

1 YUKON KUSKOKWIM-DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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5

PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME III

8

9

Bethel, Alaska

10

March 4, 2010

11

9:02 o'clock a.m.

12

13

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15

16 Greg Rocizcka, Chairman

17 Robert Aloysius

18 John Andrew

19 William Brown

20 James Charles

21 Raymond Oney

22 Harry Wilde, Sr.

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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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44 Recorded and transcribed by:

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46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC

47 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2

48 Anchorage, AK 99501

49 907-243-0668

50 sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 03/04/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Call the meeting.
Good morning. Meeting of the YK Subsistence Council
back in session 9:02, the morning of February.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: March 4 -- sometime
in 2010.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Let me ask first,
anybody got any announcements or anything that I need
to make. I was informed at there are at least one
Council member and I don't know about anybody else that
may be -- or they had a plane reservation for 12:30.
So we'll be -- he just informed me if necessary we can
change it, but with only the general reports and so
forth left to go, we should be able to get out of here
by noon, I would think, today.

Other than that, I guess we could --
Alex.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Members of the
Council, I've got to mention that when the travel
arrangements are changed that you need to let me know,
so if you are able to make it home today, please let me
know whether you make it home or not so that I could
make some travel adjustment -- rather reservation
adjustments and hotel -- inform hotel that you made it
home.

Quyana.

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Anybody have
anything else before we jump in the agenda.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I think we left off
last night, we completed Item 12. Item 13, the
subsistence report on large mammal, we moved that
forward in the agenda to accommodate the fellow's

1 travel, so we're up to the subsistence fisheries report
2 on the Yukon River Salmon 2010 preseason outlook.

3

4 We have Fred Bue here with the U.S.
5 Fish and Wildlife Service.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. BUE: Yeah, I know, it seems odd.
10 Actually I just retired in December and took this job.
11 So thanks for allowing me to be here.

12

13 I really don't have a lot to say. I
14 think part of what happened when I was taking this job,
15 there was some vacancies and we didn't coordinate the
16 agenda and publication here very well, and so we're
17 taking up these fisheries issues late in the thing.
18 And then also another thing that's going on, it says
19 preseason outlook. Right now this week actually in
20 Fairbanks, the Joint Technical Committee, the JTC, both
21 Alaska biologists and Canadian biologists are meeting
22 to -- working on the outlook, so we don't have a
23 specific outlook in mind right now -- or -- we're
24 coordinating on that outlook.

25

26 Half the chinook run goes into Camden
27 and so we're -- you know, that was a big part of our
28 outlook and we need to coordinate with those folks. So
29 on Friday -- tomorrow I'll probably have a better idea,
30 but today I don't have a good one. We're thinking what
31 -- just some background is the issue is that we're just
32 not getting the production that we'd normally expect to
33 get. Parent year escapements 2004, 2005, were within
34 the escapement goals and normally you'd expect an
35 average/above average run when you have that sort of
36 escapement, but the trend's been not so well -- you
37 know, not getting the returns off those spawners that I
38 would expect.

39

40 But -- so right now that's what we're
41 talking about, what production rates to put -- plug
42 into the projection models. So right now based on what
43 we saw and hedging our bets, we're saying below average
44 to maybe average, but that's what they're working on
45 right now for chinook salmon. So what we're talking
46 about, it's a yield concern. We're not getting
47 production and the harvestable surplus off of what
48 we're putting into the system.

49

50 So I guess from there, the -- well, you

1 talked quite a bit -- on Tuesday, Dan Bergstrom, Rich
2 Cannon, talked about the analysis and gave you quite a
3 bit of information to make your decisions on these
4 proposals. For -- in the meantime, what we're having
5 is the preparedness meetings -- series of meetings like
6 we had last year, talking with people up and down the
7 River, trying to get their input on how -- you know, if
8 we need to make restrictions or reductions in harvest,
9 what works for them, what's the least painful and still
10 save salmon. The idea is that we made need to save
11 some salmon and what's the least -- what hurts them the
12 least, you know, and we hate to pull people through
13 knotholes if we don't have to, you know, just to save
14 salmon. If you're going save salmon, you want to do it
15 efficiently so that it doesn't cost people money, you
16 know, when you're doing that.

17
18 So on March 10th -- I guess that's next
19 week -- there will be the teleconference. For those be
20 able to call in. YRDFA is going to facilitate that
21 meeting preparation again this year. And then April
22 8th, we'll follow with an in-person meeting where we'll
23 bring some of the community people through the drainage
24 to Fairbanks I guess is where we're going to have it
25 and talk some more about it. So those folks on the
26 Yukon, I guess, you know, think about who you want to
27 send to those meetings and speak for -- represent your
28 communities. I'm not sure -- Joe may have a -- we
29 haven't really worked out everything and Joe probably
30 has a better perspective, but last year -- it's not
31 everybody can attend and so make sure you have people
32 that can represent you. Think about who to send and
33 give them ideas on what types of things you're
34 interested in.

35
36 And I think that's -- well, I guess I
37 can touch on fall chum salmon also. It's not just
38 kings. It's -- fall chum is -- production has really
39 been unpredictable also. I don't know if you remember,
40 but in like '94, '95, '96, we had above average
41 escapements. Those produce those really poor runs in
42 the '98-2001 bracket and then those runs produced the
43 record run in 2005. And so it's just a really wildly
44 fluctuating thing. 2009, we had the returns off that
45 record escapement and it was a pretty marginal run and
46 we had some subsistence restrictions. And so right
47 now, it's kind of anybody's guess which way it's going
48 to go -- but we're thinking we don't anticipate
49 subsistence restrictions in the fall season, but we
50 just don't know and we're hoping that maybe you can

1 take a few summer chum in the early portion of the fall
2 overlap there.

3

4 And I think that's all I have.
5 Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you.
8 Questions for Mr. Bue.

9

10 Bob and then James.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Pilot Station Sonar has
13 always been a big headache for the subsistence people
14 because that thing never tells the truth. Prime
15 example is last summer when the numbers were really
16 low, so the people suffer because of that and it --
17 they discovered that it was a great number of chum -- I
18 mean the king salmon that went up and the Canadians
19 had a harvest that was unreal for them in a long time.

20

21

22 MR. BUE: Yeah, unfortunately that's
23 what we have. Last year was a really difficult year
24 for everybody. It started with the flood which had a
25 significant change in the river channel and then it was
26 followed by a really low water which again changed the
27 way the sandbar developed out in front of it. So it
28 was, you know, from one extreme to the other. It's
29 difficult and unfortunately when you have those wide
30 fluctuations, the sonar's not always wrong. It's
31 actually pretty good, but it makes you wonder is it on
32 today or is it off. Most the time it's on pretty good
33 and people are watching it really close, but sometimes
34 when you have that big silt load, you just can't see
35 and you're going to be off a little bit. The last
36 couple years, we were -- it went the other way. We
37 were short on our escapement across the border and we
38 didn't make our goals up there and so it's not always,
39 you know, one way or the other. We do -- we recognize
40 that's an issue and we do have additional money funding
41 this year to look for more sites and to try some other
42 types of sonar technique. Some of the looking
43 downwards to test to see if the fish are moving in
44 different places, you know, so that -- you're watching
45 fish and you're watching them go by, but the idea is to
46 be looking in other places to see if they're not
47 slipping around the backside where you can't see them
48 or out in a different spot where you normally wouldn't
49 look.

50

1 Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: James.

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Fred, how about chinook -- early chinook run down in
7 the lower part of the Yukon because I knew of fact on
8 the Kuskokwim, I live way out there almost at the mouth
9 of Kuskokwim, and when we have our working group
10 meetings, people ask me have you caught king salmon
11 down there yet. Before we catch king salmon at
12 Tuntutuliak, people in Bethel always catch some. So
13 our -- because we get a lot of debris and tidal action
14 tide keeps that -- incoming tide keeps that debris on
15 the river and we don't setnet. We'd have to drift all
16 the time down there to fish. So is the Yukon that way
17 or is it clean? People upriver catch before the
18 downriver people catch any or is it -- or they -- or
19 Emmo or Alakanuk or people down there catch them early?

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Fred.

22

23 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. James. Yeah.
24 No, you're right. It's -- of course the river always
25 melts from upriver downstream and the ice freezes in
26 the -- across the mouth and a lot of times that's why
27 you get that jamming and so all the debris is down at
28 the mouth when the fish are coming. Sometimes you
29 can't fish them, sometimes the water's deep, and
30 sometimes those channels move. So a lot of times, it's
31 -- you're calling around -- there's a lot of mouths to
32 the Yukon River too and if one mouth is plugged, they
33 may come around another direction. So we're -- talk
34 the mouths are plugged so we're trying to talk to the
35 different villages and see who does catch that first
36 fish. That's -- people are pretty excited that time of
37 year. They're clued in, but it costs money to fish
38 very much when there's not many fish. So people -- you
39 know, they're not just out there fishing just to see if
40 they can catch the first fish. They want pretty good
41 assurance they can catch them. So in recent years,
42 there's not as many people fishing until they know fish
43 are in good abundance to make it worthwhile.

44

45 Pilot Station's 150 miles upriver and
46 so we do -- you know, and when that's in the water,
47 maybe it's still not really good fishing in the lower
48 river and -- but usually that's, you know, three days'
49 travel time to Pilot Station for the fish, and so you
50 catch a fish there, sometimes you'll catch one at Pilot

1 the same day which means they already had three days'
2 jump start on you.

3
4 We also see upriver, you know, people
5 talk, well, maybe some fish go under the ice. Well,
6 they could, you know, before the ice starts jamming and
7 -- you know, at the mouth, but once it starts jamming,
8 I suspect it's hard for fish to get in where it's all
9 that rubble and it's messy, so -- I think every year's
10 a little different.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: You just mentioned
13 in answering his question there about it's a three-day
14 travel for 150 miles. That's 50 miles a day for them.
15 Do they generally travel that much faster on the Yukon
16 than they do on Kusko because here it's 20 to 25 miles
17 a day, just because they have that much farther to go?

18
19
20 MR. BUE: Yeah, well, I'm not -- Harry
21 probably knows how far Pilot Station is, but it's
22 usually -- king salmon will usually average 35 miles a
23 day, is what we normally see.

24
25 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. That
26 sonar at Pilot Station, that sandbar that's doing the
27 -- that sonar, there's a sandbar growing there
28 someplace.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. BUE: Yeah. We have a sonar
33 transducer on both sides of the bank on the -- and it's
34 near a corner -- a bend in the river and so -- so
35 sandbar's growing on the south bank or it's migrating,
36 moving down -- it's coming off of a cut bank on -- up
37 above it and it's eating into the bank there and the
38 sonar -- and then there's a sandbar that's moving out
39 across and so it's constantly moving. That's what the
40 river -- the Yukon River does.

41
42 On the north bank, you have the rock
43 wall and so that's pretty stable and we can get a good
44 sonar count. We can make our sonar beam fit the
45 contour of the bottom. On that south bank where you
46 have the sandbar when it's flooding, that sandbar is
47 pretty much gone. You know, it's scoured out, but then
48 when the water slows down, then it starts dropping
49 salmon and the sandbar grows back again. And so, you
50 know, that's the nature of the river. It's pretty

1 dynamic and so we're constantly making that beam fit
2 the contour of the bottom.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Other ones.
5 Charlie.

6

7 MR. BROWN: What about that sonar. I'm
8 just -- you know, that sonar's got to be adjusted. Do
9 you guys adjust it, you know, when you have more water
10 or low water like 24 hours or.....

11

12 MR. BUE: Actually it's continuously
13 being adjusted depending on the signal that they're --
14 they can see the bottom. The can actually see the
15 bottom grow because of the sonar and so they're -- as
16 the sand comes up, they can see it on the screen and so
17 they move it in and out so that -- you know, the sonar
18 makes kind of an angle going out and makes a fan and so
19 they try to match that and tilt it so that it always
20 fits the contour of the bottom. So a lot of times,
21 they'll move it out and -- way out into the river
22 because it -- the sandbar grows and gets pretty shallow
23 and they have to move farther out. So -- and then the
24 same with the -- they drift nets through there too and
25 sometimes they have to change the depth of the nets
26 because it's getting shallow and their nets are too
27 deep for some of that shallow fishing.

28

29 So they have to switch their fishing
30 gear too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Others. Raymond.

33

34 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
35 Chairman. Fred, there was mention of relocating or
36 looking for another site for the sonar. Any idea where
37 that might be?

38

39 MR. BUE: They've looked at places, you
40 know, down towards Pitkas, a few spots. The most
41 likely places are a little bit further upstream, you
42 know, closer to Russian, but the problem is is when you
43 go upstream, then it's more delayed in the information
44 and so you're not quite as responsive to, you know, the
45 fisheries at -- you know, the intense part of the
46 fishing's at the mouth and then the further up you go,
47 the little bit more delayed and less reaction time you
48 have to the strength -- the run coming in. So it's a
49 tradeoff when you start going up there. It's probably
50 -- someplace in the river, there's probably an ideal

1 place, but if you get too far up, then you lose the
2 function of using it for a management tool in-season.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Again, Ray.

5

6 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 know there's one site, you know, where all the
8 tributaries come into one river where the south mouth
9 and middle mouth and the north mouth, if that could --
10 if there's a place that could be located, you know,
11 where they all come together, I think that'd be an
12 appropriate place to locate it than, you know, 150
13 miles up the river and you could get a better count of,
14 you know, how the fish are coming -- can be from either
15 one of those main stream that spills out into the
16 Bering Sea.

17

18 MR. BUE: Yeah. That's -- we'd love to
19 do that too. Part of the problem, you know, when you
20 get out there, then the bottom is even less stable.
21 You know, you get those stream of sand that are moving
22 through there and what's nice about where we are near
23 Pilot is that the river makes kind of a V shape bottom
24 and so your sonar looks like that and it kind of tracks
25 those places in like -- you know, just where near
26 Tenmile or someplace in there, it -- the bottom is kind
27 of square and goes like that and it doesn't fit the
28 beam of the sonar very well.

29

30 And then sometimes if you get a wave of
31 sand out in the middle, a sandbar that goes like that
32 and you have a beam, then there's a shadow and fish can
33 go on the outside of that sandbar and they couldn't be
34 seen because the beam doesn't go through that sandbar
35 and that's part of the problem is if you have too many
36 waves -- and the fish like to go in those little
37 troughs, then you can't see them because the beam
38 doesn't get into that shadowed area. It's -- that's a
39 challenge and they are -- they're going to have a crew
40 that's actually looking for different places with depth
41 sounders and mapping some of the different potential
42 places. Like Pitkas, they did a whole bunch of
43 transects trying to -- they thought that they could
44 find someplace right in there, but it -- there's too
45 much of a sandbar that builds on the south side.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead and
48 continue, Ray.

49

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

1 Chairman. I know just recently there was a meeting in
2 Anchorage regarding the Area M or False Pass Fisheries.
3 To my understanding, their catch was way, way above,
4 you know, what their quota was. Is there anything
5 going to be done, you know, as far as looking back at
6 the cap for that area on fall or summer chum fishing?
7

8 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Ready for that one.
9

10 MR. BUE: Yeah, I know it's an issue.
11 I don't have an answer for that, but I know it's gotten
12 everybody's attention all of a sudden again and to go
13 back and look at that.
14

15 There's -- it'll be interesting to see
16 how that works. Part of it, you know, there's a June
17 fishery and the July fishery. It's mostly the June
18 fishery which would be the summer chum, Western Alaska
19 chum that we typically see. The July fishery may be
20 part of the fall chum. That would be when that comes
21 through, but I think they're -- part of the deal, I
22 think they've been fishing longer and searching in
23 different places. Their market isn't like it used to
24 be and so they've been -- a lot of the boats aren't
25 going way out there. I don't know if they're actually
26 harvesting their fish from a little bit different
27 places out in Area M. You know, they were off the
28 Shumagin/Unimak was, South Peninsula was off the cape
29 fishing is where they were getting a lot of the chum
30 and traveling fish.
31

32 Some of the -- if they're fishing in
33 closer to the bays and they're catching more local fish
34 and that's the sort of review that you need to look
35 into. Even though they're catching chum doesn't
36 necessarily mean they're catching those traveling fish.
37

38 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I can give you a
39 little more information on that in relation to your
40 question. I forget what the exact date was 2006, but
41 anyway when they went -- it's been back in the previous
42 cycle if not the one before that when they instituted
43 the windows -- windowed fishing in Area M at the same
44 time the Board of Fish eliminated all quotas, all caps
45 and their ties to the Bristol Bay forecast and what
46 formerly they had been allowed 8.3 percent or 8.7
47 percent split between the Unimak and the Shumagin
48 Districts. And those all went away in the last one, so
49 there is no more quota per se tied to any expected run
50 returns.

1 And there was a specific directive and
2 funding made available to -- with the DSI data that's
3 now available that at this last meeting that they had
4 in December, the Department was supposed to be coming
5 forward with stock of origin analysis both for the
6 Bristol Bay fishery and for the Area M fishery. It
7 came time for the meeting and they did have it for the
8 Bristol Bay fishery, but we're -- the Board was
9 informed at that time that they were still unable to
10 get it for the Area M fishery, so they were looking for
11 another two or three years down the line, although the
12 same data is available and certainly of a much lesser
13 magnitude as far as the crunching the numbers and
14 getting the data out for Area M than it would have been
15 for Bristol Bay. So it is in most people's eyes just
16 another delaying tactic by the former Executive
17 Director of the Eastern Aleutians Borough that had to
18 deal with the conflicts between AYK and the
19 interceptions that were noted in Area M.

20

21 Just a little update there.

22

23 Fred.

24

25 MR. BUE: Yeah. I guess in fact that
26 was a big study. It's Western Alaska salmon stock
27 identification or something similar. We called it
28 WASSI and we actually -- I went out to Sand Point/South
29 Peninsula there and watched them taking their genetic
30 samples two years ago, but we've been doing that all
31 around the South Peninsula, the North Peninsula,
32 Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim here and in fact in the mouth of
33 the Yukon up at Unalakleet, Norton Sound, and you know,
34 it's -- we may be -- you know, we're always wondering
35 our -- like Unalakleet fish coming, which way are they
36 going. Are they going through bumping along the mouth
37 of the Yukon or are they picking up some of the Yukon
38 fish.

39

40 So it's not just Area M, but it will be
41 an interesting study and they've got a pretty
42 comprehensive list there and it'll also be interesting
43 to see what the bycatch picks up on some of those too.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead. Harry.

46

47 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I would
48 like to ask you this question.

49

50 Why is so much a problem people,

1 especially in the Lower Yukon, try to have -- get the
2 subsistence food and too much trouble with the
3 enforcement and it's very -- problem down there is --
4 if there's any way that enforcements or people that do
5 represent subsistence fisheries go to the villages
6 before the fishing starts and let them know that -- why
7 the problem is. You know, it's very bad for some of
8 them. They don't even speak English. They stay in the
9 fish camp, really feel bad about it. They couldn't even
10 get one king salmon when the king salmon arrived. It's
11 very hurt their -- really more than hurt their
12 feelings. Their camps are -- before the fishing come
13 in, usually some move into fish camps, and now that --
14 if there's any way that the representative of these
15 subsistence people go down to the areas, let the people
16 know what the problem is going to be and all that. And
17 I think it's very important because as we're sitting
18 here, some of us, we are getting tired of people
19 complain all the time and people are -- even elders
20 come to me because -- come to me and not afraid to talk
21 to me.

22

23 And I think it would be good if we find
24 out subsistence -- how it's going to run, we'll need to
25 let the elders know because sometimes they don't go
26 meeting and -- when they don't have no translator, they
27 don't understand and they want to know what's really
28 going on.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Fred.

33

34 MR. BUE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I hear
35 the concerns and it is a big issue. Like last year, we
36 did start way ahead of the season. This time you're
37 trying to let people know ahead of time, giving them
38 some warning that it may be a poor year. We had a few
39 teleconferences. We had meetings in Fairbanks. We've
40 had, you know, a lot of the Advisory Committee
41 meetings, the Council meetings. I -- yeah. I guess we
42 could have meetings in every village and -- but that --
43 a lot of it takes time and a lot of it takes --
44 sometimes we don't know if the fish are going to be
45 there until they're not.

46

47 We're always optimistic.

48

49 We're hoping that there are going to be
50 fish for subsistence and we don't have to make a

1 restriction and everything will be okay, but you're
2 right. It's really -- messes with people's lives when
3 you don't have that fish and especially if I could
4 predict when those fish would be there, then -- I wish
5 I could, but I can't.

6
7 And so I think the deal is with
8 communication. We try to work with people, have people
9 represent others and help get the word to the
10 communities. I know that's a big burden on everybody.
11 You know, I realize that you all have to do -- you do
12 that on your own. You know, it's helping your
13 community and you want more help from us for sure too
14 and -- we go to some communities. We have the YRDFA
15 annual meeting. We try to talk with them, try to get
16 the teleconferences in the summer. But it's something
17 that we're always working on and I don't have a good
18 answer for you, Harry, but I hope we can -- people will
19 feel better about just calling me to -- I guess I don't
20 have anything specific I can say. I wish, you know, we
21 could have more meetings, but we run out of time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I'm going to jump
24 over and I'll come back to you, Ray -- Bob.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. One thing that
27 really upsets me about the bureaucracy is there's
28 always one person who's responsible to represent the
29 bureaucracy. And it's really upsetting. You keep
30 saying I, I, I, and to me that -- you're saying
31 something -- that's not coming from you. It's coming
32 from the bureaucracy and one of the things that is
33 really upsetting is that the local elders have always
34 been left out in the meetings and, you know, I travel
35 the Yukon and a lot of the old people talk to me that
36 if the nonknowing people would listen to them and
37 observe like they do so they would have a better handle
38 on what the forecast of the salmon are going to be.
39 One of the things that is really evidence on the Yukon
40 and Kuskokwim River this year is that a lot of these
41 streams are glaciering and there's even glaciering from
42 the bluffs and that indication is prehistoric, saying
43 that whenever glaciers appear from creeks or from the
44 bluffs or from cut banks, that that means the salmon
45 are coming back in numbers. You ever hear that from
46 the local up in that area?

47
48 And, you know, the other thing that
49 really upsets me is the simple fact whenever there is
50 something going on between an agency and a fisherman or

1 fisher people, it's called enforcement, but in
2 actuality it's harassment. So if you guys are really
3 concerned about the enforcement issues, go to the
4 headwaters of the Yukon River and start enforcing what
5 you're supposed to be enforcing instead of picking on
6 the people on the Lower Yukon all the time.

7
8 MR. BUE: No, I hadn't heard the thing
9 about the glaciering from bluffs. I know it's the low
10 snow year and that certainly is probably going to have
11 something else to go -- to look at. There are a lot of
12 cues, but that will be a really nice one if that means
13 that there's good fish. I'm always happy for more
14 fish. As far as law enforcement, that's a really
15 difficult one. You know, everybody's -- unfortunately
16 rules affect those people that abide by the laws more
17 than the other people and that's really frustrating.

18
19 I wish that everybody would -- part of
20 the problem is people have sacrificed a lot to get
21 those fish through last year and so I think that's part
22 of what law enforcement did last year was to try and
23 make sure that people who were sacrificing, you know,
24 there weren't other people that were going in behind
25 and taking those fish and that's why law enforcement
26 was out so much last year and of course it's hard to
27 catch everybody and everybody gets checked because you
28 don't know who's breaking the rules until you're
29 actually out there.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Ray.

32
33 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. You're right. Yeah, that was the hardest
35 time I ever fished in my life last year I mean because
36 of, you know, enforcement that were constantly find and
37 checking and I'm hoping that they won't be as stringent
38 as last year because people need the fish. People on
39 the river need the fish. We need to provide for them.
40 If you -- what I've seen on the amount of fish that
41 went into Canada, there was more than enough for
42 subsistence uses. There was more than enough for a
43 small commercial fishery. I mean there was more than
44 enough fish that went through. Like I said, people
45 need that fish. We need to provide for them right at
46 the beginning as soon as the pulse comes in. And I'm
47 hoping that the pulse that we're talking about, the
48 first winter pulse that were talked about earlier
49 yesterday, hopefully it won't drag on and drag on and
50 the next thing you know, all the fish are gone. And

1 I'm hoping, you know -- you know, we mentioned about
2 protecting the first pulse and I hope it don't drag on
3 to a third -- second pulse, third pulse, fourth pulse.
4 Next thing you know, you know, we can't -- won't be
5 able to get the chinook salmon.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Charlie.

10

11 MR. BROWN: Yeah. When I used to
12 participate working with the late Ray Baxter, you know,
13 I think you were -- some of you guys remember him, I
14 used to work under him, my supervisor. I was located
15 and working in (In Yup'ik) and during those years, him
16 and I used to work, and when he see someone violate
17 beyond those lines, he used to go out there and warn
18 them first. That's the first thing that they got to
19 do. Nowadays I heard it's different, that a lot
20 changed after that. You have to warn someone, most of
21 those elderly folks say they don't read papers, that
22 someone translate them and tell them what the lots are
23 and some of those old folks, by not knowing what
24 they're supposed to and they have to warn them first
25 instead of cite them.

26

27 That's how those procedures were when I
28 was working with him.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. Fred, when
31 you started out there, you mentioned -- or maybe in an
32 answer to some of the first questions, you mentioned a
33 series of meetings that are going to be coming up as
34 far as what the forecast's going to be and I've got it
35 to right here that the AKC's going to be meeting
36 tomorrow. That was one and then you mentioned on the
37 10th YRDFA meeting and then there was another one in
38 April and I didn't catch what that one was.

39

40 MR. BUE: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Yes.
41 The JTC is meeting in Fairbanks this week, was.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: This week.

44

45 MR. BUE: This week and in fact I think
46 they're to conclude today -- this afternoon and so
47 that's when they'll have their outlook. That's not --
48 that's the outlook. They still -- from the JTC, the
49 JTC takes that to the U.S.-Canada Panel meeting and at
50 the Panel meeting is where they actually set the

1 escapement objective or the border passage.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: And then that's the
4 one that's going to occur in April?

5

6 MR. BUE: No. That's another meeting I
7 didn't mention before, but the -- so the preparedness
8 meeting is what I was talking about. March 10th will
9 be the teleconference to talk about different
10 management options to conserve fish and at that time,
11 there should -- the outlook should be -- that's when
12 they'll try to present it to the public up and down the
13 river via the teleconference and then people will have
14 time to think about different options, different
15 management considerations and priorities, how they're
16 thinking about the fishery and then in April 8th will
17 be a meeting in Fairbanks. I don't know if Jill has an
18 idea of how many people there may be in attendance
19 there, but last year it worked that we brought people
20 from I think pert near every community or move, a few
21 different corporations -- tribal corporations and
22 representatives also.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: We'll also hear
25 further when she's come up.

26

27 MR. BUE: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: We cover that
30 there. The other point I wanted to raise, you
31 mentioned about the frustration perhaps that you're
32 feeling or back to that inexact science of what you get
33 for -- return for a spawner and adequate escapements
34 not giving you the production that you had anticipated,
35 although I'm sure those were established over quite a
36 lengthy time period to come up with those predictions.
37 Has there been discussion on how much that lends
38 credence to if we're getting those same levels of
39 escapement, the environmental effects or the bycatch
40 and such that occurs out in the Bering Sea.

41

42 MR. BUE: Yeah. It could be all of the
43 above. You know, things are constantly changing and in
44 my mind, people that live on the Delta know that the
45 river's continually changing, the willows grow and here
46 I was just telling somebody that the -- in '79 I worked
47 with Ray Baxter and I remember having to pull our
48 trailer back off the bluff because the bluff was, you
49 know, underneath the Fish and Game facility there. And
50 so it was a -- it's a constant thing before your

1 seawall really to establish. But yeah, the
2 temperatures change, there's bycatch, there's
3 hatcheries going on, there's -- just the temperature in
4 the ocean, you -- people that watch the wind, people
5 that live on the coast know the direction of the wind
6 changes. Some years it -- you know, it's a northwest
7 wind, really persistent and at the mouth of the Yukon,
8 you're always looking for that southerly wind hoping to
9 bring fish in.

10

11 And by the time the fall comes around,
12 you may have three weeks of a northeast wind and it
13 just takes forever and ever and then the fish come in.
14 And so those sorts of things and same with the spring
15 break up -- if you're herring fishing, you're always
16 watching is the ice moving off the beach or not and so
17 it -- sometimes it takes a long time and then all of a
18 sudden, the weather pattern changes. You have a high
19 pressure over the land where it's warming up and then
20 you still have the sea that's frozen and you get the --
21 and that high pressure is pretty stable. It doesn't
22 move. You need a typhoon coming out of South Asia to
23 bring it up and it comes above the peninsula and pushes
24 that high pressure out and moves it. So weather
25 pattern changes too. Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Well, what -- that
28 also triggered another question in my mind is that with
29 the escapements that are there, so forth -- and I know
30 those escapement goals and objections are reviewed on a
31 fairly regular basis and it then might lead into
32 possible recommendations for increasing the escapement
33 and we cued into that as well over here that our failed
34 runs of '99 and 2000, you know, whether it was the --
35 or whatever might have caused that produced our record
36 returns of 2004 to 2006 and we had failed escapements
37 out the drainage during that time and the fishery
38 disaster and the closure of subsistence and everything
39 else. So I guess that was where I was wondering if
40 down the line you might be -- if the Department might
41 be looking at recommending increasing these current
42 escapements because you're not getting the productivity
43 that you're anticipating even though they had been
44 there for however many fish generations you might be
45 talking about.

46

47 MR. BUE: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Sorry
48 about that. Yeah. The escapement goals are reviewed
49 and we're trying to do it more on a timely basis. Not
50 every year but as data comes up, I think it's every

1 four to five years or so we're -- we get new data,
2 enough data to -- so that we're not chasing our tail
3 all the time, but something with a good amount of data,
4 new information, something that we can reanalyze and
5 readjust as those escapement goals change or as the
6 trends in production changes. And so we just did that.
7 We presented to the Board of Fish this past cycle I
8 think for Yukon River. A couple of them changed and
9 other ones went away because the information, you know,
10 in hindsight wasn't as good as we thought it might have
11 been and -- so there -- it's a continuous thing.

12 You're right. Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you. Okay.

15 Oh, James. Go ahead.

16

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

18 Has the service used some techniques that State uses
19 for outlook like Dick Marlino. His outlooks are -- has
20 been -- I've been placed with his reports. They're not
21 accurate all the time, but they're always close for
22 outlook that Dick Marlino has been giving out during
23 our meetings. Is the Federal done the same way using
24 data and some information that how the run's going to
25 be.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. James. Well,
30 every system's a little bit different -- every river
31 system's so that -- what the -- the available data, you
32 do what you can with it. But I think both the service
33 and the State of Alaska work cooperatively in
34 formulating those outlooks and we also consult with
35 DFO, the fish -- Department of Fisheries and Oceans in
36 Canada because the Canadian components. And so we're
37 not duplicating. We're not trying to miss things.
38 We're trying to coordinate our outlooks and our data
39 information so that we can provide a joint outlook.
40 The State pretty much takes a lead in that.

41

42 I think -- you know, our outlooks are
43 actually pretty good and -- on the Yukon. The
44 unfortunate part is that we're trying to get down to
45 such a fine detail on the Yukon and that -- you know,
46 managed down to that last fish run. On the Kusko, you
47 have -- you know, you have a little bit of surplus of
48 fish so you can commercial harvest and you don't
49 notice, you know, that last fish as much, but on the
50 Yukon, that last king is pretty painful and you don't

1 want to waste it. You want to make sure that if you
2 need it for escapement and good surf -- you need it for
3 subsistence, it gets there too, and so it's -- you
4 know, we're talking about crossing over into Canada.
5 Well, you know, that's 10-, 15,000 fish and if you --
6 doesn't sound like very much, but it makes a big
7 difference in somebody's food cache. Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you. Okay.
10 Bob. And we'd like to start wrapping this one up.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't mean to pick on
13 you. I just -- you represent something that -- you
14 know, so I want to be heard by the bureaucracy and
15 you're the only guy up there that's representing the
16 bureaucracy. So I'm not picking on you. I'm picking
17 on the bureaucracy, so don't take it personal because
18 it really frustrates me. Whenever I go to the Yukon --
19 especially last summer when somebody -- I don't know
20 who it was -- an elder caught seven fish and they were
21 confiscated. It just blew me away. And that young man
22 who went out and protest and got cited way, maybe three
23 months, after the fact. Why not cite him right there
24 instead of waiting three months for him in suspense,
25 you know. That kind of thing really blows me away. And
26 the old people are what's wrong with these people. We
27 can't even go out and get our own fish. They don't
28 belong to the government.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Charlie, one more,
33 and then.....

34

35 MR. BROWN: Yeah. Since you're from
36 Interior, I'm just going to ask you are we going to
37 have early breakup or late breakup.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. BUE: Well, here's your chance to
42 go on the record. You tell me.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. Nothing
47 further.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you, Fred.
2 Okay. We have the 2011 to 2013 fisheries proposals.

3
4 Mr. Kron, you're going to be addressing
5 those.

6
7 MR. KRON: Yes. Mr. Chairman. We
8 passed out copies of the call for proposals and again
9 you can submit them at this meeting if you'd like. You
10 can mail or hand deliver them to the Federal Board.
11 You can give them to Alex. Alex, I know in the past,
12 has worked with the Council on various proposals or
13 there's a Website available as well. Anyway -- and the
14 proposals need to be in. The deadline is March 24th.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. We had
19 spoken yesterday about the concerns about this whole
20 customary trade issue and in one of the handouts that
21 we had earlier, there were some draft proposals that
22 have been put forward that -- and also we spoke about
23 possibly putting something in and there's a couple of
24 proposals and we just had the handouts on them for --
25 there's titled at Appendix A and Appendix B. After
26 looking through those, I think they lay out the issue
27 quite well as it's been related to us from our Yukon
28 folks over there along with some of the public
29 testimony that we've gotten. And I would be open to
30 maybe this Council just submitting those and -- as
31 placeholders, if you will, and we can help to start
32 facilitate the conversation. I understand at the Board
33 of Fisheries, it was brought up there regarding this
34 issue about putting together a working group between
35 the various user groups from up and down the river,
36 which this Council would certainly want to be a part of
37 along with Western and Eastern Interior and this could
38 help to generate those discussions and also lay the
39 issue on the table for both Federal and State
40 subsistence managers and the commercial managers and
41 whoever's all involved to start to address this issue,
42 along with having -- in addition that enforcement
43 concerns that we had that we'd be putting into our
44 annual report.

45
46 I just wanted to lay that on the table
47 for folks.

48 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Harry.

1 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. You know, we have
2 been -- in the Lower Yukon area, you never see any kind
3 of fishery proposals or wildlife proposals. The reason
4 is for this most of the elders, they listen to the
5 mouth of the elders not to fight back even be like you
6 and -- but they're getting tired. People are getting
7 tired in the Lower Yukon. Last time when we have a
8 meeting, they say we've been -- tried to obey our
9 elders long enough. We've been slapped one side of our
10 cheek and the other side, but we never respond. They
11 say that it's time for us to respond and they're
12 working on it right now, some boys, young boys, the
13 ones that graduated from high school and they use those
14 for -- they're going to have a -- planning to get
15 together and -- with people in town in the Lower Yukon.
16 The way that we start subsistence moose area like that
17 before, not one village. Before when they have
18 increased moose, they were looking at whole village --
19 that area down there with the support from the AVCP.
20 We were -- get together and we work together. That's
21 what they're planning to do. They're going to -- I
22 think this the one they're talking about. They're
23 going to work with -- get support from AVCP and all
24 that. They're really completely tired -- our elders.
25 Chair. You know, it's really bad. I've been working
26 with the fishing booth -- with the -- downriver
27 especially and those elders -- mostly elders -- are
28 really tired. You know they go out there and try to
29 feed that family in a fish camp. One guy that --he
30 said that -- he said that Fish and Wildlife, that's
31 what he says. He take two king salmon away from here
32 and my wife is just about ready to cook them. That's
33 bad. It's really hurt those people.

34
35 They say that -- Harry, you are
36 outspoken. Use anything to help people. Yeah, I've
37 been, but I never see this kind of a paper that will
38 hurt so much. So I don't know what they're going to
39 do, but that they work up a proposal.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Well, is that --
44 the proposals that are here under Appendix A and
45 Appendix B -- A is to specifically address the
46 customary trade that is occurring on the Upper Yukon
47 when -- the closures and the restrictions that were in
48 place on the lower river last year and at the same
49 time, customary trade was allowed to continue and what
50 this first proposal does is it sets in order of

1 priority for personal family consumption and people's
2 use as the top priority, and if restrictions will go --
3 are to be put into place, that the customary trade and
4 the sale for cash money would be the first place to
5 start making the restrictions and cutting the use.

6 The second proposal actually deals with
7 this enforcement issue which was brought up and
8 establishing a record-keeping system for those who are
9 doing this and trying to -- bringing up the possibility
10 of limits on the sale to prevent the continued growth
11 of this activity and essentially under the guise of
12 saying you're doing customary trade and barter, to be
13 actually running a commercial enterprise. So
14 that's.....

15

16 Tom Kron.

17

18 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The -- again
19 I'm looking at the copies of the information from
20 Alstrom on January 22nd that he sent to Pat Pourchot as
21 part of the Federal Subsistence Board review, but
22 Appendix A I believe addresses ANILCA. That would be
23 out of the jurisdiction of the Federal Board. That's an
24 issue that I think he's put forward, would have to come
25 before Congress.

26

27 Appendix B, however, would be an issue
28 that the Federal Board could consider. Appendix B
29 addresses the record-keeping part of it. The State
30 Board at their recent meeting in Fairbanks looked at
31 that issue and Mr. Cannon I believe has copies of what
32 the OSM response was on the proposal that they were
33 looking at up there relative to the record keeping. So
34 if you'd like to see that, you can, but again this is
35 the time to submit proposals. So it's public process.
36 Feel free to do so.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Speaking for
41 myself, I'd still be inclined to put it in as a
42 proposal to prioritize, not to change what's in there,
43 but to -- that the Federal Subsistence Board, if they
44 kind of take a regulatory action or if it's not a
45 regulatory action, it is an action that is appropriate
46 to that Board to make for their recommendations to have
47 those changes made and doing it through the regulatory
48 process and regulatory cycle will get that input on it
49 and that's my feeling. Anybody else. I've read that
50 one.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: If we need to put
4 it to a vote here -- like I say, if we -- general
5 consensus that we submit these are fisheries proposals
6 -- vote, should we -- in front of people? Any more
7 discussion on that or input. Any objection I guess.
8 Bob Aloysius.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'm still a bit
11 confused. I thought there as no -- I thought it was
12 totally illegal for anyone to sell any kind of
13 subsistence-caught fish and from what I read this here,
14 it says and for customary trade. Well, customary trade
15 to me is, well, here's ten pounds of fish, I want
16 \$10.00, you know.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: You want to relate
19 the customary trade and barter policy, Mr. Kron.

20

21 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. The
22 regulations that the Federal program has currently were
23 developed a number of years ago. Our current Assistant
24 Regional Director, Pete Probasco, worked with Regional
25 Council Chairs from across the State to develop those.
26 And then on the State side, basically sale of
27 subsistence-caught fish is illegal. So you've got that
28 on the State side. On the Federal side, you know, what
29 was discussed earlier and Pete Probasco pointed this
30 out to you when he was here two days, but the area
31 where people are concerned about the sale of large
32 volumes of strips, for example, at AFN is not legal
33 under the State law. It's not legal under the Federal
34 law, and again as Pete noted, you know, we see it as an
35 enforcement issue.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: What I understand
40 as well, there is no limit in place, although that was
41 discussed at length when those series of meetings took
42 place discussing customary trade for two to three years
43 or four years, however long it went. It was
44 specifically -- there were limitations being put into
45 place that it wouldn't exceed a \$1,000 or something,
46 but when it came down to the final action, all those
47 were eliminated. So at present, there is no limit on
48 the amount of -- a cash value limitation on the amount
49 that people could sell. And this is another little
50 side note to that. It only applies to fish, according

1 to ANILCA, because it only deals with fish and wildlife
2 and that subsistence use. Berries and plants are not
3 protected for subsistence under Title VIII of ANILCA.

4

5 Tom.

6

7 MR. KRON: Just to follow up on your
8 comments there. Mr. Chair. Several regions in the
9 State did address it for their region. Bristol Bay,
10 for example, there's a record -- customary trade
11 record-keeping form and I believe the other was Prince
12 William Sound. You know, there were a couple regions
13 that addressed, you know, how they felt it should be
14 addressed in their regions and the Board had made the
15 comment that, you know, they thought it was appropriate
16 to have each of the different regions address it based
17 on how things were handled, what made sense in their
18 particular regions and several regions have, but the
19 Yukon has not.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: And if you read
24 through these draft proposals that are in front of it,
25 it is specific to the Yukon Area -- applying only to
26 the Yukon. So it would be appropriate in that regard.

27

28

29 Bob, did you want to follow up.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. The way I grew
32 up, customary trade had absolutely no dollar sign
33 attached to it. Nowadays it is and why can't we spell
34 out customary trade. I mean from our area. Is
35 that.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: That's what gets
38 laid on the table here in my mind is that -- to carry
39 -- bring those discussions up for the Yukon because of
40 the concerns we've got with the people and the region
41 that we represent seeing substantial subsistence
42 closures and enforcement coming and taking the fish
43 away, as Harry just said, when his wife's getting ready
44 to cook them, they only got two for the whole year.
45 Well, on up in the urban areas around Fairbanks and in
46 other areas around the State, people are bringing Yukon
47 -- advertising as Yukon king salmon and I think there's
48 even one from Cabela's Catalog or something like that
49 where these fish are being advertised for sale. Well,
50 the people of our region are being, yeah, stopped from

1 going out and just getting their basic subsistence
2 needs met, so that's.....

3

4 Alex, you had.....

5

6 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Just wanted to
7 remind the Council that a few years ago, this issue was
8 up, you know, before it became a rule and the YK
9 Council at that time voted that within the region -- YK
10 Region, customary trade was recommended to be allowed
11 and with a cap of \$500. But that went away I think
12 after that vote and we do have pamphlets and -- or
13 posters and if I remember correctly, there's one posted
14 up at Refuge office. Dos and don'ts on the customary
15 trade rule. And it was explained to this Council more
16 than once by the Staff in the past that the customary
17 trade would be allowed only on Federal lands -- you
18 know, harvested and allowed only on Federal lands and
19 that's been explained by the Staff in the past.

20

21 Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. But again
24 these proposals are specific to the Yukon king or Yukon
25 fishery situation and that it needs to have a closer at
26 it. And maybe if -- since you mentioned, it's not --
27 maybe we need to adjust the language into the Board's
28 purview of action of -- that they need to adjust their
29 policy. I mean it gets into the larger picture and
30 part of this entire criticism of the Federal
31 Subsistence Management Program that the Board
32 essentially is saying they don't have authority.
33 They're choosing not to assert any authority. They
34 certainly make very strong recommendations to the
35 appropriate management agencies and they should be
36 doing so in the best interest of subsistence users and
37 by avoiding these issues and not taking action, saying
38 they don't have authority and essentially doing nothing
39 and -- is counter to their responsibility. And they
40 need to stand up and start taking some action. They
41 can very easily as a Board representing the subsistence
42 users and representing the Council or the State make
43 recommendations and very strong recommendations to
44 their administrative authorities and certainly to their
45 member groups of management actions that are needed to
46 provide for subsistence. And appropriate.

47

48 Do we want to move forward with these
49 proposals? Want to step down for a few minutes? Okay.
50 Ten-minute break.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Back on record
6 here. 10:25. Seven members still present. Regarding
7 these proposals, has been mentioned just prior to the
8 break -- there are some concerns that the Federal
9 Board's proposals that -- at the present, they have
10 specific references to an ANILCA and Title VIII in the
11 Act and so forth and the Federal Board could use that
12 to essentially not even bring these proposals up for
13 consideration. So there will be some level of editing
14 that needs to take place to take those references out
15 of there and then couch these proposals in terms of
16 where the Board's authority and responsibilities
17 actually lie. And so I guess I'd ask if there's any
18 objection that we work with -- making these appropriate
19 edits and adjustments to the language that's contained
20 herein, but again putting out the personal use as the
21 priority use and that other activities involving
22 monetary gains and so forth would be secondary for the
23 Yukon River kings and establishing a tracking system as
24 well for those areas and putting it forward both in the
25 State and Federal and they would go in as placeholders
26 and we could take it from there. Is there any
27 objection -- I guess I'd just lay that out right now --
28 to going forward with putting in some proposals
29 regarding this issue and using these proposals as a
30 template to do that.

31

32 Bob.

33

34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I'm all
35 for the thing, but the thing that still scares me is
36 the simple fact that, you know, anybody can interpret
37 that secondary provision to mean anything that -- you
38 know, what we -- gathering up for our personal use, now
39 we could out, we could do whatever we want with the
40 excess, and that scares me because it's -- using that
41 Eastern Interior area as an example of how they're
42 abusing these customary trade provision and they're
43 going to see a green light to me that we can continue
44 to do this and I think that -- the Yukon River flows
45 from the east to the west. If that feeling originates
46 up there, it's going to flow downriver and flow
47 downriver and flow downriver up to the bay. I guess my
48 personal observation -- and I hate to see something
49 that allows them to continue to abuse customary trade.
50 If there was some way that we could really restrict

1 customary trade to mean exactly what it's supposed to
2 be, it's a bartering system. It's not a -- it's a cash
3 for -- trading for something of value.

4
5 So if we could restrict that and make
6 it enforceable, then I'd be really, really happy and I
7 know the other people would be too because, you know,
8 this customary trade thing is just -- if you just read
9 it the way it is, it's just still wide open.

10
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: And I guess what I
13 see here is that this is the first step in that
14 direction and then we guide it on from there. You
15 know, it's -- Alex mentioned -- and in the passage,
16 there was a recommendation that came from this Council
17 discussing caps and other areas of the State have put
18 tracking systems and so forth in place and we can look
19 at having that apply here. But this would be the first
20 step towards doing that.

21
22 Any other comments, concerns,
23 objections.

24
25 (No objections)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Any objections.

28
29 (No objections)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Hearing none, we'll
32 go ahead and then work towards doing that and have
33 proposals drafted and submitted in time for the March
34 24 deadline.

35
36 Any other fisheries proposals anybody
37 want to bring up. Bob Aloysius.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I was really glad
40 to hear that the young people are getting together to
41 do something and what Harry brought out and, you know,
42 it would be -- if it's possible, I think we ought to
43 send somebody to represent the YK RAC to acknowledge
44 what those young people are doing and to encourage them
45 and to help them in any way that we can, to make sure
46 that, you know, passivity is over. Like Harry said,
47 we've -- we let them run over us and do whatever they
48 want, slap us, kick us, throw us in jail or threaten to
49 throw us in jail and we never respond. But the time is
50 over. We need to encourage our young people to take an

1 active role because like Harry said, the elders are so
2 trained to let things go -- to let it go, let it go.
3 It eventually -- well, you let go enough that we have
4 nothing left. So if we could send somebody to represent
5 the YK RAC to that meeting, you know, I'd be really
6 happy to have somebody besides Harry to be involved
7 with that group.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: That would be
10 appropriate for our -- the -- I think Lester is the one
11 that said in serving as the appointee for fisheries.
12 Harry's one and then I'm not sure who's the other.
13 Ray, were you the other appointed to the fisheries
14 issues for Yukon side? We had two appointees. I think
15 you were the other one, weren't you?

16
17 MR. ONEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman. That's
18 right I was appointed to the CFC.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: What about somebody from
21 the Kuskokwim. I mean we've been at this since 1984
22 with a working group and the working group has been
23 very successful. And at one time, we did have a
24 workshop with the Lower Yukon fisheries in creating a
25 working group, you know, with them, but as far as I
26 know, that never even came about. Maybe that's the
27 initial creation of the Yukon fishery something
28 something, that big long name they have that covers the
29 whole of Yukon fisheries. But anyway.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I think it's
32 something that's already open to us actually. It's
33 just a matter of making a request to attend the meeting
34 just as -- so if you have an interest in doing that,
35 then encourage you to do that. Okay.

36
37 Anything else on proposals. Federal
38 subsistence proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board
39 regarding fisheries for our region.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Hearing none, then
44 we'll go ahead and move on down the agenda here. Under
45 Agencies and Organization Reports, OSM Management
46 report on Bering Sea bycatch briefing.

47
48 Tom.

49
50 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I've got

1 the Bering Sea bycatch. I'm getting a little bit of
2 echo here. I've got the Bering Sea bycatch summary
3 I'll present. Also I passed out copies of a summary
4 that was developed by Special Assistant Pourchot on the
5 Federal Subsistence Review and I don't have any
6 comments in addition, but he wanted to make sure we
7 distribute it to Council members.

8

9 Thank you. Mr. Chair. And then I'll
10 move directly into the Bering Sea bycatch issue and I
11 think Jill is going to talk about that issue as well.

12

13 First of all, for chum salmon, the
14 North Pacific Fishery Management Council has begun
15 working on alternatives for chum salmon bycatch
16 management measures to be part of an environmental
17 impact or environmental impact statement or assessment
18 has yet to be determined. The range of numbers being
19 considered for development of a hard cap range from
20 50,000 to 353,000 or a trigger cap of 25,000 to
21 200,000. These would close specific areas.

22

23 The schedule through 2010, 2011 is
24 outlined in the briefing, leading to a recommendation
25 from the Secretary of Commerce on a preferred
26 alternative. As for the process on chinook salmon, OSM
27 intends to provide travel support for relevant Regional
28 Councils to each send one person to testify at key
29 meetings in North Pacific Fishery Management Council.
30 For chinook salmon, the chinook EIS was finalized and
31 released to the public at the end of 2009. The comment
32 period closed February 16th, 2010. A record of
33 decision is expected in May 2010.

34

35 A letter from the Federal Subsistence
36 Program was submitted before the February 16th deadline
37 and conveyed concerns to the Federal Subsistence Board
38 and the Regional Councils. We had recommended a hard
39 cap of 29,323. Both the hard caps and the preferred
40 alternative are too high, the 60,000 with the incentive
41 plan agreement or the 47,591 without. Rule making on
42 chinook bycatch will be underway soon through the
43 publication of the proposed rule. And I guess on this
44 issue again, we talked about it earlier in the meeting,
45 the proposed rule is now published and comments are due
46 by April 19th and I guess I'd ask Rich to come too.
47 Anyone that's participated in the Fairbanks meeting,
48 but my understanding is that the Eastern and Western
49 Interior Regional Councils have supported the idea of
50 jointly signing in on a Council letter to the Regional

1 -- to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council
2 essentially reasserting what you did a year ago, that
3 you think that the cap should be 29,000. All three
4 Councils agreed to that level last year as did the
5 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board. That issue
6 was put forward. The North Pacific Council took
7 action. We're headed now to final action, but there's
8 a feeling that we need to reassert that desire in the
9 process and I guess I'll let Rich provide additional
10 comments.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Rich.

15

16 MR. CANNON: Mr. Chairman. Council
17 members. Tom is correct that both the Eastern and
18 Western Interior Councils in their discussions about
19 issues regarding the Yukon River fisheries want to
20 continue raising this issue to the North Pacific
21 Council through the appropriate sources and they were
22 hoping that during your meeting here today that you
23 would join them in that effort.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: We actually
28 addressed that earlier as an agenda item and were
29 informed at that time that there was a draft letter on
30 the way and I believe we're going to be here shortly
31 from -- that would -- that has a copy of that.

32

33 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Council
34 members. Our staff is in -- is willing to prepare a
35 letter to that effect and send it out to your Councils
36 for their approval and then on to the North Pacific
37 Council and that assignment's been made as I understand
38 to our Staff. I'm sure Jill has more information. I
39 know they're following this issue very closely and
40 we'll hear from her in just a few minutes.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Then we're looking
45 at taking action here earlier in the meeting and we had
46 actually held off. This -- the general endorsement,
47 there's certainly the intent and the wish for this
48 Council to sign onto this effort.

49

50 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. My

1 understanding is that there's been an assignment given
2 to OSM Staff to prepare this letter and get it back to
3 you. I don't believe that there's anything for you
4 specifically to look at other than just simply to
5 endorse the intent to prepare a response for your
6 Councils.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. That works
9 for me. Tom, you had.....

10

11 MR. KRON: Just for further
12 clarification, again the comments on the final proposed
13 rule need to be in by April 19th. Again my
14 understanding is Western and Eastern took action to
15 this effect, you know, basically and the thought was
16 that if all three Councils -- because you had
17 previously supported the 29,000. If all three Councils
18 could join together, that would be additional strength.
19 But again trying to get it approved by all the Councils
20 and then meet that deadline was a challenge and for the
21 Council to be able to support it, you need to do it as
22 an action at this meeting.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Bob.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Are you asking this
29 Council to pass a resolution or a motion or do
30 something in writing to joint the Y RAC and the E RAC
31 in support of that 29,000 cap?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Tom.

34

35 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I learned a
36 long time ago not to ask you to do too many things. I
37 think the thought was that if -- again the two other
38 RACs had supported this idea, basically reconfirmed
39 their earlier agreement that the 29,000 cap was
40 appropriate and if this Council were to do it at this
41 meeting, Rich had indicated he would work with all of
42 the RACs to get something drafted and then back to you
43 and then work to try to meet the deadline because it's
44 always a challenge to meet such a short deadline like
45 this. But for you to agree to this, you need to do it
46 at this meeting.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: The Chair would

1 appreciate and encourage a motion at this time to
2 endorse the effort to draft a letter to be jointly
3 supported by our Council with the Western and Eastern
4 Interior to reassert our position, reaffirm our
5 position on the Bering Sea bycatch cap as earlier
6 related.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I so move
9 in the words that you just presented.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Is there a second.

12

13 MR. CHARLES: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Is there any
16 objection.

17

18 (No objections)

19

20 MR. ANDREW: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Is there any
23 objection.

24

25 (No objections)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Seeing -- hearing
28 none, let's go do it.

29

30 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Harry.

33

34 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. I got a -- I get
35 this kind of papers that North Pacific Fishery
36 Management Council -- the stuff I was looking at in one
37 of them, they say through it will be not going to
38 affect -- some time the North Pacific Fishery
39 Management Council, April, the king salmon bycatch cap
40 for the fishery. This summer that king salmon fishery
41 was a bust in the Yukon River and other Alaskan
42 villages for the third time in a row. Some people
43 believe shifting the current of food of available to
44 other environmental condition are at work, but the
45 residents along the Yukon shift that king salmon is
46 being lost in the bycatch. The trawl fishery for
47 pollock. There is no question by catching in the issue
48 that through except it is sayings uncertain. The
49 bycatch cap goes into effect in 2011. In the meantime,
50 rule in the place to allow the trawlers to move only

1 from the area where there is a bycatch.

2

3 That's what I get back from the
4 newspaper or the papers.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. Thank you,
7 Harry. Moving on down the reports. I did have a
8 request there's an individual here who had to -- other
9 conflicting commitments. So if there's no objection
10 from the Council, I'm going to call him up here. He
11 has to leave here shortly.

12

13 Any objection.

14

15 (No objections)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Seeing none, Tim.
18 Tim Andrew.

19

20 MR. ANDREW: Good morning. Mr.
21 Chairman. Members of the Council. Thank you for
22 taking me out of order and providing the opportunity
23 for me to attend to other things this afternoon. I've
24 participated in this meeting for the last two days and
25 really appreciate the dialogue that has been occurring
26 through various Board members on various issues
27 regarding wildlife and also our fishery resources as
28 well. There's been a lot of discussion on this first
29 issue that I'm going to talk about which is the support
30 of the Eastern Interior and Western Interior BSAI
31 letter on the bycatch issue. It's not only king
32 salmon, it's also other salmon as well. In the years
33 past, they have also harvested up to 700,000 other
34 salmon which is anything from pink salmon, coho, chum
35 salmon, and sockeye. But our chum salmon interception
36 in that fishery is likely -- or bycatch is very likely
37 fairly low compared to what's happening in the Area M
38 fishery.

39

40 This past year, they harvested 1.7
41 million in the June and post June fishery of chum
42 salmon and whether or not a large number was bound to
43 this area is up in the air and hopefully as soon as the
44 genetic studies are coming to conclusion, we'll be able
45 to accurately determine what the composition of bycatch
46 in the Area M fishery. We did take it to the Board of
47 Fishery this past winter during the month of February,
48 but the Board chose to take no action to restrict the
49 Area M fishery. So they're still going to be able to
50 fish pretty much status quo along with their current

1 schedules and fishing areas, no time and area closures
2 that are going to be instituted in that fishery.
3 They're just going to keep on going just as business as
4 usual.

5
6 There were a number of people that did
7 attend the meeting. There was a delegation from TCC,
8 the Kawerak or Nome area, Norton Sound area, and of
9 course myself and Jennifer Hooper, Sky Starkey with
10 AVCP that did attend the meeting, but our efforts were
11 pretty much futile at that point. I would also
12 encourage you, especially during the -- maybe send a
13 letter out to the other areas that are heavily impacted
14 by the trawl fishery. In the Kate Meyer study, it
15 indicated that 31 percent of the chinook harvest was
16 from -- in the Bering Sea trawl fisheries from the Cook
17 Inlet area and there is a Kenai Peninsula RAC that
18 would probably take a big interest in this issue.

19
20 Now, we've taken it to the Kenaitze
21 Tribe. They're currently looking into the issue to
22 determine the health of their rivers and perhaps the
23 declining returns of chinook salmon in their area. We
24 also took the issue to the Alaska Outdoor Council.
25 It's -- you know, it's their people that we don't
26 normally work with, but if we have a common issue such
27 as this one here, we will work with them and try to
28 gather the different alliances to address issues. So
29 hopefully, you know, the Kenai Peninsula RAC, if they
30 would chime in, Kodiak would be a good RAC as well.
31 The Kenaitze, the Alaska Outdoor Council and their
32 members would gather enough support to encourage the
33 Secretary of Interior to drop the hard cap down and the
34 more favorable ten-year average and the bycatch in the
35 Bering Sea.

36
37 The other area that we are moving
38 forward on is supporting the tribal seats on the North
39 Pacific Fishery Management Council. AVCP did support a
40 -- or submit a supporting resolution for the Southern
41 Norton Sound Advisory Committee's recommendation to
42 North Pacific Fishery Management to add four seats to
43 the Council and those four seats come from the tribal
44 membership in Alaska. Currently there are
45 representatives from the State of Washington, State of
46 Oregon, the State of Alaska. There are members of the
47 industry that are involved in the Council, but there is
48 no tribal member contingency in that Council at all
49 with the exception of -- with Eric Olsen, but Eric is
50 -- I believe he might be an industry member or a CDQ

1 member on that Council.

2

3 Their impact on our resources is huge.
4 It affects not only the economies of our villages, it
5 also affects our way of life and mostly in the Norton
6 Sound area. During the last convention in October, the
7 AVCP -- took it into consideration Resolution
8 No. 091004 which is titled Failure of Federal
9 Management to Provide for Adequate Subsistence Harvest
10 Needs and what this resolution is basically about is
11 that we have moose and caribou population in the area
12 that people really depend on and outside the area as
13 well in -- you know, like in 21E, in Unit 9 and 17 in
14 which our caribou migrate out to. And those
15 subsistence resources need help every way which
16 possible just like our salmon needs help.

17

18 And, you know, humans contribute to the
19 predation of salmon just as much as wolves and bears
20 and others contribute in their predation to the moose
21 and caribou and they do it a lot more efficiently than
22 humans, more than likely, because they're out there 365
23 days out of the year, 24 hours a day. And the Federal
24 Management System is charged with the responsibility of
25 protecting subsistence uses and -- by ANILCA and that's
26 a pretty significant responsibility that they have to
27 take on and predator management is -- we feel is one of
28 the issues that they have to take responsibility for in
29 addressing this issue.

30

31 As far as the customary trade proposal,
32 this was submitted by Yukon Delta Fishery Development
33 Association. They did announce their intent at the
34 Fairbanks RAC meeting and also at the State Board of
35 Fisheries meeting that the Yukon -- Lower Yukon River
36 commercial fishermen did not have the opportunity to
37 target kings in the commercial fishery nor did they
38 have an opportunity to sell their commercially caught
39 king salmon this past summer, but to their dismay, to
40 our dismay, to everyone's dismay, looking outside the
41 AFN Convention during the month of October. Customary
42 trade -- sales of king salmon were occurring right
43 outside the door and several members of the Lower Yukon
44 area came up to me practically in tears because they
45 were not able to provide for their families. They were
46 not able to even harvest these needs -- subsistence
47 needs of kings in their communities to provide for
48 their families and right outside the door, people were
49 selling king salmon from further up the river and
50 achieving monetary benefit from -- and, you know, which

1 we couldn't do on the Lower Yukon.

2

3 So upon encountering that, I went up to
4 one of the individuals and asked him where is he from.
5 He said from Nunam and what exactly is he selling, he
6 said both kings and chums. And so I went and reported
7 to both State and Federal officials and both of them
8 says I can't do anything about it, while it's illegal
9 under the State law to sell processed salmon. So is
10 there's any way that the Regional Advisory Council can
11 put the pressure on the Federal law enforcement or to
12 the State law enforcement officials in enforcing the
13 law, it would really send a strong message that, you
14 know, this is just totally wrong. We don't know how
15 many salmon -- salmon mortality is related to customary
16 trade. It has to be controlled as we have indicated in
17 my earlier testimony as well.

18

19 And the Yukon River situation is not an
20 isolated incident. It's also occurring on the Kuskokwim
21 River as well and it could possibly and potentially
22 impact your stocks as well when low salmon returns --
23 when there's years of low salmon abundance. Currently
24 the Kuskokwim River is doing fairly well, but if it
25 continues, if unregulated customary trade continues and
26 we don't know the numbers associated with it, it could
27 have huge management implications as much as it does on
28 the Yukon River.

29

30 We did agree with the Yukon Delta
31 Fishery Development Association that subsistence human
32 use must be a priority -- or for the family and that
33 customary trade should be secondary. We do recognize
34 that there is a longstanding customary and traditional
35 uses in the Alaska Native Society, but as far as some
36 of these people that have moved in from the outside and
37 can participate in customary and traditional trade
38 under the guise of subsistence is totally wrong. In
39 fact they are contributing more to the problem because
40 they feel they have the right to take advantage of our
41 subsistence way of life.

42

43 You know, customary trade, as Mr.
44 Aloysius has indicated is primarily bartering. We --
45 you know, we've historically done it with -- in
46 activities such as pot latches and traveling to
47 different villages, perhaps hosting people like --
48 people from Barrow whenever they come down. They bring
49 down muktuk and in exchange we provide salmon because
50 salmon is pretty rare in their area. You know, that

1 type of thing is more than okay. It's just the way we
2 -- it's the way we grew up, but as far as large scale
3 commercial production, totally unregulated processing
4 of salmon in any systems in Alaska where it's
5 detrimental to the salmon population is a crime.

6
7 AVCP has also -- has been a proponent
8 for the last four or five years for the declaration of
9 a disaster for the Yukon River. The State has fought
10 us every which way possible. They have come up with
11 every excuse not to declare a disaster, but we finally
12 went to the Secretary of Commerce this past summer,
13 along with the TCC contingent, and finally persuaded
14 the Secretary of Commerce to declare a disaster for the
15 Yukon River. And we are currently working with TCC to
16 determine dollar amount for the commercial fishermen,
17 for the crew members, for the cannery workers, for the
18 subsistence user as well because we were severely
19 restricted as you have heard from some of the Yukon
20 River reps and we are also submitting a monetary
21 request for the change of gear from whatever gear we
22 have now to seven and a half inch for both commercial
23 and subsistence fishermen as well. But, you know,
24 we're not sure if we are going to be getting those
25 dollars and if we don't get the dollars, I don't know
26 where we can get the dollars to change over in order to
27 comply with the State regulations in 2011.

28
29 There was some areas that are -- that
30 I'd like to mention, but they've already been covered
31 previously and probably will be elaborated more on a
32 little bit later with Jill's presentation is the public
33 comment period that's open on Amendment 91, as Rich had
34 indicated earlier, April 19th. We encourage the
35 Council to sign on with the Eastern Interior/Western
36 Interior and if so, if you can do it individually as
37 well, it would really help persuade or at least for the
38 Secretary of Commerce to consider the 30,000 or 29,000
39 cap. It was given -- at least that's, you know,
40 something to look at and at least point them in that
41 direction.

42
43 AVCP in their fall convention also had
44 a resolution, 09-10-02, and I didn't -- I don't think I
45 brought a copy with me. I didn't bring a copy with me.
46 But that resolution basically addresses a 50-mile
47 buffer zone along the coastal areas of our region to be
48 free from any type of trawling activity, any type of
49 fishing activity that would be totally devastating to
50 the marine mammal population, to any of the resident

1 species that we have on the coastal areas. It's just a
2 50-mile subsistence protection zone just to allow
3 people to continue their subsistence way of life in the
4 coastal areas.

5
6 We have also approached the Alaska
7 State Legislature. In fact, that was why I was absent
8 yesterday during -- between 2:30 and 3:00 o'clock. I
9 went over to testify on HB300 and primarily on the
10 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's portion of the
11 State operating budget. In looking at the operating
12 budget, law -- HB300 -- I didn't see a Board support
13 coordinator position for the State ACs -- five State AC
14 that we have in the region. The Lower Kuskokwim had
15 requested that we move in that direction to provide for
16 a Yup'ik speaking individual to address their needs and
17 also the needs of Central Bering Sea Advisory Committee
18 as well. Those two ACs are being staffed by a person
19 from Dillingham at this point and that person does not
20 speak Yup'ik or understand Yup'ik. And in most
21 meetings that I've attended in the Lower Kuskokwim AC
22 and the Central Bering Sea, those are done primarily in
23 Yup'ik.

24
25 Other ACs in the region -- the Lower
26 Yukon Advisory Committee is currently being staffed out
27 of Anchorage. The Central Kuskokwim and the Stoney
28 Holitna Advisory Committee are being staffed out of
29 Fairbanks, and, you know, that places a hardship on
30 many of the local people when they try and have access
31 to their Advisory Committees having to call people in
32 Dillingham, Anchorage, and Fairbanks in order to get
33 their proposals and issues heard by the Fish and Game
34 Advisory Committees. If you can possibly write a
35 letter or any way adopt a resolution, you know, voicing
36 your concerns on your State counterpart side, it would
37 really help us in securing that position here in
38 Bethel. It hasn't been staffed here since at least
39 2003, so it's been at least seven years since we had
40 that position here.

41
42 The other area that is really
43 controversial and it's not an area that you have any
44 authority over is migratory birds. When Geoff Haskett
45 came out to the community in March along with Heather
46 Kendall -- Geoff is the Regional Director for the
47 State -- or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
48 Alaska. He had announced that -- at the March meeting
49 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be
50 enforcing the duck stamp and hunting license

1 requirements in the spring migratory bird hunt. AVCP
2 has taken an adamant position that we -- our hunters
3 have never been required to purchase a State hunting
4 license or a Federal duck stamp in their customary and
5 traditional harvest of migratory birds during the
6 spring and summer.

7
8 The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
9 Council has never come to a consensus in requiring our
10 hunters to have hunting license in State -- or State
11 and Federal duck stamps. But it's something that's
12 coming over the horizon real quickly. We tried
13 addressing this issue with our Congressional
14 delegation, but the after effects of Katrina, the
15 earthquake -- or the after effects of Katrina, the
16 tsunami in the South Pacific, the war in Afghanistan,
17 the war in Iraq, our economy, you know, the migratory
18 bird duck stamp issue just took the back burner and
19 it's not as pressing and as important issue to the
20 American society at this point while considering some
21 of the major issues that were occurring both nationally
22 and internationally.

23
24 We are continuously trying -- and get
25 the exemption through Congress, but, you know, issues
26 keep coming up. Haiti, more recently, with its
27 devastating, other issues keep coming up and, you know,
28 the more theses issues come up, the economy -- you know
29 the duck stamp issue is put aside. But, you know, just
30 to inform you and your clients that this is coming up
31 over the horizon, I thought I'd mention that as part of
32 my report.

33
34 And I believe that is it for my report
35 and would be available to answer any questions that you
36 have.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you.
41 Questions for AVCP.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I did have one note
46 of comment. You mentioned about House Bill 300 and
47 that the Regional Coordinator for the Advisory
48 Committee not being in there. The Board support
49 section actually did make that request. It did not
50 make the Governor's cut, however, to be included in the

1 budget. So we did have a teleconference on that. It's
2 been a couple months ago now. I think it was early
3 December and they apologize for not being able to
4 convince their superiors to have that included, but we
5 were looking to get that -- if it's going to happen, it
6 would have to be through an appropriation. So anybody
7 wanting to send in letters regarding that, it'd Lyman
8 Hoffman would be the one to send them to since he's the
9 Co-Chair of Finance Committee.

10

11 MR. ANDREW: Rob Earl from
12 Representative Heron's office sent me an email
13 yesterday and he said exactly that, is that Kim
14 Grusendorf from Senator Hoffman's office is closely
15 monitoring on the Senate side and hopefully they'd be
16 able to put it in as an amendment to the Governor's
17 operating budget.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Only other
20 observation I had was your reference about the humans
21 being predators too. We might want to take a look at
22 that and see how the Federal Subsistence Board,
23 according to their policy, has no authority over.....

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: But then we'd be
28 under the management of Fish and Wildlife alone. Any
29 questions.

30

31 Ray.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. You probably heard earlier that the Lower
35 people were establishing a working group. Would AVCP
36 be willing to participate in that work group or
37 whatever they call it?

38

39 MR. ANDREW: We would be more than glad
40 to participate in the working group. The importance of
41 our young people participating in the management of our
42 resources is more important now than ever. You know,
43 you look at the composition of your Council, you look
44 at the Fish and Game Advisory Committees, you look at
45 the people that are involved in the resource positions
46 like for myself and Greg, you know, we're not getting
47 any younger and at some point, we're going to have to
48 retire, but we need people to be mentored into these
49 positions to continue our way of life under the current
50 State and Federal Management System. You know, we have

1 some very bright people out there, very educated,
2 people that are living in our communities that are
3 totally oblivious as far as what the Regional Advisory
4 Councils do or the Fish and Game Advisory Committees do
5 or what I do or what, you know, people like myself do.
6 And all the other forces that can affect the decision-
7 making process. You know, the better informed, the
8 better prepared that our people are in addressing some
9 of these issues, it'll be better for us in the long
10 run.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Bob Aloysius.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you. One thing
17 that struck me that even when there's any disaster
18 money comes into the Yukon River, if there is money
19 coming in, maybe some of that could be used to change
20 over to the seven and a half inch for the subsistence
21 fishers.

22

23 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. We -- like I said,
24 we have submitted that request and we were considering
25 both the commercial fishermen and the subsistence
26 fishermen as well. But we have to be very limited as
27 far as how many -- how much dollars we can possibly
28 request. So at this point, I believe the request only
29 requests for one seven and a half inch gear for the
30 subsistence and the commercial fishermen.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. Thank you,
33 Tim, and before you go, I just wanted to express my
34 appreciation. I'm sure I speak for everybody else here
35 and a lot of folks you say don't know the level of the
36 work that you do and the quality of the work that you
37 did, and it's very much appreciated by those of us who
38 have the inside knowledge of that.

39

40 So thank you very much.

41

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

43

44 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Back to the above.
45 We'll go with the next one, Yukon Delta National
46 Wildlife Refuge.

47

48 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Council
49 members. Thank you. Gene Peltola, Jr., Refuge
50 Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. I just

1 have a brief report here this morning.

2

3 A lot of the other issues, we were
4 talking about proposals and such, we've already
5 addressed upon. The first item I'd like to cover is
6 transporters on the Refuge. When GMU 18 was first
7 opened up to nonresidents, the unit as -- we're in our
8 third fall now. At that time, we had a couple
9 transporters. It grew up to a total of five. This
10 fall, we had a total of three transporters, two of
11 which were airplane operations. One was a boat
12 operator.

13

14 The boat operator held a permit but
15 didn't exercise any of the privileges, so he didn't run
16 any people out and so we were left with two active
17 transporters who utilize aircraft based out of Bethel.
18 This fall they had a total of 12 clients which were
19 nonlocal and nonlocal nonresidents. Of those 12, two
20 moose were taken and two black bear were taken. So the
21 harvest is actually fairly low. The numbers I think
22 are more reflective upon the national economy than
23 anything else. Last year, the same transporters
24 reported low 20s for numbers of clients that they had
25 transported. This Refuge probably takes a more
26 restrictive approach to our transporters who are
27 permitted than any other Refuge in the region or in the
28 State. The criteria that we place upon our aircraft
29 transporters is they have to bring us a list in end of
30 July, beginning of August every year, say here is where
31 we want to bring clients to.

32

33 And the criteria we utilize are for the
34 most part no boat accessible waters to minimize the
35 exposure between the local subsistence user and
36 nonlocal user. No areas of high density, Native
37 allotment areas, example for Kuzi Mountain downstream
38 we have 400 or so Native allotments along the main stem
39 of the river there, so we don't allow any transporter
40 activity there. No drop off within one nautical mile
41 of an existing Native allotment and it's something we
42 don't take lightly as a National Wildlife Refuge and
43 having public lands. We have to make sure they're
44 accessible to the nonlocal user as well as the local,
45 but we do put restrictions and limitations on to
46 minimize the overlap between the local user and
47 nonlocal user.

48

49 Within the realm of sport hunting, the
50 Refuge has three permitted guide-use areas which are

1 issued exclusively to one particular guide. We issued
2 a permit here about two months ago to a local guide,
3 Renfrow's Alaska Adventures. It is a competitive
4 process for the Kilbuck Mountains, the eastern part of
5 the Refuge here. They had a total of three people we
6 were considering for it, two of which made the cut. We
7 conduct interviews and made the selection. That's a
8 competitively issued permit good for five years. The
9 stipulations on that permit, it allows for up to five
10 bear clients per year and the option to expand to some
11 moose and caribou hunters if and when the season for
12 moose and caribou is every opened up to nonresidents
13 again.

14

15 We have one other guide-use area which
16 is basically the Andreafsky, East Fork, West Fork, up
17 -- from actually you can go -- going westward towards
18 the flats by the upper mouth. That had been occupied
19 by a guide for just about 10 years. That permit was
20 not renewed this spring, so the Refuge will be going
21 through with a call for proposals from guides who want
22 to participate in big game guide commercial services in
23 the Andreafsky area. That's probably about a year and
24 a half to two years away.

25

26 In the past, that area has been
27 typically used just for bear clients in the spring and
28 one or two moose hunters in the fall at most. The one
29 boat operator -- going back to transporters, we have
30 one boat operator who has been permitted but never has
31 ever taken anybody on the Refuge and the area of
32 interest for that particular operator has been
33 Atchuelinguk/Nageethluk up from Marshall, but to date
34 he has held a permit all three falls but has not taken
35 a client on in.

36

37 And that's the summary of our
38 transporter guide activities and I'd be willing to try
39 to answer any questions you may have about anything
40 with our program.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Questions. James.

43

44 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Gene, has our -- does the guides have drop off zone or
46 where not only on the allotment or anywhere they drop
47 off their clients?

48

49 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Charles. We don't
50 have exclusive areas for transport activity. The

1 majority of the areas which have been accessed by
2 Bethel based aircraft transporters have been from just
3 south of Russian going downstream towards Pilot and if
4 you could draw a line from the Kuzina Mountain on the
5 south side of the Kashunuk, in there, and they've been
6 really good about working with us in order to not place
7 clients where they may come in contact with the local
8 user. And that's twofold. A lot of people who come up
9 from the Lower 48 have their idea of Alaska being
10 wilderness undisturbed. They try to preserve that. In
11 addition, they don't want to have someone from, you
12 know, the Yukon or someone from Bethel going out
13 hunting and coming across a -- you know, a nonlocal
14 user, try to -- we try to limit that interaction
15 between the two user groups. Not saying that it's bad,
16 but that's what we try to do.

17

18 The one exception about -- to the
19 restriction we have on boat-accessible waters is on the
20 Atchuelinguk and Nageethluk, upstream from Marshall,
21 and the reason we don't have that exemption up there is
22 that's the one area that our boat-based operator has
23 been interested in working in, but he hasn't to date.
24 So we do not have areas where we limit them to. It's
25 based on the economics for the operator. They seem to
26 be operating -- we call it the middle Yukon in regard
27 to the Refuge border, in that neck of the woods.

28

29 There has been some interest in
30 conducting transporter hunts on the westfork of the
31 Andreafsky and at this time, it's been more or less a
32 verbal agreement. If you do go in there, you can't
33 drop off above this point. You have to pull them out
34 before this point in order to minimize potential for
35 overlap from people from St. Mary's or Mountain going
36 upstream by boat.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Continue there,
39 James.

40

41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you. How about on
42 the east side, I've seen some people on that Eight Lake
43 and way up there and Salmon Lake. What are those
44 people doing over there?

45

46 MR. PELTOLA: In the past when the
47 caribou were more prolific, we had a lot more caribou,
48 there was a big history of caribou transported hunts on
49 Refuge lands. Now Togiak Refuge has their own
50 permitted transporters in addition to ourselves.

1 This year, we had one of our
2 transporters drop off one client who was I think from
3 Anchorage or the Valley and the transporter said, you
4 know, there aren't caribou there like there used to be
5 and he goes well, I've done it for 15 or 17 years and I
6 look forward more to the camping trip than getting a
7 caribou. So we had one person -- or one group, a
8 father and son, who were dropped off in the hills.
9 It's not as commonplace as it was five or seven years
10 ago, but to some extent it still does exist. And as
11 the caribou have moved, you know, 10 years ago, we had
12 a lot of activity up here in the mountains. As they
13 came -- the herd came further west, you know, as they
14 go back and forth, but it's not commonplace now.

15
16 For our transporter out of Bethel to
17 run some up the hills and come back, they could
18 probably run two groups up north in the same timeframe
19 so it doesn't make economic sense for them to go to the
20 hills with a client.

21
22 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Others. Charlie
25 Brown and John.

26
27 MR. BROWN: Yeah. I've been seeing a
28 group of people from my area, Eek River, and Eek is --
29 some places along the river, it's pretty narrow and
30 lots of bends. For safety reason, some of those local
31 boaters, they didn't like those -- one time there was
32 an incident that someone almost had an accident with
33 taking off a float plane and it was kind of unsafe.
34 And I just wonder what are those people doing drifting
35 down from upriver with drifting with their airboats.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Part of our permitting
38 process with the transporters is that they provide a
39 service to the recreational rafter. There are people
40 that go out rafting rivers with their families. There
41 are also some that specifically go out to go fishing.
42 That is something that is not regulated by the Refuge
43 at this time. Togiak Refuge has a permitting process
44 where they actually limit the amount of recreational
45 rafters going down some of the rivers. They limit the
46 amount of commercial sport guide activity going down
47 the rivers. We're not to that point on the Refuge here
48 now.

49
50 A lot of the airplane traffic we may

1 see is Bethel is a big hub. We have a lot of private
2 individuals with float planes. I myself have my own
3 personal float plane and we get out -- and some people
4 do get out actively and, you know, go on the rivers. We
5 do not regulate the personal user. We do have a
6 permitting process for the drop off recreational user
7 or fishermen. We are -- from when I was here growing
8 up as a kid, we have increased usage now compared to,
9 you know, 30 years ago. We're getting to the point
10 where the Refuge is about to initiate our CCC process,
11 which is our conservation planning effort. We're going
12 about doing our conservation planning effort. In order
13 to structure a permitting system for recreational or
14 sportfish guiding, we have to have river management
15 plans in place. Currently we have one river management
16 plan and that's for the Kisaralik River and that's for
17 recreational rafting and we have never in the past, but
18 we plan addressing it in the future for sportfish
19 guided activities. Now whether we run into a potential
20 conflict with some of our colleagues or other agencies,
21 I don't know. That's something we may visit in the
22 future as about permitting, you know, those type of
23 activities, but we don't do that at this time.

24
25 MR. BROWN: Also I got one more.
26 Someone from Quinhagak reported to me that they've seen
27 those five-gallon containers full of gas. What are
28 those left for? The reason why was that they're ground
29 is for black fish trapping area. They don't want that
30 area be polluted.

31
32 MR. PELTOLA: The Quinhagak is within
33 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, but we -- the Refuge
34 here at Bethel, we do utilize fuel caches. The two
35 locations where we keep fuel are at Canyon Creek. We
36 have 55-gallon drums of 100 low lead jet fuel for our
37 aircraft and helicopter operations. Those are held in
38 containment -- 55-gallon containment drums to minimize
39 the potential for spillage. The other places we have
40 -- we utilize 5-gallon cans of out gas at Eek Lake. At
41 Eek Lake there's probably 50 to 75 yards off the lake
42 and we put those in containment also. At least for the
43 Refuge fuel caches, we're very careful of minimizing
44 spillage.

45
46 On the -- in the majority of the
47 permits that we issue on the Kanektok, you know, the
48 lower river is outside the Refuge. When I'm -- that's
49 probably DNR or Fish and Game at some level of
50 permitting for the sportfish guides there. Upriver is

1 probably Refuge sponsored activities within -- far as
2 I'm aware, all the special use permits that we issue
3 within the region and the State have a limitation on
4 putting fuel in containments and it's supposed to be
5 kept within 150 yards from a stream or a water body.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: John Andrew.

8

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

10 Mr. Gene Peltola my name's John Andrew of Kwethluk.

11

12 Starting way back around the mid 1960s,
13 in those days, we -- hardly any -- see airplanes up
14 there or rafters. But starting somewhere at the end of
15 '60s, we started seeing planes from Bristol Bay, mostly
16 from Bristol Bay side. Very few from this area. Then
17 in the '70s, it started to pick up. At that time, my
18 people from my village and the neighboring village used
19 to go up there for spring camp and fall camp. Earlier
20 years where the -- they went pretty much because the
21 flying was cheap, they used to charter up. Then
22 starting in the '80s, we start to see conflict with
23 guide operators and people in their private planes up
24 there. Then in the '80s, my first experience with a
25 conflict was fishing -- I don't know. there were
26 troopers that landed, they was always holed up in the
27 Northfork Lakes, and my relatives were trapping mainly
28 for squirrels and we didn't even catch -- we only think
29 -- I think we only got caribou that time and no moose,
30 no bear.

31

32 Then starting in the early part of
33 '90s, that's when we start to see conflict with these
34 local commercial operators. At one time, my family was
35 refused to take to their traditional hunting site up in
36 Hart Lake and just last year, a group of them want to
37 go up there and hunt out of Hart Lake and they said
38 they can't take them up because there's some guide
39 operators operating out of that lake. And it's very
40 frustrating not being able to go back to our
41 traditional hunting areas -- hunting, trapping areas.
42 And for years, we've been asking who issues all these
43 guide operating permits and raft permits and they never
44 did give us any information. You're the first person
45 that give the info and I really appreciate it. And
46 more and more, the -- a lot of the older people that
47 used to go up there are dying off and very few younger
48 generation go out there, but they can't afford to
49 really go back to the hills, even though some of them
50 can afford it. Their frustrations -- by planes up

1 there sometimes. They said they seen the planes
2 herding game toward the lakes. We've asked them, see
3 if they can recognize them, and they said they're
4 usually pretty far off and they -- even if they
5 recognize it, they won't bring it out to the public
6 like here in the meetings. They bring it up and most
7 people will deny it the activity that goes up there.

8

9 That's our frustrations with the other
10 operators that go -- that operate out of lakes that
11 traditionally our people used to hunt there.

12

13 Quyana.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Any other questions
16 for the Refuge. Thank you, Gene.

17

18 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Council
19 members. Thank you much. Appreciate the opportunity.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Togiak Refuge, I
22 understand they weren't able to make it. No one here
23 from -- Alex.

24

25 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Togiak Refuge
26 information bulletin is on Page 228 of your workbook
27 and we appreciate Togiak providing their bulletin in
28 almost every meeting that you have in the past. I
29 think a couple of things that might be noted here is
30 that there's information on Mulchatna Caribou Herd and
31 also Nushagak Peninsula Caribou that might kind of
32 answer some of your questions -- some of the RAC
33 members' questions yesterday that, you know, whether or
34 not these Mulchatna Caribou mixes with other herds.

35

36 Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you, Alex. I
39 was informed by Mr. Oviatt yesterday that the BLM did
40 not have any specific issues they wanted to bring
41 before us at this meeting, so there'll be no BLM
42 report, unless the Department of Fish and Game -- see a
43 couple retired ones around here.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: No active duty
48 folks. John, are you still there? AVCP's done. Yukon
49 River Drainage Fisheries Association.

50

1 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Good morning. Mr.
2 Chair. And members of the Board or the Regional
3 Advisory Council. My name is Jill Klein with the Yukon
4 River Drainage Fisheries Association which is also
5 known as YRDFA and I thank you for giving me the
6 opportunity to speak this morning. And for those of
7 you that don't know, if any of you aren't familiar with
8 YRDFA, we were formed in 1990, 1991, been in existence
9 now for 20 years, and we work on behalf of the fishing
10 families and others that rely on fisheries and mainly
11 salmon in Yukon River. We support both subsistence and
12 commercial fisheries and we've been working to try to
13 promote consensus, building, and communications along
14 the entire length of the Yukon River. All of the Board
15 members are from Yukon River communities, and we work
16 river-wide, so they're from all the different fishing
17 districts, and we actually now do have two nonvoting
18 board members from Canada and they have participated in
19 some meetings. They were most recently at our annual
20 meeting in Nulato in mid February.

21
22 So I did want to cover just a few
23 items, salmon bycatch and some of the North Pacific
24 Fisheries Management Council issues. You've heard most
25 of what I was actually going to discuss from the others
26 earlier today, so I don't want to be too repetitive,
27 but I do have more information if people do have any
28 other questions on any other aspects of the chinook
29 salmon or chum salmon bycatch issue. The main comment
30 was to mention the -- another opportunity for the
31 Regional Advisory Council and the public to comment and
32 this is on the Fishery Management Plan Amendment
33 portion of bycatch as you've heard and this is being
34 called Amendment 91. And this is open for comment
35 until April 19th. So there's a little bit of time and
36 the main thing that you could comment on as you've
37 heard -- and this might go into your joint letter that
38 will be drafted for you by Staff to discuss potentially
39 rejecting the 60,000 cap and the incentive plan that
40 was put in place and supporting what you originally did
41 in terms of a cap.

42
43 And YRDFA passed a resolution at its
44 annual meeting to also ask the Secretary of Commerce to
45 reject the 60,000 cap and the incentive plan program
46 and to go back to 32,500 which was the cap that YRDFA
47 had supported.

48
49 And just briefly on the timeline for
50 the chum salmon bycatch as you also heard about, this

1 coming June, June 2010, the Council will be finalizing
2 the alternatives on chum bycatch and so the way the
3 Council works is they'll have about four or five
4 alternatives of how to potentially solve the -- what we
5 see as the problem of chum bycatch and so they'll have
6 a range of options and so we'll be working on that to
7 make sure that the alternatives, that the Council --
8 Staff and the Council when it comes time for their
9 review will have actions that we support hopefully.

10

11 In August 31, 2010, so at the end of
12 this coming summer, that's when the final chinook
13 salmon bycatch rule will be published. And in January
14 1, 2011 -- so not until the next new year -- will the
15 final chinook salmon regulations actually take effect.
16 So that's when they'll start being put into place. And
17 then October 2011, so that fall, will be the final
18 action on the chum salmon bycatch measures. So there's
19 still a little bit of a lengthy process here to go
20 through for the chinook and chum salmon.

21

22 The Council is also working on rural
23 outreach, so I don't know if that was covered at all,
24 but I think they have a committee that's meeting and
25 they're trying to do a little bit better job with their
26 outreach to rural Alaska, Western and Internal Alaska,
27 and other areas that they typically haven't been
28 involved with. Some of that will take place that next
29 year as you're at the annual meeting which was
30 suggested to be in Mountain Village, that they already
31 have on their timeline that there will be Council --
32 either Council members and/or Council Staff that will
33 come out to that meeting to be able to speak with the
34 public in that region. As well, there'll be a meeting
35 -- I forget which one it will be, but there will be a
36 meeting in Nome. One of these meetings that I
37 mentioned will take place in Nome and so I don't know
38 if people from this area are able to get there, but
39 that's an opportunity for you to participate more in
40 the process.

41

42 And as Tim Andrew mentioned from AVCP,
43 they discussed these four seats on the Council that
44 they were supporting. Just to update you also if you
45 don't know already that Senator Olson -- Donny Olson
46 has supported also a bill that would open the Magnuson-
47 Stevens Act for putting in these four rural seats. And
48 just so you know, on the Advisory Panel, there is a
49 rural seat and Becca Robbins-Gisclair with YRDFSA does
50 sit on the Advisory Panel and so they take action sort

1 of like the RAC does for the Federal Subsistence Board.
2 The Advisory Panel also goes through the same
3 conversations and issues that the Council does and then
4 they make recommendations to the Council. So that's
5 where Becca participates in that process.

6
7 So that's really all I wanted to
8 mention I guess in kind of short summary about the
9 bycatch topic. So I do have more information if
10 anyone's interested and we'll try to provide templates
11 also for the public in terms of submitting comments.
12 If you want any advice or suggestions on wording or
13 what needs to be addressed, we can try to help with
14 that effort so you can let your communities know that.
15 Are there any questions on that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Questions for Jill.
18 Bob Aloysius.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. I just have not a
21 question, but a comment. The thing that really upsets
22 me is the usage of the word rural.

23
24 MS. KLEIN: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: We are not rural. We're
27 remote. We're bush Alaska and that's why we never get
28 any kind of consideration because they're always
29 concentrating on rural and if you look at the
30 definition of rural, it means you're connected by road
31 to an urban center, which is the road system. You take
32 a line from Polar Bear to Homer and see what does that
33 -- it's rural -- bush Alaska. So that's why we're
34 always left out of everything. So it's time that we
35 start demanding that remote Alaska be included.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Ray Oney.

40
41 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. Jill, there was mention that YRDFA was going
43 to be having a teleconference on March 10th and what's
44 that all about?

45
46 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Great. Ray, that
47 leads me into my next topic which is what we were
48 calling the summer preparation, summer preparedness
49 meetings, and for those of you familiar, we did this
50 last year and these were funded by the Yukon River

1 Panel and the -- so last year, there were a series of
2 teleconferences that took place and we did them
3 regionally so the Lower Yukon folks met twice on
4 teleconference. The Middle River met and then the
5 Upper River met. So everyone had a chance to speak
6 amongst themselves about how to best manage the salmon
7 run in 2009 and then there was this large in-person
8 meeting in Fairbanks.

9
10 And so based on that process, we're
11 going to follow the same -- a similar model this year.
12 So March 10th at 1:00 o'clock p.m. -- and I have the
13 call-in information, but we did send out information to
14 people along the Yukon River already, but I have this
15 information with me. So March 10th at 1:00 p.m., there
16 will be a teleconference and that's going to be river-
17 wide so we might follow it like a similar model to the
18 in-season calls that we do. And we'll have managers
19 from Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife on the line
20 and there will be a little bit about what happened last
21 year, how the run was managed, and then talk about the
22 2010 outlook, which Fred mentioned is being developed
23 with the Joint Technical Committee right now.

24
25 Then we'll also hear some management
26 thoughts about what they think 2010 actions might look
27 like and then we'll go through a public comment period
28 and hear responses and questions and comments on any of
29 the topics that people are concerned with for this
30 upcoming summer. So that will be again a river-wide
31 call. I will also mention just briefly at the end
32 possibly that the Federal Subsistence Board is going to
33 also take up these actions -- well, not these actions,
34 but take up the mesh size and depth proposals and we'll
35 touch on the Board of Fish proposals that might impact
36 the summer or this coming season.

37
38 So that's the call for March 10th and
39 then there'll be an in-person meeting April 8th in
40 Fairbanks. And so part of what I wanted to just
41 mention was the need for -- that Harry brought up about
42 people in the villages, you know, needing to understand
43 and be more a part of these management discussions and
44 what's going to happen with the fisheries. And so I'm
45 not sure how much time -- you know. we don't have that
46 much time in between everything but between March 10th
47 and April 8th, you know, if there is any chance for a
48 tribal councils at their meetings or city councils to
49 discuss these topics, you know, we could possibly help
50 with getting information to those of you that want it

1 or to the communities so that you could discuss it at
2 your tribal council, potentially decide who you'd like
3 to send in to a meeting on April 8th, and as Fred had
4 mentioned, we will invite all the tribal councils to
5 the meeting. We may not have funding for every
6 council, so we're hoping that there might be other
7 sponsors of people or tribal council might be able to
8 support someone coming in to the meeting.

9
10 All the Federal Regional Advisory
11 Council Chairs will be invited to the meeting. The
12 U.S. Yukon River Panel members and Advisors, also the
13 tribal nonprofits like AVCP, CATG, and TCC, along with
14 the YRDFA Board members. So we're going to try to have
15 as wide array of participation as we can in addition to
16 the State and Federal managers, but we know that, you
17 know, only one tribal person can come in from each
18 community and then there's all these people back home
19 that you work with and we'd like to make sure that they
20 stay involved in the process. So if there's a chance
21 to host or talk about this in your communities, that
22 would be great.

23
24 And then after the in-person meeting on
25 April 8th, we will have another teleconference on April
26 21st and that will be to just present sort of the
27 outcome of this process and to present the management
28 plan from Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife Service.

29
30
31 So that's kind of the brief summary of
32 that process.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Ray.

35
36 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman. And again I know you just had your recent
38 YRDFA meeting within the last couple of weeks up in
39 Nulato. Was customary trade on the agenda?

40
41 MS. KLEIN: Ray, I don't think
42 customary trade was on the agenda as a specific topic
43 and there was not a resolution. I did go through our
44 resolutions and there wasn't anything that the Board
45 did discuss, but I think it will be -- there'll be more
46 to discuss once either this RAC and also Eastern and
47 Western Interior proposals go in to address customary
48 trade, then I think that topic will be brought more to
49 the forefront for other groups like YRDFA to start
50 discussing it.

1 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Ray.
2
3 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you. I'd like
4 to thank YRDFA for your newsletters that they publish,
5 you know, I don't know monthly or quarterly, but that's
6 very important for people up and down the Yukon.
7
8 Thank you for doing that.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 MS. KLEIN: You're welcome.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Others. James.
15
16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 So YRDFA operates pretty much like Kuskokwim Salmon
18 Management Working Group?
19
20 MS. KLEIN: James, it works in a
21 similar fashion, but there are some distinct
22 differences in how like our Board gets elected and
23 operates and how the Kuskokwim Management Working Group
24 members get elected and participate and how you hold
25 your meetings in Bethel. We hold those in-season
26 management salmon teleconferences too, but they're not
27 just limited to the YRDFA Board. They public river-
28 wide meetings and YRDFA itself, even though we host it,
29 we also participate in it as a member just like
30 everyone else in the public. So they're a little bit
31 different, but yet there's also a lot of similarities.
32
33
34 MR. CHARLES: On Kuskokwim, ever since
35 we have Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group,
36 things work out better on Kuskokwim -- at the
37 beginning, it wasn't that way.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MR. CHARLES: As Bob and Rich know, we
42 argue a lot and when we first started, used to have
43 full rooms. Greg is our Chairman now, but one of the
44 Chairman anyway and it's working better now as people
45 understand what we try to do on Kuskokwim. We're
46 trying to help the people all the way up and down the
47 river. We have member all the way at the Nikolai and
48 we at the mouth who are members too. So that works out
49 better now than it used to be. Sometimes I think it's
50 because of the commercial fishing them days were strong

1 and people -- commercial fishing and subsistence users
2 were fighting a lot more them days, but now we can tool
3 those pretty much. When there is not enough salmon on
4 the river, we don't commercial fish and people --
5 doesn't seem to fight over that any more like they used
6 to and let us subsistence fish until there's good run
7 on the river for different species like king salmon,
8 chums, or -- we now have sockeye on the river too.
9 That helps a lot.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Jill.

14

15 MS. KLEIN: Well, thanks for your
16 comments. Part of what we'll also discuss at the in-
17 person meeting in Fairbanks is exploring options of how
18 we can all work a little bit better together because I
19 think, you know, on the Yukon River, we had the same
20 challenges 20 years ago and there was the need for
21 people to come together and so YRDFA was formed. But
22 for better or worse, we still have challenges facing
23 the Yukon and so we want to try to look at how we can
24 all work better together among all the different
25 groups. And so we will try to explore that a little
26 bit more. We've been getting some feedback and
27 suggestions about that. So thanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Bob.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Again I apologize for
32 picking on you. Whenever I hear the word rural, you
33 know, it just (indicating) and so I don't mean to pick
34 on you personally. It's just, you know, the whole
35 thing behind it is that we have to educate our
36 non-knowing people about who we really are. We're not
37 rural people. We're remote. We're the forgotten.
38 We're the fourth world status. We're working third
39 world country, if you look at it realistically. You
40 know, we're the forgotten people and they spend so much
41 time dealing with the rural people that they forget us.

42

43 MS. KLEIN: Just one response to that
44 is I was going to just mention YRDFA did pass about
45 nine resolutions at its annual meeting in Nulato and
46 one of those was related to Board of Fish membership
47 and that we wanted to stress that we had more members
48 on the Board of Fisheries and we did use the word
49 rural, but we did also qualify that with from Western
50 and Interior Alaska and I'd have to look at the wording

1 in specific. I think we said rural and/or also Alaska
2 Natives on there and specific to that can speak more to
3 the salmon issues, you know, that are facing Western
4 and Interior Alaska. So if you'd like a copy of that,
5 I can share that with you.

6

7

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Harry.

8

9

MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
10 think Yukon Drainage Fishermen Association do a lot of
11 work like doing season. The only information we get is
12 teleconferences in the villages in the Lower Yukon.
13 And we get information from them. People -- they're
14 talking more like, you know, open -- open meeting and
15 elders, young people, and fishermen, they're right
16 there listening on the way from maybe Hooper Bay, goes
17 up to the -- way up there. People get together in a
18 teleconference. They do a lot of work doing that.
19 Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife are -- work with
20 them and talking and I think they do -- the only
21 organization I think is -- we could call them is open.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I got a question
25 for you. You mentioned earlier about a bill by Donny
26 Olson regarding opening of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and
27 can you -- what kind of bill could the State do to open
28 a Federal law? Are you sure it's not a resolution?

29

30

MS. KLEIN: I guess I could look back
31 and clarify if that's correct, but there is something
32 that Donny Olson was sponsoring that's related to the
33 four rural positions on the Council and it might have
34 been to sort of like you were saying, you know, still
35 put in your proposal to the Federal Board even though
36 they're the ones who can't the action, but they can
37 then forward that on to the appropriate party. So I
38 think it was either a resolution or a bill that would
39 suggest to the Congressional delegation to work on this
40 topic.

41

42

CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Well, I'm always
43 looking for avenues to get things heard. Caught my ear
44 there. Another one just out of -- you mentioned now
45 having a two voting -- or nonvoting seats from Canada
46 and I was wondering who those folks were -- Jerry
47 Kafeer perhaps and some.....

48

49

MS. KLEIN: No. Our current members,
50 we have -- the process is that the member and their

1 alternate would be determined by the Yukon Salmon
2 Committee and so Carl Sidney from Teslin is the member
3 and then Ron Chambers was brought as his alternate.
4 Ron Chambers is from Haines Junction. And so Carl
5 Sidney will be stepping down as the Chairman of the
6 Yukon Salmon Committee I think this year. So he wanted
7 Ron to be there to learn.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you. Others.
10 Thank you, Jill.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Did you have
15 something else you wanted to address.

16
17 MS. KLEIN: Yeah. I just wanted to
18 briefly mention one more comment. Just that YRDFA
19 recently completed a traditional knowledge project
20 that's about natural indicators and that's what we were
21 calling that there are natural indicators that people
22 from the Yukon River use to determine when salmon will
23 arrive, so arrival times and also like abundance and so
24 if people are interested, this was a four-year study.
25 It was funded by the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Sustainable
26 Salmon Initiative. We did it in partnership with the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence
28 Division. So we have a final report. We also have
29 like a community version of the final report that's not
30 as big and less to read, but gets to the core of what
31 we did and there's also a poster about it. And so
32 we're finding that this information is really
33 interesting and really valuable and some of the
34 feedback we've received in terms of what to do with
35 this in the future is to try to use more local and
36 traditional knowledge in management of salmon if
37 possible. And so we're looking into the possibility of
38 creating yearly annual observation processes where
39 people would maybe document and track issues like snow
40 levels or wind directions or when birds migrate and can
41 any of this information be used to determine, you know,
42 how the salmon are doing because the local knowledge
43 shows connections.

44
45 And so some of the feedback was to try
46 to develop a way so either like a database or a
47 template and possibly a model to use with fishery
48 management and then also to make sure this information
49 gets passed on to youth and gets preserved. So I just
50 wanted to share that with you. If you're interested in

1 the report, let me know. We can send it out or the
2 poster, you know, if you'd like that for your community
3 to put up and we're looking to do further work with
4 this. So if you have any ideas or thoughts on it, but
5 I just wanted to let you know about it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you. I'd
8 certainly be interested in seeing a copy of that. Bob.
9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Do you have an -- for
11 lack of a better -- email for YRDFA so we could -- if
12 we want to we could check on that particular issue
13 about the four-year study.

14
15 MS. KLEIN: Yes. The YRDFA Website is
16 www.yukonsalmon.org so Y-U-K-O-N-S-A-L-M-O-N.O-R-G and
17 the project and how to get a copy of the report should
18 be up there and if you don't find it, you can just
19 email me and so it's my name. It's J-I-L-L at
20 yukonsalmon.org and I can help get you copies.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: And I bet if we
23 just Google you, we'd find you too the same way.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MS. KLEIN: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: We wouldn't have to
30 remember the Web address. Other questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you, Jill.

35
36 MS. KLEIN: Thank you.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Yukon River
41 Intertribal Watershed Council. I don't think we have
42 anybody from there. Any tribal representatives here.
43 Any ANCSA Village Corporation representatives or I'm
44 sorry -- Chariton -- oh. Corporate Tribe.

45
46 MR. EPCHOOK: Qu yana Chairman. I'm
47 Chariton Epchook, Chairman of Kwethluk Incorporated and
48 Co-Chair of our newly formed Kwethluk Tribal
49 Conservation District.

50

1 And it's good to hear somebody from --
2 we can -- the YK Delta Regional Office say that yes,
3 they do in fact issue permits to guides and outfitters.
4 Some years back, we asked Mr. Reardon who actually
5 issues these permits. He stated he doesn't know. At
6 that time, we were tackling the issue of our people's
7 practice of going up to the foothills on the headwaters
8 of Kwethluk River specifically Hart Lake area where
9 they practiced squirrel hunting during fall and spring.
10 At that time, the air carriers diverted our people to
11 another area because somebody had already claims the
12 Hart Lake area where our people traditionally trapped.
13 And it's very, very good to hear somebody being honest
14 from our regional office here.

15
16 And our Tribal Conservation District is
17 still working on developing our seven generation plan.
18 And once that is completed, I am hoping that our
19 conservation district board will extend an invitation
20 to the YK Delta Regional Manager along with the Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game Manager as well to talk
22 about co-managing Fish and Wildlife within the Kwethluk
23 Tribal Conservation District boundaries to include the
24 headwaters and the foothills where our people practiced
25 trapping and hunting as well.

26
27 The other issue I have is the Kilbuck
28 Caribou Herd. I don't think that the Guillemot have
29 been totally decimated and I am asking this Board that
30 they consider having somebody do a study on the
31 Guillemot Caribou Herd. As you may know, there is a
32 distinction between Mulchatna and Guillemot. John
33 knows more about the distinction. The Guillemot or
34 Kilbuck Caribou came to have thinner, smaller antlers
35 and they're darker, much darker. Lighter, much lighter
36 and I believe they tend to be a little bit smaller than
37 the Mulchatna Caribou as well. So I hope this Board
38 lets somebody do a study on that because I don't think
39 they were totally decimated as they were said to be so
40 many years back.

41
42 To date I continue to catch, when I go
43 out caribou hunting, small antlered caribou and I till
44 think there are Guillemot Caribou still out there
45 intermingled with the Mulchatna Herd.

46
47 The other issue I have is trapping.
48 Our people here trap not intending to catch moose or
49 caribou. But when they specifically target wolves,
50 I've heard of one individual, a relative of mine, being

1 charged for trapping caribou when he intended to trap
2 wolves. He reported that catch. He got charged for
3 it. This man was being honest. Right away, as soon as
4 he came back, he reported this to I don't know, Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 and still got charged. So something needs to change
7 within that.

8

9 And I would like to say the
10 continuation of salmon -- the fish who are particularly
11 in Kwethluk River, enough thought that our conservation
12 district is in place, we don't -- especially I don't
13 want to discontinue that just because we have a
14 conservation district. These numbers, the salmon that
15 goes up the Kwethluk I believe our commercial
16 fishermen, subsistence fishermen rely on those numbers
17 as well. I know there are a number of counting areas
18 in Aniak and further upriver for salmon and I would
19 like to see that continued.

20

21 And we have an issue along the banks of
22 our river. Every since the Kusko Slough broke through
23 and made a channel -- a new channel right above our
24 river, our riverbanks along the Kwethluk especially on
25 the village, they're eroding fast. We have a school on
26 the riverbank, residents along that river also, and a
27 few businesses that are being jeopardized. So many
28 years back ago, our joint group proposed that there be
29 a limit on the horsepower and boat size going up
30 Kwethluk River specifically for those sports fishing.
31 Nowadays, every summer we're starting to see larger
32 boats going up and our people Kwethluk normally do not
33 use more than 40 horsepower going up our river and
34 normally will not bring boats larger than 18 feet.

35

36 To me those are hazards especially if
37 you're carrying or bringing back or going home from
38 gathering berries or wood and you have this high-
39 powered boat coming up while you're going down at a
40 very high speed. I would like to see some sort of
41 regulation starting from the mouth of the Kwethluk
42 River going all the way up, a size restriction on boat
43 and motor, just like the one there is in I believe Hoho
44 or Holitna, similar to that to control or minimize
45 erosion along our riverbank.

46

47 And these last few years, we've been
48 seeing a high number of bears, specifically brown bears
49 in our fish camp areas. Our people work hard to catch
50 dry hand our salmon and the last thing we need is our

1 people scared about -- given a citation for illegally
2 taking a brown bear so they could have their salmon or
3 protect what they catch and their camps. These people
4 work hard building them. Here comes along a hungry
5 brown bear and tears up the smoke house or even one of
6 their houses that's within that same area.

7

8 I believe that's all I have.

9

10 Quyana for Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Hold on there in
13 case people have questions or -- Charlie.

14

15 MR. BROWN: I got similar problem with
16 my fish camp like he said. I mostly left my fish camp
17 during the weekends for church activities, and one time
18 when we left our camp, there was some -- my two dogs,
19 we usually left it in the fish camp and one of them got
20 -- disappeared for maybe three days and we found out
21 that our smokehouse was broken up and we got to do
22 something about this. There's too many bears last year
23 roaming around in our area too kind of disturbing for
24 campers.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you, Charlie.

27 Bob.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: If I'm not mistaken,
30 there is a provision in both Federal and State law
31 where you can kill a predator in protection of life or
32 property. If I'm wrong, somebody correct me.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I don't know if
37 you're -- but defense of life and property is
38 considered in both State and Federal as a total
39 justification for taking an animal and that's been a
40 real common complaint that's gotten more frequent
41 throughout the bush Alaska for -- not rural Alaska,
42 bush Alaska. But certainly I know Lower Yukon guys,
43 they even had them in the graveyards over there and
44 sometimes they were reported in the -- one of the
45 things you mentioned too, it really caught my ear too
46 when I heard about the fellow getting charged about --
47 getting charged with illegal take from an incidental on
48 a snare. And I know that's -- again that's something
49 that's a very common occurrence -- or it's -- well,
50 it's gotten less because the trappers have educated

1 themselves on how to avoid that, but throughout South
2 Central along the road system where -- and up into the
3 other Interior Regions where they were having a lot of
4 problem with that and I don't think I've ever heard of
5 anybody being charged for illegal take and that's -- it
6 really -- it's -- maybe through your Council or
7 whatever make a very a very strong noise about that.
8 The only thing is if it could somehow be proved as
9 intentional, that they were after the moose or the
10 caribou. Otherwise there should be no citation, no
11 illegal activity associated with that. I mean you're
12 out after -- targeting another animal and you
13 incidentally catch another one, I mean -- it's -- that
14 shouldn't be right.

15

16 As far as your -- that mention of the
17 40 horsepower restriction, what was on the Holitna, it
18 was regarding to hunting regulations and when the State
19 Board has taken that up, they specifically do not have
20 authority to pass any kind for a safety issue, but you
21 might want to take a look at what was one the Kenai and
22 get ahold of the folks down there in Kenai and see how
23 they put theirs into place. I don't know the specifics
24 of that, but I know that's another area of the State
25 where 40 horsepower was put into place and enacted. I
26 don't think it was by the borough. I believe it was by
27 the State, so -- it's been some years ago, but that's
28 somebody you could get in contact with. Start with the
29 Kenai Sportsmen's Association or somebody like that.
30 Or even call Kenaitze and maybe they could help you.

31

32 So Bob then James.

33

34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah. Something you
35 said about the smaller caribou on -- I forgot what name
36 you used for that particular area, but that same thing
37 is true up in the Aniak River on the east fork and
38 lower -- that area. There used to be quite a number of
39 reindeer herders that had reindeer up there and they
40 crossed bred with the caribou and you could really tell
41 that they're smaller. They have thinner antlers and
42 they're smaller in weight compared to the regular
43 caribou. So that's probably what the -- same thing
44 that's going on with this -- there used to be lots and
45 lots of reindeer around here. So that -- probably that
46 -- cross breed and they have smaller bodies and smaller
47 antler sizes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: James.

50

1 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 You mentioned about somebody taking or catching caribou
3 on wolf snare; is that right? That person I think I
4 know -- I might know that person. He may be in court
5 today for doing that, catching caribou on his wolf
6 snare. And maybe Rich or Tom can answer that if it was
7 -- if it's legal to follow somebody, checking or
8 traveling on their trap line because that same person
9 told me that somebody has been following his tracks to
10 his snares. Is that legal to do or is it -- I know
11 Sundown is not here. He's part of the protection, but
12 anyway, my question is if it's legal to follow
13 somebody's tracks to their trap line.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I can give you --
16 offer you a part of that. Again stepping on the
17 State's side. I mean certainly it's not illegal to
18 follow somebody's tracks no matter where they're going
19 out in the countryside, but it is illegal to mess with
20 their equipment and their traps and interfere with
21 their trap line.

22
23 Ray Oney.

24
25 MR. ONEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. Yeah. Getting back to that study on that
27 caribou that you say that may be extinct. I don't know
28 who would be responsible, you know, to do that study
29 and I know probably Alex or Tom can maybe look into it
30 and see who'd be responsible to -- you know, to look
31 into that.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: I could actually
36 offer you a little bit more on that too. What -- as
37 far as caribou, the way this -- again this is a State
38 side. I presume the Feds probably have the -- will
39 have the same interpretation, but what defines a
40 caribou herd is having a separate calving ground and
41 the reason the State took the action they did and
42 recommended to call them no longer a viable herd is
43 because when the Mulchatna came in in the early '90s --
44 late '80s/early '90s and the started coming in these
45 huge numbers, over the course of about four or five
46 years, fewer and fewer animals ended up staying up on
47 the calving grounds where they used to be up Canyon
48 Creek and that way and up -- and back Kwethluk and they
49 just got sucked right out and that's why I did actually
50 ask the Department if they saw any indication of that

1 herd reestablishing itself over here and having some
2 calving taking place within the area and I don't know,
3 perhaps -- he said they hadn't been present, but I
4 don't know if there's been any specific work to go look
5 for that. But that's what they're going to define as
6 an actual herd.

7

8 MR. KWETHLUK: And regarding the
9 caribou, John here, he knows more about the Guillemot
10 or the Kilbuck Caribou Herd and they mostly stay within
11 the trees during this time of the year.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you for
14 coming. Any other agencies or organizations.

15

16 James Nicori.

17

18 MR. NICORI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 James Nicori from Kwethluk area. First of all, I would
20 like to thank the RAC for listening to us and our
21 Federal agency and the State for listening to us and
22 thank Mr. Miller for all the hard work that he does to
23 get some dollars for our -- so the village can be
24 employed counting fish and they've been pretty
25 successful and with that, we've been monitoring along
26 with bycatch how the salmon fluctuates with those. And
27 talking about the bycatch, I think what we should do is
28 instead of working against each other, the State,
29 Federal, and the RAC and Advisory Board is to work
30 together -- all of us work together and try to do
31 something about this bycatch. If we work together --
32 if we bond together, we can be stronger working with
33 each other.

34

35 And if we let this bycatch keep going
36 like this every year, pretty soon we won't have any
37 fish to make proposals for and there will be lots of
38 unhappy people, both subsistence wise and employment
39 wise. So I think we got to work together to make this
40 bar roll the right way. We have to work together. We
41 can't keep pointing fingers at the calling each other
42 upriver or downriver or Indians and Eskimos and
43 whatever and white man. We have to work together to
44 work on this bycatch system, trying to keep it on the
45 zero scale. 29,000 is quite a bit for me. Even that's
46 the low average that is being pointed out. If we have
47 the -- you know, we're always trying to conserve. We
48 have -- we let the fish go by so they can spawn upriver
49 and sometimes I sit down and think to myself are we
50 conserving these salmon so they can be destroyed by the

1 bycatch and there won't be nothing in return for us to
2 fish for or make proposals for or work against for.

3
4 We have to as a whole focus our mind to
5 this bycatch system that is going on in the Bering Sea.
6 That's the whole point. Here we are making proposals
7 against each other, trying to cut off each other so
8 they can have less fish. They're probably laughing at
9 us working against each other instead of working as a
10 whole to work against them.

11
12 As you can see, even the fish that are
13 growing have to feed and raking the bottom of the ocean
14 rakes the small fish or whatever the salmon has to grow
15 on and if they rake it and if it's gone, what will our
16 salmon eat to grow on. As you know, when we have
17 something clean, nobody -- small animals don't come
18 around to feed like insects or worms or whatever. They
19 don't come around and feed. It's the same similar
20 system that the fish is growing on.

21
22 I think we have to quit making
23 proposals against each other and fighting amongst each
24 other how many fish or how long we fish or went to
25 fish. We have to stop this and start working with each
26 other. That's the main point that I'd like to point
27 out. Like I said, if these are gone, the fish are
28 gone, we won't have any proposals to make. We won't
29 have meetings like this and that's -- and there will be
30 lots of employment that will be gone and lots of people
31 will be moving away from the area.

32
33 So we have to work together no matter
34 what origin we come from. We have to. That's the
35 magic word. We have to work together. And that's my
36 main concern right now and Chariton touched on the
37 other stuff that I had in mind and like to thank him
38 for that.

39
40 And again I'd like to thank the RAC
41 Committee, the Federal and the State employees for
42 listening to us and working with us and try to make
43 things better for us. And thank Mr. Miller for all the
44 hard work he had done for us and hope he has a better
45 success or good success in doing more fishery work for
46 our village -- not only for our village, Tuluksak and
47 the other villages.

48
49 Thank you very much.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you. This
2 brings us to almost the last item on the agenda.
3
4 MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Go ahead, Harry.
7 It's time for closing comments. Are you wanting to make
8 those?
9
10 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Are you wanting to
13 make those? You could start us off.
14
15 MR. H. WILDE: I'm going to make a
16 Council closing comment.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay.
19
20 MR. H. WILDE: Or a closing comment for
21 me.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay. You can be
26 our leader in that one.
27
28 MR. H. WILDE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
29 was reading in a newspaper, saw the members wanted for
30 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council. I asked one of
31 the men if he's willing to become Advisory Council. He
32 said now what for. To put me in trouble again? Fish
33 and Wildlife took my two king salmon away and never
34 give me back to me. And my family last spring, we was
35 being as a fish camp, our children was hungry.
36
37 Mr. Chairman. The Section .805 is the
38 heart of the -- to design by the -- to protect
39 subsistence users of Alaska Natives and other rural
40 Alaskan. Why rural Alaskan still hungry for fish and
41 wildlife.
42
43 Mr. Chairman. For the thousands of
44 years of Native harvest fish and wildlife resource for
45 the food. The following Alaska purchase by the Federal
46 Government from Russian in 1867, the Federal Government
47 manage Alaska salmon and wildlife resource for Alaskan
48 Native.
49
50 In 1971, Congress passed and approve

1 ANCSA to Alaska Native, title to move 40 millions of
2 acres of land to worth about almost \$1 billion of
3 Alaskan Native for hunt and the fishing rights to
4 protect subsistence needs to Alaskan Natives.

5
6 Mr. Chairman. It's Title VIII give a
7 priority for subsistence users -- other users of fish
8 and wildlife on Federal public land in Alaska. The
9 Federal Subsistence Board may restrict the taking of
10 fish and wildlife to preserve and to help of the
11 population. When it's necessary. subsistence users are
12 given preference over the other users.

13
14 Mr. Chairman. Member of Advisory
15 Council. The Washington, D.C., are need to hear from
16 you. You may defend subsistence, work together. Our
17 voice is the key. Let's give our problems to the
18 Washington, D.C. They want to hear from us as a
19 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Let's go ahead on
24 down the line that way and come back around.

25
26 Ray, closing comments.

27
28 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Like I mentioned at our last meeting, the incident that
30 happened over the past summer was the noisiest I've
31 heard as far as fishing -- subsistence fishing on the
32 Yukon and I'm hoping that it won't be as stringent as
33 it was like last past summer. People in the river need
34 their fish. You need to allow them to take their fish
35 to provide for the winter. That should be a priority
36 for the subsistence managers in the river rather than
37 advocate for another country and that's what has
38 happened. Very little fishing was -- had occurred all
39 up and down the Yukon to protect what goes into Canada.
40 If you've seen the reports that were given, there was
41 more than enough for subsistence use all up and down
42 the river. There was enough use for a small commercial
43 fishery and there was more than enough to bring into
44 Canada. And I'm hoping that we won't see this occur
45 again this coming summer.

46
47 Now that we've identified one resource
48 of the declining salmon, which is the bycatch of the
49 trawl fishing out there, that's one area that we could
50 work on to try and reduce their catch even to zero in

1 the long run. And for me, 29,000 is still a big
2 number. Probably I could provide for everyone up and
3 down the Yukon. But in the long run, I'd like to see
4 it go to zero if at all possible.

5
6 We're here to advocate for, you know,
7 our people, to listen to them and to find ways to
8 adjust their needs and I'm hoping that the people that
9 are so-called bureaucracy people will listen to us and
10 advocate for us like it's mentioned in Title VIII.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Charlie.

15
16 MR. BROWN: Thank you. One time one of
17 the elders before -- in those old days, they were
18 talking about voting for statehood, and one of the
19 elders asked the agency that came to him, did they
20 going to recollect their hunting rights, their
21 lifestyle, and that guy, when they were campaigning for
22 -- to vote for statehood, that time that person that
23 came to them, he responded that they won't touch or
24 bother their rights of harvesting their food from the
25 land or from the sea and that person, he believed that
26 -- that person that time he make that statement.

27
28 And then after the statehood, they
29 start having a hard time, like there was a different
30 story and later on, they had been going out trying to
31 tell the State or Feds to help them out. They didn't
32 come out like they said before. So instead of that,
33 they were having a hard -- hardship. That's -- and
34 then later on -- it's a hardship and the other one is
35 the last time I was asking for the trouts. Last year I
36 think -- last year I believe I ask one of the agencies
37 about trouts, rainbow trouts. I heard that they were
38 contaminated with mercury like the pikes. I didn't get
39 a respond up to now.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Other.

44
45 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 And Council and our Staff and out guests. Quyana.

47
48 There are -- after listening to the
49 public testimony and testimony from James and Chariton,
50 they brought out a lot of the issues I want to bring

1 before the Council as a common -- as Council comments,
2 but there is a need -- there is a need to know -- try
3 to recruit younger people for our Council. As you
4 know, all of us are getting to the point we need to
5 retire sometime in the future and like Harry, I've been
6 trying to recruit somebody from my village and a few
7 times when I asked some promising individual, there's a
8 no. It's time consuming and they don't get money out
9 of it. It's something they don't want to volunteer
10 their time for.

11
12 I think our Staff and ourself, we need
13 to aggressively start trying to recruit other people to
14 come in and serve as Advisory Council members. That's
15 one issue. Then we need to bring these meetings out to
16 the villages. We are here for their interest and
17 especially in subsistence areas. We need to find a way
18 to take it out to the villages again because when we
19 meet in Bethel, public is rarely, rarely involved. All
20 the people you see that are coming are mostly Staff or
21 people that come in from the villages or the members
22 and our Staff

23
24 And I forgot to thank our recorder over
25 here Tina, Quyana.

26
27 And too often tradition knowledge is
28 often ignored or recognized by the Staff. They may
29 listen, but they -- we don't really get that
30 recognition and we're often dominated by various
31 agencies. A lot of times people that come up to us
32 with -- they come up with proposals. When they come up
33 with proposals, they try to put it in simple languages.
34 Then the Staff takes it and when they do their
35 presentation, they make it confusing. Even to us, it
36 gets -- when it gets to us, it's confusing. It's not
37 -- often times we have -- want to take a break, we have
38 to caucus and try to figure out what they really want
39 us to do.

40
41 As we got to remember, we're only in an
42 advisory position. We can advise to the Board
43 supporting the proposals and that's pretty much we can
44 do. But we need the input from the villages and on the
45 other issues I had, in my notes I wrote on control, we
46 definitely need better control on -- even though all
47 these years is -- they brought it up loud enough, but
48 they never come around to it. As you know -- prey on
49 caribou and they migrate and Mulchatna Herd is
50 declining every year. One time I know it was in the

1 early '90s, it was over 200,000. Now on the last
2 population count, the report we got was they're around
3 -- roughly around 90,000. That's less than 50 percent
4 of the original high peak population count and then the
5 same thing with -- it's the same thing with moose.

6
7 Moose and caribou are preyed on by
8 wolves and the springtime especially on moose, brown
9 bears prey on their calves especially in the upriver
10 region in our area and we don't have no predator
11 control. We need to get that in the books and try to
12 do something about it.

13
14 Then on regulatory proposals, when we
15 go to meetings, we rarely see a large volume of
16 proposals that come in from our area. Both -- I think
17 both the AVCP and the Refuge staff needs to do their
18 instruction and educational programs out to the
19 villages, show them how to write acceptable proposals
20 on paper so it'll be easy to understand, it'll be
21 acceptable to the RAC to the Federal Subsistence Board.

22
23
24 There -- somebody mentioned to me
25 before I came down about proxy hunting system. It's --
26 they are available both under the State and the Refuge,
27 but the problem we have, the Refuge is -- we cannot go
28 get them unless come into town and go through the
29 office. We can invite them out there, but often when
30 we ask for proxy forms, they are not available.

31
32 And on our RAC Council's -- a lot of us
33 wear more than one hat and it's better to leave our
34 conflict issues at home and concentrate what's on the
35 table. And on boundary lines, we -- all these years,
36 we still have trouble trying to figure out where the
37 upriver and downriver boundary lines are up in Bob's
38 region and my end of the region up there. Somebody
39 needs to go -- both the State and the Feds have to come
40 together and come up with one common boundary line and
41 for once maybe do it like what those fish people do.
42 Put a couple of giant -- big giant buoys out there and
43 tell them this is where their one boundary ends and the
44 other one starts. It'll be highly visible.

45
46 Then we need better baseline studies
47 because sometimes in some of those studies, some
48 village always get left out and that's pretty much what
49 my -- what I got on my notes and I thank James and
50 Chariton with coming up with the other issues we had

1 that of villages.

2

3 Quyana.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Bob Aloysius.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, as many of you
8 know, I get very emotional a lot of times. When I get
9 emotional, I get loud and my bark is worse than my
10 bite. I don't bite. A lot of it has to do with the
11 frustrations of wearing more than one hat. And it
12 seems like the only tool that we have around here is
13 our voice to address and address and address and remind
14 and remind and remind and a lot of times it doesn't
15 seem to go anywhere. So we have to start exerting
16 action, being more visible, getting our young people
17 involved and like Harry said, even younger people, why
18 don't you put your name in to be considered for the YK
19 RAC. What for. It's just a waste of time. All they
20 do is talk and they talk and they talk and never have
21 any action. And that's the same -- how do you say it
22 nicely -- the same response you get for many people,
23 but they resolve, they resolve, they resolve, they
24 resolve, but they never do anything and every year,
25 they resolve the same resolutions.

26

27 And I've been here only six years and
28 I'm sorry to sound like a broken record, but maybe
29 sometime when we say something long enough and hard
30 enough, somebody's going to us serious and start doing
31 something about what we're saying. And one thing that
32 struck me and I had completely forgot about Area M. I
33 mean ever since Harold's left, we don't hear about Area
34 M as much as we used to and if you just listen to the
35 numbers, Area M is a hundred times worse than the
36 bycatch or the trawler fleet out there. They're there
37 all the time and they never move. Where the bycatch or
38 the pollock fisheries, they migrate from one place to
39 another, but Area M is always there.

40

41 And I never even thought about the
42 numbers until a while ago that it's scary. The other
43 concern I have is it would be nice for all of them or
44 anybody involved because they have our mailing
45 addresses, they have our telephone numbers, and I know
46 they also have my email address, that if anything comes
47 up that they let us know right away instead of waiting
48 a week until our RAC meeting.

49

50 It's important that we -- we represent

1 the people and when we get questions from people we
2 have no answer because we don't have an answer and it's
3 very frustrating. And so -- well, what the hell are
4 you doing there, if you don't know what's going -- and,
5 you know, it's just wasting money. And we don't get
6 anything out of it. All we get is per diem and all
7 that, but still it costs money to set up a meeting,
8 costs money to secure the place, costs money for
9 transportation and they think about all these things
10 and then they -- why are you wasting our money if you
11 just talk and talk and don't do anything.

12

13 So, you know, I get all this from
14 people at home. So if we are better informed in a
15 timely fashion, it would be really helpful and my other
16 -- my last thing again is always paper or book learning
17 responses to questions that we have. We don't need
18 that anymore. We want actual factual responses about
19 anything that we ask.

20

21 Qu yana.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: James.

24

25 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 Many of you folks know me. I'm James Charles from
27 Tuntutuliak and I want to thank everybody who came here
28 to our meeting and especially Alex Nick here. He got
29 this meeting rolling here, and we thank everybody who
30 participated and worked with us.

31

32 It's not easy sometimes arguing with
33 you about some subjects, but we represent the people
34 back home and the resource, what do -- like this
35 gentleman was talking about the trapping, but we work
36 -- or we have different issues all the time, like fish
37 and game. And why I don't mind staying with RAC, they
38 can change me or elect somebody, but why I stick with
39 that group at the beginning was that group, State AC,
40 salmon management working group because I appreciate
41 what happened to me when I was little. I was -- I lost
42 my dad when I was 18 -- I mean correction -- 8 years
43 old. I lost my dad, uncle, grandmother. They all died
44 in one year from tuberculosis and my mom made us
45 survive off the land, eating fish and game. So that's
46 what -- that's why I appreciate working for the people
47 who is trying to keep that alive using fish and game
48 for subsistence -- for food because when I was a kid,
49 we did not have food stamps. We did not have welfare.
50 We did not have store in the village, but we survived

1 off the land. So that's why I -- I'm glad I survived
2 and that's one reason that I don't mind helping people
3 trying to keep this alive.

4

5 Doi. I guess Quyana.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Yeah. I share a
8 lot of those -- people who said they get frustrated and
9 wondering why you're sitting here and if you actually
10 ever do accomplish things, victories are slow and far
11 between sometimes, but if you don't work at it and chip
12 away and take bites at a time, then somebody else is
13 going to make those decisions for you whether they have
14 the input or not. So you -- and do the best you can to
15 make those changes happen to the best of the people
16 we're here to represent.

17

18 There's a lot of times I look at it now
19 that subsistence is under attack from just about every
20 front including those who purport to be there to help
21 it. Whether it be environmental groups or a State or
22 Federal agency, whatever, and I -- this is not the
23 local managers. These are policies imposed by
24 administrations that change with the whims of a
25 political climate which gets to -- you know, back to
26 that major issue that we have. You know, Harry read
27 off that about subsistence having the priority under an
28 ANILCA for human use, but yet the interpretation of
29 that is essentially the Federal -- or the managers --
30 most of those involved that have the direct managing
31 authority saying, well, yeah, I know that's what we
32 said, but that's not really what we meant.

33

34 And subsistence takes second place to
35 the human use of what's called a moral superiority of,
36 you know, this is -- it makes me feel bad, so you
37 shouldn't do that. That is the priority human use
38 that's being recognized by the failure to manage the
39 populations to provide for subsistence. And that's why
40 the system is greatly broken and that's why it will
41 remain so until that responsibility is recognized and
42 fulfilled by the managers.

43

44 So I'll let -- so much for that
45 subject. I just -- for the meeting, I appreciate you
46 guys putting up with me. You're not as bad I heard to
47 catch as some other boards and such as I had to contend
48 with over the years and there's not the manipulations
49 of agendas and directions of taking place on the
50 sidelines that also occur. I really appreciate that,

1 having -- be able to have a true, honest open dialogues
2 that occur through this process.

3

4 And the Staff as well, I'd echo what
5 James said. Even though we rag on you a little bit, at
6 times I know you guys have a heck of a hard job to do
7 covering all the bases and I appreciate the job you do
8 on it.

9

10 And so that's it. Good meeting. Hope
11 Lester's here next time. You want to do final.....

12

13 MR. ALOYSIUS: I will remind you that
14 we omitted one particular part of our meeting and that
15 to -- the appointment or reappointment of the Yukon
16 Kuskokwim Delta Coordinating Fisheries Committee
17 members and that's totally removed from the election of
18 officers. So if it's appropriate, I'd like to make a
19 motion.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Actually, I recall
22 that coming up under discussion that it is -- it was
23 included in that block for vote and appointment and it
24 is specifically stated there that all existing members
25 would continue in that capacity until we had a fuller
26 Council here. Unless you had.....it recalled under
27 discussion and it specifically

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay. Thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: That's fine. Alex.

32

33 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Before you
34 adjourn, I would like to mention a couple of things --
35 important things that just as a reminder to the RAC.
36 As you remember, I think about a year ago, OSM Staff
37 updated the RAC that public comments will be done
38 through electronic tools, you know, like computer and
39 now comments could be accessed by computer savvy
40 people, which I am not sometimes at this site. It's
41 www.regulations.gov.

42

43 But I will alert you that it's very
44 hard to get to sometimes and that's probably one of the
45 reasons why and because, you know, I've tried several
46 times to access that. There may be some comments that
47 we missed, you know. It's not our fault, but --
48 because we can't or could not access the site, you
49 know, to get comments on time to get them into your
50 books or for this meeting.

1 And I would encourage all of you to
2 talk to your represented villages to make sure to keep
3 on trying and I will do my best to do that as well on
4 my part. One of the things that I will let you know is
5 that now if anyone has a comment, they have to be
6 channeled through me or directly to -- who is it? Theo
7 -- Theo at our office in Anchorage. Email comments
8 will not be -- I understand that email comments will
9 not be accepted. They have to be in black and white.
10 Faxed to me or to our office in Anchorage so directly
11 sent to us in order for our regulatory specialist to
12 enter them into that portal. It's a government-wide
13 thing. It's not -- we have nothing to do with that.
14 It's a government-wide thing and if you have any
15 questions, you could call Theo and he will be able to
16 explain that to you.

17
18 I know that the Staff did update you on
19 -- briefed you on this -- was it a year ago? About a
20 year ago and to date, I have not received any comments
21 -- public comments and proposals. One other thing that
22 I wanted to remind you is that when you do go home,
23 please let me know if you make it today or if you have
24 to stay over this evening, please let me know before
25 the end of the day.

26
27 That's all I got.

28
29 Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Thank you, Alex.
32 No more business before us. James.

33
34 MR. CHARLES: Alex, are we still
35 allowed to testify before the Board even that this --
36 even we have -- even we're supposed to do in the
37 computer?

38
39 MR. NICK: You mean the Federal Board?

40
41 MR. CHARLES: Yeah.

42
43 MR. NICK: Federal Board I believe
44 accepts very much like RAC. They accept testimonies
45 during their meetings.

46
47 Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Yeah. That's what
50 you were talking about just for -- to be posted for

1 general public access, correct? I mean you can still
2 submit a written comment to the Board too and it's a
3 valid comment. It's only if you want it posted on the
4 Website, that's -- you got to go through the process
5 that he mentioned.

6

7 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Alex, as you know, electronic online communications
9 and -- are always a hassle. We'll probably have -- we
10 have the slowest Internet in the whole State of Alaska
11 in this region and if you're downloading documents, you
12 rare get through half of it and you lose your line.
13 It's frustrating. Probably fax documents are much
14 better. And I -- so there's village people, I will
15 say, when they try to go online, they spend a couple
16 hours just to try to get online and when they do, half
17 the time, they lose their connections.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Tom.

22

23 MR. KRON: Yeah. For that very reason,
24 our office argued for special exceptions for Alaska and
25 for that reason, you know, we can receive things via
26 fax. You can give them to Alex. You can mail them to
27 our office. The other parts of the country, they're
28 required to go, you know, much more electronic than we
29 are and we argued because of the difficulty of exactly
30 what you just described.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Bring this down to
35 the bottom. Bob, you want to give us a closing prayer
36 so we can -- or would you rather just make a motion to
37 adjourn.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I move
40 that we adjourn this meeting.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Is there any
43 objection.

44

45 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: You have an
48 objection to adjournment?

49

50 MR. ONEY: Yes, I do. I think they

1 forgot to put a closing prayer on the agenda. I'd like
2 to end this meeting with a closing prayer. I guess we
3 started with an open prayer, so I think this would be
4 traditional that we close with a closing prayer.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: Okay.

7

8 (Prayer)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ROCIZCKA: We are adjourned.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

