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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL  
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME II

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March 3, 1999

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Alakanuk City Hall, Alakanuk, Alaska

14

15 Members Present:

16

17 Mr. Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chairman

18 Mr. Fritz L. George, Secretary

19 Mr. Ilarion J. Nicolai

20 Mr. Willard Church

21 Mr. James Charles

22 Mr. Billy McCann

23 Mr. Johnny B. Thompson

24 Mr. Lester Wilde

25 Mr. John Hanson, Sr., Alternate member

26

27 Mr. John Andrew, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 8:29 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Good morning. We could go ahead and start. This morning we're going to start up with agency's report. At 10:00 o'clock we need to have one proposal to teleconference which some of our -- one of our Council member making (indiscernible). So this morning we're going to start out with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Sue?

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The main project that the Office of Subsistence Management is working on now is preparing for fisheries management, and I discussed that yesterday, so I won't go into that any more.

The other item is the Federal Subsistence Board meeting where they're going to make decisions on the recommendations that you've made on the proposals. That will be held May 3rd through the 5th in Anchorage. And as soon as we know where that meeting will be held, we'll let you know.

And the other thing is that the regional council chairs will also be having a meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board the morning of the 3rd.

That's all I had.

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Sue. Next on our agenda is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. J. ANDREW: Steve Kovach.

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Steve.

MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We really don't have a whole lot to add over what we gave you last fall at your meeting. On caribou, we again have large numbers of caribou from the Mulchatna herd that are occupying the refuge. We have approximately between 30 and 40,000 caribou on the refuge south of the Kuskokwim River. We've had a number of reports from communities downriver of Bethel of caribou crossing the river back in October and November, which is very encouraging to us.

The animals are fairly sedentary this year. They normally do a lot of moving during the wintertime, and this year they're not moving that much. Last year we had a group

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1 of 25,000 that moved fairly steadily between the Kwethluk  
2 River and Whitefish Lake and this year they're pretty much  
3 staying in the Flats and the low hills south and east of  
4 Bethel.

5  
6 In the first week of November, we -- the Refuge and  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game went out to try and catch  
8 caribou to put some fresh radio telemetry collars out. The  
9 number of collared animals we have is dwindling, because of  
10 the age -- the collars are so old, the batteries are failing.  
11 We did manage to capture 13 animals and put radio collars on  
12 nine of them. Unfortunately the weather changed, we lost the  
13 snow cover, which we needed to ensure safe capture conditions  
14 for the animals, so we suspended the operation. We still  
15 have about 25 collars to put out if we get additional funding  
16 and the conditions to do that. Otherwise we'll wait again  
17 until next fall and try again in the fall.

18  
19 The brown bear project is on-going. All the bears  
20 are in their dens, and we're just doing out routinely monthly  
21 tracking flights to see if they change dens during the  
22 wintertime.

23  
24 We're currently preparing for another census. This  
25 one again on the Yukon River like last year, but this census  
26 is basically from a little bit below Marshall all the way  
27 down to Mountain Village, and then on up the Andreafskies.  
28 We're preparing to do that. If we can do that, we'll be out  
29 next week to do it, provided we -- all the planes arrive as  
30 scheduled and weather conditions permit.

31  
32 We are -- the Refuge is also working with Alaska  
33 Department of Fish and Game on trying to develop ideas on how  
34 we want to go forward in preparing an extensive moose  
35 management plan for moose along the Kuskokwim River. We're  
36 in discussions with -- these discussions are very preliminary  
37 at this point in time, but we do want to incorporate all the  
38 communities up and down the river as far as Aniak. Work with  
39 AVCP, TKC if necessary, and develop -- collectively develop a  
40 moose management plan in an effort to grow moose on the  
41 Kuskokwim River.

42  
43 We have moose -- the moose population on the Yukon  
44 River is growing substantially. Moose are moving down river.  
45 they're even down in the mouth of the Yukon now. It's a  
46 great testament to the people here who have helped that  
47 population grow by restraining in taking excessive numbers of  
48 animals and not taking cows. We have moose growing in the  
49 Togiak area, and they're moving westward, but the moose on  
50 the Kuskokwim aren't really growing substantially in numbers

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1 like they should be, so we are trying to figure out the best  
2 approach to get a collective consensus from everybody on the  
3 best approach to grow moose.

4  
5 We do have another meeting of the Brown Bear Working  
6 Group and the Kilbuck Caribou Working Group scheduled. It  
7 will take place in the latter part of April or the first of  
8 May, and we're working with AVCP to get that meeting pulled  
9 together.

10  
11 Chuck?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Chuck Hunt?

14  
15 MR. HUNT: Quyana, Mr. Chairman. Chuck Hunt,  
16 Fish and Wildlife Service. (In Yup'ik)

17  
18 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck Hunt is reporting  
19 regarding the report for Y-K Delta Refuge.

20  
21 Beginning from September, they've been working on the  
22 issues that they are -- they are preparing for the  
23 presentation for migratory bird, migratory process to  
24 villages. He explained to the people that the Congress  
25 approved the Migratory Bird Treaty (indiscernible, feedback)  
26 October 25th. (Indiscernible, feedback)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Must be your magnetic  
29 personality, Chuck.

30  
31 (Off record conversation re feedback)

32  
33 MR. HUNT: Maybe it doesn't like Yup'ik  
34 language.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck would also probably  
39 summarize his presentation in English later.

40  
41 He says that Fish and Wildlife Service  
42 representatives, AVCP and other interest parties has worked  
43 on the protocol amendment to allow spring and summer legal  
44 waterfowl hunting in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the State of  
45 Alaska, so that all residents of the -- the local residents,  
46 the rural residents will be able to harvest waterfowl in  
47 spring and summer.

48  
49 Beginning from September to November there's been  
50 meetings held in the areas such as Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow,

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1 Bethel and other areas.

2

3 Waterfowl Conservation Committee during their  
4 meeting, which was held on January 26 and 27, made a decision  
5 that they will be management body for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.  
6 In Refuge information, Ted (indiscernible) will be travelling  
7 to villages, will be presenting this issue in the villages,  
8 and ask comments about how they want management bodies formed  
9 in this area. And as soon as these comments are received,  
10 they will be sent to Anchorage for -- in order to -- for the  
11 Anchorage staff to review those, and then after they look  
12 over all the -- after this is done, then the regulations will  
13 be developed. And in the meantime, the information will be  
14 given to villages that Coast Management Plan will still be  
15 expected -- that -- excuse me. The villages will be expected  
16 to comply with goose management plan until such time the  
17 regulations have developed.

18

19 I didn't catch some of the -- because he speaks so  
20 fast.

21

22 And during the spring hunting, spring and summer  
23 hunting, subsistence hunting activities, the -- we will focus  
24 on enforcement of emperor geese closure, and also the  
25 compliance with the steel shot requirement for hunting on --  
26 in Y-K Delta.

27

28 During the summer the villages (indiscernible)  
29 villages that -- the village success and (indiscernible) we  
30 still need to adopt the steel shot resolution in other few  
31 villages.

32

33 Mike Reardon could not make it to this meeting,  
34 because he's not feeling too well these days.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, quyana, Chuck. If  
37 there's any question for these two gentlemen? Charles?

38

39 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 INTERPRETER NICK: What's the status of  
42 spectacled eiders and also Stellars eiders? He want to know  
43 what the status of those, especially the die-off of seabirds.  
44 He's asking about seabirds, the seabird die-off last.....

45

46 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck explained to him  
49 that -- Chuck explained to him that there is -- the  
50 information they gathered after doing research was that there

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1 was a warming up in the ocean waters that caused -- die-off  
2 of waterfowl was caused by the -- die-off of seabirds.....

3  
4 MR. THOMPSON:

5  
6 INTERPRETER NICK: And John's concern was  
7 whether or not if stellar eiders or spectacled eiders were  
8 some the.....

9  
10 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

11  
12 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck explained to him  
13 that only seabirds to die-off were seabirds.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John?

16  
17 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

18  
19 INTERPRETER NICK: John Hanson brought up  
20 that during the meeting they heard a report that there was  
21 some seabirds washed ashore. He wanted to know if there any  
22 research done on the seabirds that washed ashore.

23  
24 MR. HUNT: Was there any research done on  
25 the.....

26  
27 MR. L. WILDE: No, there wasn't, Chuck.

28  
29 MR. HUNT: There wasn't?

30  
31 MR. L. WILDE: There wasn't.

32  
33 MR. HUNT: Yeah. There has not been any  
34 research done on some of the fish and the shellfish that  
35 had.....

36  
37 MR. KOVACH: No.

38  
39 MR. HUNT: .....washed ashore.

40  
41 MR. KOVACH: No.

42  
43 MR. HUNT: Just on the.....

44  
45 MR. KOVACH: Some samples were.....

46  
47 MR. HUNT: .....seabirds?

48  
49 MR. KOVACH: Yeah, seabirds were the only  
50 samples that we were asked to collect.

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1 MR. HANSON: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

2  
3 INTERPRETER NICK: Hanson asked if cackling  
4 Canada goose populations are still low. He said that, you  
5 know, recently when they see them in this area, they're not  
6 that many. He's wondering if the population levels are still  
7 low?

8  
9 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

10  
11 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck explained to him  
12 that the populations levels of cackling Canada are -- has  
13 increased in the comfortable level. In November probably  
14 some counts -- they counted approximately 199,000 birds in  
15 this area. He reported that in the Lower 48 in the wintering  
16 areas, it was not too good to do a census on the cackling  
17 Canada geese and other birds, because of the conditions that  
18 were in that -- rather, you know, they were mixed in with  
19 other Canada geese.

20  
21 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

22  
23 INTERPRETER NICK: He said the cackling  
24 Canada goose is in the comfortable level at this time. He  
25 also asked about population levels of white fronted geese.

26  
27 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

28  
29 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck explained to him  
30 that the population levels of white fronted geese are  
31 approximately 300,000. So they're increasing.

32  
33 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

34  
35 INTERPRETER NICK: John has insist that they  
36 see a lot of cackling Canada geese in this area when they're  
37 migrating back down south, and also white fronts.

38  
39 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

40  
41 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck explained to him  
42 that during migration that the geese migrate and then rest  
43 down on the Alaska Peninsula and then head down to the states  
44 of Washington, Oregon, and -- he said that there's some  
45 complaints about geese down in Oregon and Washington eating  
46 vegetables in the farmlands.

47  
48 MR. L. WILDE: Do you have any data on  
49 emperor geese?

50

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1 MR. HUNT: The number that we have is 39,000.

2  
3 MR. L. WILDE: So they're still having  
4 problems then?

5  
6 MR. HUNT: We still having -- they have in  
7 the last couple of years declined, but.....

8  
9 MR. L. WILDE: They're declining or.....

10  
11 MR. HUNT: They're continuing to decline in  
12 the long run, yeah.

13  
14 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

15  
16 INTERPRETER NICK: John Hanson asked what's  
17 the eider ducks population levels? He said that he hear  
18 reports that the population were -- are reported to be  
19 declining. John says that, you know, down in this area he  
20 know there's a lot of eider ducks that migrate through here  
21 and say they're in big numbers of flocks.

22  
23 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

24  
25 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck says that over in  
26 North Slope area and in Siberia there's -- that the eider  
27 duck nests in that area are not decreasing, but the eider  
28 ducks that nests here in Y-K Delta has declined from the  
29 past. He said there's been some research on eider ducks and  
30 according to the results of the studies that are done in the  
31 field, there seems to be increasing population of eider  
32 ducks.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz?

35  
36 MR. GEORGE: Chuck, (In Yup'ik)

37  
38 INTERPRETER NICK: Fritz George from Akiachak  
39 wondered about old squaws. He says that they hardly see any  
40 more old squaws in the lakes any more. Old squaws.

41  
42 MR. HUNT: Sqap or old squaw?

43  
44 INTERPRETER NICK: Old squaw.

45  
46 MR. HUNT: Old squaws. Old squaws, yeah.  
47 (In Yup'ik)

48  
49 INTERPRETER NICK: He said -- Chuck says  
50 (indiscernible) that they're beginning to study -- biologists

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1 are beginning to study the old squaws, because there seems to  
2 be a decline in the population levels of old squaws. And the  
3 local people in the Y-K Delta are beginning to report that,  
4 you know, they don't see any -- that many old squaws in Y-K  
5 Delta any more. Chuck says that in order the declines --  
6 that, rather, the research begin about a few years ago.  
7 There's been some studies in their nesting areas. But when  
8 they begin to study lead poisoning in waterfowl, they have  
9 found few old squaw that were lead poisoned. And there may  
10 be other factors that cause decline.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill?

13  
14 MR. McCANN: Chuck, (In Yup'ik)

15  
16 INTERPRETER NICK: Bill McCann asked where  
17 the lead poison originate from?

18  
19 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

20  
21 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck's response is that,  
22 you know, the lead poisoned waterfowl originate from here in  
23 Y-K Delta, because if there are any lead poisoned waterfowl  
24 in Lower 48, they never reach this area. Any waterfowl  
25 that's lead poisoned in Y-K Delta originate from here. And  
26 lead -- or rather waterfowl digest lead, it grinds into salt  
27 likes (ph) and then slowly poisons the waterfowl. And  
28 there's been reports about lead poison in the nesting areas  
29 and also during brood rearing in the summer. So the research  
30 results indicate that all lead poisoned waterfowl originate  
31 from here in Y-K Delta.

32  
33 MR. McCANN: Where do does it exactly come  
34 from? The poison? The.....

35  
36 MR. HUNT: Lead shot pellets.

37  
38 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

39  
40 INTERPRETER NICK: Bill McCann wondered where  
41 lead poison pellets originate from. Rather lead pellets  
42 rather.

43  
44 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

45  
46 INTERPRETER NICK: And Chuck explained to him  
47 that it originates from people of Y-K Delta when they use  
48 lead shot shells, shot gun shells, they scatter all of the  
49 lead pellets in the feeding areas where waterfowl can get to  
50 and digest when they feed in the ponds or in the feeding

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1 areas. Sometimes when waterfowl are searching for -- when  
2 they're searching for food, they tend to eat gravel to grind  
3 their food. Sometimes they digest lead pellets, and then --  
4 well, when the lead pellet is digested by water fowl, it  
5 grinds into salt like powder and it goes into its blood and  
6 then it spreads all over and then it gets to poison the  
7 waterfowl. And within a week or more, they get sick. They  
8 hide in shelters such as grass and then -- and hide  
9 somewhere, and for that reason, sometime lead poisoned  
10 waterfowl are not found by anyone.

11  
12 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

13  
14 INTERPRETER NICK: John Hanson wondered about  
15 lead poison. He's wondering if it's -- if it began just  
16 recently, because.....

17  
18 MR. HUNT: We got to blame our elders for  
19 something.

20 (Laughter)

21  
22 INTERPRETER NICK: He wondered if, you know,  
23 they used to use them, they reloaded shot shells.

24  
25 MR. HUNT: Yeah.

26  
27 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

28  
29 INTERPRETER NICK: The reason why he's  
30 wondering is because he's wondering because, you know, steel  
31 shoots were introduced just recently. He wondering if  
32 somebody's going to say that steel shoots are poison also  
33 pretty soon.

34  
35 MR. HUNT: I don't think so, John. (In  
36 Yup'ik)

37  
38 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

39  
40 INTERPRETER NICK: John Thompson also  
41 wondered about the issue of lead poisoning. He said he  
42 become aware of a lot things and he was born not just  
43 recently but a long time ago He said he became aware that  
44 his old man used to make his own shot pellets and reload his  
45 own -- reload his own shot shells. He said that within, you  
46 know, 50 years that he's been aware no one reported the  
47 waterfowl were lead poisoned. He's wondering about the  
48 current lead shots and steel shoots. He said one time  
49 somebody tested lead shot and steel shots in two glass of  
50 water and observed them. He said not too -- not long after

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1 the steel shot pellets began to rust in the water.

2

3 He also stated that some people has lead pellets  
4 lodged into -- in their body from accidents, and if they hear  
5 about any lead poison person. All of these factors make him  
6 wonder a lot.

7

8 And he also wondered about seabird die-offs down in  
9 Lower -- rather down in the sea that were beached the last  
10 couple of years, and he wondered about global warming and  
11 also sea warming which caused the seabird die off. He  
12 wondered if there's other factors that causes that die off  
13 from eating or digesting something else. He's wondering  
14 about that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson.

17

18 MR. HANSON: Yeah. I'll tell you all a  
19 little story. I'm alive. I had lead in my body. I wasn't  
20 poisoned.

21

22 MR. HUNT: Maybe it's because you don't have  
23 a gizzard.

24

25 MR. HANSON: They took my appendix out in  
26 1978. I told the doctor (In Yup'ik), that I wanted to find  
27 out what was in my appendix, so the doctor took my appendix  
28 out, and in a little bottle he gave what was in my appendix.  
29 I had lead shots in my body for 50-some years, but I didn't  
30 die. I didn't get poisoned.

31

32 MR. HUNT: How do you know it was from 50-  
33 some years? It could have been that last spring.

34

35 MR. HANSON: Well, I still have that little  
36 bottle that had.....

37

38 MR. HUNT: Yeah. What.....

39

40 MR. HANSON: But all the (In Yup'ik) of my  
41 appendix.

42

43 MR. HUNT: Yeah.

44

45 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik) If I ever eat geese  
46 and duck, I told him yeah, it's since I was born I was eating  
47 geese and ducks. But it was packed fuller.

48

49 INTERPRETER NICK: He said that -- part of  
50 what he said in Yup'ik was that he had all kinds of metal,

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1 including lead pellets in his appendix.

2

3 MR. HANSON: Big jacket (ph) like those lead  
4 (In Yup'ik)

5

6 MR. HUNT: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck also stated that his  
9 uncle had lead pellets in his body, and also -- rather, in  
10 his appendix, and also his older sister, but he's -- Chuck  
11 explained that human beings don't have gizzards like  
12 waterfowl. The waterfowl has gravel and other hard objects  
13 in its gizzard to grind its food when it eats. Human beings  
14 don't have one like that. Sometime if we -- we digest some  
15 of the metal objects and like shotgun pellets, but we dispose  
16 of them within a few days.

17

18 He said one time there was an incident when somebody  
19 happened to digest lead shot and he wasn't feeling too well.  
20 The doctors took the lead pellets out of his belly by sucking  
21 it through a tube. But anyone who has lead pellets in its  
22 body don't have any possibility of getting lead poison from  
23 it, because it's only lodged in the body.

24

25 A long time ago there used to be water pumps made of  
26 lead, iron and aluminum, but those were removed from the  
27 water pipes, because it's not good for human. And also the  
28 glass -- there used to be some lead in the glass also, but it  
29 was also removed.

30

31 Paint also had lead contents, and those were also  
32 removed from paint. Sometime when paint was dry and they  
33 nibble on it for some reason, they would get harm from that.  
34 Sometimes you would get that for maybe mentally retarded from  
35 that.

36

37 And there used to be lead contents in the gasoline  
38 also, but that was also removed from gasoline. What gas did  
39 was it was polluting air from fumes that -- from out of  
40 exhaust pipes or the muffler.

41

42 And there's also lead weights for sport hunting --  
43 fishing equipment that they used to use for lures, but that's  
44 -- those are also not used in Lower 48 any more.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard?

47

48 MR. CHURCH: You know for such increased  
49 awareness for lead poisoning that's in our waterfowl  
50 populations, I wonder if it would be feasible for us or the

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1 Refuge to look into the possibility of putting a non-toxic  
2 fishing program on some of the rivers that are heavily sport  
3 fished to where they do use a lot of lead sinkers and split  
4 shot for their fishing lines. I've been doing some research  
5 and trying to find out where else in the United States they  
6 have non-toxic fishing programs, and down in the Yellowstone  
7 Park, they have a non-toxic fishing program to where they  
8 have a ban on the use of lead split shot and lead sinkers.  
9 And their justification for that was for -- to reduce the  
10 mortality from lead poisoning for diving birds, such as  
11 maganzers, loons, or other birds that feed off of gravel bars  
12 where they may by chance pick up lead split shot off of the  
13 gravel bars that have been left there by sport fishermen.

14  
15 Like down on the Kanektok River, we've had sport  
16 fishing activity for a very long time. It may be 30 years,  
17 40 years, and when I think about it, and I've discussed this  
18 with some of our research technicians, with that amount of  
19 time and that much activity, how much lead has been deposited  
20 on our gravel bars and in our river system which our  
21 waterfowl that need this river system to live off of have  
22 been picking up and dying off from. And I want our refuge,  
23 whether it's Togiak or the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Refuge to do  
24 more research into that and find out if it would be feasible  
25 for -- like the Kanektok River, for example, to introduce a  
26 program like that, similar to what they have down in the  
27 Yellowstone area.

28  
29 MR. HUNT: Good idea. I will bring that up  
30 to the refuge manager, Mike Reardon. I think that he will be  
31 interested in that. That's a real good idea.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Quyana,  
34 Chuck.

35  
36 MR. GEORGE: One more thing.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Oh, wait. One more.

39  
40 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Quyana, Mr. Chairman.  
41 (In Yup'ik)

42  
43 INTERPRETER NICK: Fritz says that kind of a  
44 long time ago there was a PSA in radio urging people that --  
45 there was a PSA that states that waterfowl that are migrating  
46 at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta at one time, if any natives were  
47 going to be eating those, they would -- I know the natives  
48 were advised by radio PSA that they should not eat more than  
49 one bowl in a week or a few bowls in a week, because in the  
50 wintering areas at the time there was a lot of pesticide

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1 exposure to waterfowl in Lower 48. In the Lower 48 according  
2 to the research up here say it was given the -- the -- that,  
3 you know, there was poisonous contents in the waterfowl that  
4 they pick up from pesticides, because the pesticide was  
5 poisonous. They couldn't -- any one -- any human being could  
6 not smell it or taste it, because it would poison a person.

7  
8 And during Y-K season -- meeting there were  
9 representatives from Canada during their meeting in Bethel.  
10 He said that in Canada there was a report that there were  
11 research done, you know, by taking blood samples from  
12 infants, baby or from ladies who are carrying baby, blood  
13 samples were taken from their belly buttons or belly buttons  
14 of baby. There was some -- there was some results from  
15 Canada that the pesticide was exposed -- there was a  
16 pesticide exposure probably from waterfowl.

17  
18 And then there was a plan to do research on all of  
19 the food chain that natives eat here in the Y-K Delta, and in  
20 Canada, so that they would find out what really causes that.  
21 And what Fritz says is that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
22 should get involved in this research.

23  
24 MR. HUNT: Let me ask Steve. Has there been  
25 any pesticide studies by the Fish and Wildlife Service on  
26 waterfowl or any other.....

27  
28 MR. KOVACH: Not in Alaska that I'm aware of.  
29 There's been quite a bit of work in the Mid West and the East  
30 I know. There's none that I'm aware of that's within Alaska.

31  
32 MR. L. WILDE: I think that -- Mr. Chairman?  
33 I think that study was done by the University of Alaska some  
34 time -- a couple years ago, a year ago, when it was done in  
35 the North Slope area, in the region.

36  
37 MR. GEORGE: It looks like what they're doing  
38 now is they're doing a study on pike and less (ph)  
39 livers.....

40  
41 MR. HUNT: Uh-hum.

42  
43 MR. GEORGE: .....for mercury

44  
45 MR. HUNT: Yeah.

46  
47 MR. KOVACH: Right. Yeah, there's some  
48 mercury work being done by.....

49  
50 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

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1 MR. KOVACH: .....YKHC.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: It seems like there's never a  
4 study done about pesticides or other contaminants in our  
5 native subsistence food chains.

6

7 MR. KOVACH: Are you aware of any pesticides  
8 being used up the river at all? Or within the area?

9

10 MR. GEORGE: No, but they -- when we asked  
11 them, they said about 20 or 30 years ago there used to be  
12 some spraying done to kill off the mosquitos around the  
13 villages.

14

15 MR. KOVACH: Oh, okay. Yeah, mosquito  
16 spraying.

17

18 MR. GEORGE: Even DDT. And they -- and one  
19 of the elders on the Board, YKHC Board told me -- told us  
20 that they were selling them in the stores, so they were  
21 buying them and spraying DDT at the fish camps and killing  
22 off the mosquitos.

23

24 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

25

26 MR. HUNT: But they did at one time.....

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: On the vessel.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

31

32 MR. NICK: Yeah, in the late -- rather early  
33 70s, mid 70s, there were studies done in Y-K Delta on burbot  
34 and other bottom fish, because health officials were  
35 reporting that there's more and more cancer from, you know,  
36 what you mentioned, the mercury poisoning, that our -- you  
37 know, that people happen to eat from those fish like  
38 whitefish or burbot or other bottom fish that -- fresh water  
39 fish that we eat out here. Just to help you on that.  
40 Because when I was a health board member, they reported that,  
41 and they were doing studies, because they were wondering why  
42 ladies were having breast cancer those days, you know, more  
43 and more breast cancer. I thought that would help you out a  
44 little bit on that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Quyana, Chuck.

47

48 MR. HUNT: Ee-ee.

49

50 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead.

2  
3 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

4  
5 INTERPRETER NICK: Pete Abraham wanted to ask  
6 about -- to Chuck or to -- well, it's to Steve Kovach or  
7 other biologist. He said that emperors -- he's wondering how  
8 come there's really big decline. He said that it really,  
9 really increased in 1996, and then really declined on 1997.  
10 He's wondering how come it stayed stable for a while and then  
11 increased and then decreased all at the same time. He was  
12 wondering how come that happened. He said that -- he said  
13 that, you know, they try to find out how they harvest and  
14 perched (ph) on in Aleutian Islands, and he know from the  
15 reports that, you know, there's no -- that many harvest of  
16 emperor geese down in Aleutian Islands. He's wondering about  
17 the harvest reports and also the population levels of the  
18 emperor. And then he's wondering if there was any mistake in  
19 the population counts on that emperor geese. He wanted to  
20 get clarified on that. Because he's wondering about that for  
21 several years.

22  
23 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

24  
25 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck reported that the  
26 harvest information is only done in Y-K Delta, and that just  
27 -- and there's been some population counts done in Bristol  
28 Bay and down in the Aleutians to a little past Cold Bay.  
29 According to the harvest reports, there's approximately 500  
30 birds reported in the Aleutians, in Bristol Bay area. And  
31 there's been some reports of emperor geese migrating as far  
32 as Kodiak Island and also down to St. Lawrence Island. Mike  
33 Reardon indicated that there's going to be a refuge managers  
34 meeting trying to find out what are the mortalities --  
35 mortality rates in the wintertime for emperor geese, and he's  
36 going to try to find out more about this information during  
37 that meeting. And they're going to -- if they find more  
38 about the population levels, they will -- it might be better  
39 to -- better population counts.

40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Chuck.

41  
42 MR. HUNT: Ee-ee.

43  
44 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

45  
46 INTERPRETER NICK: John Thompson wondered if  
47 the reason why there was a really big decline on the  
48 waterfowl.

49  
50 MR. HUNT: (In Yup'ik)

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1 INTERPRETER NICK: Chuck's response was that  
2 there's going to be more research on the emperor mortality  
3 down in -- or what's happening down in Aleutians during their  
4 wintering area, and they'll find out more about this area.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Quyana, Chuck.  
7 (In Yup'ik) I would like to introduce Mayor of Alakanuk,  
8 Ragnar Alstrom (ph).

9  
10 MAYOR ALSTROM: I'd like to welcome everyone to  
11 Alakanuk. We were kind of on the meeting bind yesterday.  
12 The City Administration, and my son who are investment (ph)  
13 person who's absent (ph) so much. So we were trying to --  
14 meetings (Indiscernible, away from microphone). Anyway, we  
15 hope everyone enjoys Alakanuk. We weren't here to welcome  
16 you guys, but we hope you guys all get home safely.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Ragnar. Next  
19 on our agenda is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak  
20 Wildlife Refuge. Is anyone here?

21  
22 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, the Togiak Refuge  
23 staff apologizes for not being here, but they're wrapped up  
24 in the middle of doing moose census work right now. It's the  
25 only window they had for when they could get the airplanes  
26 and the weather. And so that's why they're not here today.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Next  
29 on our reports Bureau of Land Management. Who will take  
30 that? Jeff Denton?

31  
32 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. We'll skip. The  
35 next, AVCP, Association of Village Council Presidents. Tim  
36 Andrew?

37  
38 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
39 members of the Regional Council. Thank you very much for the  
40 opportunity to give this report to you today.

41  
42 At the last meeting that was held in Bethel, we were  
43 also having an AVCP regional convention, or annual convention  
44 down in Hooper Bay. And Michelle Sparcks covered the last  
45 meeting, and Michelle Sparcks has since left to return back  
46 to Washington, D.C. where she is currently being employed by  
47 AVCP and the Coastal Villages Regional Fund as the  
48 Congressional liaison for this area.

49  
50 At the AVCP convention, there were several

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1 resolutions that were adopted that addresses the wildlife  
2 issues. One was to reduce the chinook by-catch in the  
3 pollock fisheries in the Bering Sea. This was sponsored by  
4 the Native Village of St. Mary's, Aupukchuk (ph) Tribal  
5 Council. We've -- since then, there's been some developments  
6 on the chinook by-catch. A couple of weeks ago there was a  
7 meeting held here, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association  
8 where a report was given how that -- how the chinook by-catch  
9 reduction was going to be administered over the next four-  
10 year period. It's going to be reduced down to 29,000  
11 chinook, and they would be monitoring the chinook by-catch  
12 year round rather than having the April 15th trailer (ph).  
13

14 AVCP's position at this time is basically we would  
15 like to see the Chinook by-catch reduced as soon as possible.  
16 Within a four-year period is too long. And we feel that the  
17 48,000 trailer by April 15th could possibly have more  
18 detrimental effects on our chinook resources in the Yukon-  
19 Kuskokwim Rivers.  
20

21 There was also another resolution to work with the  
22 other natural resource departments within our region. Some  
23 that I could think of is the Natural Resource Department of  
24 the Native Village of Emmonak, the Native Village of  
25 Quinhagak with Will Church, the Native Village of Kwethluk,  
26 the Native Village of Mekoryuk, Native Village of  
27 Kwigillingok, where we will coordinate our efforts to make  
28 sure that we protect our subsistence way of life in the  
29 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and work on other issues that we share  
30 in common.  
31

32 The 1999 Yukon River disaster has continued to create  
33 a lot -- generate a lot of work for our department. We have  
34 continued the work of assisting and providing relief for the  
35 Yukon River disaster victims. We work with the Department of  
36 Fish and Game, the State Legislature, the Governor, with  
37 Senator Stevens and Congressman Young in making sure that the  
38 disaster relief dollars reaches our people that are most  
39 affected.  
40

41 We have coordinated with several private disaster  
42 relief providers. One of the most recent providers that we  
43 have coordinated with was the PEPA people, Primary Emergency  
44 Preparedness, providing assistance to -- of animals -- to  
45 animals. And the Purina Corporation gave assistance in the  
46 delivery of 40,000 pounds of dry dog food to 16 communities  
47 in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. This was done to replace the  
48 amount of chum salmon that dog mushers would normally use to  
49 feed their dogs over the winter. This dog food delivery is  
50 now in its final stages, and the last of the shipment should

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1 occur within the next few days. And Marshall was -- being  
2 the last community that was to be served.

3  
4 In our Waterfowl Conservation Committee activities,  
5 just what Chuck Hunt had reported earlier about lead shot.  
6 Lead shot abatement is supported by the Waterfowl  
7 Conservation Committee. We would -- we encourage our hunters  
8 to use other than lead shot while they're hunting waterfowl.

9  
10 We participated in a Waterfowl Conservation Committee  
11 meeting in Bethel. As Chuck reported, we continue to see  
12 improvements in the amount of geese within the four protected  
13 species, with the exception of the emperors. The emperors  
14 are -- have been relatively stable over the last few years,  
15 although they have experienced some decline. And in response  
16 to the emperors that are lack- -- or that are not wanting to  
17 show an increase despite our efforts on the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
18 Delta, we have sponsored two resolutions at the last  
19 Waterfowl Conservation Committee.

20  
21 One of the resolutions were to reduce the amount of  
22 glaucous gulls in the nesting and rearing grounds of the  
23 emperor goose. This resolution was forwarded to the U.S.  
24 Fish and Wildlife Service to assist them in obtaining funds  
25 to reduce the amount of glaucous gulls in the nesting area.  
26 Some of the elements of the resolution would be that our  
27 native people in the villages would be hired to help reduce  
28 the amount of glaucous gulls.

29  
30 The other resolution -- excuse me. The other  
31 resolution was in support of research of emperor geese in  
32 their wintering grounds on the Aleutian Islands. There's  
33 been very little study that have occurred over the years on  
34 the wintering grounds. We figure that there might be  
35 something happening down in the wintering grounds, because,  
36 you know, we've tried for a number of years to try to build  
37 that population on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

38  
39 The next Waterfowl Conservation Committee meeting is  
40 to be held in Bethel March 29th and 30th of this year. And  
41 the primary issue in this meeting is going to be the  
42 implementation of Migratory Bird Treaty Protocol Amendments  
43 of 1998, where there is a portion of the law that allows us  
44 -- allows the native community to participate in comanagement  
45 programs for waterfowl.

46  
47 In the fisheries section, we've just concluded a  
48 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association meeting held here  
49 in Alakanuk in the last couple weeks, where AVCP primarily  
50 stood in opposition of the development of the St.

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1 Michaels/Stebbins pink salmon fishery over the fear that this  
2 fishery may intercept some of our fall chum, because we've  
3 tried for a number of years to build our fall chum salmon  
4 populations, and also over the concern that we've have a  
5 number of subsistence fishery closures. We've encouraged the  
6 people in St. Michaels and Stebbins to study this issue more  
7 before they come back and encouraged them to keep going.

8  
9 The Association of Village Councils also supported  
10 the test -- drift test fishery for chum salmon on the lower  
11 Yukon River, just to make sure or because the Department of  
12 Fish and Game indicated that the set nets don't do very well  
13 for -- to give an accurate count or an accurate enumeration  
14 of chum salmon in the river. So we've supported a resolution  
15 to develop a lower Yukon chum salmon test fishery.

16  
17 And along with that resolution was the development of  
18 Marshall's salmon test fishery to occur throughout the  
19 summer. And this portion of the resolution was primarily  
20 adopted to address the accuracy of information going through  
21 the Pilot Station sonar project.

22  
23 We've also supported the resolution in decreasing the  
24 amount of cost recovery sales of hatchery chum salmon. Over  
25 the years we've seen the portion of the cost recovery sales  
26 of hatchery chum salmon increase from a relatively low 2  
27 percent up to 25 to 50 percent of the market being saturated  
28 by hatchery cost recovery sales. This is affecting our  
29 fishermen, our economy out in Western Alaska, and it's  
30 definitely affecting our processors.

31  
32 We also stood in opposition of feeding of king salmon  
33 to dogs, primarily because we value king salmon as a very  
34 highly-prized food fish for human consumption.

35  
36 AVCP is continuing to work on monitoring projects on  
37 the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River. The one located on  
38 the Yukon River is Pilot Station at this time. We provide a  
39 technician to assist in the sonar project. We continue to  
40 operate a counting tower in the Kwethluk River. We support  
41 the Aniak River project with a sonar technician. And  
42 currently we are applying for funds to operate the Marshall  
43 -- some -- salmon test fishery. Excuse me.

44  
45 In the area of marine mammals, we're continuing to  
46 work on the authorization of Marine Mammal Protection Act of  
47 1994, which is coming up this summer. We are currently in  
48 the process of obtaining funds to hold a meeting of the (In  
49 Yup'ik), which is our Marine Mammal Commission of the AVCP  
50 region. There's a number of efforts by three of the primary

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1 native groups, or Alaska native organizations in Alaska that  
2 are trying to get the majority of the funds to administer  
3 marine mammals, one being the Alaska Sea Otter Commission,  
4 the other the Eskimo Walrus Commission, and the other the  
5 Alaska Nanuq Commission. AVCP stands adamantly opposed to  
6 these three groups in obtaining the funds and to administer  
7 our comanagement projects. We want to be able to administer  
8 our comanagement projects in the area.

9  
10 In big game, the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management  
11 Area and the Qavilngut Caribou Herd meeting is to be held in  
12 April at the call of the chair. We were scheduled to have  
13 one in -- during the month of March, but it conflicted with  
14 our schedule, so the meeting was postponed to the month of  
15 April.

16  
17 We -- The Association of Village Council Presidents  
18 supported the extension of the moose hunt in 19(A) and 21(E)  
19 over this past month. This hunt occurred on February through  
20 the 22nd. It is a five-day extension, and this is primarily  
21 because people couldn't get out during that time for --  
22 because of the cold weather, severe cold weather.

23  
24 One thing I forgot to mention in the fisheries  
25 segment was that the Board of Fish is going to be meeting in  
26 Nome to consider the first Tier II fishery ever in the State  
27 of Alaska. This is going to be a test of the Tier II  
28 classification, which could have precedence for the Yukon-  
29 Kuskokwim Rivers if we ever get into that situation there.  
30 Our position is basically we support Tier II fishery,  
31 primarily because the State of Alaska has been given numerous  
32 and ample opportunity to address their issue in their  
33 interception of our chum salmon in Area M.

34  
35 Going back to big game, we continue to work on the  
36 wanton waste issue, and we also continue to work on our --  
37 work on getting our 809 agreements back in from the U.S. Fish  
38 and Wildlife Service.

39  
40 In the arena of subsistence, the majority coalition  
41 of the Alaska State Legislature is continuing to remain a  
42 threat to our subsistence way of life. Most of the attention  
43 is now focused on the budget, but once the budget is out of  
44 the way, we -- the issue of subsistence will likely come up  
45 again.

46  
47 As reported earlier, the majority coalition sued the  
48 Secretary over the provisions of ANILCA that allows  
49 preference to be given to us in the rural areas of the state.  
50 I haven't heard the latest on this lawsuit.

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1 We continue to work with State and Federal  
2 Governments on comangement programs. We continue to work  
3 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through Rob  
4 Bosworth, and also through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and  
5 Department of Interior on comangement programs.

6  
7 And our department also works with our environmental  
8 program within AVCP to address the hovercraft which is having  
9 an impact on the subsistence way of life of people in the  
10 areas that the hovercraft serves.

11  
12 Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Anyone have a question to  
15 Tim? John Hanson?

16  
17 MR. HANSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
18 Yeah, Tim, have you heard anything on the Legislature doing  
19 anything about the priority I guess it's for changing or  
20 amending the Constitution of Alaska and putting a priority on  
21 for rural people? That the Federal Government gave the State  
22 of Alaska \$1 million to work on it, and.....

23  
24 MR. T. ANDREW: The latest I've heard was the  
25 Alaska State Legislature is very resistant, and does not want  
26 -- does not want to bring this issue to the voters. Actually  
27 the Federal Government had put \$11 million amount -- \$11  
28 million to the State of Alaska, if the State of Alaska were  
29 to amend their constitution and manage fish and wildlife on  
30 federal lands. If they were to adopt this constitutional  
31 amendment, they would get that \$11 million, but as far as I  
32 know, the legislative majority continues to -- continues not  
33 to support putting this issue on the ballot.

34  
35 MR. HANSON: So then the Federal Government  
36 will come in and take over the subsistence fisheries?

37  
38 MR. T. ANDREW: Yes, as far as I know,  
39 October 1, 1999 is supposed to be the start date. And, you  
40 know, to expand on it a little further, our Congressional  
41 Delegation, when I read through the Anchorage Daily News last  
42 -- within the last week or so, will not submit for another  
43 moratorium. Last year was supposed to be the final -- or  
44 actually two years ago was supposed to be the final, but it's  
45 been extended for two years afterwards.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more question for  
48 Tim? Thank you, Tim.

49  
50 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Tim.

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1                   CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Next on our reports of  
2 agencies are State of Alaska, Subsistence Division, Mike  
3 Coffing? Good morning, Mike.

4  
5                   MR. COFFING: Good morning, Harry, members of  
6 the Council. Mike Coffing, Fish and Game, Subsistence,  
7 Bethel. I'm going to keep it very brief. Some of what I  
8 wanted to report on to you in this report I touched on  
9 yesterday when we were talking about cooperative agreements  
10 and -- or cooperative project with Fish and Wildlife, but  
11 I'll touch briefly on that.

12  
13                   Last fall when we met I updated the Council on what  
14 we had done with providing kind of emergency subsistence  
15 salmon to Hooper Bay, Chevak, and Scammon Bay. And since  
16 that Council meeting, there's been -- there were some more  
17 deliveries made to those communities. In mid November,  
18 before Thanksgiving, more salmon was delivered to those  
19 communities. I worked with the traditional counsels in those  
20 three communities, and with Division of Emergency Services,  
21 and they flew in the remaining chum salmon to those  
22 communities for distribution by the councils there, so that's  
23 seems to have worked -- at least from my end worked well, and  
24 I hope that -- you know, I hope that the communities got the  
25 fish that they wanted, and the households received the fish  
26 in good shape.

27  
28                   Similar to last spring, another project that we're  
29 involved in now has to do with seals and sea lions. We're  
30 for the second year doing work with the communities of Hooper  
31 Bay and Quinhagak and it looks like Emmonak again as well.  
32 These three communities last year participated in seal and  
33 sea lion surveys with the Department of Fish and Game.  
34 Funding for the project came from National Marine Fisheries  
35 Service, who manages seals and sea lions. And what we've  
36 done this year, like last week, I travelled to Quinhagak and  
37 Hooper Bay and hired two individuals in each community, and  
38 we made a selection of households. In Hooper Bay it was a  
39 total random selection of about 50 percent of the households.  
40 In Quinhagak, which is a smaller community, we're trying to  
41 survey all of the marine mammal hunting households there, and  
42 a sample of a household that don't marine mammal hunt. And  
43 the idea is to not only get information about what's  
44 harvested for seals and sea lions, but the reason for  
45 contacting some of the nonhunting households is to learn  
46 information also about use, sharing, receiving, that sort of  
47 information, which is an important way of subsistence -- an  
48 important part of subsistence. So that work is on-going as  
49 we speak in Quinhagak and Hooper Bay. And possibly Emmonak.  
50 The Natural Resource Department in Emmonak also wants to do

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1 the project. We're just waiting for final approval by the  
2 council there. That work should be finished up hopefully by  
3 early mid April as far as the data gathering.

4  
5 One I mentioned yesterday briefly was a cooperative  
6 project with the Community of Akiachak. That is a project  
7 where we'll be gathering subsistence baseline information of  
8 the Community of Akiachak, and that will include not only  
9 information about what's harvested and what's used in  
10 amounts, but it will identify subsistence use areas, that is  
11 map important subsistence use areas, so that when this  
12 Council's looking at proposals in the future, and some  
13 already on deferral that Akiachak has submitted, you'll have  
14 the information that you need to make your decisions on those  
15 proposals, as well the Federal Subsistence Board, so we're  
16 looking forward to getting on with that, and I appreciate the  
17 support of the Community of Akiachak and Fritz especially in  
18 helping out with that.

19  
20 Lastly, I just wanted to mention, some of the items  
21 that others have mentioned here are these cooperative working  
22 group that we have for brown bear and moose and caribou in  
23 the Y-K Delta, and one of the dilemmas that we've been faced  
24 with is declining budgets, and finding money to provide  
25 travel and per diem to get those management groups together  
26 to meet at least once year has been kind of our goal. As  
27 both Tim and Steve mentioned, we're looking for a brown bear  
28 meeting maybe in April. And one of the things that I'm  
29 working with, and other Department of Fish and Game staff is  
30 working with Mike Reardon and some Fish and Wildlife staff in  
31 Anchorage, hopefully trying to find a way that we can  
32 collectively pool our resources, be it Fish and Wildlife  
33 money or State money, and also try to bring in more  
34 participation of the advisory committees into those groups,  
35 to make them part of the discussion. And what we're hoping  
36 to do is bring the advisory committee and the Regional  
37 Council more into the discussion, participation with those  
38 working groups.

39  
40 That might -- some ideas have been to try to have a  
41 discussion about moose on the Kuskokwim, for instance, when  
42 we're meeting to discuss other business of an advisory  
43 committee, be it the Lower Kuskokwim, or central Bering Sea,  
44 or maybe collectively a couple advisory committees meet to  
45 talk about not only proposals, but if there are proposals, or  
46 just a few proposals, carry that meeting on to talk about  
47 concerns that advisory committee members have about  
48 resources, and give the agency the chance to get more  
49 information out to the people, and invite more participation  
50 in those management meetings.

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1           Ida Alexie just returned from a Board of Fish meeting  
2 in Soldotna, so she apologizes for not being able to be here.

3  
4           I spoke briefly with Roger before the meeting, and  
5 much of what Roger would have mentioned to you was covered  
6 when he spoke with you this fall, at your Regional Council  
7 meeting this fall. Steve has updated you a bit on the  
8 cooperative project that he's working with Roger on doing a  
9 moose census here on the Yukon now, and I know Roger's  
10 looking forward to getting some numbers on that.

11  
12           I think Sport Fish Division also was hoping to be  
13 here. They also weren't able to attend. And Dan Bergstrom  
14 from Commercial Fisheries Division is here and will address  
15 you in a little bit, so that's all that I have. Thank you  
16 all for your participation and the time that you're taking to  
17 make this work, because if you weren't here, we wouldn't be  
18 doing this, and wouldn't be talking about things that are  
19 important to all of us, so I thank all of you for your  
20 patience and participation at the meeting today. Thank you.

21  
22           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Anyone have a question to  
23 Mike? John Hanson?

24  
25           MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26 Poor Mike, he always have to sit in front of us instead of  
27 Dan Bergstrom.

28  
29           The projects you're talking about on the Yukon, is  
30 that on moose?

31  
32           MR. COFFING: I mentioned a couple of things.  
33 I mentioned seals and sea lions, that's one that I am  
34 participating in. The one that I mentioned with -- on the  
35 Yukon that had to do with moose was a project that Steve  
36 Kovach had addressed you on. Roger Seavoy with the  
37 Department of Fish and Game who is not here, works in our  
38 Bethel office, is working cooperatively with Fish and  
39 Wildlife Service on that moose project. So that's the last  
40 thing I touched on for the Yukon.

41  
42           MR. HANSON: So that project on the Yukon,  
43 what part of the Yukon is that on moose?

44  
45           MR. COFFING: For Roger, yes, sir, that's  
46 correct.

47  
48           MR. HANSON: Oh, he's going to.....

49  
50           MR. COFFING: I think if you want more

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1 information on that, Steve might be able to help you out  
2 either now or during a break or whatever you'd want  
3 appropriate.

4  
5 MR. KOVACH: John, you're asking where on the  
6 Yukon we're getting ready to do the census?

7  
8 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

9  
10 MR. KOVACH: Basically it extends from a  
11 little downriver of Marshall all the way down to Mountain  
12 Village, and then on up the Andraefskies, about two-thirds of  
13 the way up.

14  
15 MR. HANSON: That's on moose?

16  
17 MR. KOVACH: Right, that's on moose.

18  
19 MR. HANSON: These.....

20  
21 MR. KOVACH: We've got the area divided up  
22 into five count areas. There's three along the Yukon River,  
23 the Kuskokwim River, and then the Kilbuck Mountains.

24  
25 MR. HANSON: You have no plans for Dill (ph)  
26 Mountain?

27  
28 MR. KOVACH: Next year.

29  
30 MR. HANSON: How about maybe you could tell  
31 me, the project that Fish and Wildlife did sometime back now  
32 up at Marshall, they took students out.....

33  
34 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

35  
36 MR. HANSON: .....and they were collaring  
37 moose. The principal here asked me if I came, if I would  
38 bring it up to you, to whoever is going to be doing that, if  
39 they could take their high school students here for  
40 educational purposes, if they are ever going to be collaring  
41 moose around here.

42  
43 MR. KOVACH: That's actually one of our long-  
44 term project goals, as long as the numbers of moose in this  
45 area are real low, we would like to collar some moose and  
46 learn how they use this area. Do that for three or four  
47 years, following the moose, and then let moose numbers build  
48 up down here, and once the numbers build up, come back in and  
49 repeat that study to look at the differences of how moose use  
50 the area, the theory being that as long as there's very few

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1 moose, they travel a long -- they'll do a lot of travelling  
2 and use a lot of area. But as moose numbers build up,  
3 they'll -- their use areas will kind of shrink down in size.  
4 But we've never had the opportunity to really test that  
5 theory anywhere within Alaska. And this area does present an  
6 opportunity there. And that's part of our long-term goals.  
7 We just -- we're only just beginning to develop the research  
8 plans to submit the proposals to the funding people back in  
9 Anchorage as well as Washington, D.C. to try and get the  
10 long-term funding for such a project. And we've.....

11  
12 MR. HANSON: Well, we've got a lot of moose  
13 around here.

14  
15 MR. KOVACH: .....and all along we've  
16 discussed about involving local students so they can learn  
17 what it is we're doing, how we're doing it, why we're doing  
18 it, things like that.

19  
20 MR. HANSON: Yeah, since this area had five-  
21 year mandatory closure, moose came back, and now we've got  
22 moose.....

23  
24 MR. KOVACH: Exactly.

25  
26 MR. HANSON: .....all over. It's.....

27  
28 MR. KOVACH: And more coming which is very  
29 exciting.

30  
31 MR. HANSON: And people around here, they  
32 would like to have some kind of information that they could  
33 find out if the moose are still coming, or if they're going  
34 back to the mountains, or.....

35  
36 MR. KOVACH: Right. We are in the process of  
37 switching over the way we do moose censusing, and it used to  
38 be it would take five years to do all of Unit 18. We're  
39 switching the way we do it, and what we're -- it's going to  
40 take us a couple years to do this switch, because of the  
41 change in technology, and the -- a lot of the nuances of  
42 making sure the numbers match and things like that. So it's  
43 going to take us a couple years to do this transition.

44  
45 Once we do this transition, our hope is that we can  
46 census moose along the entire Yukon River within Unit 18 one  
47 year, the next year we do the Kilbuck Mountains and Kuskokwim  
48 River, and then the third year we go back to the Yukon, so  
49 every other year we're hitting the same place. And this will  
50 give us much better numbers, much better information, more

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1 frequently.

2

3 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thanks. Okay Mike, now  
4 it's yours.

5

6 MR. COFFING: All right.

7

8 MR. HANSON: Okay. I guess at 10:00 o'clock  
9 this morning we're going to have a teleconference with  
10 Western Interior, is that.....

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-hum.

13

14 MR. HANSON: I think it's Western Interior  
15 we're going to have the teleconference?

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John, 10:00 o'clock.

18

19 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Maybe if you could wait  
22 until 10:00 o'clock. Leave it there. For that question, and  
23 we can talk.....

24

25 MR. HANSON: No, I just want to ask.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

28

29 MR. HANSON: Okay. On that Western Interior  
30 proposal that we passed yesterday for Eek and Quinhagak, is  
31 that an overlapping -- when I look at -- in here, it says for  
32 overlapping area. What -- does Western Interior want to  
33 close off a portion of it, or is that area, that 19(B)?

34

35 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, John, I think  
36 that's Proposal -- I think the Proposal 40-.....

37

38 MR. HANSON: 42, 43.

39

40 MR. COFFING: 42, right?

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

43

44 MR. HANSON: Proposal 43?

45

46 MR. COFFING: Forty-two. That was a proposal  
47 submitted by Quinhagak, and the proposal's to do a couple  
48 different things, so when you hear the presentation, you'll  
49 hear a presentation for the customary and traditional use  
50 part of the proposal. That's one part of it. The second

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1 part is for a season, I think a 77 long day season there in  
2 Unit 19.

3  
4 The reason it's called an overlapping proposal is  
5 because 19 is in the Western Interior's, I want to say  
6 jurisdiction, but 19 is like an Interior Region Unit. So  
7 it's submitted by a Unit 18 community. It's for a Western  
8 Interior Unit, so that's why I think the effort to try to get  
9 both councils to talk about it, so they can -- if they have  
10 any differences or agreements they can come to, do that  
11 before they get to the Federal Subsistence Board. That's  
12 why.

13  
14 MR. HANSON: Okay. Yeah. It got me and  
15 Harry. We were going through the proposals last night and we  
16 got all confused. I thought Western Interior wanted to have  
17 a say so on Eek and Quinhagak. But on their booklet that  
18 Harry showed me, it's -- we measured by their map scale,  
19 Quinhagak has to travel a little over 100 miles to that area,  
20 because it's their tradition c&t area for getting their meat  
21 for the winter.

22  
23 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

24  
25 MR. HANSON: So I guess we'll find out at  
26 10:00 o'clock then.

27  
28 MR. COFFING: Yeah, I guess we will. Both  
29 councils can take action on it, because it affects both  
30 councils, so I think that's the effort to try to get input  
31 from both councils, whether you do it here -- if there's  
32 differences the councils have and you can work them out,  
33 that's better than waiting until you get in front of the  
34 Federal Board and find out you've got differences that maybe  
35 then it's difficult to work them out, but.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, we usually -- the  
38 council chairmens usually meet before both boards meet to  
39 work some of the difference out.....

40  
41 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....between them. Mike,  
44 Steve, -- Steve? I think it's very important some of -- I'm  
45 carrying a very important question for Federal and State  
46 concerning Unit 21(A) from young people of Mountain Village,  
47 especially after you pass Unit 18, that 21(A). Those young  
48 people up there, they cannot -- unable to travel with the two  
49 regulation, one state, and one federal. In the area there's  
50 two kinds of regulation for moose hunting that we understand

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1 and the young people understand. I'm going to explain as  
2 best I can the way they explain it to me.

3  
4 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Federal have an opening  
7 from August 20 to September 25, is that right, in that area?  
8 And also State have opening from September 5 to 25.

9  
10 MR. COFFING: That's right.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: That's the problem our  
13 young people have today. What they're going to do. How  
14 they going to hunt? Mike, earlier time of our meetings that  
15 I tell you about and it was a problem. How are they going to  
16 hunt this? How are they going to do? Both this coming  
17 season in that area? I think that question, it have to be  
18 answered, make sure our young people will know all over, you  
19 know, from all those -- on the lower Yukon area? It's very  
20 important.

21  
22 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Mike Coffing. I  
23 appreciate your concern, Harry. This is something that's --  
24 it's been an issue before this Council was ever formed. I  
25 mean, it's a long -- it's been around a long time. It's been  
26 maybe more problematic since the state season/federal seasons  
27 have been set at different dates. And that's been a few  
28 years ago, too. I know that we worked -- Harry, you were in  
29 Aniak at a time when we had some members from the Western  
30 Interior Regional Council, and I think we have maybe three or  
31 four members from each council together, and we were  
32 discussing a variety of issues around 21(E) moose hunting,  
33 and c&t proposals and that sort of thing. What we have now  
34 is problematic for people, and I don't have a quick fix for  
35 it.

36  
37 I think the best -- you know, probably the place that  
38 we want to go is maybe one of two choices, and that is revise  
39 the c&t findings so it includes communities maybe further  
40 down the Yukon, if they can demonstrate they have customary  
41 and traditional use of that area. That would fix it for  
42 some, but not for all.

43  
44 Another fix would be to work -- this Council work  
45 with the Western Interior Council, and also the advisory  
46 committees, and try to have the same season dates. Because  
47 if we have the same seasons, state season and federal season  
48 dates are the same, everybody starts hunting the same time,  
49 everybody's season's over the same time for everybody then.

50

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1           That's one reason why the -- when we've made some  
2 comments at this meeting and others, we've often mentioned  
3 that we like to see season dates the same, because it does  
4 put us in the situation of having some people start before  
5 some other people, and the difficult that it creates for this  
6 Council and for people in the communities up and down the  
7 river. There's a sense of it being unfair to some. And I  
8 think what all of us want is that we want to be treated  
9 fairly, and feel like we have the same opportunity as  
10 everybody else.

11  
12           That's not going to solve the problem for this fall  
13 though. But I think it's never too early to start talking  
14 with folks in those communities, talking with advisory  
15 committees together, with the regional council working it  
16 out. It's -- I don't know want to say it's you, but it's the  
17 people that are going to figure out a prob- -- or figure out  
18 the solution and come to some agreement on it, to come to the  
19 Federal Board or the State Board with something that can work  
20 for everybody. It's going to come from the people.

21  
22           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think our young people  
23 is mostly concerned about enforcement. Enforcement problem.  
24 They are afraid of -- some of those young people, they go up  
25 there first of September, and they couldn't pass that  
26 Paimiut, that upper end of Unit 18.

27  
28           MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

29  
30           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: And sometimes that they  
31 ask a question, what we do -- do then. Other area -- other  
32 regulation opens, another one is closed. I would like to ask  
33 Steve, Steve, what should I do or what will tell our young  
34 people, which regulation to follow?

35  
36           MR. KOVACH: You're talking about the area  
37 above Paimiut?

38  
39           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

40  
41           MR. KOVACH: Yeah.

42  
43           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: In that Unit 21(E).

44  
45           MR. KOVACH: 21(E), yeah.

46  
47           CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

48  
49           MR. KOVACH: It's -- it is a difficult  
50 problem, Mr. Chair, and we've been talking amongst ourselves

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1 at the refuge and with our counterparts up on the Innoko  
2 Refuge, because that's the next Refuge up the river there.  
3 And right now, given the current regulations that we have,  
4 until we can resolve the conflicting dates and try and get  
5 the dates in both the federal regulations and the state  
6 regulations to match up, the best advice I can give to you to  
7 pass on to your young hunters is that if they want to start  
8 hunting as early as the first of September, then they need to  
9 stay within Unit 18, because the -- you know, for Mountain  
10 Village and St. Mary's and that area, they're not eligible to  
11 hunt under the federal regulations up in 21(E). They have to  
12 hunt under the state regulations. And that state season  
13 doesn't open up until the 5th of September as you know.

14  
15 The problem that other hunters -- that hunters  
16 hunting under federal regulations do have in that area is  
17 that they have to hunt on federal public lands, and very  
18 little of that occurs right along the river. It's usually  
19 back off of the river a ways, and so there's really quite  
20 limited lands in that area that are available for the federal  
21 hunt, unless they go quite a ways up the Innoko River or some  
22 of its tributaries where they can get back away from the  
23 selected lands, from the corporation lands, things like that.

24  
25 So there is some enforcement problems currently,  
26 because people are hunting on state lands in the early part  
27 of the season when those lands are not open for moose  
28 hunting, so there's current problems even for those that are  
29 -- the residents of Unit 21(E) and Russian Mission. They  
30 have to be pretty careful which lands they're hunting on  
31 prior to the 5th of September.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Steve, looking at  
34 Yukon-Kuskokwim National Wildlife area, in that the Yukon-  
35 Kuskokwim National Wildlife area, it goes all the way up to  
36 Cottonwood Slough, met with Holy Cross land area. That's a  
37 big long area, and that's closed for -- with the state it's  
38 closed, and open. If it's going to be under federal land, it  
39 will be open to hunt in that area.

40  
41 MR. COFFING: He's talking about this area  
42 right in here.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: That's what -- that's the  
45 problem that young people have, in their hunters today, why  
46 the federal -- even that lands all the way up to Cottonwood  
47 Slough, how come it's closed for lower Yukon, and open up or  
48 upper Yukon, even it's the same land had federal control?

49  
50 MR. KOVACH: Well, that goes back to the

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1 existing customary and traditional use determinations that we  
2 have for moose in that area. That's kind of the controlling  
3 factor at this point in time. You know, as Mike suggested,  
4 if the Council were to put forward a proposal that -- in the  
5 next cycle to amend the customary and traditional use  
6 determination to include a greater number of villages, -- I  
7 mean, we know that for a number of years, you know, people  
8 from fairly down, far down the river going up to Paimiut and  
9 beyond to hunt for moose, and it shouldn't be too hard for  
10 several villages to demonstrate customary and traditional use  
11 of the area. However -- like -- but like Mike said, for the  
12 -- some of the coastal villages and so on, it may be much  
13 more difficult for some of them to demonstrate customary and  
14 traditional use, and so that it will solve some people's  
15 problems, but not all of them.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, one more. I wonder  
20 if that's possible for federal to send out flyers to the  
21 villages to protect our young people. They -- even they grow  
22 up there, they cannot hunt in that area before September 5th.  
23 That's something that have to be done to village area -- that  
24 those young peoples and others, too.

25

26 MR. KOVACH: That's an excellent idea and  
27 I'll take that back to the refuge and we'll try and get some  
28 stuff produced this spring and have it ready to go so when  
29 the RITs go out to the villages in August, we can get that  
30 information out to people and just kind of remind that about  
31 that. So that's an excellent idea.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester?

34

35 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to  
36 suggest something to that effect, that information be sent  
37 out as to the reason why, and c&t plays a very important  
38 part. And I think I myself don't have any problems with the  
39 two different openings because up in that area it gets to be  
40 populated with hunters, and giving them people up there a  
41 chance to get their moose first is -- it seems like a good  
42 idea to me, because once the population of hunters get above  
43 a certain range, then it's kind of hard to find your own  
44 hunting spot. So it has its good points, and maybe sometimes  
45 it has its -- the reason why it has had bad points is because  
46 lack of information going out from the Department as to why  
47 there are two different openings. I think once that  
48 information goes out that most of our people, our young  
49 people, will agree that maybe it is a good idea to have an  
50 earlier opening for those people up there, giving them a

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1 chance to get their meet.

2

3 MR. KOVACH: Right. And, you know, hopefully  
4 in the not so distant future, we'll have sufficient numbers  
5 of moose in the area below, you know, within 18 itself that  
6 people won't have to travel to Paimiut and Cottonwood Slough  
7 and Innoko and place like that to catch their moose. They  
8 can travel a little closer to home and do it.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: Some of us like to go.

11

12 MR. KOVACH: Well, this is true. It is a  
13 pretty trip. I have to admit that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. It's 10:00 o'clock  
16 now. We're supposed to have a teleconference. Is it going  
17 to ring or what is.....

18

19 MS. DETWILER: Yeah, it's -- they're trying  
20 to get all the participants together down in Anchorage, then  
21 they're going to call us (indiscernible).

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We will still continue.  
24 Go ahead.

25

26 MR. REEVES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Basically  
27 I've got this question, and probably it would be to Scott or  
28 someone else from the feds. Kind of direction into Mr.  
29 Wilde's comment. How can we at Mountain Village, Marshall,  
30 Pitkas Point, how can we get the study done to see if we have  
31 these traditionally or customary rights to go in there? I  
32 noticed in the letter that -- where did he go? Sorry, I  
33 forgot his name. That he handed out yesterday, on the last  
34 past, you know, it says the issue 98 YK 03 gaps in the  
35 information about customary and traditional use. Then you go  
36 down to the bottom there, and it's got an asterisk, and it  
37 says Mountain Village, St. Mary's, Pitkas Point, Pilot  
38 Station and Marshall with regard to subsistence use in these  
39 areas of black bear. Did this come about because I wrote a  
40 letter back in December to try to see if I could have this,  
41 you know, the black bear issue that was, you know, put up  
42 yesterday? How can we try to get this done now? Do we have  
43 to wait until all of a sudden they say, okay, we need to  
44 study Mountain Village, Pitkas Point, or do we have to  
45 request this? How can we go about finding out if we can get  
46 the traditional or customary?

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Sue?

49

50 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. My suggestion

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1 would be to talk to Pat McClenahan in our regional office,  
2 and I can give you her phone number after -- when we break  
3 here. And she would be the one to help get a study like that  
4 going.

5  
6 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester?

9  
10 MR. L. WILDE: Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and  
11 Chevak just went through the process, so if the young man  
12 over there would like to ask some questions, I might have  
13 some information that would help you how to go about getting  
14 customary and traditional us.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mike?

17  
18 MR. COFFING: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'd also  
19 like to respond to Jeff's question. Jeff, often what happens  
20 is that, and in the case of Mountain and many of the lower  
21 Yukon villages, the information that's available is maybe not  
22 real current. Now, there is some information available.  
23 It's not that there's no information, it's just that it may  
24 not be real current. There's work that Subsistence Division  
25 did back in the early 80s in Mountain Village and some of the  
26 lower Yukon Delta villages. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
27 did some community mapping of subsistence moose -- or  
28 subsistence use areas in 1985. And that effort was aimed at  
29 identifying subsistence uses on the refuge.

30  
31 Now, for some communities, what happened is when  
32 those mapping sessions were handled in the villages, areas on  
33 the refuges were mapped, but when they got to the refuge  
34 boundary, they stopped mapping. The lines go like this and  
35 stop, because it's off the Refuge.

36  
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

38  
39 MR. COFFING: So, you know, we know that --  
40 we know there's use off the Refuge by the communities. I  
41 think what I would suggest is, you know, a letter's always a  
42 good place to start. Let someone know of your concern. Let  
43 someone know that you want to have something done, that you  
44 want to get it documented, you know. It's going on, it's  
45 just a matter of somebody coming out and talking to the  
46 elders, talking to hunters with some maps in an interview  
47 form session. That's how it was handled in Hooper Bay,  
48 Chevak and Scammon.

49  
50 But there are other ways to do it as well. And the

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1 way that Akiachak has proposed to do it, they wrote a letter  
2 to Fish & Wildlife Service saying, we want a study done in  
3 Akiachak, and although it didn't happen immediately, Fish and  
4 Wildlife found the money and working through the State's  
5 Subsistence Office, we're now doing a project exactly like  
6 that in Akiachak. So it may not happen real soon, but -- as  
7 far as a broad based study, but the ways of doing it -- and  
8 my limitation is I don't have any funding. That's kind of  
9 what it comes down to, not having money, so we need to find  
10 someone that's got money. Fish and Wildlife has provided  
11 that in the past. There's some mention, since it doesn't  
12 take a lot of money, it just takes some time, some travel  
13 time for someone to go out that knows how to do it, meeting  
14 with you, and maybe some elders and key respondents, and  
15 identifying some of that. Now, that might work good for  
16 Mountain, but then we've got six or eight other communities,  
17 and how do we handle that?

18  
19 And so, you know, we can do a little bit at a time,  
20 and with enough money, we can do it all. But write a letter  
21 to Fish and Game Subsistence, write a letter to Pat  
22 McClenahan, Fish and Wildlife Service, or to the Refuge, and  
23 we'll see that it gets forwarded to the right people. We'll  
24 get some dialogue going, talking about it, and see if we  
25 can't make something happen on it. Thanks.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Steve, we're still  
28 -- if you send out the flyers, make sure that Kuskokwim  
29 included on those flyers and so they are able to know what to  
30 do.

31  
32 Ragnar, go ahead.

33  
34 MAYOR ALSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask  
35 clarifying question following up on Mr. Wilde's question  
36 earlier. Do the federal managers, and I'm speaking of  
37 21(E), after the 5th of September, are federal lands still  
38 closed to downriver hunters from Alakanuk, Mountain Village,  
39 Emmonak, Sheldon's Point?

40  
41 MR. COFFING: No.

42  
43 MAYOR ALSTROM: So after September 5th, we can  
44 legally go on federal lands and hunt moose?

45  
46 MR. COFFING: Yes.

47  
48 MS. DETWILER: (Nods head in the affirmative)

49  
50 MAYOR ALSTROM: Okay. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more questions to  
2 Mike and Steve? If there's not, our next on the.....

3  
4 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I have.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

7  
8 MR. THOMPSON: I'll make it simple, yeah.  
9 I'll make it simple. You know, for many years we've been  
10 going up to that area, and sometimes we are really tempted to  
11 take a nonproducer female. There is many of them. I wonder  
12 if neither federal or state ever concentrate to put out a  
13 ticket or permits, so many permits to a year.

14  
15 MR. COFFING: For cows?

16  
17 MR. THOMPSON: For killing a female.

18  
19 MR. COFFING: Let me maybe repeat so that I  
20 think I understand what the question is. When you ticket, do  
21 you mean a permit for taking a cow?

22  
23 MR. THOMPSON: Permit to kill a cow.

24  
25 MR. COFFING: For killing a cow. I guess we  
26 haven't thought about doing that yet there, and I -- Steve  
27 might want to respond here, but I know that one of the  
28 interest that we've had in trying to promote some of the  
29 moose on down in the lower Yukon here is protecting those  
30 cows, protecting those calves, to try and get.....

31  
32 MR. THOMPSON: I am talking about non-  
33 producers that are old. We could tell. That doesn't.....

34  
35 MR. L. WILDE: He's talking about the.....

36  
37 MR. COFFING: Yeah.

38  
39 MR. L. WILDE: .....quote/quote barren cow.

40  
41 MR. COFFING: Right. Right. Yeah, we've  
42 heard some of that discussion before. I'm not sure I know  
43 what the answer is. I mean, when you, and Steve might want  
44 to address that, but some of the concerns I've heard of Roger  
45 and maybe some other is that how -- do all hunters know what  
46 a barren cow is? How do you know if you're taking a cow that  
47 it's barren? Do young hunters know that? And I guess in  
48 trying to protect the moose population in general and get it  
49 to grow, we try to keep people off of cows, onto bulls, so  
50 that the population can continue to increase there.

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1 Now, in some areas -- some areas, as in over in Unit  
2 19, you know, they -- you can take cows. And I think in part  
3 of 21(E) there's also a cow harvest allowed during part of  
4 the year. But.....

5  
6 MR. THOMPSON: The reason why I brought this  
7 up, back in 50s I think. No, 60s, because I was working with  
8 Department of Fish and Game at that time, so they allow bull  
9 and a cow, two moose in that area, 21(E). So they did that  
10 for one -- I think one year. So the whole Fish and Game went  
11 up to that area and caught six of them. Three bulls and  
12 three cows. So I'm thinking of that. If there is any  
13 permits like those game down at Nelson Island. Let's give  
14 them permits to kill certain amount of game. And I think  
15 that could be worked out some way.

16  
17 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Johnny, I went to  
18 get the reg book here to look and see more specifically what  
19 the regs were 21(E). They're.....

20  
21 MR. THOMPSON: Because Harry and I, a lot of  
22 times we are really tempted sometimes.

23  
24 MR. COFFING: Well, that temptation makes you  
25 strong I guess. But looking at the federal regulations, cows  
26 can be taken during the winter season in 21(E). So during  
27 the February season cows are open. It's the fall season  
28 where it's bulls only, and that's both state regs and federal  
29 regs are bulls.....

30  
31 MR. THOMPSON: Well, it's in.....

32  
33 MR. COFFING: .....only during the fall time.

34  
35 MR. THOMPSON: .....that case, I think either  
36 federal or state could hand out permits. A few permits.  
37 Like 75 year old man goes up and look around.

38  
39 MR. COFFING: You're talking about fall time?

40  
41 MR. L. WILDE: He's talking.....

42  
43 MR. THOMPSON: Fall time.

44  
45 MR. L. WILDE: .....about himself.

46  
47 MR. COFFING: Fall time.

48  
49 (Laughter)

50

00153

1 MR. COFFING: Well, that would be an  
2 interesting topic for the Council I guess and the advisory  
3 committees to talk about and pursue maybe more discussion on.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more to Mike? You're  
6 hot today, Mike.

7  
8 MR. COFFING: Yeah, I like that.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Now the next person that  
11 I'm going to introduce is an easy man to work with. State  
12 Commercial Fishery, Dan Bergstrom.

13  
14 MR. BERGSTROM: Good morning. My name is Dan  
15 Bergstrom, and I don't have much to say, because people in  
16 the Y-K Delta aren't thinking about salmon that much. And I  
17 wanted to recognize Andrew Kelly, who I've known a long time  
18 in Emmonak, who's a translator.

19  
20 I was going to just give a quick summary of 1998, you  
21 know, and I think most people know now in kind of the Western  
22 Alaska here we've had poor salmon runs, and it was  
23 particularly true in 1998. All the different species. In  
24 fact, both the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers were declared  
25 disaster areas in 1998.

26  
27 In the Yukon, the king salmon run was one of the  
28 lowest since statehood. The commercial harvest was a third  
29 lower than any other year since statehood, and most of the  
30 escapements were below goals, although we did make some of  
31 them. They were particularly low though in Canada in the  
32 Tanda River. However, the preliminary subsistence harvest  
33 information is that the king salmon harvest was actually  
34 slightly above average, although some areas had poor catches,  
35 and that would be like Hooper Bay, Scammon, and the Koyukuk  
36 drainage head. Difficult ones.

37  
38 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Hello?

39  
40 MR. WILD: Hello.

41  
42 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Hello, this is the conference  
43 call for the meeting.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. We're listening  
46 here.

47  
48 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Okay. We've got Vincent George  
49 on, Pat McClenahan, Pete and Greg on. Carl Morgan will not  
50 be on this morning.

00154

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, he won't be?

2  
3 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: No. Okay?

4  
5 MS. McCLENAHAN: All right. You're hooking  
6 up to the meeting?

7  
8 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: You've got the meeting now.

9  
10 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay.

11  
12 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Okay. 'Bye.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Pat, we're still in  
15 session here, Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council this morning.  
16 We're going to work on this proposal 99-42, c&t for moose in  
17 19(B) for residents of Quinhagak and rural residents of Unit  
18 18. Pat, do you want to go over that?

19  
20 MS. McCLENAHAN; Yes, Mr. Chairman. Good  
21 morning. Proposal 42 has two parts. I'm going to present  
22 the c&t portion now, and that is to revise the customary and  
23 traditional use determination for moose in a portion of Unit  
24 19(B) west of Kugligluk (ph) River, to add the rural  
25 residents of the communities of Eek and Quinhagak. Proposal  
26 42 was submitted by Joshua Cleveland of Quinhagak. Federal  
27 lands west of the Kugligluk River consist of approximately 47  
28 square miles of BLM public lands at the western boundary of  
29 Unit 19(B).

30  
31 A long-term consistent pattern of subsistence hunting  
32 for moose in Unit 19(B) by the residents of Eek and Quinhagak  
33 who live in Unit 18 is known from historic times up to the  
34 present. Lower Kuskokwim River community residents use the  
35 area of Unit 19(B) for subsistence hunting as they herded  
36 reindeer there between the 1920s and the late 1940s. One  
37 published study from 1984 described Quinhagak hunting parties  
38 travelling through the mountain valleys beyond the headwaters  
39 of Kisaralik, the Kanektok, the Arolik rivers by snow  
40 machines for caribou and moose in the 1980s.

41  
42 Advisory council coordinator, John Andrew,  
43 interviewed nine Eek residents, 14 Quinhagak residents  
44 recently about their use of this portion of Unit 19(B).  
45 Elders historically used the area, and now younger  
46 subsistence hunters are using it today for a variety of  
47 resources.

48  
49 The residents of Eek and Quinhagak share the same  
50 subsistence resource areas. They are related to one another

00155

1 and people move between the two communities.

2

3 Today, the residents of Eek and Quinhagak travel snow  
4 machine trails to subsistence hunt in the Kwethluk River  
5 drainage up to the headwaters of the Kwethluk and the  
6 Kisaralik River in Unit 18. Their hunting trails continue  
7 into Unit 19(B) in the Kuskokwim Mountains in the vicinity of  
8 Kisaralik Lake, Aniak Lake river drainage, Tukchuk (ph) River  
9 drainage and the lower Salmon River. A recent map of Eek and  
10 Quinhagak hunters subsistence use areas access trails and  
11 field hunting paths compiled by Andrew showed a similar map  
12 made by Quinhagak residents for Fish and Wildlife Service in  
13 1986 at a village meeting participated in by 28 Quinhagak  
14 residents. You can see these two maps on pages 22 and 23.  
15 The area is used more frequently in the winter months when  
16 travel by snow machine is good. Trips usually include  
17 keeping a base camp and hunting from that camp for a period  
18 of time.

19

20 In conclusion, Staff recommends supporting the  
21 request for a positive customary and traditional use  
22 determinations for Eek and Quinhagak for moose on federal  
23 public lands in the specified western portions of Unit 19(B).

24

25 My justification is that some published information  
26 is available. It is backed up by information given to Fish  
27 and Wildlife Service by the residents of Eek and Quinhagak in  
28 1986 and 1998. The information from all these sources is  
29 consistent and adequately covers the eight factors that we  
30 use for determining customary and traditional use. The small  
31 percentage of BLM public lands on the far western side of  
32 Unit 19(B) and Unit 18 abuts the Yukon Delta National  
33 Wildlife Refuge in Unit 18 where Eek and Quinhagak residents  
34 also hunt. Including this small area of 19(B) will provide  
35 access to areas traditionally used by the residents of Eek  
36 and Quinhagak.

37

38 That's all I have on 42(a), Mr. Chairman. Pete  
39 DeMatteo is here to present the biological portion, if you  
40 want to proceed?

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

43

44 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 42(b) was  
45 submitted by Joshua Cleveland of Quinhagak, requesting a  
46 change in the season to Unit 19(B) moose season west of the  
47 Kanugluk (ph) River for the residents of Eek and also for  
48 Quinhagak, provide a winter season of 77 days.

49

50 One thing I would like to point out at this time,

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1 that there is an error in your book right under discussion  
2 there, it says existing moose season, on page 21. Existing  
3 federal moose regulations are presently consistent with that  
4 of the state regulations. That's not true. I apologize.  
5 That's in error. The truth is the federal season is  
6 September 1 through September 30, and the state season is  
7 September 1 through September 25, so the federal season is  
8 currently five days longer than the state's.

9  
10 The federal public lands located in the westernmost  
11 portion of Unit 19(B) are comprised of Bureau of Land  
12 Management public lands, and accounts for about 2 percent of  
13 the total subunit. The area affected by this proposal is  
14 approximately 47 square miles. And if you focus your  
15 attention to a map that may be in your book or on the wall,  
16 if you look at Unit 19(B), the very westernmost edge of  
17 19(B), you'll see some federal lands that should be shaded,  
18 or possibly the color yellow. That's the area in question  
19 here, that's 47 square miles total.

20  
21 The federal public lands considered here comprise the  
22 upper headwaters region of several major rivers.

23  
24 MS. COLLINS: We have Carl Morgan in his  
25 office waiting. Can we put the conference on hold to dial  
26 Carl to add him in?

27  
28 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, can you hear  
29 Janice?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. I could.

32  
33 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay.

34  
35 MS. COLLINS: Okay. We're going to put you  
36 on hold and we'll be right with you to connect Carl Morgan.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

39  
40 (Pause)

41  
42 MS. COLLINS: This is Alakanuk, is that  
43 correct?

44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

46  
47 MS. COLLINS: Harry, okay. Hold on. Carl,  
48 are you there now?

49  
50 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

00157

1 MS. COLLINS: Okay. We've got you all in.  
2 Thank you, and sorry for the interruption.

3  
4 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, this is Pete  
5 DeMatteo again. If it's all right, I'd like to continue with  
6 the analysis on Proposal 42(b)?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

9  
10 MR. DeMATTEO: As I was saying before, the  
11 federal public lands considered in this proposal comprise the  
12 upper headwater regions of several major river drainages  
13 originating in the Kilbuk Mountains, and these areas are  
14 predominantly uplands and mountain terrain. They're mainly  
15 covered with tundra.

16  
17 The documented history of subsistence use in Unit  
18 19(B) area consideration, this period begins in the late  
19 1800s and extends through modern times. Traditionally the  
20 residents of Eek and Quinhagak took multiple resources on  
21 trips through this area, mainly their harvest is beaver,  
22 otter, mink, wolverine and fox. And after the 1950s there's  
23 documentation of moose that were occasionally taken while in  
24 route through this area after the 1950s. Today the residents  
25 are more likely to use this route for subsistence taking of  
26 wolf, wolverine, and occasionally lynx, coyote, moose and  
27 caribou.

28  
29 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game harvest ticket  
30 records indicate that Eek consistently have taken moose on  
31 state lands in Unit 19(B) between the years of 1987 and 1995,  
32 at an average rate of two moose per year. Quinhagak is  
33 recorded as having taken one moose on state lands in 1981.

34  
35 The state harvest records also indicate that moose  
36 have been heavily hunted in Unit 19(B) during the period  
37 state records have been kept for that particular area.  
38 However, the proposal area of Unit 19(B) has little hunting  
39 pressure, most likely because moose density is very low in  
40 both summer and winter due to the general lack of moose  
41 habitat. Bull moose pass through this area during the rut in  
42 search of cows, and may be present at other times on an  
43 incidental basis.

44  
45 Recent surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of  
46 Fish and Game in 1997 and in 1998 in areas adjacent to  
47 western Unit 19(B) reveal very few moose present during the  
48 winter in the border area of 19(A) and 19(B). And again if  
49 you look at your map, that's the westernmost portion of 19(B)  
50 and where it meets with 19(A). Surveys indicate a drastic

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1 reduction in the number of moose observed in the trend count  
2 area in surveys into the Unit 19(B) border. Based upon the  
3 density estimates for moose observed near the Unit 19(A) and  
4 19(B) border, the results of the March 1997 reconnaissance  
5 flights, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the  
6 winter moose population in the proposed portion of Unit 19(B)  
7 is very small.

8  
9 The proposal area general serves as a traditional  
10 corridor for moose movements from the Interior region to the  
11 Yukon Delta. Both managers and residents of the Yukon region  
12 are working toward increasing the resident moose population  
13 for the Yukon Delta region. Harvesting moose during the  
14 winter in an area which facilitates a gradual distribution of  
15 moose onto the Yukon Delta is currently not consistent with  
16 management objectives.

17  
18 Another important consideration is the proposed  
19 regulation change could have adverse impacts on the existing  
20 cow moose population of the proposal area. Generally bull  
21 moose shed their antlers in mid December, except small  
22 antler-sized bulls can retain their antlers for a longer  
23 period of time, but keep in mind that the proposed season was  
24 December 1 through February 15th, so for a good proportion --  
25 or portion of the proposed season, bull moose would be  
26 antlerless. While the harvest limit for the proposed season  
27 is one antlered bull, distinguishing bulls from cow moose  
28 during the proposed winter season could be difficult. This  
29 combined with the challenge of locating the 47 square miles  
30 of the proposal area would hinder opportunity for subsistence  
31 hunters. Establishment of the proposed federal winter season  
32 for Unit 19(B) would adversely impact existing moose  
33 populations since few moose are present in the area affected  
34 by the proposed change. Few bulls will have antlers during  
35 winter, making it possible for inadvertent harvest of cows.  
36 The proposed would result in an unsustainable harvest of the  
37 local moose population.

38  
39 The preliminary conclusion for this proposal is to  
40 oppose the proposal, but I need to mention, Mr. Chair, that  
41 Mr. Cleveland has come forward since this analysis has been  
42 written, and he submitted a new proposal, and that is for a  
43 shorter season. He proposes a March 1 to March 15 season.  
44 And analyzing that, basically the same -- essentially the  
45 same proposal analysis will be true. That is, that moose  
46 surveyed in the vicinity in March 1997 indicate a low winter  
47 moose population and low density that cannot support a winter  
48 harvest at this time. So the same preliminary conclusion  
49 would hold true for the second proposal of March 1 through  
50 March 15th. This concludes my analysis.

00159

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Thank you. I'm  
2 going to call -- there's two or three agencies here in our  
3 meetings. I would like to have them comment on these certain  
4 proposal, or -- Mike Coffing, State.

5  
6 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mike  
7 Coffing, Fish and Game Subsistence.

8  
9 Initially when we submitted our comments back in  
10 January on the original proposal.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mike?

13  
14 MR. COFFING: Yes, sir?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Can you people hear in  
17 telephone, in conference, can you hear Mike talking?

18  
19 MS. McCLENAHAN: We can hear him.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Go  
22 ahead, Mike.

23  
24 MR. COFFING: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 Mike Coffing again.

26  
27 Initially the State had no comment at this time on  
28 the c&t portion of the proposal, and there are two parts of  
29 the proposal: the c&t and then the season. Information that  
30 John Andrew and Pat have gathered that you have in front of  
31 you in your books do indicate that residents of Quinhagak and  
32 Eek do pursue subsistence activities up in the western  
33 portion of Unit 19(B).

34  
35 Now, back to the original proposal. The proposal was  
36 to have a 77-day season on that little block of federal land  
37 in the western part of Unit 19(B), and the State does not  
38 support extending that season that long there. We're  
39 concerned that there would be unsustainable harvest of the  
40 local moose population with that long of a season, and in  
41 that small of an area. The moose surveys in the vicinity  
42 described in the proposal during March 1997 indicate that  
43 there is a low density of moose there, and a low winter moose  
44 population that can support a winter hunt at this time.

45  
46 So that would conclude the State's comments,  
47 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Mike. Also  
50 I'm going to ask AVCP, Tim, you got comment here?

00160

1 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
2 Tim Andrew with AVCP Natural Resources.

3  
4 Before I give my position, I'd like to ask a question  
5 of Staff, if I may, please? One of you had indicated in 1987  
6 through 1995 there was -- there's been some harvest of moose  
7 in the 19(B) area by the residents of Eek and Quinhagak, and  
8 I was just wondering which season the moose were taken?

9  
10 MS. McCLENAHAN: I don't know that we have  
11 that information. We received our information from the  
12 harvest record that -- we have a computerized data base, but  
13 it doesn't tell us season.

14  
15 MR. T. ANDREW: Okay. Thank you. The other  
16 question I had was who are the primary user groups in the  
17 19(B) subunit?

18  
19 MR. McCLENAHAN: There are a very, very large  
20 number of users in Unit 19(B) on state lands. I can -- we  
21 can tell you who has c&t on federal lands in just one second  
22 here. We're looking it up. Unit 19(A) and 19(B), rural  
23 residents of Unit 18 within the Kuskokwim River drainage  
24 upstream from and including the Johnson River, and rural  
25 residents of Unit 19.

26  
27 MR. T. ANDREW: Do you have a high number of  
28 sport hunters that utilize the area?

29  
30 MS. McCLENAHAN: Maybe you could answer  
31 that. Is Steve Kovach there?

32  
33 MR. T. ANDREW: Yes.

34  
35 MS. McCLENAHAN: Or Mike Coffing?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Steve is here. Steve?

38  
39 MR. KOVACH: I'm sorry, I missed the  
40 question, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry about that.

41  
42 MR. T. ANDREW: Okay. The question I had was  
43 is there a high number of sport hunters that utilize the  
44 area, 19(B)?

45  
46 MR. KOVACH: In 19(B) in total, or the area  
47 addressed by this proposal?

48  
49 MR. T. ANDREW: 19(B) total, yes.

50

00161

1 MR. KOVACH: 19(B). Yes, it does receive a  
2 fairly significant amount of sport use, primarily directed at  
3 caribou. Numbers exactly, I can't pull off the top of my  
4 head, because I just don't know them that well.

5  
6 MR. T. ANDREW: Okay. Is there a high of --  
7 or not high, perhaps moderate to high take of moose?

8  
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

10  
11 MR. KOVACH: 19(B). I would say low to  
12 moderate take. I'm not real familiar with the latest  
13 numbers, but most people -- most of the sport harvest of  
14 moose is taking place in 19(A) versus 19(B) because 19(B) is  
15 higher up the drainages.

16  
17 MR. T. ANDREW: Okay. Thank you very much.

18  
19 Mr. Chairman, members of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
20 Regional Advisory Council, AVCP's position on this -- on  
21 these two proposals would be to support the customary and  
22 traditional use determination by Eek and Quinhagak, and we  
23 would also support the additional moose hunt as stated in the  
24 proposal, to increase the opportunity of subsistence harvest  
25 by those two villages. Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Tim. Jeff, do  
28 you have a comment?

29  
30 MR. REEVES: (Shakes head no)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: No comment. If there's  
33 any written public comment, Andrew? John Andrew?

34  
35 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, Carl Morgan is  
36 on the conference, too. Does he have any comments concerning  
37 this proposal?

38  
39 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, there were no  
40 written public comments.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Andrew. Pat,  
43 Mr. Carl Morgan is on the line. Does he have any comments to  
44 discuss certain proposal?

45  
46 MR. MORGAN: You know, I got in here late, so  
47 I got in from a meeting, so I didn't get to hear all of it,  
48 but I'm sure -- I really don't have one to make to the  
49 proposal. I'm sorry.

50

00162

1 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, thank you, Carl. I  
4 know Carl. Thank you. We will continue. If there's any  
5 public testimony at this time concerning this certain  
6 Proposal 99-42? If there's any public comment or testimony?

7

8 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman?

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

11

12 MR. MATTHEWS: This is Vince Matthews again  
13 for Western Interior. Yes, we do have some public comments.  
14 Somehow or another they didn't get into the book.

15

16 I have a public comment here from Herman Morgan who's  
17 the chair of the Central Kuskokwim local fish and game  
18 advisory committee. He spoke as an individual, their  
19 committee had not met. They probably won't -- well,  
20 obviously they haven't met unless someone else knows of that.  
21 But he shared with me that he against the winter season,  
22 because with snow machines the moose would be too easy to  
23 catch. He feels the season would put too much pressure on the  
24 moose population. And recently or some time not too long  
25 ago, his committee closed the state antlerless season because  
26 of potential overharvest and to protect the future growth of  
27 the moose population. He's recommending no winter season to  
28 allow the moose population to grow, and to continue to move  
29 into the eastern portions of Unit 18. Let me look what else  
30 he had. This was through a phone conversation. And that's  
31 it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you. If there's  
34 any other public testimony in the audience here? Do you have  
35 a testimony to Proposal 42? If not, we're going into  
36 Regional Council debate and recommendation and justification.  
37 Willard, go ahead, member.....

38

39 MR. CHURCH: Well, I don't know if.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....member of Council.

42

43 MR. CHURCH: I don't know if I should be  
44 taking off my hat, and putting on my other hat here, but I  
45 think I'll wear them both today.

46

47 Well, to initiate discussion on Proposal 42 as an  
48 Advisory Council member, but also as Natural Resources  
49 Director for the Native Village of Quinhagak, I'm very glad  
50 to hear that we have established c&t for the residents of

00163

1 Quinhagak and Eek. At the same time we do have a need. We  
2 are subsistence hunters, and this is the area that we have  
3 traditionally harvested moose. The proposal would not have  
4 come before the Board.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard, I'm going to  
7 introduce to you people that are listening in on the  
8 teleconference that is not here. Willard Church is from  
9 Quinhagak. He's speaking right now concerning Proposal 42.  
10 Go ahead, Willard.

11  
12 MR. CHURCH: Can everyone hear me okay?

13  
14 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, we can hear you.

15  
16 MR. CHURCH: Okay. To continue, what I had  
17 just been saying was that the proposal would not have come  
18 before the Board unless we as a community recognized that  
19 there was a need for that. Joshua Cleveland, he is the vice  
20 president for the IRA council, which is the native government  
21 in our community. And he recognizes there was a need, and  
22 based on the conditions that we have faced in order to go out  
23 and subsistence hunt moose at this great distance, it's  
24 approximately 100 miles. We have to travel for two days to  
25 access that area.

26  
27 Based on my own experience as a subsistence hunter, a  
28 lot of times to access the area we have to travel with very  
29 experienced hunters that know the area well. And it takes a  
30 lot of time, and a lot of effort and a lot of energy, and it  
31 takes resources.

32  
33 Some of the concerns that were brought up with  
34 establishing a new season, you know, based on the federal  
35 regulations here for the Unit 19, I see that they do have  
36 multiple seasons in other subunits of Unit 19. For example,  
37 for moose season under 19(A), you have a February 1 to a  
38 February 10 hunt. For units -- for the remainder of Unit  
39 19(A), you have a February 1 to a February 10 hunt. For Unit  
40 19(C), you have a January 15 to a February 15 hunt. For Unit  
41 19(D), you have a December 1 to a February 28 hunt. Well,  
42 what I'm trying to establish here is you do have multiple  
43 seasons both in the fall and also in the winter. In the  
44 portion that we're looking at, consisting of 47 square miles,  
45 which gets moderate sport hunting use, is a prime area for  
46 subsistence hunters for our area.

47  
48 And the way that I see it, with the revised or  
49 amended proposal indicating the need to change the season  
50 from the original proposed season, I don't know if the date

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1 that you had mentioned earlier on the biological analysis of  
2 March 1 to March 15 is the one that we had decided on. When  
3 I had spoken with Joshua Cleveland, it was a February 1 to a  
4 February 15 season.

5  
6 MS. McCLENAHAN: We'll make that amendment.

7  
8 MR. CHURCH: Yes. And with the one antlered  
9 bull, during one of our teleconferences with Pat McClenahan  
10 and also John Andrew, we decided that it would be more  
11 appropriate during that time of the season to have evidence  
12 of sex rather than one antlered bull within the language.

13  
14 And some of the justification behind why this  
15 proposal should be opposed based on biological -- based on  
16 the biological analysis was inexperienced hunters may not be  
17 able to tell the difference between a cow and a bull during  
18 that time of the season. Access by -- to this area by  
19 experienced hunters, I believe the people that can travel  
20 that far for that long to that area have the ability to know  
21 the difference between a cow and a bull moose.

22  
23 It may be a corridor, and very few moose may be in  
24 that area, but it is the area that we hunt. And it is the  
25 area that we want to hunt in. And during February 1 to 15,  
26 the trail conditions are appropriate for us to travel that  
27 distance. As the Natural Resource Director for the Native  
28 Village of Quinhagak, I would like to request to the Board  
29 that they do take serious consideration to our proposal.  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Willard. If  
33 there's any other recommendations from Regional Council? How  
34 about from other -- from the public or -- if there's none,  
35 Regional Council, I'm going to ask how you want to handle  
36 this Proposal 42, c&t for moose in 19(B) for residents of  
37 Quinhagak and rural residents of Unit 18.

38  
39 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester Wilde?

42  
43 MR. L. WILDE: I move that we adopt Proposal  
44 #42(a) and oppose Proposal #42(b).

45  
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There's a motion on the  
47 floor to adopt 19(a) and oppose.....

48  
49 MR. L. WILDE: 42(a).

50

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 42(a).

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: And oppose 42(b).

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: And oppose 42(b). Is  
6 there a second to this motion?

7

8 MR. HANSON: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Seconded by John Hanson  
11 from Alagnak.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chair?

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Discussion? Lester?

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, to the reason  
18 why I was opposing 42, the 42(b) is that Quinhagak is not the  
19 only village that has to travel over 100 miles to get their  
20 subsistence needs, and we've been able to do it within the  
21 guideline harvest of the species within our region. Although  
22 we do have c&t of the animals, we would like to stay within  
23 the season suggested and/or stated in the regs, and I don't  
24 think Quinhagak would have too much trouble if they've had a  
25 history of being able to catch their needs within the season  
26 that was specified that they would need to have to extend  
27 their season. It's just a matter of fair is fair, you know.  
28 We have to stay within the specified season, and I think that  
29 anybody else that needs to hunt their food should be able to  
30 get it within the season, because we travel almost -- some of  
31 us travel twice the distance that they have to travel, and we  
32 still stay within the season.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council, anyone have a  
35 comment on this? John Hanson?

36

37 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 Yeah, I think it's good that we give Eek and Quinhagak the  
39 c&t, because this area here reading through the comments that  
40 these different people wrote, their c&t for this area has  
41 been for a long time. Even before some of these people,  
42 these younger people were born, so I think it's good that  
43 this Board is going to -- hopefully will approve when we take  
44 our vote approve c&t for them. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. If there's any  
47 more comments from the Council? We are ready for a vote.  
48 The motion is to adopt 42(a), it's Proposal 42, oppose 42(b).  
49 That's the motion and a second, we're ready for roll call  
50 vote.

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1 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

2  
3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yes.

4  
5 MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick? Paul Manumik?  
6 Ilarion Nicolai?

7  
8 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

9  
10 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Willard?

11  
12 MR. CHURCH: I support 42(a) with the c&t and  
13 I oppose the opposition to 42(b).

14  
15 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

16  
17 MR. McCANN: Yes.

18  
19 MR. GEORGE: James Charlie?

20  
21 MR. CHARLIE: Yes.

22  
23 MR. GEORGE: John Thompson?

24  
25 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

26  
27 MR. GEORGE: Paul John? Lester Wilde?

28  
29 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

30  
31 MR. GEORGE: John Hanson?

32  
33 MR. HANSON: Yes.

34  
35 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, 42(a) nine yes (In  
36 Yup'ik), three are excused (In Yup'ik). 42(b) (In Yup'ik).  
37 Three are excused (In Yup'ik).

38  
39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 42, it's approved by the  
40 Council of Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council. Any more, Pat?

41  
42 MS. McCLENAHAN: That's all I have, Mr.  
43 Chairman.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you very much. I  
46 was supposed to travel to Galena when they have meeting up  
47 there, but I've decided to have a teleconference with them  
48 during their meeting on March 10. I could do this from my  
49 home in Mountain Village. I could teleconference with them,  
50 what the decision that it has been made on the four

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1 proposals, overlap with Western Interior Regional Council. I  
2 think it's easier for me to do that, and also I had some  
3 request from the rest -- some of the Council here to do the  
4 same thing, views what their decision made, and have a  
5 teleconference with Western Interior during their working on  
6 their -- working on this proposal. Okay. Pat, are you still  
7 there?

8  
9 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: What you think of that?

12  
13 MS. McCLENAHAN: I think that it will be  
14 fine. I think Western Interior will appreciate your getting  
15 together with them on teleconference.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Not only that, if  
18 I happen to go to a Board meeting, they usually have chairs  
19 get together and they talk about their concern. I could more  
20 -- if I happen, I could bring more information to them during  
21 that time. Thank you.

22  
23 It looks like that we don't have any more proposals  
24 to work on. At this time we had -- what we -- we stop on  
25 what? Oh, I'm sorry, Dan Bergstrom. Okay. I forgot all  
26 about that as a consequence, so much on proposals. Okay.  
27 Dan, start over again.

28  
29 MR. BERGSTROM: We're back to antlerless  
30 salmon, any sex.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MR. BERGSTROM: Let's see, I covered kind of  
35 king salmon, the Yukon in 1998 and (indiscernible, coughing)  
36 there was no -- the Yukon River summer chum and fall chum  
37 salmon runs were both poor, with much lower harvest than  
38 other years. There was very -- there was even subsistence  
39 fishing time restrictions for fall chums, so the harvests  
40 were way lower than normal. And still for both summer chum  
41 and fall chum, no escapements were met. No escapement goals  
42 were met.

43  
44 In the Kuskokwim River, chum and coho salmon runs  
45 have been low the last two years, 1997 and 1998. And it  
46 appeared that king salmon escapements were a little lower  
47 than average also in 1998 in the Kuskokwim.

48  
49 It appears that -- we've talked about -- we've heard  
50 some talk in the meeting here about the ocean conditions in

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1 regards to like birds, and it seems like that's what's  
2 happening with impacting salmon production and survival also.  
3 There's a change in the ocean and climate. And it appears  
4 that in those -- like 1996 through 1998 it's been warmer  
5 water in the ocean, and that it's affected the phytoplankton  
6 and what type of food available in the ocean for salmon. So  
7 we don't know how this will impact salmon this next year or  
8 into the near future, or even in the next ten years, but some  
9 of the scientists are saying that they think that there could  
10 be a down turn in salmon overall over the next ten years,  
11 like in Bristol Bay and on up. They also say though that  
12 it's not necessarily that it will always be down. There  
13 could be fluctuations where it goes up and it goes down. And  
14 I think we see that anyway where we have good runs and bad  
15 runs.

16  
17 But it does make it difficult to project what salmon  
18 abundance will be this coming summer, and that's what I  
19 wanted to talk about a little bit, too. And because it is  
20 difficult, as you know, the last ten years we've been coming  
21 more and more where we don't harvest salmon on just a regular  
22 fishing schedule. We try to assess the runs in season to  
23 manage, and so that's the key strategy is to manage the  
24 salmon runs based on the in-season run assessment, and not  
25 solely on a run-projected -- run projection. So if we think  
26 it's going to be low, you know, we're not going to just  
27 manage that it could be a low run. We'll start out that way,  
28 but we'll manage what comes back. So if it ends up good,  
29 then we can change our strategies and harvest more fish.

30  
31 So as far as the outlooks in the Kuskokwim area and  
32 in the Yukon, we're -- we've got pretty big ranges of what  
33 the harvest could be. And in what the run size might be, and  
34 that's based on we don't know how good survival is, and what  
35 the production might be. But in the Kuskokwim, they're  
36 expecting near average runs of chinook, sockeye, and chum.  
37 That they'll be near average. Coho, it's more like a below  
38 average to average, and that's based on these last couple of  
39 years. The coho run's been down in the Kuskokwim. And  
40 they'll be getting this out I think shortly to the public so  
41 that people can see, but, for instance, in the Kuskokwim  
42 River, where there's a targeted chum salmon fishery, they  
43 said it could be anywhere from 200,000 to 500,000, and it  
44 just depends on what it looks like in season.

45  
46 And pretty much for Quinhagak and Goodnews, they're  
47 expecting it to be near average where it's been the last ten  
48 years on the commercial harvest.

49  
50 So as far as far as we know in the Kuskokwim area,

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1 you know, subsistence needs should be met, and then there  
2 hopefully will be commercial harvest, and the whole thing  
3 will be working with the fishermen and assessing the run in  
4 season.

5  
6 On the Yukon River outlook, the kings we're  
7 projecting could be weak to below average, and that's based  
8 on what we saw this last season. And so the commercial  
9 harvest may only be 25,000 to 75,000. The summer chum run  
10 we're projecting to -- you know, the outlook to be below  
11 average in a huge range. It could be just 25,000 if it's a  
12 run like this last year, or it could be as high as 300,000 or  
13 more depending on what happens in season.

14  
15 In fall chum where we have quite a bit of information  
16 with the fewer escapement areas and we have a lot of  
17 monitoring on those areas. There's quite a bit of  
18 information. And the point estimate where we normally would  
19 project, we've been doing, and John Hanson knows all these  
20 years for the Board, it would project a 1.2 million run this  
21 year based on escapements, that they were good in '94 and  
22 '95. However, because of the poor production we've seen, and  
23 survival, we've said that, well, it could be half of that.  
24 So maybe it's only going to be around 550,000, and that's  
25 just because of what we've been seeing maybe from the ocean  
26 environment. So what that means is, you know, if it's only  
27 around 550,000, we'd just have subsistence fisheries and no  
28 commercial harvest. And if it ends up 1,000,000 or 1.2  
29 million, well, that would be full on, heavy duty commercial  
30 fishing opportunity. So there's a big range in all these  
31 outlooks.

32  
33 And so, in summary, there's a lot of uncertainty in  
34 what the salmon abundance will actually be, and it's up to  
35 the Department, fishermen, and in the case of commercial  
36 activities, buyers to really have the need to work together  
37 to first protect the health of the salmon resources by  
38 achieving, you know, adequate good escapements, and, second,  
39 provide for the subsistence priority, and that's all along  
40 these rivers. Both the Yukon and Kuskokwim are big areas  
41 with a lot of subsistence users. And then, third, to allow  
42 the further harvest of the identifiable surplus, so if there  
43 are enough fish for escapement and subsistence, that we can  
44 identify that and harvest it in season for commercial.

45  
46 And then I just wanted to quickly mention, I think  
47 Tim Andrew talked about the chinook by-catch issue in the  
48 troll fishery. And we want to thank the public, AVCP and  
49 other groups that worked on that chinook by-catch issue, and  
50 that was to try and lower the harvest of kings in the troll

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1 fisheries, and there was an accomplishment in that regard  
2 this last month, in February. And Tom Kron and myself  
3 attended Council meetings to give information on salmon  
4 stocks, on the king salmon stock status info, and we went to  
5 Seattle to do that, and then we were at the Anchorage meeting  
6 also. So we tried to provide information so that they could  
7 move in that direction to reduce the by-catch.

8  
9 And then lastly, we have -- or the Alaska Board of  
10 Fisheries in March here, there's two agenda change requests  
11 which the Board will take up. And one is the proposed  
12 commercial pink salmon fishery at Stebbins and St. Michael,  
13 and that would involve Yukon River salmon. And that the  
14 second agenda change request is one on whether to restrict  
15 the take of subsistence king salmon for dog food in the Yukon  
16 River. And that issue -- and both these issues were taken up  
17 by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association annual  
18 meeting that was in Alakanuk last month.

19  
20 But we wanted -- I wanted to cover a little bit more  
21 on the king salmon dog food issue, and that -- basically the  
22 background is that one fisherman in Eagle put in this agenda  
23 change request and it was based on a neighbor who actually  
24 took 500 kings and put up 500 kings this last year for dog  
25 food. And it became an issue, because the run was really low  
26 this last year, and in Canada just above Eagle they were  
27 taking real massive restrictions on the aboriginal harvest  
28 there. And so that was his concern, particularly when it's a  
29 really poor run that he didn't think it was appropriate to do  
30 that. And so it's kind of a big issue along the river,  
31 because there's different activities, it's -- from our  
32 information, it's primarily when kings are fed to dogs,  
33 normally it's more like the jacks, the really small ones in  
34 some areas, or when you get further -- closer to spawning  
35 areas, we might get the real dark red colored kings that  
36 people might not want for human use, that they might feed  
37 those to dogs, but as far as we know, there's very little  
38 targeting on kings for dog food. Most everybody would use  
39 chum salmon, either summer chum or fall chum.

40  
41 So that one's going to be -- both those issues, the  
42 pink salmon commercial fishery and this issue will be up at  
43 the Board of Fisheries starting March 18th. And that's all I  
44 had. I'm sure there's no questions.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John?

47  
48 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 What.....

50

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Wait, too many Johns.  
2 Too many Johns. Okay. John Thompson first.

3  
4 MR. THOMPSON: Well, sorry to miss out this  
5 last meeting that they had here. But I just wanted to point  
6 out something that I really disappointed about proposal, a  
7 couple of proposals that were approved. It may be called a  
8 small amount, but when you get down to a point that a female  
9 produce three to 400 fries, that's a lot of fish. We're  
10 talking about a lot of fish right there. And today it start  
11 showing, the small streams below Anvik, and we have -- we all  
12 know that we had enough fish this summer, too, but it doesn't  
13 go way up where they should be. But it reflects. The  
14 females that supposed to go to the spawning areas don't --  
15 they don't reach that far. For two years now. It shows that  
16 rural (ph) fishery is hurting the river. We try to keep --  
17 we try to keep our mouth shut all these years. But I think  
18 someone has to bring it up one of these days. It's a serious  
19 case. And you all know it, how it's happened for two years.  
20 And people down in Y-1 and two volunteered to close the fall  
21 chum season themselves. Fish and Game didn't. People down  
22 here voluntarily closed. From there on, it's up to the  
23 upriver people. It's -- I don't see why the Department of  
24 Fish and Game approved that proposal for roe fishery.

25  
26 Down here, these coastal people, they tried their  
27 best to open up pink season. They're always been opposed.

28  
29 So that's my disappointment. So think hard. Try  
30 your best.

31  
32 MR. BERGSTROM: I just wanted to explain for  
33 others maybe that -- I know what you're talking about is that  
34 -- I think it was in November this last year, the Alaska  
35 Board of Fisheries had two issues, and one of them was in  
36 Subdistrict 5(A), which would be right in the Yukon just  
37 below the mouth of the Tanana River, that the Board approved  
38 a fall chum roe fishery there. And I want to make it clear  
39 that as far as the Department's position on that issue was  
40 that that section of the river just below the Tanana River on  
41 that bank of the river, our position was that it should be  
42 managed as part of like District Six, because we feel that  
43 most of those fish in that location are going into the  
44 Tanana, and so that was the Department's position, is they  
45 should be managed as being Tanana River fish. And then the  
46 Board had primarily comments from YRDFA they had a committee  
47 meeting and that sort of thing at the Board meeting, and they  
48 did go along with that proposal to allow a roe fishery. And  
49 it's got some -- you know, between zero and 4,000 pounds of  
50 roe, and the whole idea as I understand it would be that

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1 there's a pretty big subsistence harvest in that location,  
2 and that the idea is that the fish will be used for  
3 subsistence, but they -- it would only be commercial  
4 fishermen that could do this, and sell the roe. But I do  
5 know at the YR DFA meeting a lot of fishermen in the lower  
6 Yukon did have concerns with the roe fisheries. And that one  
7 is a different one, because it is actually where they could  
8 only sell the roe, too. It's not even -- they can't even  
9 sell fish in the round until it's a really big run, then they  
10 can sell a few more fish actual in the round.

11  
12 MR. THOMPSON: Because a lot of tourists,  
13 even the tourists see carcasses along the river. That's  
14 really a shame. Just imagine the outsiders telling us.

15  
16 MR. BERGSTROM: Now, then the one other thing  
17 was that coho management plan was passed, and I think a lot  
18 of lower Yukon fishermen had some problems with it, and I  
19 think one of the main things is it's just not likely it's  
20 ever going to happen where there will be a targeted coho  
21 fishery. The whole thing would be -- only occur if there's a  
22 big fall chum run, and then no market for fall chum, so  
23 there's no fishing for fall chums commercially. Then there  
24 could be a targeting on cohos, but it's -- it may have  
25 happened that way maybe once in 20 years, so it's -- but I  
26 think the other thing is what a lot of fishermen on the river  
27 think is it's good to get like a regulation in there, a  
28 management plan that can be worked on in the future, so, you  
29 know, maybe that's something to think about, you know, before  
30 the next board meeting which will be in the year 2000, would  
31 be, you know, ways to change that maybe.

32  
33 MR. THOMPSON: Because I worked for  
34 Department of Fish and Game for six years, six seasons, and I  
35 -- we worked, and we know how and when and where the spawning  
36 areas are, because we were the first ones to work studies, we  
37 involved with the studies. And there's all kinds of little  
38 streams along the -- from here to Russian Mission. There's  
39 all kinds of little streams that are spawning areas. And if  
40 you don't believe me, you go up the stream and just take the  
41 temperature of the streams that goes under 50 degree. Under  
42 that, there's a spawning stream ahead of it. If it's above  
43 50, don't go up that stream. There's nothing ahead of it.  
44 You waste time.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson.

47  
48 MR. HANSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 Yeah, Dan, I didn't get the kings on Kuskokwim, if it's low  
50 or above average or below average or nothing?

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1 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, John. I think pretty  
2 much we were targeting the chum salmon there in the  
3 commercial fishery, but overall on the run, which it's real  
4 important on the subsistence harvest, were that they -- their  
5 outlook would be that it would be near average. So over the  
6 last ten years, it would be, you know, a normal sized run.  
7 And so there -- you know, if the chums are good enough to  
8 commercial on, they'll catch a few incidental kings with it.

9  
10 MR. HANSON: Okay. How about the Yukon, I  
11 didn't get those.

12  
13 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, on the Yukon we're  
14 looking more at -- we think it could be weak or poor to below  
15 average, which would put in a commercial harvest of like  
16 25,000 to 75,000. So that's a pretty big range. And the  
17 whole thing this next year is, last year both the Kuskokwim  
18 -- well, mostly Nushagak on up to the Yukon, the king salmon  
19 returns was pretty strong on five-year olds, so the six-year  
20 olds this coming year, we'll be watching in-season aging  
21 fish, and see, you know, how strong they might be. That's  
22 going to probably drive the run is how well the six-year olds  
23 are doing, and whether they had problems in the ocean or not.  
24 And if they didn't get impacted too badly, well, then the  
25 runs could be near average. But if what we saw last year in  
26 the Yukon where it seemed like the fish size was down like  
27 they weren't eating well, and then some of that disease that  
28 was seen with this fungus, that -- you know, if they've been,  
29 you know, having mortality, then it could be worse.

30  
31 MR. HANSON: Okay. My other one is during  
32 the Yukon River drainage, there was -- on Tanana there was  
33 clear-cutting for timber, which is right along the river.  
34 Who -- is that federal land or state land, and who went ahead  
35 and gave the okay? That area is in the spawning stream for  
36 fall chum and coho according to the sketch that they put out  
37 to let the people look at.

38  
39 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, I think it's -- John,  
40 it's either -- you know, there's probably some spawning in  
41 that area, or at least rearing, you know, little fish in  
42 those areas, so that's the concern. I think it's state land  
43 there, although it could be, you know, even private or some  
44 other land. But it is under state management or regulations.  
45 And so Habitat Division of Fish and Game is the one that  
46 really looks at that. And we've been making comments with  
47 them, you know, trying to get the timber harvest so it's set  
48 back from the river a ways to protect the river. And that's  
49 -- there are some laws on that for buffers, but some of those  
50 are pretty short. They're not real big. I mean, that's --

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1 the timber industry puts their pressure on, and so that's  
2 been changed off and on, too, but -- so we're doing what we  
3 can to try and get them to set it back from the river as much  
4 as we can.

5  
6 And that's - you know, now that you bring that up, I  
7 mean, habitat is a big concern along all these rivers,  
8 because that's the key thing. If you lose the habitat, you  
9 know, you lose -- you can lose fish for a long period of  
10 time.

11  
12 MR. HANSON: Well, like I see them here with  
13 you push for them to go back further though, the habitat is  
14 going to be damaged even if they're -- unless they're 15  
15 miles back from the spawning stream. All that stuff that's  
16 going to in the spring -- the spring tide's going to just go  
17 down into those streams.

18  
19 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, I think it could be,  
20 but it's to try and keep it from any of the rivers or  
21 drainages, you know, a fair amount so that it will be less  
22 likely to be as badly impacted. Certainly if you're right on  
23 the stream bank, you lose the cover of the trees, you know,  
24 that fall in and stuff. Those all protect salmon, and so  
25 we're trying to at least get it back from that close, you  
26 know, so that -- the further back you are, like you say, the  
27 better, but, you know, it's not going to be 15 miles, I'm  
28 sure of that.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Billy McCann.

31  
32 MR. McCANN: Yeah, on spawning areas like  
33 there are not only one in most rivers, like Yukon and  
34 Kuskokwim, like a lot of people seeing I think it's true,  
35 they're not spawning only one place. They're spawning on the  
36 sloughs, some of the sloughs, and like Kipnuk told me that  
37 they kept the fish down there going to -- there's a river  
38 going up to the lake, they're getting them now, chums and the  
39 silvers, so counting (ph) areas are not -- just like, okay,  
40 example, like from spawning area on river, the Kuskokwim  
41 River, it's way up there, and down at Napakiak, below  
42 Napakiak, on their subsistence -- by subsistence (ph),  
43 they're always reporting a lot of fish, kept in (ph) during  
44 -- before they go up to the spawning area. And Fish and Game  
45 always reports low, very low go up, before they get to the  
46 point, to fish up to the point. And below it's coming up,  
47 but still the Fish and Game reports are pretty low, and  
48 waiting for that point to open the season at some times. I  
49 think that should be rechecked to that. Both rivers, because  
50 these people here on the rivers, both rivers, lower part

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1 should be point -- they count the fish -- I mean, see the  
2 fish, how many fish are they by the subsistence people.

3  
4           And this -- again I don't like to see pointing out us  
5 too much, because False Pass down there, where the fish  
6 coming through, then there again, I think it's true, the fish  
7 down there is chopped (ph) out of the ocean on account of the  
8 companies catching them with a big net, dragging the net and  
9 dump whole fish out. Just pick out what they want. That  
10 should be controlled, then us, because they're the one that's  
11 killing them, too. But I always think just because they've  
12 got the money to fight, you -- we really leave them alone.  
13 Or Fish and Game leave them alone. Just because they got lot  
14 amount to fight with the lawyers and stuff like that. That  
15 should be looked at if it's -- if the fish is protected.  
16 They're the ones that's killing them, too, purposely and dump  
17 them out, just only pick out what they want. King salmon,  
18 silver salmon, any fish coming through. That should be  
19 controlled by Fish and Game, cut down amount of fish, and  
20 even they cut it down, they don't cut them very much. Just a  
21 little bit amount. And we are hurt just because we're on a  
22 spawning area. But people down there, coming through, nobody  
23 bothers them it seems like. Not enough. They might bother  
24 them, but it's not enough. If we protect the fish, you guys  
25 are protecting the fish, they're the ones to look at, not us.  
26 Because we're up here in spawning area. Why not False Pass  
27 down there throwing the fish away. That should be  
28 controlled. Thank you.

29  
30           MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, I think those are good  
31 comments, and the thing on the Kuskokwim, we are planning  
32 that there might be some federal money in the next three  
33 years that in the Kuskokwim to try and put in a sonar at --  
34 near Bethel again so you can get the count of fish there  
35 instead of waiting to get information, you know, way up river  
36 where the spawning areas are where there might be a weir, so,  
37 you know, it's not for sure that that will work, you know,  
38 because there's difficulties with water conditions there, and  
39 fish are kind of spread out throughout the river there, but  
40 that's, you know, hopefully something that will help out in  
41 management. And then on the Yukon, you know, we do have the  
42 sonar, so we can use that to -- along with test fisheries.  
43 That's the thing we've learned on the Yukon is we don't try  
44 and look at only the sonar, but try and look at the sonar  
45 with any commercial harvest that might occur, get subsistence  
46 reports, and test fishing, and use it all, so that hopefully,  
47 you know, you don't get -- you know, make a management  
48 mistake basing it only on one thing.

49  
50           And then as far as Area M, I know fishermen, and

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1 there's -- a lot of the public have problems with the place  
2 (ph) that fishes there, and one of the things is it is  
3 managed differently. They fish on a harvest quota for  
4 sockeye, and yet nobody knows what the returns really going  
5 to be until later on, you know, even on sockeye. And then  
6 the same on chums. They harvest fish before they get back  
7 where you can really say it's a good run or a bad run.

8  
9 But, you know, the Board did some on that, like you  
10 said, it was a small decrease, but they'll be on the lowest  
11 harvest range they can take on chums this year, because of  
12 this previous year being low runs. They're going to be on  
13 their lowest one. And I think they'll continue to be  
14 pressured to watch that fishery more, too, in case there is,  
15 you know, some hiding of chums that are caught, whether they  
16 throw them, or whether they even buy them and then just call  
17 them something else or what, but I think there will also be  
18 -- you should always probably apply some pressure to --  
19 letters to like Public Safety, just to say, you know, you  
20 want to keep watching that fishery there. Because if they  
21 get that kind of information, they'll tend to say, you know,  
22 they'll go to their people and say, okay, you know, we're  
23 getting pressure to go in this place to enforce. And they'll  
24 usually do that. And that works along the Yukon-Kuskokwim or  
25 Togiak or anywhere else. If people have enforcement concerns  
26 and get them out in a letter, they'll tend to call up and say  
27 is this a problem, and should we do this? Because it's a big  
28 huge area in the state and they need to have information to  
29 see where to focus.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester?

32  
33 MR. L. WILDE: Dan, the question I have is  
34 concerning the algae out there. Do you have any later  
35 information on which way the growth of that algae is at the  
36 mouth of the Yukon here? Is it expanding? Is it floating  
37 away, or is it still sitting out there in the middle of  
38 nowhere?

39  
40 MR. BERGSTROM: You know, Lester, I'm not  
41 sure if we know anything really right at the mouth of the  
42 Yukon on like the.....

43  
44 MR. L. WILDE: Towards the mouth, yeah.

45  
46 MR. BERGSTROM: .....phytoplankton and what  
47 would be there, because that's always been thought of as  
48 being one of the keys on salmon survival, is when the little  
49 smolt and fry are going out is when they first hit the fresh  
50 -- or the ocean water, that they need to have feed there, and

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1 so that's a real critical time period, but there's really  
2 been no studies, you know, Kuskokwim or pretty much anywhere  
3 along Western Alaska on what the phytoplankton is right  
4 inshore at that time.

5  
6 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, I was talk- -- well,  
7 maybe you're the wrong person to ask. I'll probably ask  
8 somebody else for the information. I was talking about the  
9 algae that was taking -- that was -- the satellites picked up  
10 out there.....

11  
12 MR. BERGSTROM: That.....

13  
14 MR. L. WILDE: .....that the explosive growth  
15 of that algae.

16  
17 MR. BERGSTROM: The cacalithofors (ph), the  
18 thing that made the blue color even, and I guess crab boats  
19 or other boats driving through there were looking, and they  
20 could even see the water was like the color of at Hawaii  
21 instead of normal color hear. And, yeah, we don't know this  
22 coming year what's -- you know, what will happen as far as  
23 whether that will bloom like that again, or if it will be  
24 back to the normal zooplankton, phytoplankton that we  
25 normally see.

26  
27 MR. L. WILDE: Then you don't have -- you  
28 don't have no late -- you don't have the latest data on.....

29  
30 MR. BERGSTROM: No.

31  
32 MR. L. WILDE: That's all I have. Thanks.

33  
34 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz?

37  
38 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, quyana, Mr. Chairman.  
39 Dan, the other day I saw on TV about the possibility of  
40 increasing the opportunity for sports fishermen to come on up  
41 to -- come on up to our rivers and fish to lure the tourists.  
42 Our salmon are in trouble. Isn't there enough scientific  
43 facts to sort of try and close sports fishing in some of our  
44 rivers?

45  
46 MR. BERGSTROM: I guess that was one thing I  
47 was going to mention, Fritz, was that, you know, if you had  
48 any sport fishing concerns, if you could let me know and then  
49 I can pass them on to, you know, the guys that cover that  
50 lower Kuskokwim area and then the ones that are in Fairbanks

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1 that kind of cover Andreafsky and, you know, the Yukon  
2 section. And it's a big issue as far as, you know, for local  
3 people I think is whether -- you know, whether the sport  
4 fishing is good or bad, you know, and whether there's  
5 opportunities for it. I think one of the things that some  
6 people would say as far as, you know, the salmon runs, when  
7 the commercial's down and the prices have been down, and the  
8 markets have generally been kind of down on a lot of the  
9 species, is whether there's opportunity for the tourism to  
10 make some income so they have money to buy hunting and  
11 fishing gear. And then the other thing would be if there's a  
12 concern for whether sport fishing in those streams, if  
13 there's too much, because they tend to be, you know, more in  
14 the spawning areas, so that is -- it could be a concern. You  
15 don't want too big harvest out of those locations.

16  
17 MR. GEORGE: Because what we do on the  
18 Kuskokwim is we respect and follow the subsistence closures.  
19 We're trying to save the salmon, but yet up in the spawning  
20 grounds sports fishing is going. It's sort of contrary to  
21 the idea of conserving the salmon species, and.....

22  
23 MR. BERGSTROM: Is this like Quinhagak,  
24 Goodnews,.....

25  
26 MR. GEORGE: Like in the.....

27  
28 MR. BERGSTROM: .....or Aniak or.....

29  
30 MR. GEORGE: .....Kwethluk, Kisaralik,.....

31  
32 MR. BERGSTROM: Kwethluk even.

33  
34 MR. GEORGE: .....and, you know Aniak people  
35 are talking about the -- that, too. Herman Morgan.

36  
37 MR. BERGSTROM: So this is like when you have  
38 your regular subsistence period closures, and, you know, that  
39 might be something to think about as far proposals would be.  
40 You know, the main thing with sport fishing is they have  
41 those bag limits and whatever they are, but, you know, so you  
42 have those kind of controls, but maybe you want to think  
43 about whether they have like, you know, closure periods  
44 during a week just like subsistence or commercial might have,  
45 because, you know, when commercial goes, you have the  
46 subsistence closures around them. And so maybe, you know, to  
47 address your concerns would be to -- that they don't get  
48 seven days a week sport fishing, that there is times -- and  
49 that might be better for the fish, too, where there's, you  
50 know, no fishing for whatever period of time during a week.

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1 But that might be an idea.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Is that it? Thank you,  
4 Dan.

5

6 Next on our agenda, time and place of next public  
7 meeting. Between October 5 and 6, 1999?

8

9 MR. J. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, my -- (In  
10 Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER NICK: John Andrew reported that  
13 the time frame for holding meetings was shorted, but they  
14 will be able to -- they will probably be able to have their  
15 next meeting sometime in October, around 6th and 7th.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. We were invited by  
18 Robert Nick when he talked to me before we come down here, he  
19 would like to see the Council meeting next time Council  
20 meeting at Nunapitchuk, because one time we supposed to do  
21 and we didn't make it due to weather. And also we had one  
22 commitment, too, we didn't to Quinhagak. We're supposed to  
23 have a meeting at Quinhagak. So there's two options there.  
24 Tim?

25

26 MR. T. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, AVCP annual  
27 convention will most likely be held during that week that you  
28 want to have your Regional Subsistence Council meeting again.  
29 I talked to the (indiscernible) yesterday, and they indicated  
30 that the week of October 4th through the 7th would be our  
31 annual convention. Last October I know there was a conflict  
32 on some of our executive board members. I don't see any that  
33 are on our executive board members at this time, but as far  
34 as AVCP staff, it's real hard for us to attend both meetings.  
35 And some of you may serve as village delegates as well.

36

37 MR. J. ANDREW: 12 and 13, one week later.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 12 or 13th?

40

41 MR. J. ANDREW: 12 and 13.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 12 and 13th. 12 and 13,  
44 there's an option that we could have a meeting on 12 and 13.  
45 We.....

46

47 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 12 and 13 (In Yup'ik)  
50 Nunapitchuk or Quinhagak.

00180

1 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik) AFN. That's  
2 another one we've got to think of. AFN.

3  
4 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

5  
6 INTERPRETER NICK: John Andrew says that  
7 there would be a conflict if they meet other than what they  
8 -- I mean, none that they have got the.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

11  
12 MR. T. ANDREW: How about the fourth week of  
13 October? Or the fourth week in October?

14  
15 MR. J. ANDREW: Third week? Is that the  
16 third week?

17  
18 MR. T. ANDREW: Yeah. This past year it  
19 was.....

20  
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Sue?

22  
23 MS. DETWILER: October 21 is AFN.

24  
25 MR. J. ANDREW: We'd be okay then.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. We'll be okay.

28 (In Yup'ik)

29  
30 INTERPRETER NICK: Upon notation, Robert Nick  
31 mentioned that there will be a lot of blackfish to eat,  
32 whether it's right or froze.

33  
34 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Where do you  
37 guys want to have -- Willard?

38  
39 MR. CHURCH: I'd like to recommend to the  
40 Council that we have our meeting in Quinhagak on October 12  
41 and 13.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard.....

44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Is that a motion?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....invite us to  
48 Quinhagak on October 10th.....

49  
50 MR. J. ANDREW: 12 and 13.

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1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....12 and 13.

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make  
4 that a motion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard make a motion to  
7 next meeting will be at Quinhagak on 11 and 13. Who second  
8 it?

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Second by Lester Wilde.

13 Discussion?

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: The question's been  
18 called. All who favor say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Oppose, say no?

23

24 (No opposing votes.)

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Motion carries. We'll  
27 have a meeting on October 11 and.....

28

29 MR. J. ANDREW: 12 and 13.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: 12 and 13 at Quinhagak.

32 Okay.

33

34 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chair?

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah?

37

38 MR. HANSON: I guess we're getting to the end  
39 here. Before we adjourn, I would like to bring up to the  
40 Regional Board, that when the Regional Board meets, all  
41 people involved, whether the staff or.....

42

43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Regional Council.

44

45 MR. HANSON: .....Fish and Wildlife or ADF&G,  
46 that we get listed on our agenda, that they be present  
47 instead of going to a teleconfernece with somebody or leaving  
48 out some of the work that we're supposed to do. (In Yup'ik)

49

50 INTERPRETER NICK: He said that people who's

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1 supposed to be attending the Regional Council meeting, they  
2 have a lot of excuses, some of them say that they're staying  
3 home because they're sick, but the other people, they said --  
4 he said that, you know, those who are well, they should make  
5 an attempt to make it to that meeting and give their  
6 presentation. He said they will be presenting their issues  
7 the say it's supposed to be, and without going back and  
8 forth, you know, on the agenda items, they would be able to  
9 take care of their business. He said that, you know, it's up  
10 to the Regional Council, but if they want to, they will, you  
11 know, they could put that in writing.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

14  
15 INTERPRETER NICK: The Chair person told the  
16 Council that they were planning to have executive session,  
17 but because he bring this issue up, by telling (ph) John  
18 Andrew and said Sue Detwiler, (In Yup'ik).

19  
20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Sue, I think we have to  
21 urge those people that -- who are on agenda, they need to  
22 have better prepared before they come over, or I think  
23 there's two persons that are more like important to translate  
24 and mostly are proposal like Pat.....

25  
26 MR. J. ANDREW: Dave?

27  
28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: .....and Steve. (In  
29 Yup'ik) Some of those people should be in the meeting, if  
30 they could help it. I mean, if they're not serious sick,  
31 they should try to be attend. We was going to have an  
32 executive session and write a letter to whoever the bosses  
33 over there and tell them that it will make the meetings  
34 shorter, I mean, if we have some person right there to take  
35 care of the questions and answers. So I think the.....

36  
37 MR. McCANN: Yeah, on the.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill?

40  
41 MR. McCANN: On the meetings, especially on  
42 the board, like we -- like they -- this is not only one,  
43 today, I -- maybe especially me all the time I guess, I  
44 almost get stuck in the villages every time I go out to  
45 villages. So the Coordinator told me to control it myself.  
46 Today's my trip. I was supposed to leave at 9:30 this  
47 morning, and back to 12, can somebody cancel it without me  
48 know, and pretty soon it will be 4:30 tonight. Three times.  
49 Finally I'm on a charter now. I hope that will work today on  
50 the charter. Okay. I'm not educated myself, I'm not bright,

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1 and I don't know the villages, who to go and where to go to  
2 contact. The Coordinator should control the trip, actually  
3 even when we go out to the villages. Make sure we get on the  
4 right plane, on the right time. Because just like myself,  
5 I've got problem with my son at home killing somebody, but I  
6 try to go out myself to break my mind. And I'm -- but still  
7 I'm worried about my kids back home on account of that. I  
8 like to be on time, but I can't help it. That's all right.  
9 As long as I get home today. But I'd like to have the  
10 Coordinator to -- from the board order like to trips, all of  
11 us to be on time on charters, whatever we taken from the  
12 villages. We can't control the weather, but if the weather's  
13 good, that should be -- we do it. I mean, take care of it by  
14 Coordinator to like we're going out from the villages to be  
15 out in other villages. It should be watched by the  
16 Coordinator, and back same way. The same way. Controlling  
17 the airliners. He might not do it all -- I mean, correct all  
18 the time, but just be contact them all the time. He should  
19 be the one to contact them and let us know. Because we're  
20 sitting here, we don't know what to go and what to con- -- or  
21 who to contact. But he knows who to contact, we fly with or  
22 villages, stuff like that. Because we -- especially me, I  
23 cannot go out and see who's -- who to contact. But that's my  
24 concern. And like I told John, anybody's on the board,  
25 should -- it should be in front of us. Every time we're  
26 asked questions, and even they're working, they don't know  
27 the answers, right correct answer. We need correct answer to  
28 correct this -- the work, to be good. Because when we've got  
29 no answer or correct answer, we don't go anywhere. If people  
30 has to be in a meeting, it should be here. The way I feel.  
31 That's how I feel. Just like John. We need the correct  
32 answers, the really (ph) person, the person that works on.  
33 Assistance (ph), sometimes they don't work -- I mean, they  
34 give us the correct answers. We want that. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tim.

37

38 MR. T. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
39 And, Billy, first of all, you may not be educated in the  
40 Western sense, but your comments, your participation in these  
41 meetings that I've been involved with you, have been very  
42 valuable to me, and for the people that are involved, whether  
43 it's the Governor, whether it's that person that is seeking  
44 (ph) on Kuskokwim Delta Regional Subsistence Council, your  
45 input is very valuable.

46

47 The second comment that I'd like to say is this twice  
48 I've been to Alakanuk over the last couple of weeks, for the  
49 Yukon-Kus- -- for the Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's  
50 Association, and for this meeting as well. Both meetings

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1 have been gone very well. I've been very happy with what  
2 I've been seeing. You have great, friendly people here,  
3 great facilities, and I'd like to extend our thank you for  
4 seeing such wonderful folks. Quyana.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard?

7  
8 MR. CHURCH: Well, I'd like to thank the  
9 representatives from Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife that  
10 did come to the meeting and contribute as much as they  
11 possibly could, even though at times they had to put on  
12 different hats and answer questions that they may not be very  
13 well informed on. But they did a good job with what they had  
14 to work with. And at the same time, I do support the  
15 comments of Billy when he stated that there is a need for the  
16 people on the agenda to show up, because we do have important  
17 work to do here, and we need good answers in order for us to  
18 accomplish what our goals are, and to make good decisions for  
19 the people that we are here to represent. thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Willard. John  
22 Hanson?

23  
24 MR. HANSON: He said most of it, so I.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead.

27  
28 MR. J. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) On the travel, I  
29 have no control over it whatsoever. They always send me the  
30 tickets on the very last minute, and when I go to the  
31 village, I don't know who the local agents are. (In Yup'ik)

32  
33 INTERPRETER NICK: John Andrew apologized for  
34 the travel problems, because he said he's got no control over  
35 travel reservations and tickets, because tickets are usually  
36 sent at the last meeting to him. And also sometime he -- he  
37 said that, you know, when someone brings it up, he's glad to  
38 do his part, and sometimes he -- it concerns him, too, like  
39 he also mentioned that someone mentioned that.....

40  
41 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

42  
43 INTERPRETER NICK: .....he thank all the  
44 staff who are present here to answer what they can on the  
45 questions that Council brought up. And recommends -- and  
46 says that it would probably be better if John Andrew take  
47 care of all of the Regional Council travel and reservations  
48 out of Bethel. He said that there will be some more problems  
49 on travel if -- you know, how they experienced during this  
50 travel, and it will also be repeated when they go to a

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1 village. He said that it should be -- it should be  
2 considered -- it should be considered essentially because of  
3 the fact that travel -- staff cannot make travel reservations  
4 with village agents for airlines, and he also considers the  
5 weather conditions. John Andrew should coordinate all the  
6 travel for the Regional Council members so that there will be  
7 no problem. He said he got stuck one time -- he said that he  
8 ran into the same problem one time. He said that his travel  
9 was delayed to a next day, and then he was stuck for three  
10 additional days. For that reason, he don't want to see any  
11 travel problems for the Regional Councils, because they  
12 wouldn't want to go to village meetings any more.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Bill. On behalf  
15 of Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council, we want to thank  
16 Alakanuk for hosting us in these two meetings. I know  
17 they're do a lot of things and lot of work first, that they  
18 had three days hosting in same month, three days Yukon  
19 Drainage Fishermen Association, and also now that Yukon-  
20 Kuskokwim Regional Council. We appreciate their help in  
21 giving us this opportunity to have meet here.

22  
23 And also we want to thank again our interpreters.  
24 Without them, it's impossible to do meeting out here, in  
25 order to -- our people to understand. And people that don't  
26 understand in English, also help -- they help them to  
27 translate who -- when the person talk in Yup'ik, just like if  
28 I talk in Yup'ik, you don't understand. Those are the only  
29 ones, they've got a key to unlock the words to you, so we  
30 proceed. And Chuck -- Alex Nick and Chuck Hunt, we  
31 appreciate your service doing this meeting.

32  
33 Okay. I'm going to go over now that -- also the  
34 people that hosting, we appreciate all that John do, who have  
35 been doing, or who they are, and thank them?

36  
37 MR. J. ANDREW: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
38 Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

39  
40 INTERPRETER NICK: First of all he said that  
41 he thank the Village of Alakanuk, and also the staff who came  
42 here, and all the people who came to this meeting, and also  
43 staff from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge translators, and  
44 also the community of Alakanuk for hosting the village -- or  
45 rather the guests. Ray Manoni, Paul Philip.

46  
47 MR. J. ANDREW: Like John Hanson, Paul  
48 Johnny, Alakanuk School, John James, Ray Manomi, Paul Philip,  
49 and for State of Alaska people that came to help us out, Mike  
50 Coffing and Dan Bergstrom, and for all the Council members

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1 for showing up for this meeting. Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Thank you, and  
4 before we adjourn, I'm going to ask Johnny Thompson to give  
5 us a benediction at this time.

6

7 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, John. Now,  
10 someone make a motion to adjourn?

11

12 MR. McCANN: I make a motion to adjourn.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Billy McCann make a  
15 motion to adjourn. If there's any second.

16

17 MR. NICOLAI: Second the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Ilarion Nicolai.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Question. All who favor  
24 it say aye?

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We are adjourned.

29

30 (Off record - 12:07 p.m.)

31

32

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the  
8 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby  
9 certify:

10  
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 116 through 186  
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME II,  
13 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL  
14 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by myself on the 3rd day  
15 of March, 1999, beginning at the hour of 8:29 o'clock a.m. at  
16 the Alakanuk City Hall, Alakanuk, Alaska;

17  
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by  
20 under my direction to the best of my knowledge and ability;

21  
22 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
23 interested in any way in this action.

24  
25 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 12th day of March,  
26 1999.

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28  
29  
30  
31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski  
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00