41 by the Federal Subsistence Board is really huge. If I  
42 can use the analogy of driving while intoxicated, that's  
43 a misdemeanor. That's -- the first time it's a  
44 misdemeanor and then it becomes a felony later. But  
45 when you're driving your vehicle and you fail to stop  
46 at a stop sign, you get a bailable offense. They don't  
47 put you in jail; they give you a citation. But when  
48 you get caught for driving while intoxicated, you spend  
49 three days in jail. This is the consequence of not  
50 adopting this proposal as is written -- or as you had

1 amended.

2

3                   And, you know, I don't think it is your  
4 intention or anybody's intention to make life harder on  
5 the people that we serve. And I hope people thoroughly  
6 understand the consequence of not pushing this proposal  
7 forward in the way it -- or as an option to the Federal  
8 Subsistence Board.

9

10                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. You  
13 know, one thing that I can see right off is that, you  
14 know, it's a lot less -- it's a lot less hardship on  
15 our subsistence people that depend on the caribou to be  
16 able to go out and get their meat. And it's important  
17 that they do harvest their wounded animals. And at  
18 times it -- and with this proposal, you can go out and  
19 harvest those wounded animals and get them down so  
20 you're able to put them down. And I would really  
21 encourage this Council to really consider the situation  
22 at hand, because it will really be a hardship on our  
23 subsistence people that are out there hunting our  
24 caribou if in the fact this proposal fails. This  
25 proposal makes it a lot easier on us subsistence people  
26 as amended.

27

28                   Yes, Mr. Andrew -- Aloysius.

29

30                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Thank  
31 you.

32

33                   I think Greg, because, you know, I  
34 never heard this part of this proposal, because, you  
35 know, it was buried. It kept being buried with all of  
36 the different things, but after we came back for the  
37 consideration, now I know what their intent was. But  
38 that intent was never brought forward until now.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It was brought  
41 forward. Yeah.

42

43                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Greg.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
46 Aloysius. Mr. Unok.

47

48                   MR. UNOK: Yes. I have a question on  
49 this proposal. It's for on the Federal land or for the  
50 Federal regulations?

1 MR. SUNDOWN: Mr. Chairman.  
2  
3 MR. UNOK: Because the State and  
4 Federal are not the same.  
5  
6 MR. SUNDOWN: They are not. If you  
7 guys pass this proposal, this regulation is only good  
8 on Federal lands. But it gives you a better option I  
9 think.  
10  
11 MR. UNOK: I understand.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
14 questions. Any further discussion.  
15  
16 MR. UNOK: Yes. So what you're saying,  
17 you want to make rules and regulations under the  
18 Federal, right? That's what it's all about? Okay.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
21 questions or discussions.  
22  
23 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, I have a  
24 comment.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
27  
28 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
29  
30 I guess in my mind this is probably the  
31 most important proposal that we're dealing with. I  
32 didn't realize it when I got there. I didn't know what  
33 was really involved in it either, but how many times  
34 have we hear people say that we're criminals in our own  
35 land for just going out and doing subsistence, or be  
36 regulations for turning people into criminals because  
37 of it.  
38  
39 This proposal makes what is currently  
40 considered a criminal act into a non-criminal act. And  
41 I'd urge everybody to please vote yes on it. I sure  
42 am.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
45  
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. What's the  
47 procedure when he calls for reconsideration? Do we  
48 have to make another motion or do we just have another  
49 vote on the motion?  
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think for this  
2 particular proposal, it might be a good thing to make  
3 another motion to that effect.  
4  
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.  
8  
9 MR. ROCZICKA: When I called for the  
10 reconsideration, you have the option as the Chairman to  
11 have a vote to -- of whether or not to actually  
12 reconsider. But since we have moved beyond that stage  
13 and gone into deliberations, the same proposal as was  
14 made by the motion of Mr. Aloysius is back before us.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We could handle it  
17 either way. It's up to you.  
18  
19 MR. ALOYSIUS: You're the chairman.  
20  
21 (Laughter)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, I was trying  
24 to be a little friendly to you today for a change, but  
25 I think it might be a good idea in this case to  
26 entertain another motion to that effect.  
27  
28 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I make a  
29 motion that we adopt WP12-53.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: As modified.  
32  
33 MS GREGORY: As modified.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Did you hear the  
36 motion. Do you I hear a second.  
37  
38 MR. ALOYSIUS: Second.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
41 Aloysius. Any further comments. Any further comments  
42 by the Council.  
43  
44 (No comments)  
45  
46 MR. CHARLES: Question.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
49 called for. Let's try it again.  
50

1 All in favor of the motion, signify by  
2 saying aye.  
3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed by the  
7 same sign.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Aye.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
12 Let's break for lunch and be back at 2:30.  
13  
14 MR. ROCZICKA: 2:30? That's a two-  
15 hour.....  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, 1:30, I'm  
18 sorry. 2:00 o'clock. We'll be back, reconvene at 2:00  
19 o'clock.  
20  
21 (Off record)  
22  
23 (On record)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It's now 2:00  
26 o'clock. At this time we'll have introduction of WP12-  
27 54. Mr. Kron.  
28  
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Before  
30 you get into deliberations on this one, I have to  
31 declare a conflict of interest. This proposal was  
32 sponsored by my employer.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.  
35  
36 MR. ROCZICKA: And I'll be stepping  
37 down for this.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, sir. Thank  
40 you. Mr. Kron.  
41  
42 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Members of  
43 the Regional Advisory Council. The analysis of this  
44 proposal starts on Page 171 of your Council books.  
45  
46 Proposal WP12-54 was submitted by ONC  
47 here in Bethel. this proposal requests that the Unit  
48 18 harvest limit for hunters be increased from 5 wolves  
49 per year to 10 wolves per year.  
50

1                   It appears that the wolf population in  
2 Unit 18 is increasing. It appears that the Unit 18  
3 wolf population is regulated more by natural factors  
4 than harvest by hunters and trappers.

5  
6                   The proposed regulatory change will  
7 provide an additional opportunity for subsistence  
8 users. It appears that this proposed regulation would  
9 not result in a significant increase in the Unit 18  
10 wolf harvest. This regulatory change will make the  
11 Federal subsistence wolf hunting harvest limit higher  
12 than the State limit.

13  
14                   ONC has submitted a similar regulatory  
15 proposal to the Alaska Board of Game as we understand  
16 it. I would recommend that you ask Member Roczicka for  
17 his comments on this perspective as he has been Chair  
18 of the Alaska Board of Game, and probably knows in  
19 greater detail than we do, but our understanding is  
20 that it would come up November 11th through 14th.

21  
22                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
23 support this proposal.

24  
25                   I welcome your comments and edits.

26  
27                   Quyana.

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

31  
32                   Agency comments, Alaska Department of  
33 Fish and Game.

34  
35                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Summarizing our notes.

37  
38                   Wolf populations in Unit 18 are not  
39 censused; however, harvest and observation information  
40 suggests that the populations have increased in recent  
41 years. The State bag limit for hunting wolves was set  
42 at five wolves in 1993 by the Alaska Board of Game.

43  
44                   The current season allows for maximum  
45 opportunity within the areas that do not have predator  
46 management programs. And current wolf harvest in Unit  
47 18 are approximately 10 to 30 percent of the population  
48 per year, and are considered within sustained yields  
49 for the population.

50

1                   The Department is neutral on this  
2 particular proposal until the outcome of the Alaska  
3 Board of Game when they make their decision I believe  
4 in November.

5  
6                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8                   \*\*No official written comments  
9 inserted/provided by State at this  
10 time\*\*

11  
12                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for your  
13 comments.

14  
15                   Comments from the agency.

16  
17                   (No comments)

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments from  
20 the Refuge. You're sure?

21  
22                   (No comments)

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Native  
25 tribe. AVCP.

26  
27                   MR. T. ANDREW: Good afternoon, Mr.  
28 Chairman. Members of the Council.

29  
30                   In regard to this proposal, it  
31 addresses a serious issue of predation that occurs on  
32 Federal land. And with the Federal agency's  
33 unwillingness to address the predator control issue in  
34 order to provide for subsistence, this proposal would  
35 serve as a tool to decrease the number of predators  
36 that are out there so that caribou calves and the  
37 caribou population would be able to rebound a lot  
38 faster than if the bag limits were to remain at the  
39 minimum of five. With the increase of five additional  
40 per year, it would allow for increased take of at least  
41 this section of the predators. There's other predators  
42 that do prey upon the caribou calves, but it would  
43 greatly assist in the rebuilding of the Mulchatna  
44 Caribou Herd.

45  
46                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
49 Timothy. Mr. Roczicka.

50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 For the record I'm Greg Roczicka, director with  
3 Orutsaramiut Native Council.

4  
5 And I don't have a whole lot more to  
6 add than what has already been provided you in the  
7 proposal itself.

8  
9 I would mention that actually as far as  
10 the benefits that may come from reduced numbers of  
11 wolves in the light of predation control, that would be  
12 a side benefit. When the proposal was discussed and my  
13 subsistence committee asked us to draft one and put one  
14 in, it was more on the opportunistic side that there  
15 are a few folks are interested in catching wolves when  
16 they see them, and they wanted the opportunity to do so  
17 if they did. We're not really looking at a substantial  
18 increase in harvest but it's just added -- the main  
19 thrust is the additional subsistence opportunity that  
20 would be foregone otherwise.

21  
22 So other than that.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Roczicka. Any questions for Greg. Mr. Aloysius.

26  
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg, you said that you  
28 want to increase the harvest from 5 to 10. Is that per  
29 hunter, per year, or what do you mean by increasing the  
30 harvest from 5 to 10?

31  
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, currently it's  
33 five, and so, yeah, for everyone with a hunting  
34 license, they would be allowed up to 10 wolves instead  
35 of 5.

36  
37 And I guess as a additional note on  
38 that is that under a trapping license, you can take  
39 wolves with a firearm, but not everybody has a trapping  
40 license and, you know, goes after them that way, so  
41 this is to make sure that it would be covered there as  
42 well. And trapping is unlimited.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
45 questions of Greg, Mr. Roczicka.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Is  
50 there any Native village, tribal village.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
2 Chairman. If I may, I think I neglected before, the  
3 following proposal you'll be dealing with as well, I'll  
4 have to stand down as well under the same situation.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Is there a  
7 Native village, tribe rep want to make any comments on  
8 this.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: InterAgency Staff  
13 Committee. Anybody from the InterAgency here.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No. No comments.  
18 Kuskokwim Advisory Group comments.

19  
20 MR. CHARLES: No comments.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yukon Advisory  
23 Group comments.

24  
25 MR. POLTY: No comments.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Local fish and game  
28 advisory committees comments. James.

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

31  
32 Lower Kuskokwim AC met on April 7 and  
33 supported this proposal unanimously. And there were a  
34 few people talking about predation problems, so they  
35 voted to -- because we are still on moratorium for  
36 moose hunting in this area, so they don't want -- they  
37 don't want calves to be killed by too many wolves.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you have a  
42 comment, Mr. Aloysius.

43  
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. The Lower  
45 Kuskokwim River is not on the moratorium any more.  
46 That moratorium was listed three years ago.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comment.

49  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Sorry. Oh, yes.

4 Mr. Perry.

5

6 MR. PERRY: Yeah. Sorry, I was not

7 quick enough to get this for George.

8

9 I was going to give you the comments

10 that the Department has on -- there was a proposal also

11 for the Alaska Board of Game that's the same. And the

12 State in this one is supporting it.

13

14 And it seems kind of different, you

15 know, that we would support the one to the Board of

16 Game, but we wouldn't support the one to the

17 Subsistence Board. But our intention there is that

18 we're, you know, supporting both of them, but

19 contingent on how the Board of Game acts.

20

21 But essentially for the -- just I was

22 going to add a little bit of information.

23

24 You know, what we're really talking

25 about, the season being more liberal is in the early

26 part of the season, you know. The trapping season

27 doesn't open until November 10; the hunting season

28 opens in August. There's very little harvest at that

29 time. We've only shot nine wolves in the past 10 years

30 before November 10th in the unit, so it's a small

31 harvest, but it could make the difference, you know, if

32 someone happens upon a pack of wolves and is able to

33 harvest more than just a couple. It could make a

34 difference to that individual to have a higher bag

35 limit instead of just 5, to have a bag limit of 10.

36

37 And like other people have said, you

38 know, we don't have a resource issue with this. You

39 know, we'd just -- to allow that greater opportunity.

40

41 I just wanted to clarify that. Thank

42 you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

45 Perry.

46

47 Summary of written comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there comments  
2 from neighboring Regional Advisors.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Public testimony;  
7 there isn't any  
8  
9 Regional Council recommendations.  
10  
11 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chair. I will move to  
12 adopt.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok has moved  
15 to adopt WP12-54. Do I hear a second.  
16  
17 MR. ONEY: Second.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
20 Oney.  
21  
22 Discussion, Regional Advisory Council  
23 members.  
24  
25 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. James Charles.  
28  
29 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 People from my area I think would support this  
31 proposal, too, because we've never heard of wolves in  
32 our area before. Now we have few moose in our area and  
33 then people complain about wolves now, even this  
34 summer. Wolves has not in Tuntutuliak since 40s. Now  
35 we have wolf walk by my airplane tied down at the  
36 airport. I saw the tracks. And people saw that wolf  
37 behind back west of my airplane. So they told me, be  
38 careful; there's wolf at the airport.  
39  
40 Thank you.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.  
43 Mr. Aloysius.  
44  
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. who?  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
48  
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. You know, I  
50 will support this proposal, because, you know, I keep

1 forgetting that I'm part of the AC in the Central  
2 Kuskokwim, because our village in Lower Kalskag and  
3 Kalskag is part of the Central Kuskokwim AC. And I  
4 know we talk about the wolf population growing and  
5 growing and growing.

6

7                   It's -- I mean, last year -- not last  
8 year, this spring, Willy Pitka who is about 78, 79  
9 years old heard a commotion on his porch, and he got  
10 mad. He thought someone was breaking in. He opened  
11 his door and there's this wolf about this tall looking  
12 at him. And so, you know -- and there's, you know,  
13 other stories of wolves right in the village. And  
14 there's a lot of kids that play out at night, you know,  
15 and it's scary.

16

17                   So anyway you get more people out there  
18 to eradicate the predator, I'm for it. So I'm going to  
19 vote for this.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.

22

23                   MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Noah Andrew.

26

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

28 Chairman.

29

30                   I want to share this information with  
31 you, because several of our subsistence users are  
32 having problem with them. I myself has an experience  
33 on this issue here. About some time in August, we went  
34 there picking up Tuluksak's inventory. There were  
35 bountiful wolves there howling and circling around our  
36 area, not just my boat, but there's two boats that was  
37 neighboring, and the people there that had fish camp  
38 around the bluffs in Kuskokwim are experiencing some  
39 problem with them. They're becoming a really large  
40 herd. They've got puppies now, too.

41

42                   And the other problem, if I may add,  
43 Mr. Chairman, is this brown bears are becoming more  
44 problem, too, within our areas and within our fish  
45 camps.

46

47                   Just this hunting season I have had an  
48 experience where a brown bear is bothering me, a cow  
49 with calves. And I think somewhere along the line we  
50 may want to insert some of these experiences we're

1 having.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

6 Andrew.

7

8 Any other comments, Council comments.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, we have a  
13 motion on the floor. It's been seconded. Any further  
14 comments.

15

16 MR. ONEY: Question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Question's called  
19 for. All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.

28

29 We are down to WP12-55. And Mr. McKee  
30 is back with us. Mr. McKee.

31

32 MR. McKEE: Good afternoon. I'm Chris  
33 McKee with OSM out of Anchorage.

34

35 Mr. Chair. Members of the Regional  
36 Advisory Council. The draft analysis for WP12-55  
37 starts on Page 178 of your meeting materials booklet.

38

39 Proposal WP12-55 was submitted by the  
40 Orutsaramiut Native Council and requests an increase in  
41 the harvest limit for wolverine under Federal hunting  
42 regulations in Unit 18.

43

44 The proponent states that under Federal  
45 hunting regulations, Federally-qualified subsistence  
46 users are unnecessarily restricted from harvesting more  
47 than one wolverine per year in Unit 18. The proponent  
48 states there would be no conservation concerns due to  
49 the small increase in harvest limits.

50

1                   The proposed change is to increase the  
2 harvest limit from one to two wolverines in Unit 18.  
3 The wolverine population in Unit 18 is thought to be at  
4 moderate to low levels, but may have increased since  
5 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd began using the eastern  
6 portion of Unit 18 in 1994.

7  
8                   If this proposal is adopted, the  
9 harvest limit for Unit 18 under Federal hunting  
10 regulations would be raised from one to two wolverines,  
11 providing more opportunity for Federally-qualified  
12 subsistence users under hunting regulations. It should  
13 have a minimal impact on the wolverine population.  
14 Current Federal and State trapping regulations allow  
15 for an unlimited harvest, and harvest under hunting  
16 regulations is small compared to trapping. The hunting  
17 harvest is mostly opportunistic where as trapping is  
18 targeted.

19  
20                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
21 support Proposal WP12-55.

22  
23                   I welcome your comments and edits.

24  
25                   Thank you.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
28 McKee. Mr. Pappas.

29  
30                   MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32                   Only a few local residents currently  
33 participate in wolverine trapping -- I'm sorry -- and  
34 even fewer hunters target wolverine. Adoption of this  
35 proposal would like not increase overall wolverine  
36 harvest by Federal subsistence hunters in Unit 18, and  
37 liberalizing the bag limit would not be expected to  
38 significantly increase hunting effort.

39  
40                   Most wolverines are harvested by  
41 hunters in Unit 18 which are opportunistically events  
42 when hunters are in the field and just happen upon a  
43 wolverine when they're targeting other game.  
44 Increasing the bag limit will provide additional  
45 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
46 on Federal public lands.

47  
48                   But a significant increase in harvest  
49 could affect the productivity and could reduce  
50 opportunity for subsistence in the future, so that will

1 have to be monitored if this proposal is adopted.

2

3                   Wolverine numbers in Unit 18 are  
4 moderate to low in presence, and also low in density.  
5 The population is probably increasing in Unit 18 as  
6 greater numbers of caribou, moose and wolves prey and  
7 carrion.

8

9                   Additionally, the current bag limit for  
10 Unit 18 wolverine hunt is one per year and Federally-  
11 qualified users who harvest wolverine in a Federal  
12 subsistence hunt would be prohibited from harvesting a  
13 second animal under State regulations. So let me  
14 clarify that. If you do harvest a wolverine under  
15 State -- if this proposal is adopted, you harvest a  
16 wolverine under State regulations, you could go harvest  
17 another wolverine under Federal subsistence  
18 regulations, but you couldn't do it the other way. You  
19 couldn't go harvest a Federal subsistence wolverine  
20 first and then hunt a state wolv -- excuse me, a  
21 wolverine under state regulations, because the annual  
22 bag limit for the State would still be one.

23

24                   And the Department does support this  
25 proposal. And the Department will also support a  
26 similar proposal that has been submitted to the Alaska  
27 Board of Game to increase the bag limit under State  
28 regulations to two animals.

29

30                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32                   \*\*No official written comments  
33 inserted/provided by State at this  
34 time\*\*

35

36                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Pappas.

38

39                   AVCP.

40

41                   (No comments)

42

43                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. No comments.  
44 Federal agencies. The Refuge. Anybody from the Refuge  
45 have any comments. Mr. Riorden, any comments from the  
46 Refuge.

47

48                   (No comments)

49

50                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. Any

1 comments from Native tribal, village representatives.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
6 InterAgency Staff.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
11 Advisory group comments.  
12  
13 (No comments)  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Neighboring  
16 Regional Council comments.  
17  
18 (No comments)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Local fish and game  
21 advisory committees comments. Mr. Charles.  
22  
23 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
24  
25 Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory  
26 Committee supported this proposal back in April 7  
27 meeting.  
28  
29 So that's it. Thank you.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Central have any  
32 comments.  
33  
34 (No comments)  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
37 Yukon.  
38  
39 MR. POLTY: No comments.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. Is  
42 there a summary of neighboring Regional Council  
43 comments.  
44  
45 (No comments)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any  
48 summary of written comments.  
49  
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: There's no request  
2 for public comments, so Regional Advisory Council, the  
3 Chair will entertain a motion for consideration.  
4  
5 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. I move to  
6 adopt WP12-55.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney has moved  
9 to adopt WP12-55. Do I hear a second to the motion.  
10  
11 MR. UNOK: Second.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
14 Unok. Any discussion. Are there any discussion.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 MR. UNOK: Question.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question has  
21 been called for. All in favor of the motion signify by  
22 saying aye.  
23  
24 IN UNISON: Aye.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
27 sign.  
28  
29 MR. J. ANDREW: Aye.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Secretary, is  
32 that just one.  
33  
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We have one  
37 opposition with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 yeses. Motion  
38 carries.  
39  
40 We are down to WP12-39. Mr. McKee.  
41  
42 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
43 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for  
44 WP12-39 starts Page 187 of the meeting materials  
45 booklet.  
46  
47 WP12-39 was submitted by the Togiak  
48 National Wildlife Refuge, and requests combining the  
49 Unit 17B and 17C regulations, which would provide an  
50 additional 31 days of harvest opportunity for moose

1 during December in portions of western Unit 17C and  
2 eastern 17B, and require the use of a State  
3 registration permit during the December 1 through  
4 December 31st season.

5  
6 The proponent states that these changes  
7 would simplify moose hunting regulations on Federal  
8 public lands. Federal subsistence regulations  
9 currently require a State registration permit during  
10 the winter hunt only in the remainder portions of Unit  
11 17B and C. This proposal would a State registration  
12 permit during the period December 1 through December  
13 31st for all units 17B and 17C, which would align with  
14 existing State regulations.

15  
16 Moose populations have increased  
17 substantially over the last three decades in Unit 17  
18 due to moderate snowfalls over successful winters and  
19 decreased harvest of cow moose as a result of a  
20 positive response by local users to educational efforts  
21 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

22  
23 Harvest of moose in Unit 17 has nearly  
24 tripled since 1983/1984 from 127 to 380 in 2005/2006.  
25 The State's general moose hunt in 17B and C is of  
26 shorter duration with a more restrictive harvest limit  
27 than the State registration hunt. More non-local  
28 Alaska residents and non-residents have participated in  
29 the general hunt than local Unit 17 residents.

30  
31 Longer seasons and more liberal harvest  
32 limits have encouraged many local residents to  
33 participate in State registration hunts.

34  
35 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
36 support this proposal. If adopted, this proposal would  
37 simplify hunting regulations on Federal public lands in  
38 Units 17B and C, reduce the regulatory complexity on  
39 Federal public lands in the area, and provide increased  
40 harvest opportunities for Federally-qualified users by  
41 providing an additional 31 days of hunting opportunity.

42  
43 Increased harvest will reduce numbers  
44 in some areas of Unit 17 that have experienced little  
45 to no harvest in the past 20 years and may therefore  
46 help to improve habitat conditions in these areas.

47  
48 Longer seasons and more liberal harvest  
49 limits should help to encourage local residents to  
50 participate in registration hunts. The use of a State

1 registration permit will allow the Alaska Department of  
2 Fish and Game area biologist to keep selected areas  
3 closed, and use emergency order authority to close  
4 selected areas if the harvest objective is met before  
5 the end of the season.

6

I welcome your comments and edits.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

11

12

13

14

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48

49

50

means?

1 MR. McKEE: I'm trying to give a good  
2 idea here.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there somebody  
5 from the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge here?  
6  
7 MR. McKEE: I don't believe they.....  
8  
9 MS. PETRIVELLI: These two right here,  
10 Akiak and Akiachak on Page 79 if moose, right?  
11  
12 MR. McKEE: Correct.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is anyone from the  
15 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge here.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 MR. McKEE: Akiak, and Akiachak, and  
20 Goodnews, and Platinum are in the area in question.  
21  
22 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I want to (In  
23 Yup'ik) what the Chairman was asking about, anybody  
24 from Togiak National Wildlife Refuge or is it just  
25 through paper?  
26  
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No. No.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.  
30 Mr. Pappas.  
31  
32 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 You'll see we don't have formal written comments on  
34 this, and Mr. McKee here again stole all my thunder.  
35 So the Department does support this proposal with the  
36 basis that it will align Federal and State regulations  
37 and provide additional 31 days of opportunity for the  
38 Federal subsistence users.  
39  
40 \*\*\*\*\*  
41 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS  
42 \*\*\*\*\*  
43  
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
45 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council  
46  
47 Wildlife Proposal WP12-39:  
48  
49 Combines Game Management Units 17B and  
50 17C regulations

1 Introduction:

2

3 Proposal WP12-39, submitted by the  
4 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, seeks to combine Game  
5 Management Units 17B and 17C regulations. Adopting  
6 this proposal would provide an additional 31 days of  
7 harvest opportunity for moose in portions of western  
8 Unit 17C and eastern 17B, and require the use of a  
9 State registration permit during the December 1  
10 December 31 season.

11

12 Impact on Subsistence Users:

13

14 Subsistence users in the areas affected  
15 would gain 31 days of harvest opportunity and more  
16 simplified regulations.

17

18 Opportunity Provided by State:

19

20 Unit 17B Nonresident Closed Area Moose  
21 Unit 17B Remainder Moose  
22 Unit 17C Moose

23

24 Conservation Issues:

25

26 As moose populations have increased in  
27 the described area so has harvest. Areas currently  
28 experiencing lower moose harvest are expected to  
29 increase harvest levels.

30

31 Enforcement Issues:

32

33 Complications to enforcing several  
34 differing regulations in a small land area would be  
35 alleviated by this proposal.

36

37 Other Comments:

38

39 Area staff view this proposal simply as  
40 a housekeeping issue.

41

42 Recommendation: Approve

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

47 Pappas.

48

49 Tribal, AVCP have any comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. Does  
4 the Refuge have any comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments from  
9 the Refuge. Any Native village, tribal representatives  
10 have any comments.  
11  
12 (No comments)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
15 InterAgency Staff.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
20 Advisory group.  
21  
22 (No comments)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Neighboring  
25 Regional Councils have any comments, Mr. Nick.  
26  
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's out trying to  
28 make a call.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is Mr. Nick here?  
31  
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)  
33  
34 MS. PETRIVELLI: But no comments.  
35  
36 MR. KRON: No comments.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Summary of written  
39 comments. Are there any summary of written comments.  
40  
41 (No comments)  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: None. There's no  
44 request for public testimony.  
45  
46 Council recommendations or motion.  
47  
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move that  
49 we adopt.....  
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: It's 39.  
2  
3 MS. GREGORY: 12-39.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made  
6 by Mary Gregory to approve Proposal WP12-39. Do I hear  
7 a second to the motion.  
8  
9 MR. J. ANDREW: Second.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
12 Andrew. Pardon me.  
13  
14 Discussion. Council. Mr. Roczicka.  
15  
16 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I think I  
17 might go ahead and support this proposal. It's been  
18 another one of those cooperative efforts, trying to  
19 bring everybody in from Bristol Bay regional along with  
20 the villages that benefit in our area that have the  
21 positive customary and traditional use determination.  
22 And it's a win/win for everybody it looks like to me.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other Council  
25 members. Mr. Andrew.  
26  
27 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. Thank  
28 you. I do know is people from my village hunted in  
29 that area, and I know we have relatives in Togiak and  
30 Dillingham area. And for years we've been going up in  
31 that Heart Lake area, which is in 17B or C. And we all  
32 see people from here with private planes and some  
33 people charter out and hunted in Heart Lake area. And  
34 there's a good-sized lake nearby there in Chikuminuk  
35 area, too.  
36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
40 other comments.  
41  
42 (No comments)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion has been  
45 made to adopt and seconded.  
46  
47 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been  
50 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by

1 saying aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same

6 sign.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.

11

12 We are down to WP12-40. Mr. McKee.

13

14 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the

15 Regional Advisory Council. The draft analysis for

16 WP12-40 starts on Page 195 of your meeting materials

17 booklet.

18

19 WP12-40 was submitted by the Togiak

20 National Wildlife Refuge and requests a revision of the

21 hunt area descriptor for the Unit 17A winter moose hunt

22 to include all of 17A. Closer to moose hunting in

23 portions of 17A were initiated to encourage expansion

24 of moose populations into southern Unit 18, and were

25 supported by both subsistence users and management

26 agencies. State and Federal managers did not allow

27 moose hunters west of the Kemuk and Togiak Rivers from

28 2002 to 2006, which allowed moose numbers to increase

29 and expand into neighboring Goodnews River drainage in

30 southern Unit 18.

31

32 Under State regulations, all of Unit

33 17A has been open to winter moose hunting since the

34 2006/2007 season. Federal regulations have been more

35 restrictive, allowing for winter harvest in smaller

36 portions of 17A.

37

38 Moose numbers have increased

39 substantially in Unit 17A since the 1990s. The latest

40 population counts show a moose population of 1,166

41 animals in 2011 for 17A, which meets the ADF&G target

42 population for the area. Calf production is high,

43 averaging approximately 130 calves per 100 cows between

44 1998 and 2010. Moose numbers in the neighboring

45 Goodnews River drainage have increased from two in 2002

46 to 196 in 2011.

47

48 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to

49 support this proposal. Opening up all of Unit 17A to

50 winter moose hunting should reduce hunter confusion

1 between Federal and State regulations since all of Unit  
2 17A has been open during the last five winter hunts  
3 under State regulations.

4  
5 Past closures in parts of 17A were  
6 initiated to encourage expansion of the moose  
7 population in the southern areas of Unit 18. These  
8 efforts have been successful and a healthy and viable  
9 moose population with a harvestable surplus now exists  
10 in Unit 17A.

11  
12 I welcome your comments and edits.

13  
14 Thanks.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
17 McKee.

18  
19 Comments from ADF&G.

20  
21 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 As Chris mentioned, the population's  
24 doing well. There's not a conservation concern. The  
25 population's increased over target management levels  
26 due to high calf production, and the Department does  
27 support this alignment in State and Federal  
28 regulations.

29  
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31  
32 \*\*No official written comments  
33 inserted/provided by State at this  
34 time\*\*

35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Pappas.

38  
39 AVCP have any comments. Where is our  
40 AVCP rep. Do you have no comments.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Federal agency  
45 comments. Refuge.

46  
47 (No comments)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments from  
50 the Refuge. Native, tribal, village representatives.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
4 InterAgency Staff.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Advisory group  
9 comments.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Neighboring  
14 Regional Council comments. Alex, was there any.  
15  
16 (No comments)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Local fish and game  
19 advisory. Kuskokwim, James.  
20  
21 MR. CHARLES: No comments.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Central.  
24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments.  
28 Yukon.  
29  
30 MR. POLTY: No comments.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No comments. I'm  
33 getting good at this.  
34  
35 (Laughter)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Local -- any  
38 written comments.  
39  
40 (No comments)  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Public testimony.  
43 There isn't any requests.  
44  
45 Regional Council recommendations. Mrs.  
46 Gregory.  
47  
48 MS. GREGORY: I'm ignorant in map  
49 readings, like 17A, B, C, D. And I'd like for the  
50 people who are making these proposals to name the

1 closest village in that area, like we had a hard time  
2 -- John had to explain to Mr. Charlie and then  
3 everybody was fumbling around looking at their map, so  
4 if you guys would let us know what 17A consist of, what  
5 villages and what area, then we would have more (In  
6 Yup'ik).

7

8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: OSM, would you in  
9 the future request that? Thank you.

10

11 MR. MCKEE: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Where am I.

14

15 MS. GREGORY: Where is 17A now.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there a motion  
20 for this. Any Council members.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Move to  
23 support Proposal No. 12-40.

24

25 MS. GREGORY: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been  
28 made by Greg Roczicka to adopt WP12-40. Seconded by  
29 Ms. Gregory.

30

31 Any comments from the Council members.

32

33 MS. GREGORY: 17 isn't on there.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's on the other -- 17A  
36 is on the south side of the Kilbuck Range.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Kilbuck Range. Okay.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: The drainage to the (In  
41 Yup'ik).

42

43 MS. GREGORY: Okay. Thank you. (In  
44 Yup'ik) And all the way up to where? So up around  
45 Togiak Lake. Okay. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
48 comments from the Council.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion,  
2 Mr. Chairman.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles -- no,  
5 Mr. Aloysius, do you have any comments.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's been  
10 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by  
11 saying aye.  
12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
16 sign.  
17  
18 (No opposing votes)  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
21 Let's take a 10-minute break before we get into our  
22 reports. We went over pretty tough sledding to get  
23 these proposals done.  
24  
25 (Off record)  
26  
27 (On record)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Call the meeting  
30 back to order. We skipped item No. 9, Chair's report,  
31 the response to our annual report. Mr. Nick.  
32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.  
36  
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, before we're --  
38 since we just did finish up with proposals, before we  
39 -- I mean, while it's still fresh in people's minds,  
40 before we get there, I'd like to make an additional  
41 recommendation on Proposal No. 12-53, where -- on the  
42 subject fleeing versus an animal that is at full gallop  
43 or not, where the result of the proposal would be to  
44 make that potential violation into a non-criminal  
45 offense, that I would strongly suggest and recommend  
46 that OSM reconsider its position of opposition in this  
47 proposal. That I would certainly hope and expect that  
48 they were not aware of all the positive benefits to  
49 subsistence users and the negative effects of leaving  
50 things as they are right now. So I just wanted to toss

1 that out on the record.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kron has  
4 voluntarily stated that he will carry that message back  
5 to OSM.

6

7 Okay. We are down to our Federal Board  
8 annual report response. Mr. Nick.

9

10 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex  
11 Nick, Council Coordinator.

12

13 The annual reply was distributed to you  
14 this morning before some of you arrived. It's dated  
15 September 21, 2011. It was too late to be included  
16 into your book for a couple of reasons. And this is  
17 just for your information how the Federal Board replied  
18 to your annual report, 2010 annual report.

19

20 Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any  
23 questions on our annual report response. It's this  
24 document, USDA. It has how many pages to it. If  
25 there's any questions concerning this.

26

27 Mr. Aloysius.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: The only question I have  
30 is this is the first time I've seen it, so how can I  
31 have any comments or questions before I look at it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. This is the  
34 one, the USDA.

35

36 Mr. Nick. Could you cover the  
37 highlights on this, the high points, please.

38

39 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 For issue 1, the response is found on  
42 Page 2 under response. For issue 2 the response is on  
43 Page 3 under response. And, let's see, just a moment.  
44 Let me -- and I think that's just about it. Mr. Chair.  
45 The rest of it is just attachment dated December 1,  
46 2006, which was a response to Mr. Gerald Nicholia,  
47 Chair of Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional  
48 Advisory Council.

49

50 Mr. Chair. That's a really, really

1 general highlight.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you please  
4 read that response in for the record.

5

6 MR. NICK: Okay. Mr. Chair. Response  
7 for issue 1 states that the issue of intensive  
8 management, e.g., predator control, has been addressed  
9 by the Board numerous times and to various Subsistence  
10 Regional Advisory Councils. The Board regrets that the  
11 Council feels it has received ambiguous responses;  
12 however, we have responded to the best of ability and  
13 have included direct responses from the Secretary of  
14 the Interior, letter dated December 6 to the Eastern  
15 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,  
16 copy enclosed, and the Regional Chief of the National  
17 Wildlife Refuge System, Region 7, letter dated July  
18 2010 to the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence  
19 Regional Advisory Council, copy enclosed. As requested  
20 by the Council, we will forward the issue to the  
21 Secretary of the Interior to address your concerns and  
22 recommendations.

23

24 As mentioned in previous responses,  
25 intensive management, including predator control, is  
26 outside the purview of the Board. As stated in the  
27 Board's Predator Management Policy, quote, wildlife  
28 management activities on Federal public land, excuse  
29 me, lands, other than the subsistence take and use of  
30 fish and wildlife, such as predator control and habitat  
31 management are the responsibility of and remain within  
32 the authority of the individual land management  
33 agencies, unquote. Individual land management agencies  
34 are subject to various agency mandates, legal  
35 requirements, and policy guidelines, which were  
36 summarized in a letter dated December 19, 2006 from the  
37 Office of Secretary of the Interior addressed to the  
38 Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,  
39 enclosed. In addition, the Regional Chief of the  
40 National Wildlife Refuge System in Alaska provided a  
41 detailed response related to, quote, intensive wildlife  
42 management, unquote, related -- excuse me, relative to  
43 Service management of lands in Alaska. The Office of  
44 Subsistence Management, as directed by the Board, will  
45 assist proponents of predator control proposal with  
46 procedures for submitting the proposals to appropriate  
47 agencies.

48

49 Regarding the policies that guide this  
50 issue for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it may

1 help to clarify with some recent statements the Service  
2 provided to the Alaska Board of Game. The Service  
3 commented on wildlife proposals before the Alaska Board  
4 of Game to clarify that they are legally precluded from  
5 managing National Wildlife Refuges with a singular  
6 focus to reduce predator populations to benefit human  
7 harvest of prey species. As such the Service cannot  
8 support intensive management of game populations on  
9 Refuge lands to simply improve human harvest. As the  
10 Council may know, the Service is required to go through  
11 an environmental analysis of the actions that would  
12 include predator control prior to making final  
13 decisions as to whether it is appropriate on Refuge  
14 lands or not. The Service recently completed an EA for  
15 such a request no Unimak Island. If the Council would  
16 like a copy of the final decision documents for this  
17 issue, please let your Council Coordinator know and  
18 copies will be sent to Council members.

19

20 Mr. Chair. Do you want me to read the  
21 issue and the responses -- or just the response.

22

23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The response will  
24 be fine.

25

26 MR. NICK: Okay. The next one is  
27 response to issue 2, streamline nominations and  
28 appointment process.

29

30 The response states that this issue  
31 brings forward three topics: (1) who has authority to  
32 appoint Council members; (2) the effect of vacant  
33 seats; (3) the decline of applicants for Council  
34 membership. The Council recommends that the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board revise the current process to allow  
36 local tribal councils to appoint members to the  
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and that the  
38 Board streamline the appointment process to fill vacant  
39 seats quickly.

40

41 Only the Secretary of the Interior  
42 holds the authority to appoint members to the Federal  
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, with the  
44 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, and at no  
45 time has the Secretary agreed to relinquish that  
46 authority. Therefore, tribal councils cannot appoint  
47 someone to the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory  
48 Councils. They can, however, nominate someone to be  
49 considered for appointment. Such a nomination would  
50 carry weight when the Board considers applicants to

1 recommend for appointment.

2

3

4                   The Board appreciates the value of  
5 geographically diverse representation on each Council  
6 and recognizes that vacant seats do have an impact on  
7 the effectiveness of a Council's representation of its  
8 region. Vacancies can occur when a seated member  
9 resigns, dies, or is removed by the Secretary.  
10 Vacancies also occur when there are not enough  
11 qualified applicants to fill expired terms.

12

13                   The Council charters stipulate that  
14 when a member's seat is vacant, the Secretary will  
15 appoint someone to fill that vacancy for the remainder  
16 of the applicable term. It sounds simple, but because  
17 it would be a Secretarial appoint, the process to fill  
18 a vacant seat is the same as that used for regular  
19 appointments. If there are qualified applicants that  
20 were not recommended the prev -- excuse me. If there  
21 are qualified applicants that were not recommended the  
22 previous year, those persons could be contacted to  
23 determine whether they are still interested. If there  
24 are no qualified applicants from the previous year, it  
25 would be necessary to advertise for applicants and  
26 conduct the entire interview process, which would add  
27 to the length of time required for processing. Once  
28 the Board forwards a recommendation to the Secretary,  
29 it must be required -- or, I'm sorry, I'm not doing too  
30 good on this. Pardon me. Once the Board forwards a  
31 recommendation to the Secretary, it must be reviewed by  
32 a number of different people at the headquarters level  
33 of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.  
34 before approval. While those reviewed take time, they  
35 are intended to assure that all due consideration is  
36 given to the best possible representation on the RAC.  
37 The process in Washington was recently streamlined so  
38 that now the entire process may take only two to four  
39 months to complete.

40

41                   Timing is also a factor. In addition  
42 to the time needed to obtain the appointment, there is  
43 time required to get all the required travel paperwork  
44 through from the new RAC member to attend the meeting.

45

46                   Vacancies due to an insufficient number  
47 of applicants pose similar difficulties for the Council  
48 and Staff. The number of applicants for all 10 regions  
49 maintained a consistent pattern for the first 10 years  
50 the Councils existed. For the 2005 nominations cycle,  
the number of applications dropped to half of the

1 number expected. In subsequent years, the number of  
2 applicants started to increase until 2009. The number  
3 of applicants dropped so low that we had to extend a  
4 second call for applicants in 2009 and 2010. In 2011  
5 the number has risen to nearly normal levels, please  
6 see enclosure. In some instances, when we have so few  
7 applicants, there will be unfilled seats.

8  
9 Please note that unfilled seats do not  
10 affect a quorum. A quorum is based on the number of  
11 members seated. Your Council had 13 seats so when all  
12 seats are filled, 7 members must be present for a  
13 quorum. But if your Council has vacant seats and has  
14 11 actual seated members, only 6 members need to be  
15 present for a quorum.

16  
17 The Board determines the processes it  
18 will use to develop recommendations to the Secretary  
19 and does not need to involve the Secretary in any  
20 evaluation or revision of its process. The Secretary  
21 determines the process used to review the Boards  
22 recommendations and to make appointments.

23  
24 The Regional Advisory Council  
25 appointment process begins each fall. Council member  
26 application forms are sent to tribal councils, Regional  
27 Advisory Council members, and others, and are also  
28 available at the Office of Subsistence Management  
29 website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/rac.cfml>.  
30 Application forms may also be obtained by all the  
31 Office of Subsistence Management 15 800-478-1456.  
32 Individuals may nominate themselves or may nominate  
33 others for Regional Advisory Council membership.

34  
35 In closing, I thank the members of the  
36 Council for their continued involvement and diligence  
37 in matters regarding the Federal Subsistence Management  
38 Program. I speak for the entire Board -- excuse me.  
39 Pardon me. I'll start that over again. I speak for  
40 the entire Board in expressing our appreciation for  
41 your efforts and our confidence in the subsistence  
42 users of the region are represented through your work.

43  
44 Sincerely Tim Towarak, Chair, Federal  
45 Subsistence Board.

46  
47 Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
50 Nick. That was the response from Tim Towarak, the

1 Federal Subsistence Board on our annual report.

2

3 We are now down to item No. 11.B, Tri-  
4 RAC customary trade subcommittee status report.

5

6 DR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair. Council  
7 members. Good afternoon. David Jenkins, OSM.

8

9 The Tri-RAC Customary Trade  
10 Subcommittee was organized at the request of the  
11 Eastern Interior and the Western Interior RACs and also  
12 the Y-K Delta RAC. And the subcommittee is made up of  
13 members of each of those RACs, and it was organized  
14 specifically to address the issue of customary trade of  
15 Chinook salmon on the Yukon River and to see if it was  
16 possible for subsistence users up and down the river to  
17 come to a common understanding of customary trade and  
18 whether limits should be put on customary trade in  
19 order to help conservation efforts of Chinook salmon.

20

21 So that was the general organizational  
22 impulse behind this subcommittee.

23

24 The subcommittee had a teleconference  
25 in April in order to set an agenda, and then in May had  
26 their first two-day meeting. And they met and came up  
27 with three potential changes to regulations governing  
28 customary trade.

29

30 Let me, before we get started into  
31 this, let me just remind everybody what customary trade  
32 refers to. Customary trade is a protected subsistence  
33 use under ANILCA and it refers to the exchange for cash  
34 of subsistence caught fish and wildlife as long as  
35 those exchanges do not reach the level of a significant  
36 commercial enterprise. Okay. So that's what customary  
37 trade is. It's distinguished from barter which is when  
38 you exchange one thing for another, for example, fish  
39 for seal oil. That would be barter. This is just the  
40 exchange of subsistence caught fish and wildlife for  
41 cash. That's customary trade.

42

43 So the subcommittee came up with three  
44 proposed changes, and those changes then went out for  
45 public review, those regulatory changes. And they went  
46 out to as many people that we could think of up and  
47 down the Yukon River, tribal organizations included.  
48 We sent out emails. We sent out letters. And we sent  
49 out a follow-up postcard to these people and the  
50 subcommittee received about 20 extensive written

1 comments on their proposed changes.

2

3                   And if you'd like, I could tell you  
4 what those first three proposals were for customary  
5 trade regulations, or we could move on to what the  
6 subcommittee finally decided on after their second  
7 meeting.

8

9                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is the Council  
10 aware of the proposed changes to customary trade,  
11 because I'll have him go through that.

12

13                   DR. JENKINS: Okay. So the first -- so  
14 there were first three proposals. The first was to  
15 preclude customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon  
16 between rural residents and others. The second was to  
17 allow customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon  
18 between rural residents within the Yukon River drainage  
19 with a \$750 limit per household per year. And the  
20 third was to require a subsistence Yukon River Chinook  
21 salmon permit and record-keeping form which had three  
22 components. It had a harvest permit calendar for Yukon  
23 River Chinook salmon. It had a customary trade record-  
24 keeping form for Chinook salmon, and it had a transfer  
25 of possession form for Yukon Chinook salmon.

26

27                   So these regulatory changes were sent  
28 out for public review and the subcommittee received  
29 about 20 comments, some of which were quite lengthy,  
30 four or five, six, seven, eight pages long. The  
31 subcommittee then met again in August of this year to  
32 consider the public comment on their initial proposals.

33

34                   The subcommittee members on your RAC  
35 were Mr. Harry Wilde and Mr. Unok and Mr. Oney, and  
36 they can speak to their determinations, but I'll just  
37 give you a brief overview of everybody's work here.

38

39                   Oh, I should also mention that we may  
40 have subcommittee members who dialed into the  
41 teleconference from the other RACs, they may be  
42 listening and they may wish to address this RAC, too.  
43 So at the end of our discussion, we should find out if  
44 there's anybody who are on the teleconference lines  
45 that would like to speak, too.

46

47                   So at the May meeting, after discussing  
48 the public input, the subcommittee suggested the  
49 following idea. Now, customary trade of Yukon River  
50 Chinook salmon may only occur between Federally-

1 qualified rural residents with a current customary and  
2 traditional use determination for Chinook salmon. The  
3 idea here was because of declining Chinook runs, the  
4 subcommittee was asking the question, is there some way  
5 that we can limit that they perceive to be some large  
6 sales of Chinook salmon in urban centers of Alaska.  
7 And they suggested that keeping Chinook customary  
8 trades within the Yukon River drainage is one way to  
9 help with the conservation efforts by keeping these  
10 larger sales out of Fairbanks and Anchorage and other  
11 large urban areas. To keep it within the Yukon River  
12 drainage was the basic idea.

13

14                   They also thought that by reducing  
15 overall Chinook salmon harvest, that may allow  
16 fisheries managers to minimize the fishing restrictions  
17 that they put in place every year on Chinook salmon.  
18 In other words, if you lessen the number of fish that  
19 are going out in customary trade, there may be more  
20 fish available for subsistence users within the  
21 drainage. And it might also provide fisheries managers  
22 with additional fish to meet drainage-wide escapement  
23 goals into Canada, which would have the potential of  
24 improving future runs. And it would also allow fishers  
25 to recover reasonable expenses for traditional  
26 subsistence activities. In other words, you can still  
27 sell limited amounts of this fish within the drainage  
28 and recover costs for going to fish camp and selling  
29 fish. So this was the primary proposal that the  
30 subcommittee came up with.

31

32                   They also came up with an alternative  
33 for RAC discussion. And the alternative was to  
34 preclude customary trade of Yukon River Chinook salmon  
35 between rural residents and others, establish a \$750  
36 limit per calendar year per household, and require a  
37 customary trade record-keeping and receipt form.

38

39                   So these were the two proposals that  
40 the subcommittee suggested.

41

42                   They also suggested, outside of those  
43 two particular proposals was that because of declining  
44 Chinook runs on the Yukon River, the subcommittee  
45 recommends that a required Chinook salmon harvest  
46 calendar be implemented for Federally-qualified  
47 subsistence users.

48

49                   So those are the three broad  
50 suggestions that the subcommittee came up with. It

1 came up with it and there was a consensus from  
2 subsistence users up and down the Yukon River on these  
3 issues.

4

5                   The next steps in this process would be  
6 Council input. And after all the Councils have weighed  
7 in on these proposals, we would then gather Council  
8 comment and public comment and take them back to the  
9 subcommittee. And the subcommittee would then decide  
10 on a proposal for regulatory change to submit, and then  
11 the proposal would go through the various -- through  
12 the Federal regulatory process for fish which starts  
13 with the publication of a proposed rule and then a call  
14 to change regulations. And then the Councils provide  
15 recommendations on the proposal in 2012 at the fall  
16 meetings, and then the Federal Subsistence Board would  
17 take action on those recommendations in January of  
18 2013.

19

20                   If you have questions, I'll be happy to  
21 answer, or you could direct them to your own Council  
22 members who were on the subcommittee.

23

24                   Thank you.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions from  
27 the Council. Mr. Roczicka.

28

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

30

31                   I was actually quite surprised to see  
32 the progress that had been made here, and also quite  
33 gratified to see it as well, because in my perception,  
34 it was this Council that you're addressing that served  
35 as the catalyst for this. We sponsored the initial  
36 proposal that went to the Federal Subsistence Board  
37 that then caused them to set it aside and puts this  
38 subcommittee together from representatives of the  
39 various RACs. And that it went to the extent it did,  
40 or that they did come up as far as limiting just to the  
41 exchange between C&T areas, you know, the C&T residents  
42 of the Yukon River drainage caught me by surprise. And  
43 given that they went to the length within their  
44 alternative proposal to include what we had in there.  
45 I was expecting a much larger resistance I guess if you  
46 will from the Interior groups that are the ones that  
47 were kind of the focus of extreme monetary benefits  
48 that they were receiving, or the significant commercial  
49 enterprise as you say.

50

1                   So I look forward to it going on. I'm  
2 glad to see the progress that's been made. And we  
3 shouldn't see any more advertisements in Cabela's for  
4 Yukon River king salmon strips, and people sitting on  
5 the sidewalks with cases of king salmon strips to sell  
6 in Anchorage for sale.

7

8                   Thank you.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.  
11 As the Council remembers, those original proposals were  
12 our proposals that we put in. And like Greg says, I'm  
13 glad that they went as far as we would like to have  
14 seen them, and -- or as a start anyway.

15

16                   Mr. Aloysius. Do you have any  
17 questions or comments.

18

19                   MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. A comment  
20 again, and it's always the same comment I have for all  
21 of these grandiose things are going to cure the ills of  
22 the world. How are you going to enforce this? I mean,  
23 let's look at the facts. You know, you've got counters  
24 that you have to put down how many fish you catch. And  
25 how many of those fish you sell. Who's going to keep  
26 track of it? I mean, it's a simple fact that, you  
27 know, if I get 1,000 fish, I'm not going to put down  
28 1,000 fish, because I can only sell 200. I'm going to  
29 say I got 200 fish. Or 400 fish. And the rest is  
30 going to go out the back door and be would somewhere  
31 else. It's a simple fact of life. There's no way that  
32 you can enforce all these grandiose plans.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.  
35 Mr. Charles.

36

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

38

39                   Who are the three Tri-RAC?

40

41                   DR. JENKINS: Yes. It was the Western  
42 Interior and Eastern Interior and the Y-K Delta. So  
43 each of them had three members on this Tri-RAC  
44 committee. So those were the three RACs.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If I may clarify  
47 this, Mr. James. It was concerning Yukon Chinook  
48 salmon and the RACs were members, you people on the  
49 RACs from the Yukon.

50

1 Any other comments. Mr. Andrew.

2

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

5

6 AVCP also took a pretty active role in  
7 trying to curtail the customary trade because of the  
8 state of the Yukon River Chinook salmon. And we were  
9 really concerned that the Lower Yukon commercially --  
10 or Chinook salmon directed commercial fisheries was no  
11 longer in existence, primarily because of the  
12 reallocation of Chinook salmon from the Lower Yukon,  
13 from the legitimate Lower Yukon commercial fishery to  
14 the customary trade where it's totally unregulated, and  
15 there's no accounting for the number of fish that are  
16 being sold.

17

18 In fact one of the Eastern Interior RAC  
19 members, Virgil Umphenour said on record during their  
20 processes that there was a guy that was a guy that was  
21 bragging about the amount of money that he generated  
22 from the customary trade business, somewhere in the  
23 neighborhood of a 40, \$50,000 truck. A huge truck that  
24 he bought cash as a result of customary trade.

25

26 I mean, most of you Lower Yukon  
27 commercial fishermen, you've never -- you haven't seen  
28 that for a number of years in that volume. So what,  
29 you know, in our opinion it really amounts to the  
30 reallocation from a legitimate commercial fishery to a  
31 fishery that was totally unregulated.

32

33 The other thing that I'd like to point  
34 out is that Stan Prazinski, the chief law enforcement  
35 for Fish and Wildlife Service agent in Alaska, he made  
36 a report to the Federal Subsistence Board, and in his  
37 report he said that 80 percent of the harvest of fish  
38 that was harvested for customary trade occurred in  
39 State waters. And why in the world is not -- why in  
40 the world the State of Alaska is not doing anything it?  
41 All they do is just complain that it's allowed in the  
42 Federal subsistence management process, while the  
43 violations are occurring in their jurisdiction waters.  
44 You know, somebody's got to take accountability,  
45 whether it be the Federal subsistence management  
46 system, or the State management system.

47

48 It was a couple years ago when --  
49 during the AFN convention that was held in Anchorage,  
50 we saw boxes and boxes and boxes of strips being sold

1 out there in big long bags, and they were just out  
2 there selling them out in the open. I went to the  
3 Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and  
4 told him what's going on out there, and he just lifted  
5 up his hands, he couldn't do a dang thing. I took it  
6 to the Fish and Wildlife Service people, I can't do a  
7 dang thing. So somebody's got to take responsibility  
8 at this point before we lose our fish to customary  
9 trade or to other issues. And it's just getting more  
10 and more frustrating when both the management agencies,  
11 both the law enforcement agencies are saying there's  
12 nothing that they can do about it.

13

14 And, you know, I really appreciate the  
15 efforts of Stan Prazinski and his team of law  
16 enforcement for conducting the sting that they did.  
17 And also I appreciate the work of the Tri-RAC.

18

19 But it is in our hopes that they do get  
20 something down that is enforceable, that you can take,  
21 go out and actually see what exactly is happening out  
22 there. You know, something that gives a good accurate  
23 accounting rather than what Bob had indicated earlier.  
24 Yeah, today I'll mark down 50 fish when I got 200. Or  
25 I'm selling 50 of them while I'm selling 200 of them.  
26 I mean, there's got to be some way to really grab it by  
27 the horns and put a stop to it, because if we don't  
28 keep stopping -- if we don't put a stop to it, that  
29 money will always drive it, and pretty soon we'll not  
30 have fish. And the concern that had developed on the  
31 Yukon River as a result of customary trade may move  
32 over to the Kuskokwim side. And it may be here  
33 already, and we just don't have enough fish out there  
34 to keep everybody happy as you can see this past  
35 summer, and it's going to keep continuing, keep  
36 continuing as long as there's a money factor in  
37 something that they can't even track.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me  
40 to vent.

41

42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Tim.

43

44 Mr. Unok.

45

46 MR. UNOK: Can I answer what's his  
47 name, Mr. AVCP.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

2

3 MR. UNOK: It wasn't easy in that  
4 group, those two meetings we had, one in Anchorage and  
5 one in Fairbanks. Two days was really short. We  
6 didn't -- we had a hard time. We were frustrated. But  
7 we got somewhere.

8

9 Maybe Dave will correct me, the idea of  
10 this is to have the law enforcement have something in  
11 write to enforce it. That's what it's all about.  
12 Maybe you could explain it better.

13

14 DR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Unok. At both  
15 meetings we did have law enforcement there to advise  
16 the subcommittee. And at the first meeting we had a  
17 representative of the Department of the Interior's  
18 Solicitor's Office to advise the subcommittee on legal  
19 issues. And so the subcommittee did wrestle with these  
20 questions.

21

22 How do we -- how do you enforce these  
23 kinds of changes to customary trade? And it was a  
24 question that they asked themselves over these four  
25 days, and hearing Mr. Andrew, it's clearly still a  
26 concern, how -- and Mr. Aloysius, too. It's a concern,  
27 how do you enforce these rules?

28

29 The idea was to give -- there were two  
30 ideas going on here. First, the declines of Chinook  
31 salmon were a concern for everybody up and down the  
32 river, and the question is how to limit customary trade  
33 and allow those limits to be enforceable. The question  
34 was whether simply keeping them within the drainage,  
35 Chinook salmon within the drainage and not allowing  
36 sales of those in Fairbanks or in Anchorage or other  
37 large urban areas, may be an initial start to stop  
38 those kinds of sales.

39

40 I should also point out at this point  
41 that we're not talking about salmon strips, because the  
42 State of Alaska argues that once you process fish, you  
43 are in fact a business, and when you're a business, you  
44 have to meet State health regulations to sell those  
45 fish. And the Federal Subsistence Board has gone along  
46 with that idea and said, you need to meet State health  
47 regulations. So really what we're talking about here  
48 are whole, unprocessed fish entering customary trade.  
49 These other, strips are a different issues.

50

1                   So the question that the subcommittee  
2 tried to deal with is how to limit sales of Chinook  
3 salmon in the context of declining runs, and to do so  
4 in a way that everybody up and down the Yukon River  
5 could agree to. And this was the proposal they came up  
6 with: Limit it to within the drainage. Rural  
7 residents to rural residents. Preclude the sale of  
8 rural residents to non-rural residents.

9

10                   Does that help, Al?

11

12                   MR. UNOK: Yes.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there any one on  
15 the -- is there any other RACs that are on the phone at  
16 the moment, Mr. Nick. Do we have anybody else on the  
17 -- any of the other Regional Councils on the phone, on  
18 the teleconference.

19

20                   MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure if  
21 there's anyone. You might want to ask on the line --  
22 if anyone is on the line. Mr. Chair.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's what I was  
25 trying to do. Yeah, that's what I just did.

26

27                   MR. NICK: Because.....

28

29                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is anyone else on  
30 the line? Any other Regional Councils on the line? I  
31 guess not.

32

33                   So any further discussion on this.

34

35                   MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney.

38

39                   MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 The dollar and the -- to address the customary trade on  
41 Chinook salmon came from this body. As you know, over  
42 the years we had a lot of reports from villages who  
43 were saying that there was a large amount of Chinook  
44 salmon that were being shipped out, and that's the  
45 reason why we came up with that dollar figure. And the  
46 dollar figure was going up and down, but we're happy  
47 that the three of us, we stuck with the \$750, because  
48 it came from this body here. And somewhere along the  
49 line, we all agreed that -- toward the end that it  
50 would be \$750. And that's how it came about, and we're

1 hoping that it can pass by this body, because we're the  
2 ones that proposed that Chinook salmon of \$750 per  
3 household.

4

5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Well,  
6 what action was expected of this body; could you  
7 elaborate on that, please. Mr. Jenkins.

8

9 DR. JENKINS: This is mostly a status  
10 update for you, and then it allows you the opportunity  
11 to discuss the two main proposals that came out of the  
12 subcommittee. The first one was to keep customary  
13 trades within the Yukon River drainage, and the  
14 alternative -- and that was the preferred option that  
15 the subcommittee by consensus agreed to.

16

17 The alternative was the one that I read  
18 and the one that Mr. Oney just referred to, which had  
19 to do with a \$750 limit and a customary trade record  
20 keeping form. So that was an alternative proposal.

21

22 So what you have the opportunity to do  
23 is to discussion among yourselves those two proposals  
24 and to provide your wisdom on which of those two you  
25 think are the appropriate proposal to pursue. And then  
26 this will happen at the Eastern Interior and Western  
27 Interior meetings as well, and those RACs will also  
28 have the opportunity to discuss the alternatives.

29

30 And then once we have RAC input, we  
31 will I think reconvene the subcommittee, get it back  
32 together and see if they can generate a proposal for  
33 regulatory change. The hope is that it will encompass  
34 the Yukon River drainage and it won't segment the Yukon  
35 River into three different regions. That's the hope of  
36 the subcommittee as I understand it.

37

38 So at this point, your comments would  
39 help the subcommittee decide which alternative to  
40 choose.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any comments from  
45 the Council.

46

47 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

50

1 MR. H. WILDE: Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Your mic.

4

5 MR. H. WILDE: I think it was -- we've  
6 been wondering how that customary trade works. So when  
7 we're running up there, we start talking to each one of  
8 us first, because for 750, I couldn't really figure out  
9 how that thing going to work. However, quite a while  
10 back I used to work with one of the boys in Canada,  
11 that customary trade, how it was work. Like downriver  
12 here, Lower Yukon, lower area, they got fishing  
13 license. And up there they have customary trade.  
14 Customary trade is for something that we don't use it  
15 down here yet. How it works. You get king salmon  
16 mostly, and sell them with cash. That cash that we --  
17 they sell, they have to know how much they sell. They  
18 make their own -- their catch, they write them down to  
19 Federal or State, and I think it's very important. Our  
20 people down here, Lower Yukon, always wondering how  
21 much the fish, king salmon specially, goes upriver.

22

23 When we request for that 750, I was  
24 kind of a little bit surprised, but however, they -- no  
25 one would keep track. In the Federal they've got --  
26 they could keep track theirself, what they sell. And  
27 it had to be mostly king salmon. Something that we  
28 don't do it yet down here in Alaska area down here. It  
29 was very, very important thing that our people  
30 understand that those fishermen, they don't have no  
31 license, they're able to sell king salmon, what they  
32 catch for subsistence if they've got more subsistence.

33

34 However, we have to know where we're  
35 going to sell those customary catch we get. We cannot  
36 sell it to fish buyers. WE have to find someone that  
37 able to buy, just like sometimes we sell dryfish. And  
38 sell them for cash. I think it's very important that  
39 people are wondering how those people upriver done. A  
40 long time ago we start that -- I was one of them, too,  
41 start customary trade. That was a long time ago. And  
42 it's very important for Yukon and Kuskokwim how the  
43 customary trade should work, now we could -- we cannot  
44 sell the first fish that we -- king salmon, what we  
45 catch through our license. It's -- customary trade is  
46 why we're going to sell our fish down here, we have to  
47 really watch for our people so it wouldn't be more like  
48 a problem, trouble, when they want to sell that fish,  
49 that customary trade. It have to be fisherman, fish  
50 buyers that have a license to buy king salmon and those

1 fish or anything, they cannot buy that customary trade  
2 to hold fish that people want to sell. I think it's  
3 very important for us, our people to understand and  
4 case they might have a problem selling customary trade.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done, Mr.  
7 Wilde?

8  
9 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, your mic,  
12 please. Mr. Unok.

13  
14 MR. UNOK: On the conservation side, on  
15 this customary trade, nobody wanted to limit the catch  
16 on subsistence. That was our goal to save the fish.  
17 But nobody wants to have any limit. But on other  
18 subsistence, what we went through, two days, they got  
19 limits. They put limit on bids. They put limit on how  
20 many moose you could catch. They put limit on how many  
21 caribous you could catch. But nobody wanted to limit  
22 the fish.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think there's two  
25 things in front of us. We need to make a decision on  
26 whether we would like to have the proposal rural to  
27 rural sales or a limit of \$750 on the customary trade  
28 sales. Is that correct, Mr. Jenkins.

29  
30 DR. JENKINS: You can come down on  
31 either side or make another determination; that's up to  
32 you, yes.

33  
34 Could I respond to Mr. Wilde's.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may.

37  
38 DR. JENKINS: .....comment earlier.  
39 Under customary trade regulations, you cannot sell to a  
40 commercial business, so you cannot do that. You an  
41 only -- it's intended to be a non-commercial exchange  
42 of fish or cash. So most of the exchanges further  
43 upriver are exchanges between individuals. They're not  
44 -- you don't exchange fish for cash to a commercial  
45 enterprise at all. So that's one of the big  
46 differences I think, Mr. Wilde, that you were referring  
47 to.

48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

2

3 DR. JENKINS: So if you want to make a  
4 determination of which this Council supports, that's up  
5 to you, yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

8

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

10

11 Well, I read both of them as  
12 maintaining it to the residents only, because the  
13 second says, preclude customary trade between rural  
14 residents and others. And the others is, of course,  
15 the people who don't customary and traditional use of  
16 salmon. So they're both saying the same thing, whereas  
17 the second alternative have that additional restriction  
18 of putting in the dollar amount in a calendar year, and  
19 required a record-keeping form.

20

21 And I'm a little disturbed there when  
22 you mentioned that it only applies to fish in the  
23 round, and how do we get at that issue of when, you  
24 know, as Tim mentioned that both State and Federal  
25 enforcement folks said there's nothing they could do  
26 about it, and then -- prior to drafting up this  
27 proposal. And I don't have my head wrapped around it,  
28 and I haven't been to any of these meetings, so I don't  
29 have any in-depth training if you will or experience.  
30 But that was the main point was to have a forum in  
31 place, would give them something that could be  
32 enforceable, and so what is there to get at that  
33 component of customary trade that are coming from when  
34 people are selling their -- when they're selling Yukon  
35 strip, but yet enforcement says we can't do anything  
36 about. That's what's at the heart of this, to get some  
37 kind of actual enforcement out there as Bob alluded to.  
38 But that was part of it, was having the form and that  
39 dollar amount.

40

41 What came up at your meeting?

42

43 DR. JENKINS: The subcommittee wrestled  
44 with this issue, and folks from the Western Interior  
45 Council indicated that their traditional practice was  
46 to process Chinook into strips and exchange them under  
47 customary trade. And so they were very concerned with  
48 this.

49

50 At the same time, the State argues that

1 that is an illegal practice, and the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board has gone along with that. So it is a  
3 difficult issue.

4  
5 Law enforcement indicated that it was a  
6 problem for them as well. And I don't have an easy  
7 answer for you. And over these four days we haven't  
8 come up with an answer. In fact, over the last 10 years  
9 there hasn't been a ready answer to this particular  
10 question. So I can't provide one for you. Sorry.

11  
12 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, and then that's  
13 why I was -- like I say, I was surprised and glad to  
14 see in there that at least that step was taken that  
15 it's just between the qualified subsistence users of  
16 the Yukon. That at least one step to get the urban  
17 sales. Or it should get the urban sales for the Mat  
18 Valley and, well, it wouldn't do it in Fairbanks, which  
19 at least it's -- wait a minute. No, Fairbanks is a  
20 non-subsistence use area, so they shouldn't be able to  
21 sell their fish in Fairbanks either. Okay.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

24  
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: We keep talking about  
26 Federally-qualified. What about the non-qualified?  
27 They're the ones I think are raking in the bucks more  
28 than the qualified.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One comment. One  
31 thought that we might take into consideration is that  
32 it is against the law to sell smoked salmon without the  
33 approval of the Food and Drug. If we have to go that  
34 route, then I think that's going to be a little tougher  
35 route to go, but if they -- the Food and Drug are not  
36 actually doing their job in permitting people to go out  
37 and sell smoked salmon, because according to the State  
38 regs, you've got to be a registered smoker, licensed,  
39 registered smoker in order to sell -- sell and sell  
40 smoked salmon.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That might have to  
45 be an approach that we'll have to take later down the  
46 road, but this is a good start I think to at least stop  
47 of the illegal sales under customary trade right now.

48  
49 And I think that we've been on this for  
50 a while. I think we need to make a decision on what we

1 are going to be deciding to do as far as the customary  
2 trade subcommittee is concerned. Are we going to be  
3 pushing for sales of rural to rural only or are we  
4 going to push for setting a limit of \$750 per sale or  
5 are we going to be pushing for both the rural to rural  
6 and \$750 limit.

7

8

Any comments on those. Mary.

9

10 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Sometimes we have  
11 this customary trade selling our food to the people who  
12 have moved to the rural areas -- I mean city areas.  
13 And then they will give us cash for it or -- as long as  
14 we go -- we are making those guidelines, it's okay.  
15 It's from -- when you start selling to maybe Shogun  
16 Restaurant in Bethel, that's a different story. If we  
17 know what we're doing, and we've been trained -- I'm a  
18 trader. I trade lots of things for everything, and  
19 last year I made \$600 selling my salmon to somebody.  
20 And I stayed within the guidelines. (In Yup'ik)

21

22

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Pappas.

23

24

MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 I've been involved in this process, too, maybe I'm  
26 missing something here, and I want to try to help  
27 clarify.

28

29 The two options, both options eliminate  
30 selling fish to somebody in Anchorage, Fairbanks, non-  
31 rural residents.

32

33

Option 1, you could sell fish from  
34 here, customary trade, to someone in Eagle, but that's  
35 it. You couldn't sell outside the watershed. Whoever  
36 has a C&T for -- you can sell to St. Michaels and  
37 Stebbins, but you couldn't sell to Nome. You could  
38 trade with someone in Nome. That's option 1.

39

40

Option 2, you could sell to any  
41 Federally-qualified -- excuse me, any rural resident in  
42 the State, so you could sell to somebody in Pelican,  
43 Barrow or Nome.

44

45

But that needs to be clear. Option 1  
46 is only for whoever has C&T for the Yukon, so it  
47 couldn't go -- you couldn't sell something to Nome if  
48 option 1 is adopted. Option 2, you'd be allowed to  
49 sell outside the Yukon drainage to other rural  
50 residents only, but never go to Fairbanks, Eagle River,

1 Juneau, what have you. And the second option would  
2 have a dollar limit as recommended by this RAC, and  
3 reporting requirements.

4  
5 So the first option, it was the  
6 strongest one. The Tri-RAC wasn't going to have a  
7 second option. They wanted to keep it within the  
8 drainage and eliminate the reporting. It would be  
9 self-regulating, because folks have been doing this  
10 here for years, for many years.

11  
12 I just want to make sure that's clear,  
13 sir.

14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

18  
19 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 Well, with that explanation then, I  
22 think I'd totally concur with what they have for their  
23 recommendations and would endorse it, too, at this  
24 point.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Which  
27 recommendation.

28  
29 MR. ROCZICKA: Both of them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Both of them.

32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: That's what I said, they  
34 have them in a priority order and I agree with the way  
35 they have it here.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other  
38 discussion on customary trade option.

39  
40 MR. ROCZICKA: But pursue that  
41 enforcement for those that are going to be violating  
42 it, which people are going to find a way around things.  
43 So keep after that one.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One very wise  
46 person told me at one time, laws are made for the  
47 honest people; they're not necessarily for the crooks,  
48 because the crooks are going to find a way to go and do  
49 it anyway. And I find that to be absolutely true.

50

1                   Any more discussion on this. Is there  
2 a motion to the effect that we would like to go --  
3 which option that we would like. It's up to the  
4 Council, but we need to get off this subject pretty  
5 quick.

6  
7                   MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I don't  
8 know if they're looking for a formal motion or anything  
9 like that. It was just -- that's my opinion. And  
10 these are not an either or, unless we disagreed with  
11 them I guess. To me, I agree with their priorities  
12 that they've come up with so far.

13  
14                   And like I say, it surprised me again.  
15 I thought there would have been much more resistance  
16 from Interior folks closer to the urban centers.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's at least  
19 getting somewhere.

20  
21                   Any other comment on the options.

22  
23                   MR. UNOK: I have a question.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok

26  
27                   MR. UNOK: So it says here we might  
28 have another meeting, the three RACs, or was it  
29 different.

30  
31                   DR. JENKINS: That's my understanding  
32 is that there could be another subcommittee meeting  
33 that would then talk about all of the RAC discussion  
34 about this issue, and then from that subcommittee that  
35 could develop a proposal, which could be the first  
36 alternative that you presented at your first  
37 subcommittee meeting, or it could be a modification  
38 based on what the RACs have to say about these issues.

39  
40                   So that's my understanding, yes. There  
41 could be one more subcommittee meeting.

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

45  
46                   MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. In order  
47 to sell customary trade, you have to keep the record;  
48 however the Federal have a record like this one here.  
49 It says, Federal subsistence.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: His mic.  
2  
3 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)  
4  
5 MR. H. WILDE: This one here, Federal  
6 subsistence customary trade record-keeping form.  
7 That's what it is. So you have to keep a record what  
8 you sell. And it's not easy to do. However, with --  
9 how we're going to sell in fish or somebody might get  
10 sick on something that's what we sell. However, did  
11 have supporting maybe -- not quite I understand, but  
12 what the State have, some kind of a -- that we bring  
13 them to State and test it let the State test it or  
14 something like that?  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Pappas or Mr.  
17 Jenkins.  
18  
19 DR. JENKINS: The customary trade  
20 record-keeping form is part of option 2, and this is  
21 the form that Mr. Wilde is referring to. And the  
22 subcommittee had a long discussion about how local  
23 peoples would adopt or not adopt that form. And there  
24 was some concern that it wouldn't be easily adopted.  
25 And which is one of the reasons that they had the  
26 first, the prioritized options. And the first one  
27 doesn't have a record-keeping form, the second one  
28 does. But the subcommittee came down on the first  
29 recommendation in part because they were unsure of how  
30 easily the record-keeping form would be adopted by  
31 people up and down the Yukon River.  
32  
33 Thank you.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Pappas, you had  
36 further comments.  
37  
38 MR. PAPPAS: I'm just seeing if, Mr.  
39 Wilde, are you satisfied with that answer. Was your  
40 question answered.  
41  
42 MR. H. WILDE: I couldn't understand.  
43  
44 MR. PAPPAS: The question I understood  
45 -- through the Chair. The question I understand, is  
46 there -- does the State have a place where you can test  
47 fish to see if they're good; is that was the question?  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think when he  
50 talking about somebody getting sick, I think that was

1 referring to smoked salmon, but I'm not sure what he  
2 meant by it.

3  
4 Mr. Wilde, could you clarify what you  
5 were asking him.

6  
7 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Well, you don't  
8 sell whole fish. You could maybe in customary trade.  
9 But you've got to have also eggs. Fish eggs. King  
10 salmon mostly. That's what my understand. But I  
11 suppose as myself, go out there, if I fish for king  
12 salmon, I could use part of it, if I had enough, I  
13 could sell it through customary trade. But I cannot  
14 sell it to fish buyer.

15  
16 The most important thing I understand  
17 or what I learn, what will happen if somebody sick.  
18 That's what I'm trying to say.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any answer to that  
21 question. Mr. Jenkins.

22  
23 DR. JENKINS: I don't have a direct  
24 response. I don't know the incidents of people getting  
25 sick from sales of customary trade. I think that  
26 they're actually quite low. But I don't know that  
27 there's much information on that. And I certainly  
28 can't answer it with any certainty.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, the  
31 definition of customary trade is selling fish in the  
32 round. That means everything that's in the fish.  
33 Harry. According to the regulations of customary  
34 trade, customary trade is selling fish in the round,  
35 unprocessed fish.

36  
37 MR. ROCZICKA: In the State. Mr.  
38 Chairman. Yeah, you bring up a good point. Under the  
39 State it's selling them in the round. And now within  
40 Federal subsistence and in the normal people's way of  
41 thinking who practice subsistence, when you're talking  
42 about subsistence fish, you're not talking about fish  
43 in the round, you're talking about your smoked fish and  
44 salt fish and whatever, and dry fish in general. So is  
45 the Federal system able to address that and how to make  
46 that enforceable.

47  
48 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Harry.  
49 (Yup'ik)  
50

1 MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) We've got  
2 to find someone that testing what we sell. I think  
3 it's -- Federal is -- my understanding in some place,  
4 what left over the king salmon that you have round, I  
5 think is more safer than try to sell fish eggs out of  
6 king salmon.

7  
8 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

9  
10 MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

11  
12 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Elder Wilde is saying  
13 that he understood that if I had a king salmon, I sell  
14 some of it, or the roe to somebody else, I mean, it  
15 could make someone else sick. The State has an  
16 apparatus to check that out to make sure it's not going  
17 to make someone sick.

18  
19 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Wilde, the State  
20 does have. The Department of Environmental  
21 Conservation -- or, excuse me. Yeah, that does have  
22 the food -- have a food section that can test foods and  
23 fish for toxins, for disease, for bacteria. There is a  
24 -- we do have laboratories. We have a full department  
25 that does do food safety, yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay, Mr. Wilde?

28  
29 MR. H. WILDE: Doi.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Jenkins.

32  
33 DR. JENKINS: Let me respond briefly to  
34 Mr. Roczicka's comment about people's perception of  
35 customary having to do with smoked salmon or salmon  
36 strips and Federal regulation.

37  
38 ANILCA provides subsistence -- that  
39 customary trade is a protected subsistence use.  
40 Regulations that came out after that for fish say that  
41 under customary trade, you can sell fish, parts and  
42 eggs. That's the clear Federal regulation.

43  
44 Now the State argues that if you  
45 process a fish, you have to meet state health  
46 regulation. And the Federal Subsistence Board has  
47 agreed with that determination, but the regulation --  
48 this is why it confuses everybody, because the  
49 regulation says fish, parts, and eggs can be sold as  
50 customary trade; but the State says, well, if you do

1 that, you are in effect a business and we are going to  
2 regulate you as a business. And the Federal  
3 Subsistence Board has said, yes, you need to meet those  
4 health regulations if you process a fish. So there is  
5 that element of confusion.

6

7 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, then there should  
8 be no problem with enforcement. If somebody is selling  
9 on the sidewalk, why is there not enforcement, and what  
10 answer did you get? You said you had enforcement  
11 there; what is their response to it?

12

13 DR. JENKINS: I'm reluctant to speak  
14 for enforcement on this issue. They did indicate that  
15 because the idea of a significant commercial enterprise  
16 was not clearly defined, they did not know if that  
17 meant \$500 or \$700 or \$10,000, and so without a clear  
18 definition of a significant commercial enterprise, then  
19 customary trades were difficult for law enforcement to  
20 deal with. That was the general issue that they had.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other further  
23 discussion on customary trade. I know customary trade  
24 has always taken a long time whenever we get into  
25 discussion about it. Is there any more discussion on  
26 customary trade before we move on to the next agenda.  
27 Mr. Unok, last time.

28

29 MR. UNOK: I thank the Council for  
30 recognizing our work.

31

32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

33

34 We are now down to item 12, Review of  
35 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Mr.  
36 Rivard. There you go.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: There you are.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We found you.

41

42 MR. ROCZICKA: You found yourself.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Good afternoon, Mr.  
47 Chairman and Council members. My name is Don Rivard.  
48 I'm a fish biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
49 Management.

50

1                   And I'm going to talk to you today  
2 about the Fisheries Monitoring Program. It starts in  
3 your book on Page 204.

4  
5                   Now, I haven't addressed your Council  
6 for a couple of years, and there's at least three  
7 people here that are new to me. They may not be new to  
8 your Council, but they're new to me, and, Mr. Chair, if  
9 you'll like, I'll give a little bit of an overview of  
10 what the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is for  
11 their benefit. I don't know if they've heard this  
12 before. It might be new to them.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.  
15 Chairman. I mean, Mr. Rivard.

16  
17                   MR. RIVARD: I've been promoted.

18  
19                   (Laughter)

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, you've been  
22 promoted. You can have it back.

23  
24                   MR. RIVARD: Okay. As stated on Page  
25 204, since 1999 under the authority of Title VIII of  
26 ANILCA the Federal Government has assumed expanded  
27 management responsibilities for subsistence fisheries  
28 on Federal public lands in Alaska.

29  
30                   So part of what our program did was to  
31 increase the quantity and quality of information  
32 available for management of subsistence fisheries. The  
33 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and we shorten  
34 it a lot to Monitoring Program, was established within  
35 the Office of Subsistence Management.

36  
37                   Now the mission of the monitoring  
38 program is to identify and provide information needed  
39 to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public  
40 lands for rural Alaskans through a multi-disciplinary,  
41 collaborative program.

42  
43                   And to implement the monitoring  
44 program, a collaborative approach is utilized in which  
45 five Federal agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National  
47 Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S.  
48 Forest Service, work with the Alaska Department of Fish  
49 and Game, Regional Advisory Councils like yours, Alaska  
50 Native organizations and other organizations. In

1 addition we utilize an intra-agency Technical Review  
2 Committee which provides scientific evaluations of  
3 proposals and investigation plans.

4  
5                   The Regional Advisory Councils, your  
6 role is to provide review and recommendations and have  
7 public comment as needed.

8  
9                   The Federal Subsistence Board makes the  
10 ultimate decision on which projects get funded, but  
11 they take into consideration your recommendations.

12  
13                   Now, for your region you cover both the  
14 Kuskokwim and the Yukon regions.

15  
16                   And the fisheries monitoring program  
17 used to be a yearly program, but in 2010 it started to  
18 be every two years that we went to a call for  
19 proposals. So it's about a year long process. Last  
20 November we did the call for proposals for projects  
21 that would start in 2012, and we've been going through  
22 a process of review and refinement on that.

23  
24                   So for 2012, a total of 32  
25 investigation plans are under consideration for  
26 funding, and this shown on Page 207, this is statewide,  
27 on table 1. And of those the Technical Review  
28 Committee is recommending funding 29 of those  
29 investigations.

30  
31                   So I'm going to go now into the Yukon  
32 region, and we'll talk about the ones that your Council  
33 will make recommendations on if you so choose. So  
34 we're now on Page 208.

35  
36                   Before we put out a call for proposals,  
37 we make sure that we have issues and information needs  
38 identified. And so for the 2012 requests for proposals  
39 for the Yukon region, there were eight priorities that  
40 were identified. I could read those, if you'd like me  
41 to. They're in the book here. I don't know if  
42 everybody's had a chance to read those, but I can give  
43 you the short version or the long version. It's up  
44 to.....

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Why don't you give  
47 us the short version.

48  
49                   MR. RIVARD: Okay. So anyway there  
50 were eight priorities. For the Yukon region now we're

1 talking about again, since the inception of the  
2 monitoring program in the year 2000, 93 projects have  
3 been funded in the Yukon region, and seven of these  
4 will still be operating in the year 2012. And those  
5 can be shown on the -- you see the ones that have been  
6 already completed start on Page 211. And then the ones  
7 that are ongoing are on table 2 on Page 214.

8  
9                   So 15 Yukon region proposals were  
10 initially submitted to the Office of Subsistence  
11 Management in response to our 2012 request for  
12 proposals. In March 2011, the Technical Review  
13 Committee reviewed these proposals and recommended nine  
14 for investigation plan development. Of those, one  
15 stock status and trends and one harvest and  
16 monitoring/traditional ecological knowledge proposal  
17 were withdrawn by the investigators prior to submittal  
18 of an investigation plan. So investigators for the  
19 remaining seven projects responded to the Technical  
20 Review Committee proposal, review comments in  
21 developing their investigation plans.

22  
23                   So what the Technical Review Committee  
24 is recommending for funding is on Page 209 in your book  
25 there. And reviewing seven investigation plans that  
26 were submitted, they recommended funding six projects.  
27 One is the Alatna River sheefish population structure.  
28 The second one is abundance and run timing of salmon in  
29 Henshaw Creek. The third one is Anvik River sonar  
30 project. The fourth is the Kaltag Chinook salmon  
31 sampling project. The fourth [sic] is a Yukon River  
32 Bering Cisco spawning origins telemetry. And the fifth  
33 one -- or the sixth one, excuse me, is in-season  
34 management teleconferences and harvest interviews.  
35 That's done YRDFA there. Their teleconferences that  
36 they have weekly during the salmon season.

37  
38                   The six projects recommended for  
39 funding by the Technical Review Committee comprise a  
40 strong monitoring plan for the region by addressing  
41 strategically important information needs based on  
42 sound science and by promoting cooperative  
43 partnerships.

44  
45                   So those are the six that the Technical  
46 Review Committee is recommending, Mr. Chair. There are  
47 short descriptions of each in your book on Pages 209  
48 and 210. And this is an action item for your Council.  
49 And you can also decide whether you want to make a  
50 recommendation to fund these projects. This

1 recommendation goes to the Federal Subsistence Board.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

6

7

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9

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CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been made by Mr. Greg.

MR. CHARLES: Second.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr. Charles. To fund the -- what was that?

MR. ROCZICKA: The Fisheries Resource Monitoring recommendations as given by the TRC.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: For the Yukon.

MR. ROCZICKA: For the Yukon region, correct.

CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: So you heard the motion, it's been seconded to fund the suggested six monitoring programs in the Yukon region as described by Mr. Rivard. There's a motion on it. Seconded.

Any further discussion.

MS. GREGORY: I have a question on the Yukon Bering Sea cisco spawning. Why the interest in Yukon cisco? A couple years back, there was a city in the southeast part of United States who was running out of whitefish and they were buying cisco from this area. Do you know why that.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. You're right in that there's been a market for the cisco, and I think it's in the New York City area. And what this project is helping to address is where these fish are coming from, because they're not sure if these are just all Yukon River fish or if there's some coming from the Kuskokwim drainage or maybe other places. And so this project is to look at -- get an idea of where all these fish are coming from and how abundant they are, because there's been a request to increase the amount of

1 harvest so they can sell more back East. But before  
2 that's allowed, the proponent wanted to do some basic  
3 research on this to get a handle on how abundant these  
4 fish are and where they're actually coming from.

5  
6 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
9 discussion on the motion.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 MR. J. ANDREW: Question.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
16 called for by Mr. Andrew. Trapper John. John Andrew.  
17 Did I hear -- the question's been called for. All in  
18 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

23  
24 (No opposing votes)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
27 Down to the Kuskokwim.

28  
29 MR. RIVARD: Yes. We're now onto the  
30 Kuskokwim region. That starts on.....

31  
32 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Roczicka.

35  
36 MR. ROCZICKA: I'll have to step down  
37 here as well. I'm a co-investigator on one of the  
38 projects that you'll be acting on.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead,  
41 Mr. Rivard.

42  
43 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 It's in your book on Page 233 is where the Kuskokwim  
45 region overview starts.

46  
47 Similar to the Yukon region, the  
48 Kuskokwim region for the 2012 requests for proposals  
49 focused on 10 priority information needs which are  
50 listed in your book.

1                    Since the inception of the monitoring  
2 program in 2000, 75 projects have been funded in the  
3 Kuskokwim region, and eight of these will still be  
4 operating in the year 2012.

5  
6                    Presenting the monitoring program  
7 supports over 50 percent of all fisheries monitoring  
8 and research conducted in the Kuskokwim region.

9  
10                    As far as the 2012 all went, 16  
11 Kuskokwim region proposals were submitted to the Office  
12 of Subsistence Management. The Technical Review  
13 Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended nine  
14 for investigation plan development. Investigators for  
15 one of these proposals withdrew it from further  
16 consideration prior to submitting an investigation  
17 plan. And investigators for the remaining eight  
18 responded to the Technical Review Committee proposal  
19 review comments in developing their investigation  
20 plans.

21  
22                    Now, if you go to Page 234, the ones  
23 that are recommended for funding. After reviewing the  
24 eight investigation plans, the Technical Review  
25 Committee recommended funding seven of the proposed  
26 projects. This shows you here on Page 234.

27  
28                    The first one is a Lower Kuskokwim  
29 River Chinook salmon harvest age, sex and length  
30 project. The second is the George River salmon weir  
31 with an option B to that. The third one is the Takotna  
32 River salmon escapement monitoring project. The fourth  
33 is the Kwethluk River video salmon escapement  
34 enumeration. Fourth [sic] is a Highpower Creek  
35 sheefish status in the Upper Kuskokwim River. The,  
36 what's that, the sixth is the Kuskokwim River Bering  
37 Cisco spawning origins. And the last one, the seventh  
38 one for the Kuskokwim is the Upper Kuskokwim River  
39 whitefish climate change trends.

40  
41                    The seven projects recommended for  
42 funding by the Technical Review Committee again  
43 compromise [sic] a strong monitoring plan for the  
44 region by addressing strategically important  
45 information needs based on sound science and by  
46 promoting cooperative partnerships. So those are the  
47 ones for your recommendation now to the Federal  
48 Subsistence Board.

49  
50                    Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Rivard. What is the Council's recommendations. Mr.  
3 Unok.

4  
5 MR. UNOK: On these figures, when  
6 things go up like gas price, they change there.

7  
8 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Unok. What you see  
9 there, the amounts that you see are just for the first  
10 year. Most of these projects are four-year projects.  
11 And if you look -- you can go a little further into  
12 your book, I'll point it out to you here, if you go to  
13 Page 259, for example, I'll give you an example of  
14 this. For the one, for the project 12-313, this is a  
15 three-year project, and it shows the three years of  
16 funding that they're requesting. Now, this one is  
17 going down in price each year, but for the most part,  
18 if it's a four-year project, say a weir project,  
19 they've already budgeted out for four years, and  
20 usually they're a little bit higher each year, so  
21 they've already into account maybe increasing costs as  
22 they go through the years.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
25 questions of Mr. Rivard.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Or any  
30 recommendations from the Council.

31  
32 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move  
33 that we accept or support the recommended projects.

34  
35 MR. UNOK: Second.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion's been  
38 made by Ms. Gregory to support the recommended  
39 projects.....

40  
41 MR. UNOK: Second.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: .....seven projects  
44 on the Kuskokwim. Seconded by who? Who seconded it?  
45 Oh, Mr. Unok.

46  
47 Any further discussion.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. CHARLES: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
4 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by  
5 saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
10 sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
15 Are you going to be covering the all regionals?

16

17 MR. RIVARD: Yes, I am. There's a  
18 multi-regional review. This one's fairly quick here.  
19 That starts on Page 264 of your book.

20

21 And a multi-region is just that. It  
22 could be -- it's if it's covering more than one region.  
23 And the one that you're going to be considering is just  
24 for the Yukon and Kuskokwim, but it's a multi-region  
25 one. It could conceivably be -- a multi-region could  
26 cover the whole state, and so all the Councils would  
27 then weigh in.

28

29 So for the three proposals for research  
30 in the multi-regional category were submitted to the  
31 Office of Subsistence Management for funding  
32 consideration in 2012. Again in March 2011 the  
33 Technical Review Committee reviewed the three proposals  
34 and recommended two for development of investigation  
35 plans. One of these was subsequently withdrawn by the  
36 investigator, so that left just one proposal for the  
37 multi-region overview.

38

39 And that is on Page 265. It's the  
40 Yukon and Kuskokwim Inconnu or sheefish genetic  
41 baseline. And so it's basically -- this is mostly just  
42 laboratory work, the genetic laboratory work that needs  
43 to take place. They're getting samples of the fish  
44 from other projects that are being funded, mainly by  
45 OSM. So this is just to get a genetic baseline of all  
46 these sheefish they're collecting.

47

48 And that's all I have. Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Rivard.

2

3 Any questions for Mr. Rivard.

4

5 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Rivard. On your  
6 sheefish study, is it just on sheefish or just  
7 whitefish.

8

9 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Ms. Gregory.  
10 This is just for sheefish. There are other whitefish  
11 projects that have been proposed, but this one is just  
12 doing basically the laboratory analysis on fish that  
13 are sampled in various -- from other various projects  
14 both on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. Three of them are  
15 on-going projects or have already been completed and  
16 they have scale samples and other tissue samples that  
17 they just haven't been able to analyze get. And then  
18 there's four other projects that are -- that you've  
19 just recommended for funding that deal with sheefish as  
20 well. And they will be taking samples from those  
21 projects and taking them to the lab, too, and they'll  
22 be analyzed under this project.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. GREGORY: Just what I was trying to  
27 find out.

28

29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Anaan.

30

31 MS. GREGORY: I was just asking, just  
32 what are we trying to find out under the genetic study.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Well, they're one of the  
35 four important, very important whitefish species  
36 harvested in subsistence fisheries in both the Yukon  
37 and the Kuskokwim River drainages. And the project  
38 would analyze the samples from up to seven populations.  
39 Part of this reason is that they can get an idea of  
40 where these fish are coming from, because they do move  
41 throughout the basins. And so wherever they're caught,  
42 then they could take samples again and say, oh, yeah,  
43 these fish have come from the Upper Kuskokwim or the  
44 Lower Kuskokwim or there's even the possibility that  
45 they might migrate between the Kuskokwim and the Yukon  
46 drainages. There's not a lot of documented about the  
47 movements of a lot of the whitefish species, so this is  
48 a way to get a handle on it as well.

49

50 Thank you.

1                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Rivard.  
3  
4                           At this time I think we'll take a 10-  
5 minute break before we get into the agency reports.  
6  
7                           MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.  
8  
9                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. Mr.  
10 Roczicka.  
11  
12                          MR. ROCZICKA: We have to complete the  
13 process here. I would move then to support the  
14 recommendation from the committee to fund this project  
15 for sheefish genetic baseline study.  
16  
17                          CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You heard the  
18 motion. Do I hear a second to the motion.  
19  
20                          MR. ONEY: Second.  
21  
22                          CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
23 Oney.  
24  
25                          Any further discussion.  
26  
27                          (No comments)  
28  
29                          MS. GREGORY: (Indiscernible, mic not  
30 on)  
31  
32                          MR. ALOYSIUS: What is the motion.  
33  
34                          CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
35 called for....  
36  
37                          MR. ALOYSIUS: No, she wants to know  
38 what the motion is.  
39  
40                          CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, what the motion  
41 was.  
42  
43                          Could you repeat your motion.  
44  
45                          MR. ROCZICKA: The motion is to support  
46 the recommendation for funding of the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
47 sheefish genetic baseline.  
48  
49                          MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. The  
2 question's called for. All in favor signify by saying  
3 aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed.

8  
9 (No opposing votes)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's carried.  
12 Thank you, Mr. Rivard.

13  
14 We'll take a 10-minute break before we  
15 get into reports.

16  
17 (Off record)

18  
19 (On record)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Move along, but as  
22 I said, it's up to the presenters and to how much  
23 information is being needed by the Council as to how  
24 fast we move.

25  
26 So, Mr. Kron, briefing on tribal  
27 consultation. It's the next item on the agenda.

28  
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This item is on  
30 Page 270, and I will quickly go through this for you.

31  
32 MR. H. WILDE: Page what?

33  
34 MR. KRON: 270. Mr. Chair. Harry.

35  
36 MR. H. WILDE: 270?

37  
38 MR. KRON: Yes. 270. As discussed  
39 with the Regional Councils at the winter 2011 meetings,  
40 the Federal Subsistence Board has been taking steps to  
41 formally incorporate tribal consultation into the  
42 Federal Subsistence Management Program while  
43 maintaining and establishing the role of the Regional  
44 Councils. This action is consistent with the  
45 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture's renewed  
46 emphasis on respectful relationships with tribes.

47  
48 The Board's goal is to work with the  
49 tribes and ANCSA corporations to develop a consultation  
50 policy for the Subsistence Management Program

1 consistent with departmental policies.

2

3                   And I'll jump down then to the bottom  
4 of the page. there's a listing of things that are on  
5 the calendar here for this fall. It is hoped that the  
6 final protocols will be ready in time for the Board to  
7 adopt in May 2012, so next May, next spring.

8

9                   A few key dates and events in the  
10 development of the final protocols are as follows.  
11 October 20th, 2011, consultation with ANCSA  
12 corporations at AFN. December 1st, 2011, consultation  
13 with Federally-recognized tribes at the BIA Tribal  
14 Service Providers Conference. And then January 17th  
15 through 19th, 2012, this coming January, Federal  
16 Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage to discuss draft  
17 protocols on the agenda.

18

19                   And the interim protocols are included  
20 on Page 271, 273.

21

22                   Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll try to take  
23 any questions you have.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
26 Mr. Kron concerning tribal consultation.

27

28                   MR. ROCZICKA: I have one.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

31

32                   MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. The one that you  
33 mentioned for the Provider's Conference in early  
34 December, how extensive is that going to be? Is it  
35 just one of the half-hour panel, or, you know one-hour  
36 panels or something like that, or is it going to be  
37 something a little more extensive?

38

39                   MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. My understanding  
40 is that Crystal Leonetti from our office, the tribal  
41 liaison from our office, is leading up a review process  
42 and attempt to draft a tribal protocol. My  
43 understanding is that she and the committee will have a  
44 draft for them to see at the Provider's Conference, at  
45 AFN, and to gather input. But, again, in terms of  
46 length and when, I don't know the details there. But  
47 my understanding is that both of those functions, the  
48 intent is to try to get additional input.

49

50                   And Pat Petrivelli is here and I'm sure

1 she knows a lot more than I do.

2

3 MS. PETRIVELLI: Both sessions -- well,  
4 for sure December 1st is a four-hour session. One  
5 through five.

6

7 And I'll make another plug for the very  
8 same morning from nine to noon, or 8:30 to noon,  
9 there's also a subsistence listening session that BIA  
10 subsistence branch is hosting and so whatever tribes  
11 want to come and talk about subsistence issues. We'll  
12 be recording that session also. But that's just on any  
13 subsistence issue.

14

15 But the one to five is about the  
16 protocol specifically. And it will be in the same room  
17 at the Dena'ina Convention Center.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
22 questions of Mr. Kron.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, next item,  
27 status report on Secretarial review, recommendations.  
28 Mr. Kron.

29

30 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. This item is on  
31 Page 274 of your Council books. And I'll quickly go  
32 through.

33

34 As you know, the Secretary of Interior  
35 asked the Board to take a number of actions to bolster  
36 the subsistence program, the requirements of ANILCA.  
37 And I'm going to quickly go through some of the things  
38 that have been done thus far.

39

40 The first item, develop proposed  
41 regulations to increase the membership of the Federal  
42 Board to include two additional public members  
43 representing subsistence users. This now is complete.  
44 When this was drafted we hadn't gotten final word on  
45 the Secretarial review approval process, but it has not  
46 been complete, and I have the documents along if Board  
47 members want to see them.

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are Council  
50 members and not Board members.

1 MR. KRON: These are Board members.  
2 Council members are welcome to apply. I've got the  
3 information if anybody is interested in applying. And  
4 again these would be two additional Board members. And  
5 again I have the information if anyone here wants to  
6 apply for that process.

7  
8 The second item, on Page 275, and I'll  
9 just read it real quickly. As a matter of policy,  
10 expand deference to appropriate Regional Council  
11 recommendations in addition to the takings decisions of  
12 the Board provided for under Section .805(c) of  
13 ANILCA, subject to the three exemptions found in the  
14 section. And again there's some status information  
15 included there in your book.

16  
17 Number 3, review with RAC input the  
18 December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the  
19 State to determine either the need for the MOU or the  
20 need for potential changes to clarify Federal  
21 authorities in regard to the subsistence program. The  
22 Board has directed that the changes recommended by the  
23 Councils be examined by the work group and that both  
24 the State and Federal members report back to the Board  
25 with final action proposed for December 2011. Again,  
26 all the Councils have had an opportunity to weigh in  
27 with recommendations on that.

28  
29 Number 4, review with RAC input the  
30 customary and traditional use determination process and  
31 present recommendations for regulations change. And  
32 again the status is included in your book there.

33  
34 Number 5, review with RAC input  
35 rural/non-rural determinations process and present  
36 recommendations for regulatory change. Again, more  
37 status information included in your book.

38  
39 Number 6, review the Board's written  
40 policy on executive sessions and minimize the use of  
41 executive sessions to those cases specifically  
42 described. Again a status report in your book.

43  
44 Number 7, there are a list of things, a  
45 through f. The bulk of these are affected by funding.  
46 And again I'm sure everyone here has been watching the  
47 news, but I'll just very quickly look at this issue on the  
48 Page 277. In light of the Secretary's emphasis on the  
49 Federal Subsistence Management Program and the  
50 resultant heightened expectation of rural Alaskans,

1 additional funding is needed for the Federal  
2 Subsistence Management Program to implement many of the  
3 Secretary's recommendations. Unfortunately, funding in  
4 2012 and beyond is likely to be flat or reduced. This  
5 will affect the ability of the Board and the program to  
6 deliver on certain recommendations. And many of those  
7 are listed there under seven. But again they're there  
8 for you to look at.

9

10 There are also a number of things which  
11 the Board has not yet dealt with. Those are listed  
12 there, 8, 9 and 10.

13

14 But again the Board and Staff at OSM  
15 are working very hard through the list of directions we  
16 received from the Secretaries.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions to  
21 Mr. Rivard concerning status report on Secretarial  
22 review.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You must be better,  
27 too, Mr. Kron.

28

29 The update on Bering sea/Aleutian  
30 Islands chum salmon bycatch. Mr. Rivard.

31

32 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 I haven't been at these meetings for a while, so I  
34 forget to turn the microphone on. Your update on that  
35 is on Page 278.

36

37 And in May of 2011, the Federal  
38 Subsistence Board sent a letter to the North Pacific  
39 Fisheries Management Council recommending that a hard  
40 cap of 50,000, the lowest hard cap amount among the  
41 range of alternatives under consideration, with a  
42 trigger cap of 25,000 be adopted for chum salmon  
43 bycatch in the Bering Sea/ Aleutian Islands pollack  
44 commercial fishery. That letter is in your book on the  
45 next two pages.

46

47 The North Pacific Fisheries Management  
48 Council, the latest action they took -- well, what they  
49 did on chum salmon bycatch, they held -- their last  
50 meeting was in June in Nome. The Office of Subsistence

1 Management sponsored the attendance at that meeting of  
2 Ray Oney of your Council, Don Woodruff of the Eastern  
3 Interior Regional Council, and Tim Gervais of the  
4 Western Interior Regional Council, and they were there  
5 to provide input and testimony.

6  
7                   The North Pacific Fisheries Management  
8 Council decided at that meeting to direct their Staff  
9 to do some more analysis. And because of the timing of  
10 other things, they are likely to not take up the  
11 decision to make a preliminary preferred alternative  
12 until about a year from now, because of all the other  
13 things that are going on. So basically it's on hold  
14 while they're looking at other -- gathering other  
15 information and then providing that into a Staff report  
16 that their Council will look at.

17  
18                   As I stated in here, that the Council  
19 further requested that the analysis be revised per  
20 requests from the information that they gathered at  
21 their last meeting, and be brought back to the Council  
22 for review in early 2012.

23  
24                   The decision to schedule review for  
25 2012 was made at least in part since the October 2011  
26 meeting is going to be held in Dutch Harbor, which is a  
27 difficult place for rural western Alaska residents to  
28 get to. And their December 2011, it says 2012, but  
29 it's really the December 2011 meeting, is focused on  
30 their ground fish stock assessments. So their Staff  
31 are focused on preparing these assessments for several  
32 months prior to the meeting.

33  
34                   So once the Council reviews the chum  
35 salmon bycatch analysis in early 2012, it will need to  
36 provide time for the public to comment on this analysis  
37 and proposed alternatives, so it's unlikely the Council  
38 will make a final decision until its April 2012  
39 meeting. It's probably going to be later than that.  
40 Right now it looks like it could be about a year from  
41 now before they make a final decision on the amount of  
42 chum salmon bycatch.

43  
44                   And that's my report, Mr. Chair.

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

48  
49                   MS. GREGORY: Mr. Rivard. On the first  
50 bullet, what's the cap.

1 MR. RIVARD: Well, they're looking at a  
2 number of alternatives. They've got a range, and I  
3 don't have the range in front of me, but it goes -- the  
4 lowest cap is 50,000, and it goes to about 150,000 I  
5 think. But they didn't -- they haven't addressed that.  
6 What they're -- at some point the North Pacific  
7 Fisheries Management Council will come out with a  
8 preferred, preliminary preferred alternative, and  
9 that's where they'll name the cap that they think may  
10 be the most appropriate. And once they do, they will  
11 give the public a chance to comment on that preferred  
12 alternative. And then they'll make a -- once they get  
13 all that information gathered, at their next meeting  
14 they usually then make the actual final action they'll  
15 take, and name a hard cap.

16  
17 Chum salmon's a little bit different  
18 than Chinook salmon, and so that's why it's taking a  
19 little bit more time.

20  
21 MS. GREGORY: How big is that fleet,  
22 the pollack fishing?

23  
24 MR. RIVARD: I don't know as far as the  
25 number of boats and sizes of the boats and all that,  
26 but I believe it's a billion dollar plus a year  
27 industry. So when you look at it that way, I think  
28 it's the largest if not -- it's one of the largest, if  
29 not the largest commercial fishery in the world.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any more questions  
32 for Mr. Rivard.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You must be getting  
37 good also. Thank you.

38  
39 And now we're down to U.S. Fish and  
40 Wildlife update.

41  
42 MR. RIVARD: It's very rare that  
43 somebody tells me that in my life.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
48 Rivard. Mr. Gene Peltola.

49  
50 MR. DOOLITTLE: (Indiscernible, away

1 from microphone) give their agency reports jointly. It  
2 may save a little time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: My name is Tom  
7 Doolittle.

8

9 MS. DOWNING: The microphone.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oops. Excuse me. My  
12 name is Tom Doolittle. I'm the deputy wildlife --  
13 deputy refuge manager for Yukon Delta.

14

15 MR. PERRY: And I'm Phillip Perry, the  
16 area wildlife biologist for Fish and Game here in  
17 Bethel.

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll keep the Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service briefing quite short, because you  
21 heard from a number of our Staff in the last few days,  
22 and you got to meet some of the younger Staff relative  
23 to moose issues and caribou issues. Everything from  
24 ptarmigan to lynx to a number of things that our office  
25 has worked jointed with the State of Alaska on. And  
26 Phillip and I have been, you know, working to assure  
27 that we try to align our regulations as much as  
28 possible with the best biological data, sometimes to  
29 increase harvest in certain areas, like on the Lower  
30 Yukon, and sometimes it's looking at some of the  
31 challenges with a caribou herd that's having some  
32 difficulties here locally around Bethel.

33

34 And also I'd like you to know that we  
35 have fully staffed our refuge information technician  
36 program under the direction of Louie Andrew. And so  
37 we'll be able to get out and really conduct more  
38 widespread and comprehensive harvest surveys in the  
39 next -- in this coming year. And we also will be able  
40 to provide more information out to the communities on  
41 new regulations and on the resources and some of the  
42 wildlife surveys that we do.

43

44 We also have maintained our commitment  
45 to our ANCEP program. We have three active ANCEP  
46 students: Derrick Yvonne, Dara Friday, and Aaron  
47 Moses. And all three of those individuals are working  
48 with the Refuge and have been now with us for more than  
49 a year and are moving into professional positions and  
50 finishing their degrees. So we're quite pleased with

1 that.

2

3 And I'll end that part of my report and  
4 say Phillip's turn.

5

6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
7 the gentleman here.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Mr.  
12 Perry.

13

14 MR. PERRY: Yeah. As Tom said, we've  
15 probably discussed all the issues we would normally  
16 bring up between all the different proposals that have  
17 been looked at. Most of those proposals also have  
18 sister proposals to the State Board of Game. So what  
19 you heard is both probably for the analysis, you know,  
20 and what we're trying to do in both systems will be  
21 very, very similar. We're trying to get the seasons  
22 that will be passed by the Board of Game in November to  
23 match as closely as possible with the ones with the  
24 Federal Subsistence Board, just to eliminate or at  
25 least minimize confusion. I think everybody's better  
26 off when we have regulations that are as close as  
27 possible.

28

29 The only additional thing I was going  
30 to talk about a little bit was the local moose hunt in  
31 the former moratorium area. It's the third-year of the  
32 hunt. We ended up this year issuing 1550 permits.  
33 It's a few -- it's about 50 more than last year, we  
34 were I think 1498 or something last year. We still  
35 have about 490 of those outstanding where we have not  
36 got reports back yet, which is about like it was last  
37 year at this time. You know, the requirement is that  
38 people are supposed to report in 15 days, so by  
39 September 25th. We then start after October 1st we  
40 start sending out a reminder letter. With the first  
41 reminder, it's kind of a stern letter to remind people  
42 to turn in their permit. They have a couple weeks  
43 after that before they -- there's any penalty.

44

45 So at this point with about 490  
46 outstanding, we have a little under 900 people that  
47 have reported so far that they have hunted, and a  
48 little under 190 that have -- or a little under 200  
49 that reported they did not hunt. And the overall  
50 harvest was 111 with a quota that was 100. So a little

1 over the quota. We thought we would be real close to  
2 it this year. We had just snuck over it the last few  
3 days after the season had closed. So I think that was  
4 a -- I think things went well. 111 moose that have  
5 been harvested in the local area, so it's a benefit for  
6 all hunters. Hopefully as this population increases we  
7 can bump that quote up and provide for what is  
8 obviously a pretty big demand.

9

10 That's all I had. I'm willing to  
11 entertain any questions or comments. Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
14 questions for the two gentlemen here. Mr. Charles.

15

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

17

18 I don't have question, but I want to  
19 make a comment to thank the guys for the moose hunt  
20 this year. And other things, too.

21

22 When we have different regulations like  
23 State and Federal, people confused because like I said  
24 yesterday, people still call you Fish and Game,  
25 anybody, even Fish and Wildlife Service. Yeah.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. CHARLES: Anyway even the  
30 protection officers. They all call them Fish and Game.

31

32

33 Anyway, people are more pleased when  
34 they had regulations or recommendations addressed to  
35 them more, like in the paper or radio station or like.  
36 So I want to thank these people for doing that this  
37 year for moose hunting. And other subsistence  
38 activities, too, should be that way. You guys are  
39 talking about game, but the fisheries, too, the same  
40 way.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you.

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

49

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

1  
2                   That did trigger a question, Phil, when  
3 you were talking about the number of permits and so  
4 forth that went out, and people not reporting and the  
5 possible con -- you didn't mention about the  
6 consequences, but, of course, one of them is that you  
7 don't get a permit next year. How do you actually deny  
8 somebody a permit if -- or have you had any denials,  
9 for one thing, or is that an internal secret that.....

10  
11                   (Laughter)

12  
13                   MR. PERRY: Through the Chair. No,  
14 it's not an internal secret. So we don't deny -- what  
15 it ends up is we don't deny a person a permit the next  
16 year. When someone from last year that did not report,  
17 it was put on what is called the failure to report  
18 list. Because so many of our permits are issued in  
19 villages, probably close to half, we don't publish a  
20 list of people that did not report so that each one has  
21 to check or anything like that. It has to be after the  
22 fact. We try to make it known if you're on that  
23 failure to report list, that you can't get a permit.  
24 If they do, then we'd get a visitation by the troopers.  
25 There's a lot of leeway in how we -- how that's  
26 enforced, both in the initial citations and subsequent  
27 ones.

28  
29                   I'm not aware of any this year that we  
30 -- when we went through and anybody that got permits  
31 that was on the failure to report list from last year.

32  
33  
34                   So that's how we've handled it. We  
35 haven't had to handle it yet. As we work through some  
36 of this, we may find a few cases, and it will be case-  
37 by-case basis. It's not supposed to be handled, you  
38 know, in the dark, but, you know,  
39 we try to be as lenient as we can. Because really what  
40 we're interested in with this registration permit is  
41 the information. I'm not interested in making -- giving  
42 people citations; I'm really interested in getting  
43 their harvest data and their hunt data.

44  
45                   MR. ROCZICKA: But nothing in there  
46 even close to the realm of like the Tier II permits  
47 that are out where people are actually denied because  
48 they didn't report last year, that's triggered as I  
49 understand it.

50

1 Of if somehow somebody's report was  
2 lost, and I think you might know of an individual here  
3 that said he did report, and it didn't get recorded or  
4 something, and the next year he said he was denied a  
5 permit, because he didn't report last year under Tier  
6 II, the 19A Tier II.

7  
8 MR. PERRY: Yeah. And we haven't had a  
9 case like that yet in this registration permit.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
12 questions of the two gentlemen here.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you  
17 very much.

18  
19 Togiak Refuge. No one here from  
20 Togiak.

21  
22 BLM. I'm trying to move us along.

23  
24 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I was thinking  
25 under Fish and Game they had subsistence division.

26  
27 MR. SHARP: Yeah. Good afternoon, Mr.  
28 Chairman. My name is Dan Sharp. I'm the subsistence  
29 coordinator with BLM. I serve on the InterAgency Staff  
30 Committee.

31  
32 I don't have a formal BLM report. And  
33 in the interest of time and folks reporting after me,  
34 which I'm interested in their reports also, I'd like to  
35 hear from them. So if any of you have questions about  
36 activities on BLM-managed lands, please feel free to  
37 see me at the break, unless there's questions I could  
38 answer right now.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Catherine, could  
47 you do -- what time did you have to leave?

48  
49 MS. MONCRIEFF: 5:15.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 5:15. At this time  
2 I think we'll go ahead and sip our department until  
3 after. Go ahead.

4  
5 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
6 Council members. My name is Catherine Moncrieff and  
7 I'm with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
8 Association.

9  
10 And the number 1 thing I'd like to  
11 report to you today is about our unified Yukon River  
12 Chinook Conservation Plan, and I have a handout I'd  
13 like to pass out about it. And I'd like to just read  
14 over it to you.

15  
16 Initiated by a resolution from the  
17 river-wide YRDFA board of directors, YRDFA is launching  
18 a two-year project to develop a unified conservation  
19 plan to address the low Chinook salmon runs to the  
20 Yukon River. At the core of this process will be a  
21 working group of stakeholders, agencies, and other  
22 experts. With the group's blessing, a proposal could be  
23 submitted this April 2012 and then this plan will be  
24 presented to the Alaska Board of Fisheries at its next  
25 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim meeting which most likely is in  
26 January 2013.

27  
28 While YRDFA will be coordinating the  
29 meetings and providing staff support, we recognize that  
30 there are numerous organizations that must be involved  
31 in this process, not just as participants, but as full  
32 partners. And we are inviting these groups to partner  
33 with us: The Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC, the Western Interior  
34 RAC, the Eastern Interior RAC, the Yukon River Panel,  
35 the Alaska portion, the Yukon Delta Fisheries  
36 Development Association, the Association of Village  
37 Council Presidents, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the  
38 Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, the Alaska  
39 Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
40 Service, and YRDFA.

41  
42 Also as part of this process, YRDFA is  
43 forming an elders group to serve as an advisory role  
44 throughout the process. Further, at key stages in the  
45 development of the plan, it will be made available to  
46 tribes, fishers, and the general public for comment.  
47 Our hope is to keep the core planning groups small  
48 enough to be manageable, but to give all stakeholders  
49 multiple opportunities to provide input.

50

1                   The first step will be for the group to  
2 establish broad goals and agree upon a direction for  
3 the process. YRDFA will convene an initial stakeholder  
4 meeting to begin this work. Updates will be  
5 forthcoming throughout this project and will be posted  
6 on our website and in newsletter articles to the  
7 public.

8

9                   And we would like to ask your Regional  
10 Advisory Council to elect a representative for this  
11 group.

12

13                   And I'd be happy to answer any  
14 questions about it.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
17 Catherine.

18

19                   (No comments)

20

21                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And do you need a  
22 selected representative from this group now or can we  
23 get it to you later?

24

25                   MS. MONCRIEFF: That would be fine.  
26 Later would be fine.

27

28                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We know you're in a  
29 rush. Is there any questions for Catherine.

30

31                   MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I want to  
32 thank her for sitting long time and waiting for her  
33 turn. Like I said, perseverance pays off. So we need  
34 to wait on each other. And if we want to be heard and  
35 recognized, but we need to give other people a chance  
36 to speak and to express themselves.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you,  
39 Catherine.

40

41                   MS. MONCRIEFF: If you would like, I  
42 also have a report from YRDFA on the in-season salmon  
43 management teleconferences and the subsistence  
44 monitoring program. Would you like that report?

45

46                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you like that  
47 report.

48

49                   MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could that be  
2 mailed to us.  
3  
4 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Then do so. I  
7 think for the time and for your time to get down to the  
8 plane. I'm sorry I didn't get to you sooner.  
9  
10 MS. MONCRIEFF: Oh, that's okay.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know there's  
13 others that need to get that plane also. Thank you  
14 very much, Catherine.  
15  
16 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.  
19  
20 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Alex  
21 Nick for the record.  
22  
23 I want to go back to Togiak Refuge.  
24 They did provide a bulletin, and I thought I sent it to  
25 the tech staff to be included in the book, but I can  
26 provide a copy to the RAC members by mail.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you do that  
29 by mail.  
30  
31 MR. NICK: And also to those who are  
32 interested.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Would you do that  
35 by mail then?  
36  
37 MR. NICK: Yeah, I can do that.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Alaska  
40 Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Subsistence  
41 Division. I'm sorry, but we're trying to move along  
42 and trying to you a plane at the same time.  
43  
44 MS. IKUTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
45 We are also trying to catch airplane at 5:30, so we try  
46 to be brief and try to take questions as much as we  
47 could.  
48  
49 The purpose of our presentation here to  
50 introduce ourselves to you, because we are newly hired

1 this year, four of us, in order to serve people in Y-K  
2 Delta for the issue of subsistence. And also we are a  
3 team of social scientists from different background.

4  
5 So my name is Hiroko Ikuta. Some  
6 people think I'm Yup'ik, but I'm Japanese. I'm trained  
7 to be anthropologist. And on my right side, David  
8 Runfola, and he has a degree of fishery and he has  
9 experience working as a teacher in Y-K Delta. And on  
10 my left side, sorry, Andrew Brenner, he has a  
11 background of biology as well as anthropology in 40  
12 (ph) languages. And this is Ben Balivet, he's based in  
13 Bethel office. And I think he would be the one who you  
14 will meet in Bethel. And he has a background of  
15 anthropology.

16  
17 So in this presentation, I will provide  
18 a brief overview of our current research projects that  
19 are taking place in the regions represented by this  
20 Regional Advisory Council. We are personally involved  
21 in some of this research, but not all of it. So if you  
22 have any questions that I cannot answer here, I will  
23 take it and give it back to you later.

24  
25 First I'd like to talk about index  
26 community baseline project. This project is funded  
27 through legislative increment to meet the mission of  
28 the Division of Subsistence and to fill gaps in  
29 available data about subsistence harvests in various  
30 areas of the state, beginning in the Lower Yukon River.

31  
32 And next project is Donlin Creek mine  
33 subsistence baseline research. So this is a multi-year  
34 project to document subsistence harvests of all wild  
35 food resources and will create a snapshot of  
36 subsistence patterns and harvests in the middle, lower,  
37 and upper regions of the Kuskokwim River. The research  
38 is funded by Donlin Creek LLC and may be used as part  
39 of a National Environmental Protection Act review of  
40 the Donlin Creek Mine project, should one be  
41 initiated. The findings will also be available to  
42 local tribal councils and other government agencies for  
43 their planning purposes. We are excited about the  
44 project, because it will fill a 20-year data gap on the  
45 subsistence use in the Kuskokwim River area.

46  
47 In each community we try to survey  
48 every household. This is commonly known as a census  
49 survey. We generally achieve a survey rate of  
50 approximately 80 percent of households, which

1 represents an accurate sample. The larger our sample  
2 is, the better our harvest estimates. The questions  
3 about amounts harvested and amounts locations are  
4 confined to the previous calendar year. Our study year  
5 for phase 1 was 2009. The study year for phase 2 was  
6 2010. However, if wildlife harvests for this year were  
7 depressed, do we inadvertently set a low bar for future  
8 monitoring? No. One way we put our study year for  
9 context for other years is by conducting longer  
10 ethnographic interviews with a handful of active users  
11 and knowledgeable elders. Finally, we completed  
12 harvest and use maps with each household we survey in  
13 order to document harvest areas that are used by the  
14 community.

15  
16           So we have conducted Central Kuskokwim baseline  
17 subsistence surveys, Donlin Creek Mine research, phase  
18 1. Phase 1 of the project focused on the eight  
19 communities of the central Kuskokwim: Aniak,  
20 Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Sleetmute, Stony River, Red  
21 Devil, and Kalskag. Research was conducted with  
22 participation and consent of the local tribal councils  
23 and local research assistants. We achieved a high  
24 participation rate, with an average of approximately 81  
25 percent across the region. although surveys are  
26 conducted with individual households, our research is  
27 presented at the community level. Participation in the  
28 surveys is voluntary, and individual household  
29 information is confidential.

30  
31           In our analysis we are careful to  
32 present harvest data within the context of this time  
33 period of resource scarcity, especially with regard to  
34 moose and caribou, and also considering the concerns  
35 about salmon stocks in the Kuskokwim.

36  
37           The report is in draft final form and  
38 is now being reviewed by Donlin LLC.

39  
40           And phase 2 is Lower Kuskokwim baseline  
41 subsistence surveys, Donlin Creek Mine research. This  
42 slide shows participating communities for phase 2.  
43 Georgetown and Napaimute are not lower fiver  
44 communities; however, we included them in order to work  
45 their tribal councils to figure out the best way to  
46 document the harvest of those tribal members who  
47 traditionally use the area. This is despite the fact  
48 that there is not a significant year-round population  
49 living at either of these sites. This was requested by  
50 Donlin LLC.

1                   The third phase, Lower-Middle Yukon  
2 River, Upper and Lower Kuskokwim River subsistence  
3 survey, Donlin Creek Mine research. Phase 3 includes  
4 communities from the Yukon River and the Lower and  
5 Upper Kuskokwim River. We hoped to have more  
6 participation from Lower Kuskokwim villages in phase 2  
7 than we got, so we are including Kwig in phase 3. If  
8 Kwig does not want to participate, we will approach  
9 another lower river village.

10  
11                   Because Donlin LLC is interested in  
12 establishing baseline for the entire Kuskokwim, we are  
13 including Nicolai and McGrath in the upper river.  
14 Yukon River communities are included in phase 3 because  
15 the areas around Holy Cross and the surrounding  
16 villages listed here are used by many Kuskokwim  
17 residents for fishing and hunting. Additionally, there  
18 is a proposal to explore the feasibility of building a  
19 road between the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers at Russian  
20 Mission because the Yukon River has approximately four  
21 to five times the barge capacity of the Kuskokwim.

22  
23                   And next project is about Yukon salmon  
24 disaster project. Fishermen and communities along the  
25 Yukon are really struggling with declines in salmon  
26 runs and other issues, as we saw in last year's Federal  
27 regulatory proposals. Because of the salmon disaster  
28 declaration in 2009, the legislature asked for research  
29 on Yukon salmon issues. In response, we are working  
30 with fishermen to explore the socio-economic impacts of  
31 declining salmon runs on fishing communities along the  
32 Yukon River and how these have influenced fishing  
33 patterns and priorities.

34  
35                   And we have a brief summary of this  
36 project, which is this one. So for more information,  
37 please take a look at this summary.

38  
39                   Next project is Kuskokwim salmon  
40 ethnography. In this project, we aim to collect data  
41 about community patterns of subsistence use. The  
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has collected  
43 sufficient data on subsistence salmon harvest, run  
44 data, and biological data on the salmon in the  
45 Kuskokwim River. However, very little has been done in  
46 the past 20 years to talk to the fishermen about why  
47 they fish the way they do. We are trying to understand  
48 how local fishers change their fishing strategies in  
49 response to a changing culture, economy, and natural  
50 environment.

1                   And next project is Strategic planning  
2 for whitefish, Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages. This is  
3 an OSM-funded project to develop a strategic plan for  
4 research on whitefish species in Yukon and Kuskokwim  
5 drainages. The plan covers six species that are fund  
6 in these two drainages: sheefish, broad whitefish,  
7 humpback, whitefish, least cisco, Bering cisco, and  
8 round whitefish.

9  
10                   And next project is about Bering Sea  
11 integrated economical research project. It's called  
12 BSIERP. Funded by National Science Foundation and  
13 North Pacific Research Board t look at Bering Sea  
14 ecosystems and the communities that use it Emmonak is  
15 one of five participating communities. The others are  
16 Akutan, Savoonga, St. Paul, Togiak and Nelson Island.

17  
18                   And finally, Lower Kuskokwim big game  
19 project. Due to concerns associated with managing the  
20 Mulchatna Caribou Herd in the Y-K Delta, the  
21 legislature provided one year of funding to initiate a  
22 big game survey. The survey will document harvests of  
23 caribou, moose, black and brown bear, and wolves over a  
24 12-month period. And proposal communities are  
25 Napaskiak, Kwethluk, and Eek.

26  
27                   And if you have any question or  
28 comments for the seven projects that I believe we  
29 discussed, I'm happy to answer.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Ms. Gregory.

32  
33                   MS. GREGORY: I didn't understand half  
34 of what you were saying. I'm sorry.

35  
36                   MS. IKUTA: I apologize.

37  
38                   MS. GREGORY: Maybe your friends can  
39 explain some of it.

40  
41                   MS. IKUTA: Okay.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You could get the  
44 information out of this, from this right here. She was  
45 reading right off.....

46  
47                   MS. IKUTA: Yeah, I apologize. Yeah.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
50 the young lady there. Any questions. No questions.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: I do have one, Mr.  
2 Chairman.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.  
5  
6 MR. ROCZICKA: I'm just curious, I  
7 noticed in that last big game project, you mentioned  
8 that the legislature provided the funding, but earlier  
9 on the Yukon Salmon disaster project, it says the  
10 legislature asked for the research. Did they provide  
11 the funding for it there as well, or is that one of  
12 those unfunded mandates that they just told the  
13 department, to get it for us.  
14  
15 MS. IKUTA: Okay. Sorry. We will take  
16 the question and then we get it back to you.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other  
19 questions.  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If not, thank you  
24 for your report.  
25  
26 MS. IKUTA: Thank you very much for  
27 your time.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to  
30 update from the AVCP. Is Mr. Tim Andrew here. I guess  
31 not.  
32  
33 We are down to Yukon River -- Oh, there  
34 you are.  
35  
36 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.  
37 Chairman. I'm going to be real brief, because we're  
38 getting down to the wire.  
39  
40 Just a couple of announcements that  
41 Myron wanted me to relay to the Regional Advisory  
42 Council. One is the current status -- or because of  
43 the current status of the Kuskokwim River Chinook  
44 salmon, Myron wanted to try to encourage the Federal  
45 Subsistence Management System, OSM by name, to try and  
46 monitor the export of subsistence Kuskokwim River  
47 salmon out of the Bethel airport, and possibly out of  
48 the Aniak airport as well. Since it has been a  
49 conservation concern for the last three years and  
50 various streams not being able to reach their

1 escapement goals, and in light of the subsistence  
2 restrictions that had occurred this past summer, he  
3 feels that there should be an active monitoring or how  
4 much salmon is actually leaving the region by non-  
5 customary and traditional users.

6  
7                   And the next area that -- well, he's  
8 got a number of areas, but we've already talked about  
9 them throughout the deliberation of the various  
10 proposals that we'd talked about for the last couple  
11 days. But one of the things that he wanted me to relay  
12 to you, I know this not within your authority, but lot  
13 of you have interest in it, is the requirement for duck  
14 stamps and state hunting licenses while we're hunting  
15 migratory birds. AVCP is currently working with our  
16 Congressional delegation, with the Department of the  
17 Interior in trying to address this issue, to try and  
18 get an exemption for Alaska Natives participating in  
19 the hunt of migratory birds.

20  
21                   And also to notify you that there has  
22 been some recent citations by both Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service and the State Department of Public Safety  
24 wildlife enforcement for the requirement that people  
25 have a State hunting license, a State duck stamp, a  
26 Federal duck stamp, and also the three-shot limit  
27 during the fall season. And we're trying to alleviate  
28 that by working with various people, including our  
29 Congressional delegation,

30  
31                   And I had mentioned earlier that we are  
32 going to have an AVCP convention is going to be held  
33 October 11th through the 13th. It's going to be held  
34 here in Bethel.

35  
36                   Some of the issues that are likely to  
37 come up are muskox, and I know it's not within --  
38 there's no Federal subsistence priority for it, but  
39 just as moose came down the river, and it became a  
40 subsistence priority, and I know there's a lot of  
41 resistance by the Federal management system to try and  
42 make muskox a subsistence resource, but there are more  
43 and more sightings up around Kalskag, Holy Cross, any  
44 you heard about the muskox situation up there in  
45 Russian Mission. There was a herd down south of the  
46 Kuskokwim River, and in between the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
47 Rivers as well. They're expanding rapidly, and we feel  
48 with the number of encounters and number of citations  
49 people that were issued for harvesting muskox, that we  
50 must develop a muskox management plan, and for the

1 State and Federal government to actually increase their  
2 monitoring of the muskox populations and try to  
3 determine at what point can people in the villages  
4 actually ask to be able to hunt the resource.

5  
6 And this past April we hired a  
7 fisheries biologist. I was trying to get her to come,  
8 but she's putting on a training program for one of the  
9 two projects that we received a grant for. And this is  
10 for the North Kuskokwim Bay post season subsistence  
11 salmon harvest survey program that we are doing. We  
12 proposed this to eight communities from -- that  
13 includes Newtok, Nightmute, Tununak, Toksook, Mekoryuk,  
14 Kwigillingok, Kipnuk and Chefornak. But currently  
15 we've only got -- we only have seven out of eight.  
16 Kwigillingok opted out of it. And she's going to be  
17 putting on a training program on Tuesday and Wednesday,  
18 so she's been pretty busy. Otherwise she would have  
19 stopped by and get you familiar with what she's doing.

20  
21 This past summer we also operated the  
22 Yukon River in-season subsistence monitoring and  
23 genetics sampling in the communities of Alakanuk,  
24 Emmonak, and St. Mary's. Both of these projects were  
25 only funded for one year, and we hope to find other  
26 funding, because these are -- I mean, the North  
27 Kuskokwim Bay is something that -- or an area that we  
28 hardly know anything about and would like to increase  
29 our knowledge about. And also for the Yukon River in-  
30 season subsistence salmon sampling and genetics. If we  
31 can find funding, we will be able -- we would like to  
32 continue that.

33  
34 Like I mentioned earlier, we are going  
35 to have a status of the salmon -- or a state of the  
36 salmon luncheon during our convention. It's going to  
37 be held here on the 11th during the lunch hour. And  
38 for those of you attending, I hope you'll be able to  
39 participate and come and listen to what we have to say,  
40 and also what the managers have to say. Tentatively we  
41 plan to serve crab for lunch, if that's a good nukchuk  
42 (ph), please come and join us.

43  
44 And this is really nothing to do with  
45 subsistence, but for the areas that are looking for  
46 alternative energy, in light of the high energy cost of  
47 heating fuel out in our villages, we are doing a wood  
48 demonstration project, and we're also going to be  
49 advertising that and talking about that over lunch,  
50 too. And that lunchtime we are tentatively scheduled

1 to serve halibut. So two luncheons within our  
2 convention.

3

4                   Sometime in March of 20012, we would  
5 like to hold a special convention on our salmon  
6 resources, because what's happening on the Yukon River  
7 with our Chinook salmon and what's the directions or  
8 the trends that is happening on the Kuskokwim River  
9 and, you know, some the coastal areas that we know very  
10 little about. We hope to have both the Federal and  
11 State managers. We hope to have RAC members and Fish  
12 and Game Advisory Committees come join us at the  
13 convention as we try and determine how we're going to  
14 deal with these low salmon populations; how we can  
15 possibly rebuild some of our salmon runs to their  
16 historic levels.

17

18                   And basically that's it, Mr. Chairman.  
19 Thank you.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
22 Mr. Andrew. Mr. Charles.

23

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

25

26

27                   Not a question, but a comment relying  
28 to your first item to watch out for salmon being  
29 shipped out. You folks are closer to the airport over  
30 here than us. We are way at the mouth, Charlie and I,  
31 and there are a few people closer to this airport. So  
32 we have Fish and Wildlife Service wearing uniform here,  
33 too. They're closer, and they can tell you more than  
34 us who is shipping salmon out, because we are busy with  
35 our salmon, putting away salmon, too, at our villages  
36 and it takes too long to come up here and watch out for  
37 that kind of stuff. It costs over \$200 dollars for air  
38 fare, and motor gas is too much. And it's not the  
39 worst for us to come all the way from Tuntutuliak to  
40 see what's going on over here.

41

42                   Thank you.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I have -- just a  
45 minute. Mr. Rivard, is there any funding that OSM that  
46 might have, and that goes for you, Mr. Kron, if you're  
47 listening, is there any funding that we might dip into  
48 to monitor a program to see what salmon are leaving  
49 this area at the airport? Is there any funding that we  
50 might be able to dip into so that OSM could help us

1 monitor the fisheries and the salmon that are leaving  
2 the area at the airports.

3

4 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tom Kron here.

5

6 I'm not aware of any funding that would  
7 be available. Let me ask and I will personally get  
8 back to you and let you know. But again I'm not aware.  
9 I can't answer that question.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

14

15 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. If we  
16 could ask Mr. Gillikin to come up and reiterate the  
17 efforts that were done through the working group where  
18 we actually requested that the Refuge put forward a  
19 strong effort to get regulatory or a mandatory  
20 reporting from the airlines and so forth. So if you  
21 would -- I'm sure you'd do a better job than me, so go  
22 ahead.

23

24 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair. This  
25 is Dan Gillikin, Fish and Wildlife Service.

26

27 Yeah, this was an issue that came up  
28 with the working group this summer and we tried. The  
29 refuge manager, Gene Peltola, he tried and tried to get  
30 some kind of a harvest export report in place so that  
31 we could monitor how many fish were actually leaving  
32 the area. It kind of starts -- you start running into  
33 some jurisdictional and legal roadblocks when you do  
34 that. But we haven't totally given up on it, but it's  
35 kind of iffy as to whether we would be able to do that  
36 without also requiring harvest reporting in general of  
37 all fish that are caught in here.

38

39 But it's certainly something we should  
40 keep on our radar and we should try to work through.  
41 It's a concern that everybody has. And, I mean, if we  
42 could get maybe another entity such as AVCP or ONC or  
43 somebody, it might actually be easier to get voluntary  
44 compliance that way.

45

46 Yes, Ms. Gregory.

47

48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know that -- go  
49 ahead, I'm sorry. Are you done.

50

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Yes, I'm done. Thank  
2 you.

3  
4 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Will  
5 there's a will, there's always a way. We always put  
6 ourselves down and we always make obstacles of our own  
7 making. We have this little RTAs or whatever that Fish  
8 and Wildlife have, those kids could be put into doing  
9 that. And by doing that, they're going to help us.  
10 There's ways to get to things. If you really want to  
11 help people out, you'll find ways to do it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead.

14  
15 MR. GILLIKIN: Through the Chair if I  
16 may.

17  
18 Ms. Gregory, you're correct. There are  
19 ways to do it, but we also have to do it in ways that  
20 are constitutionally correct. Okay. People have  
21 rights. We can't ask them to report without there  
22 being some kind of legal authority behind that. Just  
23 as subsistence users don't what to have to be filling  
24 out forms for every fish they catch, people who are  
25 exporting fish out of here may not want to be, you  
26 know, reporting every fish that they export as well.  
27 So there has to be -- we have to be respectful of  
28 people's rights as well when we go through this  
29 process.

30  
31 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: I apologize for putting  
34 you on the spot there. It was just in the context of  
35 that's something that AVCP is trying to pursue and all  
36 of us are very interested in fish leaving the region.  
37 So, thank you, Dan.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Go ahead, Anaan.

40  
41 MS. GREGORY: Yeah, if we put our heads  
42 together, we will come up with something that's  
43 concrete and legal.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

46  
47 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. If I may, Mr.  
48 Chair. One thing I forgot to mention was back in I  
49 think it was 2006 on the Yukon River, some of you that  
50 live near Mountain Village, Mr. Wilde or -- there was a

1 person that was exporting a large number of subsistence  
2 caught salmon. So it's not only something that's  
3 specific to the Kuskokwim River, but also apply to the  
4 Yukon River as well.

5  
6 And the other thing I forgot to mention  
7 was we've had some issues with the Pilot Station sonar.  
8 And early in the season the sonar was not counting  
9 properly because of high water conditions, and also the  
10 amount of silt and debris that was coming down the  
11 river. We are currently working or trying to work with  
12 the person that can take the historical counting  
13 numbers from that -- the counting numbers that Pilot  
14 Station sonar has produced and also with the escapement  
15 projects further upriver, the Eagle sonar, and trying  
16 to rebuild or reconstruct the runs based on that data.  
17 But we have yet to hear from the person. As soon as we  
18 hear from the person, we will try and find some funding  
19 to help the management agencies to try and make the  
20 Pilot Station sonar accurate.

21  
22 I know there's been a lot of push to  
23 move the sonar to a different location, but whenever  
24 you move a project to a different location, a whole  
25 bunch of things just go out of whack. Number 1, the  
26 long-term historical operational data does not  
27 automatically move to another location. You have to  
28 rebuild that continuously.

29  
30 So as soon as we get that finalized,  
31 hopefully we'll find the funding, we'll take a look at  
32 the data and come up with some mechanism to make that  
33 Pilot Station sonar more accurate, so we wouldn't have  
34 to go through unnecessary subsistence closures and  
35 restrictions for our people along the river.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any questions for  
40 Tim.

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you for the  
45 update. Mr. Pappas.

46  
47 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah. Real quickly.  
48 Through the Chair.

49  
50 Mr. Roczicka, a question regarding the

1 Yukon salmon disaster project. The legislature did  
2 approve funding for one year for that project. That  
3 funding expired June 30th. The second request for  
4 continued funding of that project was denied. So it is  
5 not as you -- funded at this time.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. We're  
10 down to Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: No one here. Tribal  
15 representatives.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Orutsaramiut Native  
20 Council Natural Resources. Do you have a report.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It would  
23 kind of be a reiteration at this point of other reports  
24 I've given in the past, I guess.

25

26 We do run five different cooperative  
27 research projects, and what's called traditional  
28 environmental knowledge with both Department of Fish  
29 and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service staff. And in  
30 cooperation and in addition that, we have an  
31 environmental program that is extremely active in  
32 pursuing water quality, air quality issues. I don't  
33 know how many of you may be familiar with Rose Calista,  
34 but she's also very effective in working on the  
35 national organizations and getting funding directed to  
36 this region, so it's a lot to her credit. We're very  
37 fortunate to have somebody of her insight and caliber.

38

39 And just recently we were awarded -- as  
40 a matter of fact just about three weeks ago we received  
41 notice that we were awarded funding for a full-time  
42 Brownsfield position within Bethel, and those of you  
43 who are not familiar with the Brownsfield Program, but  
44 it's to do a full cataloging of contaminated sites, you  
45 know, from prior activities, whatever kind of  
46 developmental or commercial activities that may have  
47 occurred in the past, get a full documentation of that,  
48 and then pursue funding through to pursue cleanup as  
49 well, not just to make another list, but to actively  
50 try to get some remediation down. So we're pretty

1 excited about that. That's coming up next year.

2

3 Our Partners biologist program that we  
4 have as well, just received word that that has been  
5 approved for another fur years, which incorporates  
6 expanding our internship program and that also is  
7 something that we're quite proud of. And one of the  
8 products which we received from that, of course, was  
9 that Alyssa Joseph, who as here yesterday, is going to  
10 move forward from that, and is the regional coordinator  
11 or western regional coordinator for their support and  
12 everything, so getting her on the job, or enhancing her  
13 on-the-job training abilities. And we've gotten two  
14 people waiting in the wings to fill the shoes, and  
15 which we -- so one thing about the Partners program and  
16 that internship, it will be contingent on congressional  
17 funding. But we do have the -- everything has been  
18 approved up to this point in time.

19

20 Other than that, we stay busy. We also  
21 help out the senior center quite a bit. It occupies us  
22 quite a bit with an agricultural program, putting in  
23 gardens and bringing them in, try to get them 3 to 500  
24 pounds of potatoes out of a garden every year along  
25 with several hundred pounds of cabbage and broccoli and  
26 cauliflowers. And we coordinate also with the  
27 Department and then other fishermen to make sure their  
28 freezers stay full of fish or get filled with fish.  
29 And for the past couple years as you've may have heard,  
30 we've partnered with Emmo Tribal Council for them to  
31 get a designated hunter to go out and catch a moose for  
32 us a couple times a year, and then Grant Aviation flies  
33 it back for free, which we really appreciate. And at  
34 least get one in the winter.

35

36 And actually given the state of that  
37 population, down below Mountain and the desire to get a  
38 much larger harvest, they're actually looking possibly  
39 this winter getting a full list of like single parent  
40 families, people that don't have someone to hunt for  
41 them or elders that are within their own homes, not  
42 just to rely on the senior center, but to basically put  
43 together a caravan of snowmachines to go across there  
44 for a proxy hunt down below Mountain somewhere and  
45 bring back, you know, 20 or 30 moose to pass out to the  
46 households in the community that don't have anybody or  
47 anyone able to hunt for them.

48

49 Actually that's one thing I'd like to  
50 maybe ask somebody from that section of the lower

1 river, I actually thought about going by Chakaktolik,  
2 because Willie Francis brought me there in 1973, he  
3 mentioned that, along with Pete Williams, Ray Lamont.  
4 I haven't been back there since. And maybe, Evan,  
5 you'd be the one to answer this for me, but how people  
6 might -- if there would be -- people might feel like  
7 we're imposing if we came over towards that, down the  
8 Kashunuk and in that area.

9  
10 And that's basically it in a nutshell.  
11 Maybe stop with that. But if you could offer me some  
12 insight there where would be a good place to go.

13  
14 MR. POLTY: I haven't been around that  
15 area, and Leslie's the one that you need to discuss  
16 with traveling to the mouth of Chevak all the way to  
17 that river to reach that area, up to -- out the -- the  
18 mouth of Chevak is right across driftwood, that ends,  
19 and from there you come right into Yukon. So if you  
20 want somebody to take you that area, around that area.

21  
22 MR. ROCZICKA: I was remembering, I  
23 thought that Chakaktolik was kind of where Pilot  
24 Station people would use it for.....

25  
26 MR. POLTY: Yeah, they might use it.

27  
28 MR. ROCZICKA: .....beaver trapping and  
29 winter trapping. And so I thought.....

30  
31 MR. POLTY: (Indiscernible, mic not on)

32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: But that's all I've got.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If I make a  
36 suggestion, prior to the time that you get your caravan  
37 together, it might be a good idea to maybe call the  
38 villages and ask permission from them, because it's  
39 their property, their area that you're going to  
40 becoming across anyway. I know you're going to be  
41 taking care of that.

42  
43 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I am.

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

47  
48 Kuskokwim Native Association.

49  
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.  
2  
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I was just going to say  
4 something about KNA.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.  
7 Do you have a question?  
8  
9 MR. CHARLES: No, it was something  
10 about ONC.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.  
13  
14 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
15 I want to thank Greg, too, about salmon monitoring,  
16 subsistence monitoring that they do every summer.  
17 They're very helpful and very -- I mean, they are  
18 helping the working group, because I like of their  
19 information, that subsistence salmon fishermen see run  
20 is good, run is bad, and something like that. So that  
21 the catches are high or normal, and stuff like that.  
22 They -- that helps the Department or working group get  
23 more information from how the subsistence people are  
24 doing.  
25  
26 Thank you.  
27  
28 MR. ROCZICKA: Actually I've got one  
29 more.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Quick.  
32  
33 MR. ROCZICKA: I guess I could, yeah.  
34 And it just triggered when you did mention KNA.  
35  
36 And we lost one of the greatest  
37 advisors and leaders in the field of resource  
38 management when Calvin Simeon passed away this summer.  
39 The advice and insight that that man had is  
40 unsurpassed, and that's a huge, huge, huge loss for the  
41 Kuskokwim region and just the whole State and Federal  
42 management structure is I think really going to suffer  
43 for it in the future. And I'll miss him.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Are you done?  
46  
47 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius, do  
50 you have something on KNA.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Personally I  
2 thank the western -- why did I say western? Because  
3 you guys are on the west. Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional  
4 Advisory Council for subsistence. I personally thank  
5 you for, you know, approving and, you know, the request  
6 for funding. Especially with KNA. You know, I've  
7 watched that over the years. It has really made a  
8 really positive impact on how people can work together,  
9 you know, the private organizations, the non-profit  
10 with the Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service, and OSM. And it has really made an impression  
12 on me on how we can work together, especially for the  
13 young people who are involved in the intern programs.  
14 It's really a blessing to go to a village and see a  
15 staff member from KNA teaching young people about fish  
16 and wildlife and their relationship to the water and  
17 the land and the relationship to the people. It  
18 really, really is great. And I really appreciate that  
19 fact that we as the Y-K Rack supported that endeavor.  
20 So my heart to yours, thank you very much. And to.....

21  
22 Yeah, Calvin was a very influential  
23 person for KNA, and he's the one who initiated the  
24 process of working together with the Fish and Game and  
25 the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies. And  
26 he's going to be missed. But his spirit will live on.  
27 I know that for sure.

28  
29 So thank you again.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Is  
32 there any municipal government representatives.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: ANCSA village  
37 corporation representatives.

38  
39 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Press the button.

42  
43 MR. OKSI: Okay. Yeah. My name is  
44 Nicolai Oksi. I'm with Kwethluk, Incorporated. We had  
45 a meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board on  
46 September 7 and on the 15th. And we have a  
47 teleconference with them. And they (In Yup'ik). They  
48 told us to report to you guys on the consultation  
49 process outlook. It was one of the first processes  
50 with statewide process (In Yup'ik), and we're just

1 learning that process. We didn't have those  
2 technological paper, we didn't have the papers or the  
3 proposals in hand, because being outside, we were not  
4 prepared those two times. Anyway we have these right  
5 now and we're going to look through them, and (In  
6 Yup'ik). And then we will learn the process.

7

8

Quyana.

9

10 MS. NICORI: Yeah, Sandra Nicori. The  
11 recommendation that I would have for that would be to  
12 have -- see, we went through two teleconferences, but  
13 we didn't have the material in front of us. We tried  
14 to get them on the internet, but we couldn't access  
15 them, so I would not a recommendation would be to have  
16 the materials shipped out earlier.

17

18 And then my other comment was when we  
19 were talking about Kuskokwim subsistence closures this  
20 summer, I kept raising my hand. The one comment that I  
21 wanted to say was, you know, if Fish and Game was  
22 serious about escapement goals, I think that they should  
23 also take a look at closing Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay  
24 commercial fishing for king salmon, for Chinook,  
25 because part of those fish migrating are going to the  
26 Kuskokwim. I know that they are also going to the  
27 Yukon and other tributaries up north.

28

29 That's my comment for now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you. Any  
32 questions, Council members.

33

34 MS. GREGORY: I have a comment. I am  
35 very happy to see young people. You are going to be  
36 the next RAC people, and I am glad you are better  
37 equipped than we are, because you can go to the  
38 internet and speak languages that they understand. I  
39 am so proud of you guys. Keep at it.

40

41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Second. Thank you.

42

43 MR. POLTY: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Just a minute.  
46 There's a question for either one of you.

47

48 MR. POLTY: No, it's for you, Mr.  
49 Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Oh, okay.  
2  
3 MR. POLTY: May I be excused to go to  
4 the hospital.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes, you may be  
7 excused. Go ahead.  
8  
9 MR. POLTY: Thank you very much.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: ANCSA village  
12 corporations. We got that. Other organizations.  
13  
14 MR. BROWN: I have a question.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown.  
17  
18 MR. BROWN: I have a concern about that  
19 interception and interception about Quinhagak. One  
20 time back in the Ray Baxter time, we study those  
21 Chinook. We tag them that time before -- prior to two  
22 weeks opener, and the commercial. e tag those kings.  
23 And then where they go from there. And we learned that  
24 time that kings were only going to that Kanektok River.  
25  
26 And then there was a question from  
27 upper villages. They thought were intercepted, those  
28 kings. What I told that time, the Kuskokwim channel is  
29 way out there, like 15, 20 miles out from Quinhagak.  
30 And there's Eek channel by 15 to 10 miles out. And  
31 there's Warehouse Canal about 5 to 10 miles out. And I  
32 think that we should recheck those results from Ray  
33 Baxter's time if they've still got them in the office.  
34  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other comments.  
37 Mr. Roczicka.  
38  
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 That came up at the working group as well, and there is  
41 a project in the works as I understand it by next  
42 summer that they're going to redo -- go back with  
43 modern day technology, equipment and understanding and  
44 with years of experience, to take another look at that,  
45 the Quinhagak fishery and see -- what I think Charlie  
46 was trying to get to is that the study that was done  
47 back in 1970-something, I think it was like 95 to 98  
48 percent of the fish that were in the Quinhagak fishery  
49 were determined to be Kanektok in origin. So it was  
50 just a real minuscule portion of it may have been

1 coming to the Kuskokwim. But they're going -- it's  
2 been an issue for long enough and it's been long enough  
3 ago that they're going to go back and take another look  
4 at it hopefully I believe by next year, or this coming  
5 summer. Anyway, that's.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

8  
9 MR. BROWN: And that time there was  
10 salmons, more species, we learned that they don't come  
11 up to Kuskokwim.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
16 Brown.

17  
18 Bering Sea Fisheries Association.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We are down to item  
23 14. Mr. Nick, 2011 annual report topics.

24  
25 MR. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 Members of the Council. Alex Nick, Counsel  
27 coordinator.

28  
29 Every year we ask you to provide if you  
30 want annual report topics for us to work on. This is  
31 the time that you should provide to me the topics that  
32 you want to be issues in your 2011 annual report.

33  
34 Some of the suggested topics are  
35 species of subsistence resources like fish species or  
36 animal species, and other things that you aren't able  
37 to take care of within the fishery or wildlife cycles.

38  
39 Mr. Chair.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: One of the things  
42 that we might put in the, let's see, annual report is  
43 the need to monitor the fisheries that are leaving this  
44 area. The salmon that are leaving this area and  
45 finding a ways and means to be able to report or to  
46 find out what exact poundage is leaving this area as  
47 far as the Chinook species is concerned.

48  
49 Another topic that we might take into  
50 consideration is the summaries -- I know there's -- we

1 don't have the same problem that we have with beavers.  
2 I noticed coming through Kashunuk that the beaver  
3 population in the Kashunuk River has dropped, which is,  
4 I believe, a good thing for our area, because they're  
5 not affecting the Kashunuk and the migration of fish  
6 that go up in that area as much as they used to prior  
7 to the 2000 -- after 1999. I noticed there's a drastic  
8 drop in the beaver population in that river. But they  
9 still remain to be a problem in some of the areas where  
10 the old dams are still in place, and even though there  
11 are no beavers in that area, we need to find some ways  
12 and means to see if we can get rid of some of those  
13 beaver dams. And I know that's been an on-going  
14 concern of ours for a long time.

15  
16 But those two are a couple of things  
17 that I had in mind.

18  
19 Is there anybody else with concerns or  
20 suggestions for annual report topics. Mr. Aloysius.

21  
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't know my light  
23 was still on.

24  
25 One thing, you now, after each of the  
26 meetings, you know, we get -- we're asked, you know, if  
27 we could think of something later that, you know, we  
28 could call Alex in town. And being who I am, and I  
29 forget, and we're supposed to get a reminder from Alex,  
30 hey, do you remember anything else you want to put in  
31 our annual report. And I never got a call, so I think  
32 we need to get reminded, hey, could you think of  
33 anything else.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is there a good  
36 line for spots on that -- on our report topics?

37  
38 MR. NICK: If it was up to me, it would  
39 be now, because in the past, you know, we've had  
40 discussions about providing topics after we think about  
41 it, and then like Bob says, you know, I call somebody,  
42 they wouldn't have any topics. And then after members  
43 say that they would call me up and provide additional  
44 topics, that never happened.

45  
46 So one of the things that we need to  
47 think about is time frame, like because between now and  
48 your next winter's meeting, I would have to compile a  
49 draft -- your annual report, 2011 annual report, and  
50 then bring it up to your review as a draft annual

1 report in your winter meeting. So it's possible, you  
2 know, if we can get as much topics now, and then if  
3 like, Bob, if he wants to think about it, then I could  
4 call him up and then remind him that, you know, he  
5 should -- or if he have additional topics.

6

7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I think for now it  
8 might be a good idea just to go around to see if  
9 anybody on the Council has something, because I know  
10 we've tried that before and we've had problems getting  
11 topics for our annual report, so now would be a good  
12 time to go around the circle and see if there's any  
13 topics for any one of the individuals that are sitting  
14 around the table.

15

16 So we'll start out with Mr. Aloysius B.  
17 Unok. Do you have any topics that you'd like to have?

18

19 MR. UNOK: Yeah, I'd like to see the  
20 Chinook in Yukon and Kuskokwim ongoing. And that  
21 was.....

22

23 MR. NICK: Mr. Unok, what do you mean  
24 by that?

25

26 MR. UNOK: Like the ones we talked  
27 about, customary trade, conservation. Conservation, to  
28 save the fish.

29

30 MR. NICK: Conservation issues?

31

32 MR. UNOK: Yes.

33

34 MR. NICK: Versus customary trade or is  
35 it.....

36

37 MR. UNOK: To save the fish.

38

39 MR. NICK: Research projects or.....

40

41 MR. UNOK: Yes. Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If any of you think  
44 of anything while the other person talking -- Anaan,  
45 over there, go ahead.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: I think if you call  
48 everybody back after -- what did you mean by Chinook,  
49 because I think we're going to try and explain  
50 different -- I think lots of things.

1 I'd like to see the dispersement of  
2 information improve between the RAC members, OSM and  
3 our coordinator.

4  
5 MR. NICK: I'll call you for that.

6  
7 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other topics.  
10 Mr. Brown, do you have any topics that you would  
11 suggest.

12  
13 (No comments)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Andrew.

16  
17 MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chairman.

19  
20 For the first time in my village we  
21 have pretty severe closures. Like myself, I always  
22 fish for at least seven households. I only got to go  
23 out two days out of the whole month of June. Every  
24 time I go back, I share with my other relatives. And I  
25 have to do that, because some of them, they don't have  
26 their own boat and motor to go out with or fishing  
27 gear. And some of those families have not met their  
28 subsistence needs on salmon. And I even had people  
29 tell me day after commercial fishers, when they go out  
30 there, there's this high water or getting very few.  
31 The day after the commercial fishing date and the next  
32 day they open the subsistence fishing. They don't get  
33 very much, because the river's fairly cleaned out. And  
34 when you go out, there's hardly any. It will be a  
35 miracle if you catch more than 5 or 10 per drift.

36  
37 And the other issue is brown bears.  
38 They're right in our fish camps. I hear it in my area,  
39 upriver and downriver. I've had at least five  
40 different calls this summer that they lost their whole  
41 winter supply of dryfish to the brown bears. That's  
42 the other issue.

43  
44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other issues.

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

49  
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde.

1 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. If we don't  
2 happen to use our hunting license and we could use it  
3 in the winter time when there's moose opening?  
4  
5 MR. NICK: That would be appropriate  
6 question to Fish and Game, if they're still here. Mr.  
7 Pappas.  
8  
9 MR. PAPPAS: Your question is, is your  
10 hunting license good in the winter?  
11  
12 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah.  
13  
14 MR. PAPPAS: It's by calendar year, so  
15 if you buy it January 1, it's good all the way through  
16 December the next year.  
17  
18 MR. H. WILDE: Because we didn't use it  
19 this fall, and we could use it in wintertime for  
20 hunting.  
21  
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Ticket versus license.  
23  
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I'm sure  
25 he's talking about the harvest ticket.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, harvest  
28 ticket.  
29  
30 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Hunting license  
31 and harvest ticket.  
32  
33 MR. PAPPAS: I apologize, sir.  
34 Phillip's gone, I don't know.  
35  
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Harvest tickets  
37 are good for the regulatory year.  
38  
39 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Wilde. The  
40 way I understand, the harvest ticket, the green harvest  
41 ticket, right? You could use in fall time. And then  
42 if the winter is open from -- like from December to end  
43 of February, you still could use same ticket, except  
44 you would have to -- you know, like, for example, if a  
45 person don't have a valid license for 2012, then they  
46 would need to have valid hunting license. Is that  
47 correct?  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I've got the answer  
50 to you, Mr. Wilde. The 2011 to 2012 expires June 30th,

1 2012. So you could use -- your harvest ticket is good  
2 until June 30th, 2012. And I don't think he has to  
3 worry about license, because I know he has a lifetime  
4 license.

5

6 Mr. Aloysius.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's some confusion  
9 on, you know, the only time you can use that harvest  
10 ticket in the wintertime is if you did not harvest a  
11 moose in the fall season.

12

13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah. That's what  
14 it says.

15

16 Any other topics for our annual report.  
17 Mr. Roczicka.

18

19 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. On the  
20 response back here, I mean, I haven't had a chance to  
21 really look through, and there's semantics that are  
22 involved and so forth, but it appears that they're  
23 saying they cannot when actually it's not that they  
24 can't, it's that they're choosing not to. And I've  
25 read all the policies and the letters that are  
26 referenced here, and it's -- maybe the Board itself  
27 can't -- they could do a lot more than they currently  
28 are, and there's certainly plenty of latitude within  
29 the varying policies for the Service to take some  
30 action as well. It's a matter of choice, it's not a  
31 matter of law. Anyway, so I'm going to probably put  
32 together some kind of response to that and maybe  
33 specific actions for them to take as a Board that they  
34 are avoiding.

35

36 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Oney.

37

38 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
39 Chairman.

40

41 One subject comes into mind is muskox.  
42 As we heard from Tim, I guess there's a number of  
43 sightings here on Yukon-Kuskokwim. When I was with the  
44 Lower Yukon Advisory Council, we were working with  
45 Roger Savoy to try and build that stock when we found  
46 out there was muskox on the mainland. We were trying  
47 to get the villages educated on trying to build that  
48 muskox stocks in hopes of having a hunt, probably not  
49 in our time, maybe in our children's time. I think  
50 that should be one of the topics that should be

1 included in the annual report as of the number of  
2 sightings that occur.

3  
4 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.  
5 Oney.

6  
7 MR. ROCZICKA: You're referring to a  
8 management plan or something like that?

9  
10 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you.

11  
12 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.  
13 Oney. You remember Mr. Manumanuk brought that up one  
14 time, and he wanted a muskox moratorium considered.  
15 Now is that what you were thinking about or just a  
16 management plan?

17  
18 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 Just when we were working with Roger  
21 Savoy, to my understanding he's moved out of this area,  
22 but when I was on the advisory council, that's what we  
23 brought up, trying to get villages educated on trying  
24 to rebuild the -- trying to build up the muskox so that  
25 we could have a hunt sometime in the future.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Unok.

28  
29 MR. UNOK: I'd like to see more tribal  
30 involvement, whether it's education or they'll bring  
31 information back to their people.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, that's  
34 forthcoming I think. We had a report on that, but I  
35 think we could mention it.

36  
37 Mr. Aloysius.

38  
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Abandoned beaver dams.  
40 Every year.

41  
42 And the other thing I keep hearing from  
43 upriver is why don't the Feds and the State try to make  
44 all their seasons the same. You know, we're coming to  
45 that, but, you know, they really want.....

46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Continuity.

48  
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: .....the same time  
50 seasons for moose, caribou, furbearers and things like

1 that, so, you know, I keep telling them, we're working  
2 on it, we're working on it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Do you want to  
5 mention that in a topic? I don't know if you want to  
6 align the seasons with the Feds and the State; is that  
7 what you mean?

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: They're the same.

10

11 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The same dates.

12

13 MR. NICK: What's supposed to be in the  
14 annual report is what you can't deal with, you know  
15 within the proposed cycle. Outside of cycles, but what  
16 we're dealing with.

17

18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'll retract that. All  
19 right. Hearing that, I'll retract that and I'll make  
20 end to my comments.

21

22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Maybe after  
23 this, you've got quite a few topics already. You could  
24 give us a call and see if there's anything else prior  
25 to the time that you write it. Would that be okay with  
26 you?

27

28 MR. NICK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I will be  
29 calling you up in your contact numbers that I have on  
30 file. What I would like the RAC to do is to make sure  
31 that if you change your contact number, let me be the  
32 first one to know, because sometime it takes about  
33 three, four days, five days to try to contact one  
34 person, later on find out contact numbers has changed.  
35 So I would need updated contact phone numbers if you  
36 change your contact numbers.

37

38 It is okay to contact you or try to  
39 contact you through your tribal organization in your  
40 village, but sometimes that also takes time.

41

42 Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

45

46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. You have a roster  
47 of the group here. When you get a little time off --  
48 or not time off, but some time, call each of them up  
49 and see if that information is correct, because, you  
50 know, like my post office box changed without my

1 knowledge and I've been getting mail from last year  
2 this year. And phone calls, I have a new cell number  
3 which is with me all the time, except when it's turned  
4 off.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: And it's easier to use  
9 than the house phone. So just -- if you the roster of  
10 people, just call them and see if that information is  
11 still right.

12  
13 MR. NICK: Mr. Aloysius, through the  
14 Chair. Your point is well taken. This summer I  
15 updated the rosters approximately three, four times.  
16 And still, just before this meeting, when I tried to  
17 call some of you, I could not get through, because, you  
18 know, something has changed.

19  
20 Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Charles.

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

25  
26 Many people has recently get cell  
27 phones and take their home phones off and not listed.  
28 So that's the problem with AC, too. I tried to help  
29 our AC coordinator, tried to get AC members' numbers,  
30 too. Same way. And when they get the cell phones,  
31 they take their home numbers off. And that's the  
32 problem recently. But mine is still listed, so you can  
33 call me at the house, and when I'm not there, my wife  
34 will answer.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any other Council  
39 members.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Mr. Nick,  
44 thank you. You might as well stay there in your seat,  
45 because we want to confirm the winter 2012 Council  
46 meeting date.

47  
48 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Your winter 2012  
49 Council meeting date is on Page 287 of your book. 287.  
50 Last meeting you chose to meet on February 23, 24 in

1 Emmonak. I would like for you to keep in mind that,  
2 you know, something could change, you know, between now  
3 and then, because we still make sure our potential  
4 vendors like for lodging in Emmonak, they are  
5 registered in CCR. And, you know, I'd have to make  
6 sure. I was assured that they were registered last  
7 month when I last contacted the village. But it's not  
8 guaranteed, you know. It could change.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay on that?

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: In our haste to adjourn  
17 the last time, I think we overlooked the fact that we  
18 have had this request from time and time again to have  
19 our village meetings in the fall and have the Bethel  
20 meeting in the winter. Because of the haste that we  
21 went through, we switched the fall and the winter  
22 meetings. So just keep that in mind that, you know,  
23 it's easier to travel to a village in the falltime than  
24 it is in the middle of the winter.

25

26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That's correct.  
27 It's always easier to get into Bethel in the wintertime  
28 than it is to get into one of the villages. If there's  
29 a way we can get that -- we'll leave that up to you,  
30 Mr. Nick.

31

32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. It's entirely up  
33 to you, because it's your meeting.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: We can just have our next  
42 meeting in Emmonak and then.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Discuss it at that  
45 time.

46

47 MS. GREGORY: Discuss it at that time.  
48 Or have two meetings in Emmonak this winter and next  
49 fall.

50

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anything else.  
2  
3 MR. NICK: What you need to do is you  
4 need to confirm or make changes, it's up to you. It's  
5 entirely up to you what you want to do.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Confirm the  
8 location for the winter meeting.  
9  
10 MR. NICK: Confirm the date and  
11 location.  
12  
13 MR. H. WILDE: Is that okay with the  
14 rest of the Council. February 23rd and 24th in Emmonak  
15 according to our meeting schedule. It's written down,  
16 Y-K Delta at Emmonak on the 23rd and 24th of February.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE:  
19  
20 MR. H. WILDE: What dates?  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: 23rd and 24th of  
23 February. It's in your calendar in the back of the  
24 book on Page 287. Is that all right.  
25  
26 MS. GREGORY: I have March 22. Is this  
27 an old one? It says 3/28/11.  
28  
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Look right there.  
30  
31 MS. GREGORY: Oh. I'm sorry. Okay.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.  
34  
35 MS. GREGORY: My mistake.  
36  
37 MR. UNOK: Mr. Chair.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Unok.  
40  
41 MR. UNOK: Yeah, sometimes Emmonak have  
42 their potlatch at that time. Make sure it wouldn't  
43 fall in the same date.  
44  
45 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. Alex can find  
46 that out.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.  
49  
50 MR. NICK: Through the Chair. Mr.

1 Unok. I was in contact with community of Emmonak  
2 throughout the summer several times that your next  
3 meeting was going to be on February 23, 24, 2012. So  
4 their leaders are aware.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I know the people  
7 in Emmonak, they're well aware of that, because I've  
8 gotten in contact with them also. They kept me pretty  
9 well informed.

10  
11 At this time we are down to item C, is  
12 that correct, we're in item C, establish fall 2012  
13 Council meeting date and location.

14  
15 Mr. Aloysius.

16  
17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Just out of -- because  
18 we've never been there, I move that our next -- I mean,  
19 our fall meeting be in Kotlik. And for you guys who  
20 don't know where Kotlik is, it's Kotlik.

21  
22 MS. GREGORY: Second the motion.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: What dates.

25  
26 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The dates open for  
29 the fall meeting. Will one of you from either OSM or  
30 -- Mr. Kron, you seem to -- you might as well sit down  
31 and consult with us. You're already there.

32  
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I brought  
34 Kotlik up is because I wanted to ask our coordinator if  
35 Kotlik has the paperwork as required for us to have a  
36 meeting there.

37  
38 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. I remember in  
39 the past the Council discussed a broad representation  
40 of the region. And it was mentioned at one time that  
41 the -- there should be alternating meetings between  
42 Yukon and Kuskokwim.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Between Yukon and  
45 Kuskokwim.

46  
47 MR. NICK: And at one point I remember  
48 Regional Council suggested that the meetings should be  
49 held in the region or subregion where more issues are  
50 in place. That was your discussions.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: That was one of our  
2 discussions at the time.

3

4 Mr. Kron.

5

6 MR. KRON: The other issue, and I'll  
7 just bring it up, you know, with the budgets shrinking,  
8 Pete Probasco has specifically asked that we try to  
9 meet in hub areas for the airplanes to make it easier  
10 for Council members to get there, and Staff to get  
11 there to support the meeting as well, make it lest  
12 costly. You know, if you decide not to meet in a hub,  
13 Kotlik is not a hub, but if you decide that that's what  
14 you want to do, Alex would need to submit a proposal to  
15 see if we could get that approved.

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Further discussion.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Aloysius.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: I withdraw my motion for  
24 Kotlik based on the alternating scheme we have between  
25 the rivers.

26

27 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Other suggestions.

28 Mr. Aloysius.

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: She's been  
31 (indiscernible, mic not on)

32

33 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: I didn't see her  
34 light go on. I'm sorry. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't  
35 realize. Okay. Do you withdraw your second to the  
36 motion.

37

38 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

41

42 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) We need to  
43 get this thing going. It's like we're working with  
44 three people. We can't cut them in half.

45

46 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown. Any  
47 suggestions.

48

49 MR. BROWN: I remember one time we was  
50 having a difficult with the weather, that we cancel it

1 and relocated here. Mostly in the fall time we have  
2 bad weather.

3

4 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Nick.

5

6 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Just to follow  
7 up on what Mr. Kron mentioned to you, that we needed to  
8 meet in hub community. If we are going to meet in non-  
9 hub community, then I would have to provide a very  
10 strong justification to Mr. Probasco.

11

12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: And we know you can  
13 do that.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Any further  
18 suggestions on the fall meeting.

19

20 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 MR. J. ANDREW: What about dates.

23

24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Roczicka.

25

26 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I was going to  
27 suggest the sub-hub community of Quinhagak. And  
28 actually with their -- as far as lodging and stuff  
29 being a cost, I think they have a pretty extensive  
30 bunkhouse system and everything down there now with  
31 their big plant that they want to show off, so that  
32 would be at least an offset of cost.

33

34 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Kron.

35

36 MR. KRON: Part of what Mr. Nick needs  
37 to provide is essentially the cost comparison; how much  
38 it's going to do the meeting there. It's driven by  
39 cost. And I can remember being to a Council meeting in  
40 Quinhagak years ago, and it was good.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 MR. ROCZICKA: Perhaps the results from  
45 how much Kuskokwim fish they're catching there.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Let's get serious  
50 with now with this. We need to get this done. If

1 somebody's making a motion.  
2  
3 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair. I move that  
4 we have our fall meeting in Quinhagak.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Motion's been made  
7 to have our fall meeting in Quinhagak. Do I hear a  
8 second.  
9  
10 MR. CHARLES: Second.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Seconded by Mr.  
13 Charles.  
14  
15 Any discussion. Mr. Unok.  
16  
17 MR. UNOK: Yeah. We didn't choose the  
18 date. I choose October 4 and 5.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: On October 4 and 5.  
21 How does that go with the meeting schedule, Mr. Nick.  
22  
23 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. SP RAC meeting  
24 is on -- I mean, Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory  
25 Council chose October 3 and 4 for their meeting, and I  
26 coordinate that region, too, so it has to be at least a  
27 week apart.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: How about the next  
30 week then.  
31  
32 MR. UNOK: Yeah.  
33  
34 MR. J. ANDREW: Middle of the week.  
35  
36 MR. UNOK: 10, 11.  
37  
38 MR. ROCZICKA: 10, 11.  
39  
40 MR. J. ANDREW: Or 9 and 10.  
41  
42 MR. ROCZICKA: 10, 11.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Could you work with  
45 10, 11.  
46  
47 MR. NICK: October 10, all. Yeah,  
48 that's doable. Yeah.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay.

1 MR. UNOK: I suggest that, because I  
2 see a ticket's not being used. The last day of hunting  
3 is today.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Is that in your  
6 motion. You're going to include that in your motion as  
7 to the dates.  
8  
9 MS. GREGORY: Yes. I'll accept it as  
10 an amendment to my motion, the dates.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We have a  
13 motion on the -- an amendment to the place in the  
14 motion, or would you like to incorporate as one motion.  
15  
16 MR. ROCZICKA: She said it. She did  
17 say it.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. You're  
20 incorporating.  
21  
22 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. You heard  
25 the motion.  
26  
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The question's  
30 called.....  
31  
32 MS. GREGORY: Could you read the motion  
33 now it's been incorporated (indiscernible, mic not on).  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: The motion reads,  
36 should read, that the Council will have their next  
37 meeting at Quinhagak on.....  
38  
39 MR. NICK: October 10, 11.  
40  
41 MR. ROCZICKA: October 10 and 11.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: October 10 and 11.  
44  
45 MS. GREGORY: 12/12. 2012.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Was there a motion  
48 to that? Yes, there is. And was there a second. Yes,  
49 there was. All in favor of the motion say aye.  
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: All opposed same  
4 sign.  
5  
6 (No opposing votes)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: You're going to  
9 have your meeting at Quinhagak, Mr. Kron.  
10  
11 MR. KRON: Maybe.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Maybe. Closing  
14 comments, Council. We'll start with Mr. Unok. Do you  
15 have any closing comments.  
16  
17 MR. UNOK: Not really, but I'd like to  
18 thank everybody for supporting the three RACs.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Brown, any  
21 closing comments.  
22  
23 MR. BROWN: Yeah, I have a comment  
24 about the moose hunting.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Closing comments.  
27 Okay.  
28  
29 MR. BROWN: I'd like to see the  
30 protection officers not to disturb the -- while we're  
31 hunting away from our villages. The only thing I know  
32 of when I used to hunt way up in Holitna, when the  
33 first opener arrives, I see aircraft way up there,  
34 probably counting camps, how many camps that ar up  
35 there. And then when the closing season come to end,  
36 they come around and they fly again. I want to say I  
37 want to see -- like I used to hunt way up there, I want  
38 to see the protection officers to not to disturb our  
39 hunting when the openers arrive, like we able to have  
40 10 days opener in the fall time. There was some -- the  
41 people, before I come here, they want to mention this  
42 out to you. So I just relayed out. If any aircraft or  
43 someone is flying around there, not comfortable to stay  
44 in their camps, because they bring their kids along,  
45 their families, too. They want to have some like  
46 undisturbed hunting, camping.  
47  
48 And then the other thing was this year  
49 the big game is probably way out in the -- from the  
50 hunting grounds, you know, the Eek River. It looks

1 like some rumors I heard, they've been harassed by  
2 aircraft to move them out from our hunting grounds.  
3 That's what I heard. It might be a rumor.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Mr. Wilde, do you  
8 have any comments. Closing comments.

9  
10 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Do we have a  
11 second place of meeting place if the weather -- do we  
12 have a second choice if the weather's bad over in  
13 wherever you want to go.

14  
15 MR. ROCZICKA: We're sitting here.

16  
17 MR. H. WILDE: Second choice of meeting  
18 place.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Well, if the  
21 weather forbids us, then I guess we're going to have to  
22 meet in Bethel. Okay?

23  
24 MR. H. WILDE: Huh?

25  
26 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: If the weather  
27 prevents us from going to Quinhagak, we'll meet in  
28 Bethel.

29  
30 MR. H. WILDE: Okay.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Closing comments.  
33 Mr. Andrew. Noah.

34  
35 MR. N. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. One of  
36 the concerns that subsistence users is what he brought  
37 out on airline. We discussed this and we're going to  
38 start taking number on the plane and as suggested we'll  
39 be giving those things out. For example, this last  
40 fall up around the Kiapuk (ph) Mountains where some  
41 people were subsisting, there was one airline that  
42 shove off the moose from the area. And I was going to  
43 bring that out, and I was instructed to bring that out.

44  
45  
46 The other one is the increase of  
47 monitoring the predators of these things, moose,  
48 caribou, like the wolves and we have brown bear now.  
49 Last year right in Machewik we experience two moose  
50 being killed. And we called in, I don't know, the

1 community, TNC called in and there has not been no  
2 response. One time around -- when the caribou were up  
3 in this winter, there was caribou up around Bogus Creek  
4 and tributary there. And we reported that and there  
5 was nothing that the Fish and Game or the people that  
6 works with this didn't come over.

7

8 My concern here now is that we come out  
9 with several recommendations, several advice from last  
10 year, and then we run over some of them again this  
11 year. I'm wondering what will happen to these  
12 recommendations. Is there someone in the office  
13 somewhere monitoring these recommendations, these  
14 advices so that they worked upon, exercise by Staff as  
15 they were recommended. And if not, is there a data to  
16 that effect, so coordinator would tell us this has been  
17 taken care of or this is not in progress, now the Fish  
18 and Game is exercising this. That would give me a  
19 clear focus on whether or not our recommendations have  
20 been dealt with.

21

22 I was going to thank the Department of  
23 Fish and Game. We asked for meat, and they went to,  
24 and they've approached us because for the fish. We had  
25 some traditional people that are very much recognized  
26 passed away. And I want to thank them for allowing us  
27 a moose I guess a couple of times now to fish, the  
28 people that lost those people to fish.

29

30 Because one other comment is just about  
31 where Tuluksak, below Machewik is where the fish seems  
32 to be conseason (ph).

33

34 One more, I'd like to emphasize on  
35 somebody's comments here earlier. When you guys open  
36 subsistence fishing, one day after -- or six hours  
37 after they're commercializing near Tuluksak, there's no  
38 fish to catch for subsistence. You need to give us  
39 ample time, because the fish are swimming, are coming  
40 up. If this were monitored, I think we -- or Bill or  
41 somebody was saying some of us are not meeting our  
42 subsistence goal. I do fish for four families, because  
43 the family's husbands and subsistence hunters have  
44 passed on. And I'd like to be able to help them catch  
45 at least most of their needs for the winter. And  
46 that's the other comment I was going to stress here.

47

48 Other than that, Mr. Chairman, thank  
49 you.

50

1                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Noah.  
2 Mr. Roczicka.  
3  
4                           MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
5  
6                           On this last bit of business, before I  
7 say my thank yous, but I want to put out that in the  
8 past I've been asked to represent our position to the  
9 State Board of Game. We have several proposals as we  
10 heard from the -- that we dealt with that are going to  
11 be taken up by the Board of Game at their meeting this  
12 November. And if it would be your intent or desire  
13 that I'd represent the Regional Council.  
14  
15                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yeah, I usually do  
16 represent the Regional Council on the proposals that we  
17 passed at the.....  
18  
19                           MR. ROCZICKA: You do the Fish and do  
20 the.....  
21  
22                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Yes.  
23  
24                           MR. ROCZICKA: I just wanted to confirm  
25 if that was still there.  
26  
27                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: But if I do need  
28 help, I usually get ahold of Mr. Alex to request  
29 possibly getting somebody in there if I can't make it.  
30  
31                           MR. ROCZICKA: Okay. I just wanted to  
32 make sure that was clear on the record.  
33  
34                           But other than that, Qu yana to every  
35 one. Actually this is a very productive meeting. And  
36 one of the things I guess I appreciate the most about  
37 it is that the votes varied so much and these guys  
38 couldn't guess what we were going to do ahead of time.  
39  
40                           (Laughter)  
41  
42                           CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: For a change.  
43  
44                           MR. ROCZICKA: And, you know, that  
45 there were, instead of lots of 11 to 0 one way or the  
46 other, it was 7 to 4 and 8 and 2, and however it may  
47 go. But that actually is a sign to me of a healthy  
48 body and a growing body that people are putting thought  
49 into it, and it's not the same people voting together  
50 all the time. It's different groups of people, so I'm

1 appreciative of that.

2

3                   Anyway, good meeting. Thank you.

4

5                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.

6 Roczicka.

7

8                   Mr. Andrew, do you have any comments,  
9 closing comments.

10

11                   MR. J. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr.

12 Chairman.

13

14                   One of them is the need for predator  
15 control on bears in our areas, because more and more  
16 every year we have trouble with them. And like I said  
17 earlier, I had people tell me that they lost their  
18 winter supply of dried fish, at least five households.  
19 There may be more. That's just from my village only.

20

21                   And the other one is for the last two  
22 years up on the Kwethluk River we had subsistence  
23 volunteer to close their river for Chinook fisheries.  
24 This was the second year. And only go out with four-  
25 inch set nets. That was a hardship for a lot of the  
26 families. And what really burns me is that they closed  
27 the fishery for us, yet every day we see boats go up  
28 that river with fishing poles sticking out, sport  
29 fishermen going up our river.

30

31                   The other one is during the moose  
32 season, the same story. Too many boats. We can see  
33 anywhere from 40 to 50 boats that are going up our  
34 river. And they hunt day and night. Some of them have  
35 big boats and they go pretty fast, and they ran into  
36 other boats on the small creeks, and there  
37 are dents. And I heard of a couple of near fatal  
38 accidents, because some of them hunt at nighttime. And  
39 on my third trip out, on the way back, I almost got  
40 rammed by two good sized boats, and both of them have  
41 no headlights.

42

43                   Those are my main concerns right now.

44

45                   And I thank your staff for putting up  
46 this meeting and the Moravian Church. (In Yup'ik) And  
47 our recorder. And I thank three of my people that came  
48 in from our corporations.

49

50                   Quyana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
2 Andrew.

3  
4 Mr. Charles, do you have any closing  
5 comments.

6  
7 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 I want to thank everybody, too, like  
10 John for coming and help us. It's not easy to change  
11 the regulations a lot of times, because we talk about  
12 proposal for a long time sometimes, because our people  
13 has to have the regulations to hunt and fish. If we  
14 don't have regulations, things would be wiped out.

15  
16 When I was a kid, there were less than  
17 100 people in my village. Right now there are more  
18 than 400 people. And if we don't have regulations to  
19 go shoot something like game or fish, things would be  
20 wiped out. So I'm glad you folks are helping us to  
21 make these regulations to control or have resource  
22 available for our people. Not just my village, all up  
23 and down the Kuskokwim, all up and down the Yukon, same  
24 way. There's a lot of people, a lot more people there,  
25 that's out there than there used to be. And fish and  
26 game warden are not going to be enough if we don't have  
27 regulations how to catch them or how many to catch.

28  
29 That's -- so I'm glad you guys are  
30 helping us. We want more people from the villages to  
31 help us make these regulations. So I thank everybody.  
32 The Service people. The State people. The Service has  
33 helped the State on a lot of information, too, with the  
34 money. And there's a lot of things that we want to  
35 thank -- I want to thank. Thank you all.

36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Mr.  
40 Charles.

41  
42 Mr. Oney.

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

45  
46 I would like to thank all the Staff  
47 from OSM, our coordinator, Alex Nick, for putting up  
48 with us. I know it gets pretty difficult for him to --  
49 you know, trying to get things straightened, to be put  
50 in order for us to have a meeting like this, especially

1 when, you know, everyone is here present. So that's  
2 telling everyone that he's doing his job and his award  
3 is well deserved.

4

5                   And I'm also glad to see that the Yukon  
6 River Drainage is putting together a working group to  
7 involve everyone on the Yukon, even include the Y-K  
8 RAC, to address the Chinook declines, and I'm glad to  
9 see that they're taking the lead role on this. It can  
10 work. We had an example just recently with the Tri-RAC  
11 committee, that we can work together if we just sit  
12 down and communicate. And that's what we've been doing  
13 over the years, and we've seen improvements in working  
14 together all up and down the Yukon. And I'd like to  
15 see that continue with open communication.

16

17                   This may be my last meeting unless  
18 there's another round of opening for this position.  
19 And I thank the RAC and everyone for appointing me to  
20 attend the various meetings like the North Pacific  
21 Fisheries Management Council. And I hope I did  
22 represent this body.

23

24                   I didn't mention about what was  
25 commented during the North Pacific meeting in Nome, but  
26 I'm sure there's transcripts that are available that  
27 either Alex or someone can make available to the RAC  
28 members if they want to hear what was said during the  
29 testimony for the chum bycatch.

30

31                   And AVCP also is putting together a  
32 working group to address the Chinook salmon. And we  
33 need to appoint someone to attend that meeting. I  
34 don't know if funding would be available, but I'm sure  
35 local people here like Mary or Greg I guess can at  
36 least gather information from that work group if  
37 funding is not available.

38

39                   And also at the beginning of the  
40 meeting, you know, we had our winter meeting in  
41 Mountain Village and we elected officers for this Y-K  
42 RAC, and you could see it in the meeting minutes who  
43 were appointed as Chairman, Vice Chairman and  
44 Secretary, and rather than, you know, guess who was  
45 appointed. And the meeting minutes talk for itself and  
46 you could read who were appointed to be officers to  
47 this RAC committee.

48

49                   Well, I thank everyone for allowing me  
50 to participate, and it's been a learning process for

1 me. A lot of things that I remember growing up, I get  
2 reminded by these elders that keep bringing these, our  
3 way of life, it needs to continue, whether it be  
4 through the schooling or through tribal organizations  
5 that are trying to continue our way of life through  
6 cultural and traditional values, so it's been a  
7 learning process for me all these years, and I thank  
8 everyone for letting me sit here. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Anaan.

11

12 MS. GREGORY: Quyana. (In Yup'ik) I  
13 applied for another hitch. I haven't heard anything  
14 from the Secretary of Interior, but recently I just got  
15 a letter from them about applying for the Subsistence  
16 Board, Alaska State Subsistence Board, so I'm going to  
17 try out for that, too.

18

19 I like to challenge myself to achieve  
20 something that is impossible. And that's what my  
21 mother taught us how to do, and she never bring us down  
22 or think I'm -- don't think I'm going to make it. She  
23 never discouraged us from trying. And that's who I am.  
24 I'm a go-getter.

25

26 And I thank the people who are involved  
27 with the subsistence programs. And I express myself  
28 really harsh sometimes, because I really care. I  
29 really care for my elders. And I always cry when I  
30 talk about them, because they still are my life and  
31 they know I'm in a subsistence way of life. And I want  
32 them to live their life to the fullest. So that's why  
33 I sit here. That's why I bring eat -- eat things that  
34 people, especially from him, because he always (In  
35 Yup'ik). I take that so my elders can survive.

36

37 And I thank everybody for trying to  
38 work together. And I thank you all for speaking up  
39 with us right now.

40

41 Our elders who don't speak English,  
42 who don't eat Gussaq food, they need us. They need you  
43 guys, too.

44

45 And pardon me for crying, but I feel  
46 really, really for my ancestors, because that's who I  
47 am and that's where I came from. I will not change. I  
48 am Yup'ik person who eats off the land, and who can  
49 harvest and preserve it and take care of it. And I  
50 hope you guys will take this to your heart.

1                   If you have children, when you eat, eat  
2 with them. Don't feed them Gussaq food while you're  
3 eating Yup'ik food. When a child is born, the first  
4 taste of food they taste is from their mother's milk.  
5 And if you keep continuing to let them taste, they'll  
6 learn how to eat then. What they eat, they will want  
7 to hunt. If we're going to keep out subsistence way of  
8 life, we need to teach our children to do that. We  
9 need to teach them how to eat food. We don't -- we  
10 handicap ourselves by feeding them different foods than  
11 what we are eating. So be economical and live a good  
12 life that you were born to live like.

13

14                   Quyana.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Anaan.

17

18                   Mr. Aloysius, any closing comments.

19

20                   MR. ALOYSIUS: She brought up a lot of  
21 things I was going to say, but one thing that always --  
22 I always feel overwhelmed when I come to Y-K RAC  
23 meeting, that I represent two of the smallest villages  
24 in this whole area. The total population of those two  
25 is less than 500. And they are totally removed from  
26 all you guys. So I always feel overwhelmed. And so a  
27 lot of times I think, to hell with it, I'm going to go.  
28 I'm going to get out of it. And then I talk to them  
29 old people up there who said, no, you can't. And I  
30 said, you are the ones that should be there. They  
31 said, no, we want you to talk for us. So that's the  
32 only thing that really drives me, our old people. And  
33 the other day I woke up, and I looked in the mirror and  
34 I said, there's only two of us left, because the men  
35 and women I grew up with are gone. And all my aunties,  
36 there's only aunties left, they're all younger than me,  
37 like 10, 15 years younger than me. There's only one  
38 man who's not even from Kessiglik who's left in that  
39 village. In one village. And another one in lower  
40 village. And a lot of times when I go back, I feel so  
41 empty, and especially when I want to come down here,  
42 because all these elders I grew up with are gone, and  
43 their descendants are gone. All of my mom's relations  
44 and her peers are gone. And every now and then, I say,  
45 gosh, no wonder my Uncle Carley says he is lonesome. I  
46 asked him why. He said, look at me. All my brothers  
47 my age are gone. All the young people I grew up with  
48 are gone. And so sometimes I get so, so depressed that  
49 I just want to give up.

50

1                   But then a long come my grandchildren.  
2 She reminds me of two of them. The first food that has  
3 ever entered their mouth is what I cooked. Because I  
4 cook Native foods. They, too -- they're -- you know,  
5 one is 10, the other one is 3, but they're as close as  
6 brothers. Olric (ph) will eat Native food before  
7 anything else. And whenever I cook, I boil. I don't  
8 fry or bake or those kinds of things. I just boil it.  
9 And he learned to eat all that.

10  
11                   And one day we came down right after  
12 breakup when the salmon start hitting there. We -- of  
13 course his old Assassi (ph) Roberta lives over here.  
14 Dad, let's go fishing. I said, great. We brought  
15 Olric with us, went over there and we caught some  
16 kings. And she took one about the just right size and  
17 started filleting it out. And Olric said, Umpa, what  
18 Anaan doing? I said, she's going to cook that fish.  
19 He kept shaking his head, and when she took the cover  
20 off the barbecue and put that thing on there and put  
21 all kinds of whatever she puts on it, he said, Umpa,  
22 look, Anaan doesn't know how to cook fish. She's  
23 trying to make it meat.

24  
25                   (Laughter)

26  
27                   MR. ALOYSIUS: And Gulya (ph), his  
28 younger brother, you know, I have pictures of him, you  
29 know, when he was one-year old, holding onto a salmon  
30 strip that's this long, and just -- you know, I started  
31 taking pictures of him when he first put it in his  
32 mouth until he had the last piece left.

33  
34                   And I encourage my daughters and my son  
35 in Kotlik to feed their children Native food all the  
36 time, because it's part of us, and we're part of it.

37  
38                   And one thing, you know, I give thanks  
39 every day for one thing. For this beautiful land that  
40 we live in. And sometimes we just take it for granted.  
41 It's a land overflowing, not with milk and honey, it's  
42 overflowing with clear water, clear air, fish, game,  
43 plants and berries. And our ability to hunt, fish,  
44 trap, and gather that bounty, and especially to share  
45 it. And all of my children have experienced that, and  
46 I hope that they continue that, you know, hunt, fish,  
47 trap, gather and share the bounty of this beautiful  
48 land.

49  
50                   Quyana.

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

3  
4                   For my last closing comments, I'd like  
5 to first of all thank you, Staff, for staying with us  
6 to the very end. And I especially would like to thank  
7 Mr. Pappas from the Department. He's the only one left  
8 from that Department that's still here. And we want to  
9 thank you for all the help that you've given us in  
10 helping us doing our work.

11  
12                   And from the bottom of my heart, I  
13 really feel that, you know, today, this time, this  
14 meeting, we've accomplished something that has been --  
15 it's not that we haven't accomplished anything in our  
16 past meetings, but this meeting especially I think  
17 we've accomplished a lot more than most meetings that  
18 we have.

19  
20                   And I'd like to thank the Council for  
21 their patience and for their understanding and their  
22 ability to sit down and be patient. Sometimes when I  
23 don't see you, I have a tendency to look around the  
24 wrong direction when you're raising your hand. But one  
25 of these days, I'll learn to grow another set of eyes  
26 behind my ears so I'll be able to see.

27  
28                   (Laughter)

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: But anyway, thank  
31 you all for coming to this meeting, and the public,  
32 too.

33  
34                   And I think at this time, Greg, did you  
35 have something concerning this person to go to the  
36 forum that was Yukon River Drainage Fisheries  
37 Association.

38  
39                   MR. ROCZICKA: I'd suggest that unified  
40 Yukon River Chinook Conservation Plan, I believe  
41 they're going to be getting together, that Cathy from  
42 YRDFA had given to us, and at the bottom it said that  
43 we were asking us to elect a representative for this  
44 group. And I was going to suggest that maybe Evan  
45 Polty, if he would be willing to accept that, that we  
46 could ask Lester to appoint him to that. If he would.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll call  
49 him and find out if that's okay with the Council or --  
50 Mr. Aloysius.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I would go along  
2 with Greg, because he's new, he's fresh, he's not  
3 bombarded with all these years and years and years of  
4 things, so get him on the road right now.

5  
6 (Laughter)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Okay. We'll do  
9 that then.

10  
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Get him involved. And  
12 he's young and energetic. Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: We'll do that.

15  
16 At this time we'll need to adjourn the  
17 meeting.

18  
19 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move we  
20 adjourn the 20 (In Yup'ik) -- what's the date now?  
21 29th of September?

22  
23 SEVERAL: 30th.

24  
25 MS. GREGORY: September 29th, 30, '11  
26 meeting with closing prayer.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Robert, would you  
29 be willing to give us a closing prayer.

30  
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Heavenly Father,  
32 Creator, Maker of the universe, Great Spirit, Great  
33 Grandmother, Great Grandfather. Thank you for bringing  
34 us here together to share the wisdom and the knowledge  
35 that you have given us all. We ask you to bless us,  
36 continue to bless us with the knowledge and wisdom of  
37 our ancestors, the love, teaching, gentleness,  
38 kindness, honor, humility and the humor of our  
39 grandparents, the courage and strength of our parents.  
40 Help us enhance our abilities and skills, but most of  
41 all we ask you to bless us with the energy of our  
42 youth, the vision and greatness of our children, and  
43 spirit and innocence of our ancestors. Because without  
44 them, we have really nothing to work for. Thank you  
45 for our families, especially our children and  
46 grandchildren who remind us that we are their first  
47 teachers, that we should teach them our role in life  
48 which is to live, love, learn, understand, appreciate,  
49 practice, celebrate and teach our way of life with  
50 love, honor and respect to all of creation.

1                                   Quyana.  
2  
3                                   CHAIRMAN L. WILDE: Thank you, Robert.  
4 Meeting's adjourned.  
5  
6                                   (Off record)  
7  
8                                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 211 through 423 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, taken electronically by our firm on the 30th day of September in Bethel, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of October 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14