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YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING

KVNA Building

Bethel, Alaska

March 4, 1998

VOLUME II

Members Present:

- Harry Wilde, Sr., Chairman
- Paul John, Vice-Chairman
- Fritz George, Secretary
- Ilarion Nicolai
- David O. David
- John Thompson, Sr.
- James Charles
- Billy McCann
- Lester Wilde

John Andrew, Coordinator

Excused:

- Steven White

Interpreter:

- Charles Hunt

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN WILDE: Last night we left agenda item number 7, Proposed Rule: Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management. Bill, will you go over again. Give you this opportunity again for what we left off with last night.

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MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, the Federal government is under a court order to implement an extension of Federal jurisdiction for subsistence for fisheries in those areas where there is what we call a Federal reserve water right. And that is association with lands that the Federal government already manages, such as National Wildlife Refuges. And out here that would be all waters within the external boundaries of the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

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And we are conducting some 31 public hearings around the State to receive comments. Each of the 10 Regional Councils is also being asked to provide their recommendations on this Proposed Rule. Now, the aspect of whether Federal jurisdiction occurs or State jurisdiction continues is not a matter of decision, that has already been told to us by the court. And whether or not the State regains their jurisdiction will be a matter dependent upon whether or not the State Legislature can come to some mechanism where they comply with Title VIII of ANILCA.

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And you folks heard a presentation last night and comments from the public. In fact, many of you offered your own comments also, but now is an opportunity as a Council to provide your recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board. But I would also provide you this special opportunity to ask any questions also.

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CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

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MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I'm still a little concerned and I think there will be a lot of people concerned about the -- probably if we had a crystal ball we'd be able to tell just exactly how the situation along the coastal areas work as far as State and Federal control of subsistence in that area. Is there going to be a method where the government has the management person out in the coastal areas, especially in those areas where Fish and Wildlife control?

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MR. KNAUER: Refuges?

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MR. L. WILDE: Refuges, yeah. How that's going to come about? Because there's a lot of people out there that are

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1 concerned about some of the rumors coming around, that people  
2 are saying, you know, if the State doesn't take over, if the  
3 Feds take over this management of this area we're not going to  
4 be able to fish. We need somebody to come out and say, oh,  
5 yes, it'll be carried on the same way, because there's a lot of  
6 misunderstanding out there. And I think that should be an area  
7 where some more information could be let out. That's why we  
8 have the radio station over here and we have the newspapers,  
9 and it might be a good idea for somebody from your department  
10 or the department that's responsible might be able to put forth  
11 some information in that area.

12  
13 MR. KNAUER: What I can say now is that the Proposed  
14 Rule that we have, that we're starting with, uses the State's  
15 Subsistence Regulations, the existing Subsistence Regulations  
16 for fishing as their basis. So in that regard there would be  
17 very little change. It would be things that folks are already  
18 familiar with. And subsistence is not going to be cut out  
19 because the Federal government steps in.

20  
21 MR. L. WILDE: We need that information to be put out.  
22 There's a lot of misunderstanding out there. You heard some of  
23 it last night.

24  
25 MR. KNAUER: Right.

26  
27 MR. L. WILDE: And I know those of that understand,  
28 we're not worried about it so much, but it's the people that  
29 don't understand that's worried about it that should be --  
30 where their thought should be addressed. That's what I'm  
31 asking; is there some method or means where you might be able  
32 or the Department might be able to come out and report that  
33 information so there won't be anymore misunderstanding and  
34 concern out there?

35  
36 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, Taylor Brelsford.

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38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor.

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40 MR. BRELSFORD: I think this is very sound advice from  
41 the Regional Council. You're now advising us on some  
42 misunderstandings in your region and I think we want to respond  
43 with either a letter or some news media to answer the very  
44 question that was raised last night and again by the Council  
45 members. That's where you help us do a good job. So I think  
46 this is very important advice and proposal for action by the  
47 Federal Subsistence Board in order to clarify that question.

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49 I'm not exactly sure what we will do in response,  
50 whether it will be a letter or a news release or some other

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1 form of clarification in the region, but I think you've asked  
2 us to take some action on it and we can certainly do that.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah. That's what I'm asking because  
5 where I come from and the area where I come from, and even out  
6 of the areas, wherever there is a coastal area, that question  
7 keeps coming up. People come up and they're saying, hey, wait  
8 a minute, you know, we're afraid we're going to lose our right.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: We need to respond.

11

12 MR. L. WILDE: And I think we need to let them know.

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: No, you're going to still have the same  
17 rights you had before.

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David?

22

23 MR. DAVID: For the State to take over on subsistence,  
24 who will be the one to decide who to manage the resources in  
25 the area?

26

27 MR. KNAUER: If the State were to take over, first off,  
28 they would have to comply with Title VIII of ANILCA. And then  
29 the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture would be the ones  
30 that ultimately make the decision as to whether or not they  
31 have complied. Whether any laws they pass or State  
32 Constitution complies. And that would be looked at by the  
33 lawyers for the Department, for the Secretaries, and then it  
34 would be the Secretaries that make the final decision.

35

36 MR. DAVID: And with the information you gather from  
37 the Regional Council, not only this, if the Council want the  
38 Federal to manage the resource, would Secretaries still go on  
39 and if you want to have the State take over on the resources in  
40 the area?

41

42 MR. KNAUER: No. If the State does comply with Title  
43 VIII and protects the subsistence priority, and are able to  
44 regain management, the Secretaries would provide that transfer  
45 to the State.

46

47 MR. DAVID: In answering the questions will you try to  
48 use simple words because I'm asking you questions and you're  
49 answering me with the words that I don't even understand.

50 What's the word comply means?

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1 MR. KNAUER: Meet the requirements. So the short  
2 answer is no, the Secretary would not continue to manage if the  
3 State could do it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson.

6 MR. THOMPSON: I was the one that brought that up. So  
7 if there is any language wherever you could find include that  
8 so everybody could understand the language of that section.

9  
10 MR. KNAUER: Okay.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone of the Council? Anybody over  
13 here? I think it's very important to the people out in --  
14 where we couldn't get to them, they need to have some kind of  
15 information, especially down in the mouth of the Yukon, like  
16 affecting subsistence. I am on a Yukon River with Yukon  
17 Drainage Fishermen Association, I'm on a co-chair and we deal  
18 with subsistence and commercial both. There's a lot of use of  
19 subsistence I suppose in both rivers. And it's very important  
20 to the people in the areas, not only in the Yukon, but mouth of  
21 Yukon River or mouth of Kuskokwim, the people get to use that.

22  
23  
24 I think these people have to be really completely  
25 understand what will happen if Federal take over. I think that  
26 those people should understand so they wouldn't be worried.  
27 I've been hearing the people worried about if the Federal did  
28 take over they may quit subsistence, even though they never  
29 commercial down in area. Some kind of notices maybe have to go  
30 out from the Department to the villages. Bill?

31  
32 MR. McCANN: I think the same way what you people  
33 think. I think it would be better to let the villagers  
34 understand how it's going to run before it happens. Then give  
35 them a booklet how it's going to take care of, how it's going  
36 to manage. Each village, they should have a booklet and the  
37 IRA Councils. So that way I guess all of them will understand  
38 what's in the book and how it's going to run. If something  
39 happens, like usually sometimes they say we going to do this  
40 and we're going to do this, you go the other way sometimes.

41  
42 So if we got the booklet how it's going to exactly run  
43 and send them out to the villages, then the villages can look  
44 at it and if something happens they can get to us or get to you  
45 and correct it. I think that would be the best. Make sure,  
46 let them understand before it happens. Because sometimes when  
47 something happens before we even know, that hurt us. If we do  
48 that before it happens, exactly what's going to happen when it  
49 comes, make sure that everybody understand.

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1 I guess if you let the villages -- well explain to the  
2 people out there, because we can't go out there, explain what  
3 we hear, so much of it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Paul?

6  
7 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Paul John) We Yup'ik people,  
8 sometimes we have misunderstanding about the management systems  
9 that the Federal and State have. And sometimes the proposals  
10 are something that they think that are already has been made,  
11 but it's been about 10 years since I have finally understood  
12 and it's been about 10 years since they start talking about the  
13 issues on the subsistence. And a lot of the people have  
14 difficult time understanding what the papers are all about when  
15 they first arrive.

16  
17 And they like to go ahead -- want to make any comments  
18 towards these proposals and sometimes it's difficult for the  
19 people to understand that they can make comments on these  
20 proposal. And if they know and understand what's going on,  
21 then they'll be able to make comments on these. And an example  
22 is the tags that people now have to work on. And if we take  
23 some of these issues and problems and present them to the  
24 people that work on this issue, then it would be much more  
25 easier for the people that are working on this to understand.

26  
27 And I understand that if the State is not taking care  
28 of our subsistence management, but I feel that maybe the  
29 Federal do a lot better. And before the State took over  
30 resource management the Federal had taken care of these  
31 resources before and I am in support of Federal management.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David.

34  
35 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) And even if the  
36 State is able to manage subsistence and be able to work with  
37 these things, but these people in the villages, if they are in  
38 support of Federal management -- he's asking when they make  
39 comments from the villages supporting whatever action is taken,  
40 will the Federal government be able to listen to their  
41 recommendations?

42  
43 MR. KNAUER: We will be receiving comments from  
44 villages and people all over the State and we will be trying to  
45 make changes that modify the Proposed Rule where we can. You  
46 know when we started out with the wildlife regulations we  
47 started out with the ones that were patterned after the State.  
48 And you folks have told us that in certain cases you wanted to  
49 see change. And that the regulations have been changed based  
50 on the recommendations of the people and based on the

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1 recommendations of these Regional Councils. So if the Federal  
2 management does occur, then we will be providing opportunities  
3 for the public and the Councils to recommend changes.

4

5 MR. DAVID: For the Federal to manage the resources?

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7 MR. KNAUER: If the Federal government manages the  
8 resources. Congress may not let us. We don't know.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

11

12 MR. L. WILDE: I think one thing that is forgotten a  
13 lot of times, in most cases when discussing subsistence, is  
14 that the Federal subsistence requirements requires that there  
15 is a rural preference. And the reason way the State doesn't  
16 have control of fish in this area would be because they do not  
17 have that clause in their proposals. So I think that we  
18 sometimes forget that there is a difference between the State,  
19 and the only difference in most cases is that the State  
20 requires rural preference and -- I mean the Feds require rural  
21 preference and the State doesn't. I think that should be  
22 clearly understood.

23

24 MR. KNAUER: That's absolutely it in a nutshell.  
25 You've got it right exactly the reason why.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David.

28

29 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) He wants to make  
30 a motion for the Fish and Wildlife to make sure that there is a  
31 representative for Fish and Wildlife Service and to make sure  
32 the information about the Proposed Ruling management of  
33 subsistence fisheries and to make sure that people understand  
34 what this Proposed Ruling is about.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think David of David explanation  
37 that we need more to go out to the villages, the people that we  
38 represent. And a lot of people out there, they don't very well  
39 understand some writings like me. If it's a plainer, you know,  
40 it would be easier. Who will second it?

41

42 MR. JOHN: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Paul John second it. Discussion?  
45 John.

46

47 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Johnny Thompson) I foresee  
48 something here. We've been talking about salmon last year but  
49 nobody seems to listen to us, but this is the way we are. For  
50 last years I have heard that it is not toward the salmon but I

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1 have heard about the caribou, that they're using the airplanes  
2 to scare them off. These animals, probably because they know  
3 which way to go, they go where they feed. And we are also in  
4 the subject of using salmon, sometimes even when we want to it  
5 seems like we are being chased away from things that we want  
6 because of rules and regulations.

7  
8 All these regulations are not that strong and these  
9 animals, we need to manage them by looking at how they are,  
10 especially with our salmon. And the definition, they used that  
11 as a weapon. Although sometimes these are our definitions too.  
12 Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions? Comment?

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16 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

19  
20 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) These papers  
21 that are being sent, like what Paul John said, before they  
22 become reality, we would like to understand very well and know  
23 what your plans are so in time we can have feedback to you  
24 people how we use the resource, as well as to let you know how  
25 the resource is managed. That's the reason why I move to have  
26 you inform our people in our villages before you make any move.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it's well enough understand  
29 what Council decide to hear. Is any more discussion from the  
30 Council? If there are no further discussion.

31  
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Call the question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. All who  
35 favor it say aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

40  
41 (No opposing responses)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried, that recommendation.  
44 Thank you, Bill.

45  
46 MR. KNAUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go to our next agenda. We're  
49 going into agenda number 8, Proposals. We're going into  
50 proposals now.

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1 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) He's explaining  
2 that Proposal number 62, it's in the book here at Tab T, number  
3 1. I will present the proposal. There is two of them for Unit  
4 18, 62 and 63 and also Proposals number 51 to 60. You can find  
5 those proposals in the book on Tab T.

6  
7 The first one is from Akiak and Akiachak. They want to  
8 be recognized that they have hunt caribou within Game  
9 Management Unit 18. And those people that are working with  
10 this will be explaining it.

11  
12 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) Right now at the  
13 present time I am totally lost of where this is. I'm lost, you  
14 were talking about Proposal number 62, and then you went  
15 immediately to 63. I don't know where you are at the present  
16 time. I don't think anybody knows where you are at the present  
17 time. Well, why don't you go over Proposal 62, it'll be a lot  
18 better for everyone to understand. If I can't understand it,  
19 then nobody can understand it.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think right now, Pat, we start with  
22 Proposal 62?

23  
24 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat  
25 McClenahan, the Staff Anthropologist for Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service. As I'm starting Proposal 62, I would like to tell you  
27 about the fact that we have a number of proposals for Akiak and  
28 Akiachak that I'll be presenting today. I'll be presenting  
29 them in order according to this list that you have in your  
30 book. They are Proposals 62, 51, 52, 53, 58, 64, 66, 68 and  
31 72. And the reason that I'm mentioning this is I'd like to  
32 give you some general information as I'm presenting Proposal  
33 62, and it will be relevant to these other proposals. In the  
34 interest of time I will not repeat that information again, but  
35 please keep it in mind as we address those other proposals.

36  
37 These proposals were a series of backlogged proposals  
38 that have been on the books for a while and we're trying to  
39 take care of them this year and finish them up. Likewise,  
40 Proposals 54 and 67 are backlogged proposals that were  
41 introduced to us a number of years ago by AVCP. Those will be  
42 considered together in the analysis with the Akiak and Akiachak  
43 proposals.

44  
45 Proposal 98-62, submitted by Akiak and Akiachak IRA  
46 requests a positive customary and traditional use determination  
47 for caribou in Unit 18 for residents of Akiak and Akiachak.  
48 Proposal 62 wants to add to the existing customary and  
49 traditional use determination for caribou the communities of  
50 Akiak and Akiachak. These communities already have recognized

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1 customary and traditional uses of caribou in the portion of  
2 Unit 18 south of the Yukon River.

3  
4 I want to show you some general use area maps and some  
5 specific caribou use area maps that were drawn up by Ron Thuma  
6 who was a Staff Anthropologist in Fish and Wildlife Service in  
7 1985. He did this in conjunction with development of the  
8 Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuges in 1985. This  
9 is a general use area for Akiachak according to Thuma's map.  
10 This is not specifically caribou, but all resources. That's  
11 for Akiak.

12  
13 This is Thuma's map for Akiachak for all resources. In  
14 addition to this information we have use area maps that were  
15 developed by Mike Coffing here from ADF&G for Kwethluk, a  
16 neighbor, and they have close ties with Akiak and Akiachak and  
17 the other Kuskokwim region communities. I'd like to also show  
18 you the maps for caribou use for Akiak and Akiachak. Keep in  
19 mind this was for 1985. And please keep this in mind for  
20 future proposals. You can see Unit 18.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excuse me. It is possible for you to  
23 go out there and point out exactly where you're talking about  
24 so people can understand where you're at on the map.

25  
26 MS. McCLENAHAN: I think so. Okay. This is Unit 18,  
27 here is Akiak and Akiachak. This is Unit 17(B), 19(B), 19(A).  
28 Okay. And that was for Akiachak. This is for Akiak. Now,  
29 keep in mind this is in 1985 and that, of course, we all know  
30 caribou move around a lot. There is not very much written  
31 information about Akiak and Akiachak and their use of  
32 resources. There is a great deal of information, but it's oral  
33 tradition. And in our research we have been working with  
34 Akiachak and Akiak to try to get some information about their  
35 use.

36  
37 And so this analysis is based on Ron Thuma's work, on  
38 Mike Coffing's work in Kwethluk, which is the neighbor, on my  
39 communications with Akiak and Akiachak during the last year and  
40 a half. And we have good information about Akiak and  
41 Akiachak's use of Unit 17(A) and 17(B). By 1867 the caribou  
42 that lived on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta had disappeared, had  
43 gone and were only left in small pockets around the area.  
44 Between 1900 and the 1930s people from neighboring Kwethluk  
45 went to the mountains east of them in September and October to  
46 hunt caribou and reindeer and bear and squirrels and to fish,  
47 according to Mike Coffing's report.

48  
49 According to the subsistence use area map they also  
50 went as far north as the north shore of the Yukon River in the

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1 north eastern part of Unit 18 to hunt. From the 1920s until  
2 the 1940s, the late 1940s, the Lower Kuskokwim traditional  
3 seasonal round of activities was interrupted for families who  
4 took part in reindeer herding. Herders had to be with the herd  
5 constantly to deter recruitment by the wild caribou and to take  
6 care of predators and to accompany the caribou to food, to good  
7 food for them.

8  
9 Herders were encouraged to kill male caribou and  
10 caribou calves were taken for their skins. These practices  
11 help to further diminish the remaining caribou herd. Some  
12 herders settled on the other side of Togiak and in Levelock and  
13 they never returned to the Kuskokwim area. Lower Kuskokwim  
14 families have relatives in Unit 17. And those communities  
15 would be Clarks Point, New Stuyahok, Aleknagik, Manokotak and  
16 Dillingham. And this is according to Fritz George who told me  
17 about this at one of our meetings.

18  
19 Residents of Akiak and Akiachak appear to be in a  
20 resources exchange network. That includes the Kuskokwim  
21 communities and Togiak at least, and perhaps there are other  
22 communities I don't know about. Throughout Unit 18 caribou and  
23 other large mammals are very important to the subsistence life  
24 way of the Lower Kuskokwim people. According to the ADF&G  
25 records that I was able to get, the written information  
26 indicates that from two to 13 percent of the diet is made up by  
27 large mammals. But an Akiachak informant said that for some  
28 families in Akiachak large mammals make up from 40 to 60  
29 percent or more of their resources for the year.

30  
31 Ron Thuma's maps show that Akiak and Akiachak hunted  
32 moose and bear north of the Yukon River, along the river east  
33 of Saint Mary's in the mid-1980s. His map depicting caribou  
34 subsistence hunting areas for Akiak and Akiachak, those are the  
35 maps I showed you a few minutes ago, in 1985 shows areas in the  
36 southwestern portion of Unit 18, portions in Unit 17 and Unit  
37 19.

38  
39 Coffing's map of Kwethluk, and that is in your book at  
40 the end of this analysis, this 62 analysis, shows limited  
41 general subsistence use by an unknown number of Kwethluk  
42 residents of the northern Yukon River Banks above Russian River  
43 in the vicinity of Pearl Island. His subsistence use area maps  
44 specifically for caribou in the late 1980's does not show that  
45 people went north of the Yukon River. Some residents of the  
46 Lower Kuskokwim River communities apparently have married  
47 residents of Marshall and have relatives there.

48  
49 And so for Proposal 62, this is the preliminary Staff  
50 conclusion. Staff feels that while there is information about

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1 where people went, there's not enough information about how  
2 long this has been going on and how many people go there. And  
3 so the preliminary Staff conclusion is to defer the proposal  
4 until c&t studies are completed for these two communities for  
5 Akiak and Akiachak.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's ADF&G comment to this proposal?  
8 Yeah, Mike.

9

10 MR. COFFING: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we support the  
11 preliminary conclusions. And one of the reasons is we have  
12 been working with the community of Akiachak is and with Pat  
13 McClenahan, Fish and Wildlife Service, and through efforts of  
14 Fritz George and the Council up at Akiachak. What we hope to  
15 do here within the next year or so is to go to Akiachak and do  
16 some work in that community similar to the work that we did in  
17 Kwethluk, talking to elders, talking to hunters, doing some  
18 mapping and documenting subsistence use areas in that  
19 community.

20

21 So I think at time, you know, probably a year from now  
22 or so, we're going to have a lot of good detailed information  
23 that can I think strengthen this proposal more and would add to  
24 the other proposals as well. So I think I'll leave it at that,  
25 unless you have any questions.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David.

28

29 MR. DAVID: Since you've been working with Akiachak,  
30 Akiak or Kwethluk, you must have more information on how the  
31 people up there do their subsistence hunting and fishing, or  
32 for the areas as well.

33

34 MR. COFFING: Is that a question? You're asking me if  
35 we have that?

36

37 MR. DAVID: Do you have more information than them?

38

39 MR. COFFING: Actually, the information we have we  
40 shared with Pat McClenahan and the Staff. So they currently  
41 have in their hands all that we have. We do have quite a bit  
42 of detailed information for Kwethluk because we've done a  
43 community study there. We don't have the same level of detail  
44 for Akiak or Akiachak. But I think through the efforts with  
45 the community and working with Fish and Wildlife Service  
46 through some cooperative efforts altogether, I think we can  
47 gather that kind of information for Akiachak and perhaps Akiak.  
48 So we don't have anything additional now, but we're working  
49 right now to get some additional information.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more from Council?

2  
3 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill.

6  
7 MR. McCANN: When they make proposals, our village --  
8 the villages, they know what they do. I don't think you're  
9 going to get exactly how many people are using, but they know  
10 that everybody use that. That's why they make proposal. I  
11 don't think it's necessary to count how many people are using  
12 that type. Because the proposal is asked because they know  
13 people use that, what they want. That should be clear enough  
14 to me. Because if you see few -- I understand a few people  
15 use, that's not true, I don't think so. Because we make  
16 proposals, what we want for hunting or stuff like that. We  
17 know everybody using that. That's why we make proposals. But  
18 the way I understand you guys are -- you want to know how many  
19 people are using that purpose. I think that's -- I don't go  
20 for that. Proposal is to me everybody using that proposal,  
21 that's why they asking for it. Maybe I'm saying wrong, I don't  
22 know.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Pat.

25  
26 MS. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan. Mr. McCann, actually  
27 one of the Yukon communities wrote a letter questioning our  
28 assertion that Akiak and Akiachak had used that area and they  
29 said they knew nothing of Akiak/Akiachak people using that  
30 area. So we are accountable to you and we are seeking more  
31 information.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I ask you back here if you could  
34 read that letter from Yukon side of the -- yeah.

35  
36 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Dave Fisher with  
37 the Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage. And this letter is  
38 from the Natural Resources Department, Mountain Village,  
39 Alaska. The letter is directed to Mr. Harry Wilde, Chairman,  
40 Region V Advisory Council.

41  
42 Dear Mr. Wilde: In 1998/99 the Federal Subsistence  
43 Regulatory Year Proposals for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, there  
44 is a joint proposal submitted by Akiak and Akiachak, Proposal  
45 number 62. I want to bring to your attention some of the  
46 concerns our neighboring villages in Unit 21(E) and Middle  
47 Yukon have voiced their opinions regarding customary and  
48 traditional land use for subsistence by residents and non-  
49 residents.

50

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1 First of all, subsistence is our priority. We want all  
2 Alaskan Natives to continue to subsistence hunt and to practice  
3 their customary and traditional lifestyles. It is difficult  
4 for me to imagine that Akiak and Akiachak residents come to  
5 hunt caribou in the north side of the Yukon River, hundreds of  
6 miles away from their traditional hunting areas. Perhaps they  
7 can do it now because of easier transportation means, such as  
8 by snow machines, airplanes and by boat in the summer.

9  
10 In recent years the Western Arctic caribou herd have  
11 begun to migrate as far south to Kotlik area and headwaters of  
12 Andreafsky rivers. During the past 50 years we have not seen  
13 or heard of Akiak and Akiachak residents hunting caribou in the  
14 north side of the Lower Yukon River. For this reason you  
15 should reconsider Proposal number 62, or perhaps table it until  
16 customary and traditional subsistence hunting determination can  
17 be established for residents of Akiak and Akiachak in north  
18 side of the Yukon River.

19  
20 I won't read the rest of it. They just go on to kind  
21 of describe the current regulation and then what the proposal  
22 is. With due respect, we want our neighbors in the Yukon-  
23 Kuskokwim Rivers to continue to subsistence hunt and we wish  
24 them well in their efforts to keep and practice their customary  
25 and traditional lifestyles. Sincerely, James Luke, Mountain  
26 Village resident.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz.

29  
30 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) I will speak in  
31 Yup'ik, we have a translator. In 1985 the people that came in  
32 and mark on the map where we used to go hunting. We also  
33 talked about where we used to go hunting and we wanted to  
34 change some of those areas that we was hunting in. I'd like  
35 Mike Coffing to go back over there and to look at the -- and  
36 outline all of those areas where residents of Akiak and  
37 Akiachak do their hunting.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you want to respond?

40  
41 MS. McCLENAHAN: No, I think that that was the idea  
42 about trying to have a formal study, because it's difficult for  
43 us in our position to be able to do in-depth studies, to go out  
44 to the community and stay there and talk to everybody, that's  
45 what's required. In preparing the analyses it's very difficult  
46 to give it that depth of attention that it needs. And I think  
47 that this is a very good idea. We have a little picture of  
48 what was going on in 1985. But, as you all know, the  
49 population of animals changes, the location of the animals  
50 change and people's preferences change over time. And so we

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1 need a modern picture of how people are living now, as well as  
2 the historic picture which I don't pretend that we've even  
3 begun to understand.

4  
5 Akiak and Akiachak members of the communities were so  
6 kind to stop by during the AFN meeting this last year and talk  
7 to me, a whole day they spent with me talking about  
8 subsistence. And the facts that we have here are because of  
9 their efforts, which I'm very grateful for. But we need more  
10 information from elders that we were unable to talk to and  
11 other residents who are hunters and know the areas.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What does the Council recommend to  
14 this proposal?

15  
16 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

19  
20 MR. L. WILDE: We heard the other day some oral history  
21 by one of our elders stating that in the days when we were out  
22 hunting for food, where there was no commercial stores or  
23 anything within the villages, that we had to go where the food  
24 was, we didn't go just in designated areas. We had to go where  
25 the food was and we were told by our elders that when those  
26 people from other areas come within our area, and within our  
27 immediate area, that we should go out and help them obtain the  
28 food that they need to live on. And with that in mind, Mr.  
29 Chairman, I have absolutely no -- I would support this  
30 proposal.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Only thing I'm having a problem with  
33 this proposal, if the State and Staff -- State and Federal  
34 Staff -- it's my understanding that they want to defer it for  
35 more study. Not only that, if this -- I'm just looking at the  
36 north side of Yukon River. I think we, the Council, we're not  
37 supposed to try to start troubles to other areas. And not only  
38 that, they going to be continuously -- if the study is not  
39 complete work done, I know the State will again sit down. And  
40 I don't know if the Board will approve it, even though the  
41 Council recommend approving it. That's a problem I have.

42  
43 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think what I was trying  
44 to say was that the request for a positive customary and  
45 traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 18 north of  
46 the Yukon River for the residents of Akiak and Akiachak be  
47 deferred until sufficient documentation is available. Because  
48 I know what they're trying to do. We went through the same  
49 process. They want to make sure that in the event at some point  
50 in time somebody comes in and says, wait a minute, our resource

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1 is getting down to the level where we're unable to include you,  
2 they want to make sure that they're included in there and you  
3 want to make sure that there is no -- the reason why you want  
4 to get that information is that there is no question later on  
5 where this subject will come back up. And I think it would be  
6 a good idea to get all that documentation. I have absolutely  
7 no opposition to this proposal. But in the light that you put  
8 forth and prior to this meeting, I think your suggestion and  
9 recommendation is something that should be continued forward.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill.

12

13 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Yes, I understand  
14 this proposal. Because they are saying that the Yukon River is  
15 so far away, but in the way that we live, we hunt, we like to  
16 go where all the food is available. And these caribou where we  
17 go hunting go where the food is, us too when we go out to hunt  
18 where the food is available. This proposal we must -- they  
19 don't think of all these other people. And I'm thinking like  
20 Lester Wilde, I would like to support it, but I am not in  
21 opposition to it, if I understand this correctly.

22

23 This opposition said that they never saw those people  
24 going out hunting around there, but as I see it, people would  
25 like to make sure. And the same thing would happen if people  
26 from the Yukon River come and wanted to go hunting for caribou,  
27 then there will be some arguments about it. But if we work  
28 together and let other people from other areas to come to hunt  
29 in our areas, that would be better.

30

31 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) This proposal is  
32 this way. We will try to understand it. This proposal and  
33 they're asking -- requesting all of the Unit 18, the comments  
34 that what the proposal said is that they are not -- they were  
35 never be seen hunters from Akiak and Akiachak. But us workers  
36 from the subsistence division, what we see here are -- because  
37 we don't have enough information the Federal Board will not be  
38 able to accept that proposal. And if there is even one  
39 opposition to the proposal, it's going to be detriment to the  
40 proposal.

41

42 We do have some problem here, but we could go ahead and  
43 make a recommendation and accept that proposal. The  
44 Subsistence Board will have difficulty accepting that proposal.  
45 But if there is more information, then it would be much more  
46 easier for the Board to accept one.

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

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1 MR. L. WILDE: I think the biggest problem that we've  
2 always had is that the areas that we hunt has been divided into  
3 sub-districts, you know. When Akiak and Akiachak are talking  
4 about Unit 18, within our minds right away we think Unit 18 as  
5 a whole, not just that portion of the area of Unit 18 where  
6 they are. That that's one thing that we've all got to  
7 understand. When an area talks about a unit, they don't  
8 necessarily talk about the whole unit as a whole, you know,  
9 just the areas where they customarily and traditionally used.  
10 And that's what is confusing sometimes. I think both sides  
11 needs to understand that.

12  
13 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Paul John) Paul John, Toksook  
14 Bay. We do say that we don't want to change our ways from the  
15 time of our ancestors. We would like to go ahead and like to  
16 look at this and say that some of our people that used to use  
17 that area are no longer here. I want to give an example. We  
18 also see the ones that want to buy fish as the larger  
19 organization. Long time ago our ancestor person that go out  
20 there is good hunter.

21  
22 Looking at the other villages, when we see all these  
23 people that have a lot of good hunting resources we always look  
24 at them as a big business. This proposal, looking at what our  
25 people used to do like in the past, I think that we should go  
26 along with what our ancestors used to say. And I'm kind of  
27 looking at this proposal as being already finished. Many years  
28 ago they used to go hunting places even when they're far away  
29 where there's food sources available. We do not want to lose  
30 anything that our ancestors have practiced and have given to  
31 us. I'm in support of this proposal.

32  
33 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Johnny Thompson). Saint Mary's.  
34 This is just like most proposal. Not too long ago this one  
35 biologist told me when I was speaking with him the things that  
36 you are saying are true, that the moose they collared or radio  
37 collared and a moose went from the Yukon to the Kuskokwim, went  
38 all the way over to the Iditarod River and finally got to  
39 Saint Mary's. We could go ahead and have authority over these  
40 animals and the way the animals are, they're going to be going  
41 anywhere they want to and the Creator can either increase them,  
42 can decrease them if He wants to.

43  
44 We forget that we are always wanting to be boss of  
45 things. And looking at Proposal 62, I don't have any problems  
46 with it because it's going to be used by all people. We can't  
47 go around and try to control all of the animals because they're  
48 not ours. Take a look at the beaver, long time ago there was  
49 hardly anything here, now they're all over the place. And even  
50 today their populations continue to increase. This proposal I

00042

1 would like to go ahead and support it, but because of the way  
2 the management system is I don't want the management system to  
3 go ahead and do away with it or to oppose it.

4  
5 The people that like to go out hunting for subsistence  
6 purposes, I really feel it in my heart and in my mind when  
7 people want to go out to subsistence hunt and fish, that's why  
8 I hardly say anything about it. And how people are trying to  
9 live, and I understand that. Today our hunters go very far  
10 away to go hunting. And from our village they go all the way  
11 over to Kalskag and looking at caribou in that area. And  
12 sometimes they don't say anything about who is opposing them.  
13 And those people in those other villages have treated them with  
14 kindness. And if those people from the Kuskokwim go far north  
15 into the Yukon River, they always treat them kindly.

16  
17 But today there are management systems looking at  
18 paperwork. And that is why some of the reasons we run into  
19 problems. I would like to support this proposal, but the  
20 people that are working for the subsistence management and with  
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game said that we would like  
22 to further examine this and get more data. It would be a lot  
23 better.

24  
25 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) I would like to  
26 know what you would like to do with this proposal. Is there  
27 anybody here that is supporting or making a motion to support  
28 this? I thought that there was one a moment ago. We haven't  
29 made any motion.

30 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) I make a motion to  
31 go ahead and we would like to support this proposal the way it  
32 is written. And if they want to get further information and  
33 data about this, I really do support this proposal. I make a  
34 motion.

35  
36 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) Second it.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a second to  
39 Proposal 62. Discussion?

40  
41 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) He saying that  
42 those villages of Akiak and Akiachak they are not saying any  
43 old way that this is what they used to do, but they were out  
44 trying to get food for subsistence purposes. And when we go  
45 out hunting for subsistence foods we go just about anywhere to  
46 try to get food for our families because we're trying to make  
47 sure that we feed our families.

48  
49 And many years ago, even today, we go out hunting for  
50 subsistence resources no matter how far they are. And those

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1 people from Kwethluk when they go out hunting in the spring  
2 time, they go almost all the way to my village of Kwigillingok.  
3 And we don't think about the boundaries of the unit. The non-  
4 Native people, if we go in accordance with the way the unit  
5 boundaries are, we too can make boundaries, but we don't do  
6 that. Because I spoke about that yesterday. And I said  
7 yesterday that people come here to make money.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My understanding to the motion is  
10 accept this the way it's wroted [sic] on paper right now. So I  
11 still don't quite understand. Bill, you moved that defer this  
12 proposal the way it's written?

13  
14 MR. McCANN: The way it's written.

15  
16 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) He is making a  
17 recommendation and a motion that the way it is written and  
18 deferred until such time that information is further gathered,  
19 but he is in support of the proposal the way it is written. He  
20 is referring to where it says Staff recommendation, defer the  
21 proposal until planned c&t studies are completed in the Village  
22 of Akiak and Akiachak. He's saying that it seems like nobody  
23 seem to understand what his proposal is. He is accepting the  
24 proposal as it is written and to make sure that, you know, the  
25 proposal is deferred until such time that studies are completed  
26 for the Villages of Akiak and Akiachak. He's not opposing it.

27  
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question, Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called. Request for  
31 roll call, George. Secretary George, roll call.

32 INTERPRETER HUNTER: This is a roll call vote for  
33 Proposal number 62. Harry Wilde, yes. Paul John, yes. Fritz  
34 George abstained because he is from the Village of Akiachak.  
35 Paul Manumik not present. Ilarion Nicolai, yes. David O.  
36 David, yes. Billy McCann, yes. James Charles, yes. Johnny  
37 Thompson, yes. Lester Wilde, yes. Steven White not present.  
38 Eight yeses, one abstained, one excused. Motion passed.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Sixty-three.

41  
42 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Billy McCann is  
43 complaining that we haven't got a break yet.

44  
45 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) Proposal number  
46 63 is Unit 18 - moose south of and including Kanektok River  
47 drainages. Kuskokwim River drainages-1 antlered bull. A 10-  
48 day hunt (1 bull, evidence of sex required) will be opened by  
49 announcement sometime between December 1 and February 28.  
50 August 25 to September 25. Remainder of Unit 18-1 antlered

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1 bull. A 10-day hunt (1 bull, evidence of sex required) will be  
2 opened by announcement sometime between December 1 and February  
3 28. The season is September 1 to 30th. And the Staff  
4 recommendation is support. ADF&G support.

5

6 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Proposal number  
7 63 was submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And  
8 this proposal would correctly describe that portion of Game  
9 Management Unit 18 south of and including the Kanektok River  
10 drainages within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge that is  
11 closed to moose hunting.

12

13 Let's put a map of 18 up here and I can show you the  
14 areas that we're talking about. Mr. Chairman and members of  
15 the Council, I'm talking about this area here, the Kanektok  
16 River, the Arolik River and the Goodnews River. Those lie  
17 within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, but they are up in  
18 Game Management Unit 18.

19

20 The way the regulations are written now, the Goodnews  
21 River and the Kanektok River, those lands that are within the  
22 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, those are presently closed to  
23 moose hunting and they've been closed to moose hunting since  
24 1991. At that time the intent was to also include the Arolik  
25 River drainage. Now, there isn't very much land in the Arolik  
26 River that goes up into the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.  
27 It would be Arolik Lake and then a little bit of that river  
28 down. Below that, that is Village Corporation lands. So that  
29 land there would be under ADF&G regulations.

30

31 The reason these areas were closed in 1991 wa to try  
32 and encourage the moose population in those drainages to  
33 increase. There is very few moose in those areas. And at the  
34 time the regulations were put in in 1991, the Arolik River  
35 wasn't included. It was somehow left out. But the intent was  
36 to include it as part of the closed area comparable to the  
37 Kanektok and the Goodnews.

38

39 So what we want to do with this regulation is to kind  
40 of clarify and re-word that closed area to include the Arolik  
41 River drainage, but we're only talking those lands that are  
42 within the refuge, those Federal public lands.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What's the Council recommend? Josh.

45

46 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Joshua Cleveland) Was this  
47 proposal at that time when they close it as a moratorium or  
48 just totally closed?

49

50 MR. FISHER: At the time in 1991 when they closed the

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1 two drainages, it was a closure, yes. There was no moratorium.  
2 And probably when the moose populations build up then we would  
3 reconsider opening those lands to moose hunting. Let me just  
4 add just a little bit here.

5  
6 In Unit 17(A), which is the Togiak drainage, that area  
7 has been closed since 1980 because of the low moose population.  
8 However, the populations in 17(A) are increasing. We went from  
9 just a few moose in the early 80s, the population started to  
10 increase in the late 80s, and it continued to increase in the  
11 90s and just recently we counted about 430 moose in 17(A). We  
12 had a limited season last fall.

13  
14 The populations have increased, so we're considering  
15 some limited season in 17(A). And we're looking at similar  
16 things here for that part of the Kanektok drainage, the Arolik  
17 drainage and the Goodnews River drainage, once those  
18 populations increased then we would consider and you people  
19 would be instrumental in helping us set seasons for moose  
20 hunting. The habitat is there in the Kanektok/Arolik and  
21 Goodnews River drainages. We have good moose habitat just like  
22 we had there in 17(A), but we don't have any moose.

23  
24 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) Joshua  
25 Cleveland, do you have anything to say before this proposal,  
26 because this is not too far from Quinhagak, which is his  
27 village.

28  
29 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Joshua Cleveland) I thank you  
30 very much for recognizing me. I was just going to sit here and  
31 listen to what everybody had to say. And I work with this  
32 proposal and I work with Dave Fisher when he was a Refuge  
33 Manager. And when we were working on these regulations, Mr.  
34 Fisher was working with us too. He has good understanding of  
35 how people work out there.

36 And he's just saying that I think Mr. Fisher has gone  
37 higher up in the echelon and still continues to work with Fish  
38 and Wildlife Service. And I heard that those areas are closed  
39 to moose hunting, the Kanektok River, and because they know  
40 that there are very few moose in those areas. But at the  
41 present time the moose populations are increasing. But before  
42 here seemed to be an increase of moose populations in those  
43 areas, but we really don't know how many there are because  
44 there has not been any census surveys in those areas that are  
45 closed.

46  
47 Even though they say that they are closed, we'll go out  
48 there and get them because we're not going to stop anywhere for  
49 any boundaries when we need food.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What does the Council recommend?

2

3 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, can I add just a little bit  
4 more here?

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

7

8 MR. FISHER: In talking to the refuge people there in  
9 Dillingham, they are going to intensify more survey work in  
10 those areas. And I'd like to thank Joshua for the kind words.  
11 I remember when I was in Dillingham, anytime I went to  
12 Quinhagak, Joshua was one of the first people I would always  
13 try and visit because he was always friendly and he tried to  
14 help me in those early years when I was just getting started.

15

16 And just before I left Dillingham I went to Quinhagak  
17 and the first person I saw was Joshua. I don't remember what  
18 the meeting was, but he said after the meeting you come over to  
19 my house for lunch. So I said, well that would be fine. So we  
20 went over there for lunch and you'd never guess what I had for  
21 lunch. Had a big moose steak. That's all I have, Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So this proposal is close that area.  
25 That's what my understanding, that Togiak National Wildlife  
26 Refuge want to close that area.

27

28 MR. FISHER: Well, yes, Mr. Chairman. The intent back  
29 in 1991 was to add that area. The way the regulations were  
30 worded it doesn't include it. So they're trying to clarify the  
31 regulations.

32

33 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He feels that at  
34 the present time that if we support it, he say to Joshua that  
35 if people go out there and hunt for moose in the closed areas  
36 he's going to be fined. And if they really close this area,  
37 they will be looking around in those areas that are closed, law  
38 enforcement will do that. What do the Council think about this  
39 proposal? How do you want to make your recommendation? It'll  
40 be like setting up trap for the people in the Quinhagak area.

41

42 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill.

45

46 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Because Arolik was  
47 not included in the closure of those river drainages, does that  
48 mean that Arolik is open to hunting? He's wondering what those  
49 people in the Quinhagak area think about the way it is. Do  
50 they have law enforcement patrols in that area? How has it

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1 been in the last few years? What do people in Quinhagak think  
2 about that regulation the way it is? Do they have law  
3 enforcement patrols or do they ignore it?  
4

5 The proposal says that they want to continue to remain  
6 open or closed. It has been like that for quite some time but  
7 even though it's like that, we continue to practice our  
8 subsistence lifestyle. There is not too much law enforcement  
9 in that area. It is not too strict in law enforcement patrol  
10 at this time.  
11

12 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Johnny Thompson) I make a  
13 recommendation that that closed area remain the way it is, not  
14 -- what he is saying, that he's not in support of this  
15 proposal.  
16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you opposed to this?  
18

19 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by David O. David. Motion by  
22 John Thompson, oppose Proposal 63. Discussion.  
23

24 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I have one question. As  
25 it's been handled before, you've noticed an increase in the  
26 population of moose in that area did you say, or was I kind of  
27 dreaming that you would say that?  
28

29 MR. FISHER: Probably in the last -- let me just back  
30 up just a minute. We don't have a lot of data for those areas.  
31 The refuges.....  
32

33 MR. L. WILDE: The data that you do have, does that  
34 indicate that there is some?  
35

36 MR. FISHER: Yes. The population is starting to  
37 increase, but not very rapid. Not as fast as success we've had  
38 in 17(A).  
39

40 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.  
41

42 MR. FISHER: And our thinking is that if we can get a  
43 good population in 17(A) -- now 17(A) had a good habitat, so  
44 does this part of 18, that possibly some of those animals will  
45 move over from 17(A) into the Goodnews drainages and then  
46 Arolik and Kanektok and so on. Did I answer your question?  
47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.  
49

50 MR. FISHER: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion? If there's not,  
2 roll call.

3  
4 INTERPRETER HUNTER: Harry Wilde, yes. David O. David,  
5 yes. Paul Manumik not present. Ilarion Nicolai, yes. Fritz  
6 George, yes. Steven White not present. Billy McCann, yes.  
7 James Charles, yes. Johnny Thompson, yes. Paul John, yes.  
8 Lester Wilde, yes.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 63 is opposed by the Council.  
11 We will have a 10 minute break.

12  
13 (Off record)

14  
15 (On record)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Speaking in Yup'ik).

18  
19 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can we hear the highlights  
20 of each proposal?

21  
22 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, we have this slide show  
23 we can take you through very quickly, if you'd like. At least  
24 you'd know the topic and what our proposal was. And if you want  
25 to know reasons we can give them.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, John, go ahead.

28  
29 MR. THOMPSON: I would like to see it in black and we  
30 could withdraw a certain proposal if we need to modify or  
31 oppose to it.

32  
33 MS. McCLENAHAN: Right. There are quite a few of them  
34 that the Staff recommends modifying. Quite a few. There are  
35 four that we support completely as they are, and then a number  
36 that we would like to see modified.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Staff support, let's look at 51  
39 to 68.

40  
41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Proposal 51 is for black bear c&t.  
42 And the request for Akiak and Akiachak was for all of Unit 17.  
43 You've seen the maps before and we have good information about  
44 Akiak and Akiachak using Unit 17 or portions of Unit 17. The  
45 first information we got was from the 1700s. BIA took oral  
46 histories. And there's a report of a historic battle that took  
47 place up in the mountains between Unit 18 and Unit 17. And the  
48 Lower Kuskokwim communities were there.

49  
50 There's a graveyard up there in that area that has

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1 Kuskokwim community people in it from the 1700s. And I'd also  
2 mention to you that they have relatives in that area. And  
3 people moved over there from Unit 18, Kuskokwim. Here's a  
4 picture of Akiachak -- now this is for moose and bear, brown  
5 and black bear, their use area. And you can see here that  
6 probably the eastern most portion of 17(A) and then part of  
7 17(B) there, here is for Akiak for moose and brown and black  
8 bear. Akiak it only shows 17(B). But, remember this is for  
9 one year. And their general use area is broader than that.

10  
11 Here's Akiak's caribou use area. You see it extends  
12 into 17(A). And we know that people take a wide variety of  
13 resources together and not just go out for moose or go out just  
14 for caribou. And so our preliminary Staff conclusion for this  
15 one is to support the proposal. And since we have good  
16 evidence for their hunting in 17(A) and 17(B), to modify the  
17 proposal to read 17(A) and 17(B) for Akiak and Akiachak.

18  
19 Mr. Chairman, shall I go ahead and do the other support  
20 proposals together? Do you want to.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

23  
24 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay. Proposal 52 is for brown bear,  
25 it's the same situation. Okay. So this is what the proposal  
26 would be, to add residents of Akiak and Akiachak to each of the  
27 areas there that is already in the regulation. Our preliminary  
28 Staff conclusion is to support this proposal, again with  
29 modification for Unit 17(A) and 17(B). We have good evidence  
30 that they were hunting there.

31  
32 Okay. Proposal 53 and 54. Proposal 53, Unit 17, rural  
33 residents of Unit 9(B) and 17, Lime Village and Stony River, we  
34 would be adding the residents of Akiak and Akiachak. We have  
35 included in this one Proposal 54, which was submitted by AVCP  
36 to add the residents, the rural residents of Unit 18 to provide  
37 them a positive c&t for hunting also in Unit 17.

38  
39 After looking at the information, we have good  
40 information that residents of the Lower Kuskokwim River used  
41 Unit 17(A) and 17(B). We would like to support this with the  
42 modification. Proposal 53 we would like to support the  
43 proposal, grant a positive c&t determination to Akiak and  
44 Akiachak for Unit 17(A) and 17(B). And then for Proposal 54,  
45 which would request for all Unit 18 communities to support the  
46 proposal with modification and to grant a positive c&t  
47 determination for the communities of Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay,  
48 Platinum for Unit 17(A) and (B). So it would be Akiak,  
49 Akiachak, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum. Yes?

50

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1 MR. McCANN: Now, you mentioned just a few villages on  
2 those 17(A) and 17(B).

3  
4 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes.

5  
6 MR. McCANN: But you said that those villages can hunt  
7 there, but sometimes there is moose hunters from way down coast  
8 going up river and caribou hunting also during the winter.  
9 That should be (indiscernible) those villages are able to hunt  
10 that area. It should be included all of 54 villages.

11  
12 MS. McCLENAHAN: The reason that -- and I haven't given  
13 you my whole analysis, but it's based on the fact that we have  
14 written information about those communities already and we have  
15 maps for those communities, but I don't have for the other  
16 ones. What I would suggest is, if you provide this now, then  
17 other communities can propose next time and information can be  
18 gathered and presented before this Council another time.

19  
20 That's one way of dealing with it. You could also  
21 defer that proposal and ask for more information for those  
22 other communities. And we can take from the Council what  
23 communities go out there and should be included so they won't  
24 be cut out of the proposal. It's up to you.

25  
26 MR. McCANN: What happens now? You said something  
27 about next time it will with the proposal be included, but now,  
28 right now what happens if it's not included?

29  
30 MS. McCLENAHAN: We are granting a positive c&t for  
31 these communities. Those other communities will not be listed  
32 at this time. We can either make a new proposal, we can say,  
33 wait a minute, we think you're leaving out these other  
34 communities and we can look into it. You can recommend to add,  
35 you can recommend to modify this proposal and say I want this  
36 community included and give information about why and later I  
37 can call you and find out about it, or whichever community.  
38 And so, you know, it's within your power to modify this.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Let me hold you for Carl  
41 Morgan. You want to.....

42  
43 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I would like to give you a proposal  
44 -- what the Western Interior's action was taken on Proposal  
45 number 53 and 54. We deferred it to the Bristol Bay Regional  
46 Council, providing Lime Village and Stony River mainly their  
47 current determination. Because Lime Village and Stony River  
48 have close ties with Nondalton and the lake and they go as far  
49 south as Togiak -- I mean, excuse me, not Togiak, Tyonek.  
50 Those people speak the same language and they got the same real

00051

1 close ties. Fifty-four, we've got the same determination as  
2 53, providing Lime Village and Stony River are included. We  
3 leave it to Bristol Bay because we've got only two villages  
4 that are involved. And with their determination, knowing that  
5 if they do reject it, then we know that the Federal Subsistence  
6 Board would probably. So we're deferring it to Bristol Bay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You may continue. Go ahead.

9

10 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay. Do you want me to go on to  
11 another proposal then? The next one is Proposal 55, which Dave  
12 has.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave.

15

16 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Proposal number 55 was  
17 submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And what it  
18 does, it redescribes and simplifies Sub-Unit 17(A) caribou  
19 hunting areas. And the reason it's brought before you today is  
20 there's one village in Unit 18 that has customary and  
21 traditional use of caribou in Unit 17(A) and 17(B). So that's  
22 why it's before you people today.

23

24 And basically what this proposal would do, it would  
25 reduce 17(A) caribou hunting areas from three areas to two  
26 areas. The two areas would be at Nushagak Peninsula area and  
27 then it would be the remainder of 17(A). And the Nushagak  
28 Peninsula area is for that newly established caribou herd. And  
29 that's for residents only of 17(A), to specially hunt those  
30 caribou on that Nushagak Peninsula. So it's going to  
31 redescribe caribou hunting areas in 17(A), reduce it from three  
32 areas to two areas and hopefully clarify it for subsistence  
33 users. Make it a little bit easier to understand. And it will  
34 somewhat align with current State regulations.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David.

37

38 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, which peninsulas are you  
39 referring to because there is one on the east side and one on  
40 the west side?

41

42 MR. FISHER: The west side of Dillingham. The Nushagak  
43 Peninsula or Cape Constantine. That's basically 55 and the  
44 recommendation of the Staff is to support that proposal.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think before we do some action here,  
47 I think we should give public opportunity to comment. Some of  
48 these if these, you know, we just can't make decision all by  
49 ourself on. I think there's some public here that would like  
50 to be involved or like to have a comment certain proposals. So

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1 if you could -- right now I think we're going to open the floor  
2 for the public to make a comment, any one of these proposals  
3 that we're talking about. So far that we are pass only two, or  
4 worked on two. Rest of them here is there are a lot of  
5 proposal to go yet. I think it is fair if we give them  
6 opportunity to -- if anyone here that concern about certain  
7 proposal, what we're working on this morning.

8  
9 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) And if anybody  
10 want to speak about any of those proposals can go up there and  
11 speak about that proposal. We would like to hear what you have  
12 to say. And if you are prepared to speak on any of these  
13 proposal you can come up there and go and present your ideas  
14 about that proposal. You've got to say who you are, your name,  
15 and where you are from.

16  
17 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Teddy Kugstun) Mr. Chairman, my  
18 name is Teddy, I come from Kipnuk. And while you are working  
19 on these proposals, we would like to be -- sometimes we have  
20 sometimes continued to talk about something for a long time.  
21 And I'm talking about these things that -- because we too do a  
22 lot of subsistence hunting and fishing and while you're working  
23 on the proposal and I'd like to (indiscernible) these people  
24 that makes the decisions.

25  
26 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) Who else wants  
27 to say anything about this proposals? Is there anybody else  
28 that want to say anything about the proposals?

29  
30 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Moses Strauss) This is Moses  
31 Strauss from Kongiganak. I did speak about these proposals, to  
32 take the bulk of the proposals that are recommended to pass and  
33 work on them that way. And then take a look at those that need  
34 to be refined and work on them. If they really need to be  
35 worked on, to work on them. And to support those that are  
36 recommended for supporting or to pass. That's all I have to  
37 say on these proposals.

38  
39 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) These Staff have  
40 already given us and work on those proposals that are  
41 recommended for pass. And to work on those that need to be  
42 supported or refine those proposals that need to be worked on,  
43 or others that are -- to go ahead and support those that meet  
44 proposal or support. And if there are any proposals that have  
45 -- that are not (indiscernible), not to go ahead and support  
46 them. This is what the Staff of Subsistence had said. And  
47 because I am curious as to what these proposals -- the ones  
48 that are not recommended to pass, I would look at the numbers.  
49 I also want people and the Council to know which they are  
50 before we make any recommendations or motions on them. Is

00053

1 there anybody else that want to say anything? Dave, go ahead.

2

3 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There are several  
4 proposals that we oppose.

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, before Dave goes ahead,  
7 just in your packet, Proposal 55, 17-caribou movement and area  
8 of restriction, could you cover that a little bit, or did you  
9 cover that already? Okay. All right.

10

11 MS. McCLENAHAN: Here is our list of proposals.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: And just for my mind, could you tell me  
14 what the area of restriction was? I don't remember you saying  
15 any.

16

17 MR. FISHER: Yes. Basically we're talking about 17(A),  
18 caribou. And the reason this proposal is brought before you  
19 people is there is one village in Unit 18 that has customary  
20 and traditional use in 17(A), and that's the Village of  
21 Kwethluk. And what the proposal is going to do, it's going to  
22 reduce the caribou hunting areas in 17(A) from three down to  
23 two. It's going to try and simplify the regulations and more  
24 align those with current State regulation to make it easier for  
25 subsistence users to understand regulations. So it's reducing  
26 caribou hunting areas in 17(A) from three areas down to two  
27 areas. And those two areas are basically the Nushagak  
28 Peninsula, that would be one area, and then the remainder of  
29 17(A) would be the second area.

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: And the main reason is to get in line  
32 with State reg?

33

34 MR. FISHER: That's one of the reasons. And then  
35 simplify the Federal regulations to more or less coincide with  
36 State regulations, make it easier for subsistence users to read  
37 those regulations and make sure they're in the right area and  
38 so on.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave, in 17 and 19 and 21, how do the  
41 people feel about 17(A)? They know that if we support them  
42 they're willing to accept them or what?

43

44 MR. FISHER: What proposal are you.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'm talking about what the Staff  
47 support, 58 and 59 and 60 and.....

48

49 MS. McCLENAHAN: Well, those are the c&t proposals. We  
50 met together with three Councils. Three Councils met together

00054

1 and I did not -- I got the sense that they recognized that the  
2 Lower Kuskokwim communities have used Unit 17(A) and 17(B), but  
3 I don't think that there was any commitment, was there, Fritz,  
4 am I reading this right? I don't think there was any  
5 commitment. They did not say they would either support or  
6 decline to support those proposals.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz.

9  
10 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, when that meeting with the  
11 three Councils, there was a recommendation by one of the  
12 Council members that our histories have been told orally so  
13 far. And they recommended that the villages do a study, a  
14 subsistence hunting and fishing study. Then after that they  
15 would make a consideration after the study has been made.

16  
17 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Harry Wilde) At the present time  
18 our Staff, all those that are supported by the Staff, Proposal  
19 58, 59 and 60 including customary and traditional.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you want Council to take the whole  
22 one block of those, include RFR?

23  
24 MS. McCLENAHAN: You can if you want to, or if you want  
25 to hear the details about the requests for reconsideration we  
26 can do that separately.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it would be better if we take  
29 that separate because maybe we could learn something from RFR  
30 proposals later on. Only these three proposal now, that 58 and  
31 59-60, that.....

32  
33 MS. McCLENAHAN: Seventy-five. How about 75?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Include 75?

36  
37 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-huh (affirmative). It's a support.

38  
39 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) The Staff's  
40 recommendation is to support and pass these proposals. What do  
41 you want to do? How do you want to move on this? What action  
42 do you want to take? You want to take them as a block, the  
43 ones that the Staff is supporting, or how do you want to take  
44 them?

45  
46 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, on 59 this is open a  
47 season on moose. Could you cover a little bit on that, please?

48  
49 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Proposal 59 was  
50 submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And what

00055

1 Proposal 59 would do -- when we were talking about number 63, I  
2 talked about the moose in 17(A), there was a special action  
3 submitted last fall to allow for a fall hunting season in  
4 17(A), a 10 day season. That was carried off. I believe there  
5 were 45 permits issued and I think there was actually 15 moose  
6 harvested. And that was the first time that they had a hunting  
7 season in 17(A) since about 1980. When I talk about the  
8 population increasing enough to the point where we could allow  
9 a season.

10  
11 Well, this proposal would change that special action  
12 and set up a permanent fall season. And the seasons and the  
13 number of animals to be harvested would be determined at the  
14 time the season is opened. The refuge people there in  
15 Dillingham would get together with the Fish and Game Biologist  
16 there in Dillingham and they would say, well, it looks like we  
17 can have a 10 day season or a 15 day season and allow x-number  
18 of animals to be taken. That's what Proposal 59 would do. And  
19 I believe the Staff supported that proposal.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more comment on 58, 59, 60 and 75?  
22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we support the  
24 recommendation of Staff on 58, 59, 60 and 75.  
25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to  
27 support.  
28

29 MR. CHARLES: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.  
30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by James. Discussion?  
32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman?  
34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor.  
36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: I want to be sure that we don't leave  
38 some important players out of this discussion. We normally  
39 have an opportunity for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
40 to offer their comments. And particularly when we go to the  
41 motions and start to make motions about a whole block of  
42 proposals. I'd like to be sure that we've offered the  
43 opportunity for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to  
44 contribute their views on this.  
45

46 Mike Coffing had a doctor's appointment and was going  
47 to be back shortly. We can read into the record and provide  
48 for the Council members the written comments that ADF&G has  
49 sent in, but I think we ought to try and keep a little bit of  
50 room for ADF&G in this deliberation.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So what you would be recommend?

2

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, if there are three proposals  
4 under the current motion I could read to you the written  
5 comments from ADF&G for those three proposals in Mike Coffing's  
6 absence.

7

8 MR. L. WILDE: I took it for granted that you and  
9 Department of Fish and Game worked together on these. That's  
10 the reason why I.....

11

12 MR. BRELSFORD: Your point is well taken, Lester.  
13 There's certainly coordination and joint review of the  
14 proposals. In many cases the Federal system and the State  
15 system look at them exactly the same way, but sometimes there  
16 are differences of opinion and we need to provide the Council  
17 with the full information in that circumstance. So the  
18 proposals included in the current motion again were 58.....

19

20 MR. L. WILDE: Well, since we have to live with Fish  
21 and Game, Mr. Chairman, I think it might be a good idea to go  
22 with the suggestion of Taylor there and listen to Mike's  
23 comments.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. If Mike's back and able to catch  
26 his breath, Mike, the Council is moving in something of a  
27 consent agenda, a block of proposals where there is an overall  
28 recommendation to support them. And I had asked that we  
29 provide some opportunity for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
30 Game to offer views. So the four proposals currently under a  
31 motion are 58, 59, 60 and 75. If you would be able on sort of  
32 short notice to provide the Department's written comments or  
33 any additional comments, this would be the right time to do  
34 that.

35

36 MR. COFFING: What's the numbers for that?

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: Fifty-eight, 59, 60 and 75. There is a  
39 motion to support those proposals, consistent with the Staff  
40 recommendation. That motion is by Lester Wilde at this point.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike.

43

44 MR. COFFING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would,  
45 give me just a second to organize my material here.

46

47 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, can I say a word?

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave.

50

00057

1 MR. FISHER: I think we want to possibly include number  
2 55 in there too.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fifty-five?

5  
6 MR. FISHER: That was the 17(A) caribou, to reducing  
7 the three areas to two areas.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Include 55.

10  
11 MR. L. WILDE: My motion only states 58, 59, 60 and 75.

12  
13 MR. FISHER: I'm wondering if you wanted to include 55  
14 in there, or talk about it a little later?

15  
16 MR. L. WILDE: I won't be hard-nose and include it Mr.  
17 Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Right now that Proposal 55, 58,  
20 59, 60, 75.

21  
22 MR. L. WILDE: If it's all right with my second.

23  
24 MR. CHARLES: It's okay.

25  
26 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, I think I'm ready to offer  
27 you some comments now.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Dave.

30  
31 MR. COFFING: Okay. My comments are going to be on  
32 Proposals 58, 55, 59, 60 and 75. The State supports Proposal  
33 55. So we have no problem with that. We think that that  
34 proposal would essentially be the same thing as the emergency  
35 opening regulation that the Board of Game delegated to the Fish  
36 and Game Department last spring and would also provide some  
37 flexibility there to allow some opportunity for harvesting  
38 caribou and protect some of the smaller resident Kobuk caribou  
39 herd. So we support that one.

40  
41 Fifty-nine and 60 and 75, we also support those. We  
42 think the Proposal 60, it would again align the Federal seasons  
43 in Unit 17 with the changes that the State made last spring.  
44 So I think consistency between State regs and Federal regs is  
45 something we're striving for and this proposal would do that.  
46 So we would support that. The same thing with Proposal 59. It  
47 would also provide for the same State and Federal seasons. So  
48 we think having the same seasons on both State and Federal  
49 would eliminate some of the confusion that hunters have out  
50 there. And we would support that. Seventy-five again for the

00058

1 same reason, it would align the State and Federal seasons, so  
2 we would support that one.

3  
4 Proposal 58 is one that would find customary and  
5 traditional use determination positive for Akiak and Akiachak  
6 for Unit 17(B), I believe. As I'm looking over the material, I  
7 think it's obvious to me at least that the map information that  
8 Fish and Wildlife has gathered here shows that certainly  
9 Akiachak and Akiak use Unit 17(B) for moose hunting. I don't  
10 think we would have a problem with that at all.

11  
12 I guess just one general comment here. I recall back  
13 at the Board of Game meeting, it must have been back about '89  
14 or '88 to 1989, along in there when the State Board of Game  
15 found a positive determination for Kwethluk. That  
16 determination still stands. That determination was for though  
17 only a portion of 17(B), instead of all of it. So I certainly  
18 would not oppose a positive finding for Akiachak and Akiak. I  
19 think that down the road what we might want to look at is  
20 having the areas consistent. That is, rather than having  
21 communities that have c&t of all of 17(B), that perhaps having  
22 villages have c&t use of the same general areas would be maybe  
23 more along the lines of really what is reality.

24  
25 It doesn't look like the map information supports  
26 Akiachak or Akiak's use of all of 17(B) as I look at the map  
27 here. The northwest corner of 17(B) is used, but there's a  
28 much larger part of 17(B) that is not used. So in general  
29 although I'm non-opposed to a positive finding, I think the  
30 information support that. I think the information also  
31 suggests perhaps only a portion of 17(B) and perhaps not all of  
32 it. But I think I'll stop there and just say that perhaps when  
33 we get to the -- you know, after we've heard with the Bristol  
34 Bay Regional Council suggests, the State may want to suggest  
35 amending part of this to have a finding for only part of 17(B).  
36 That's my comment. That's not the rest of Fish and Game's  
37 comment. I think I'll stop there, Mr. Chairman. Take any  
38 questions you might have.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So you give me your plain English 58,  
41 how you look at it? It's okay or on the other hand may be I'd  
42 like to get.....

43  
44 MR. COFFING: Okay. I'll try that, more plain English  
45 then.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

48  
49 MR. COFFING: Let's see. I guess it's not going to be  
50 a total yes or no. What I'm suggesting is, yes, they use

00059

1 17(B), the information shows that. There's much of 17(B)  
2 that's not used for moose. So I think what I'd suggest here is  
3 perhaps supporting the proposal. I think the data shows that,  
4 with realization there may need to be some fine tuning of what  
5 area of 17(B) they're given c&t use on. And that's something  
6 we can do down the road, we don't have to do it all today.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I understand now that you could fine  
9 tune it later on. That's what you prefer or otherwise it's  
10 okay for us to accept it the way it is.

11  
12 MR. COFFING: I think the Council may do whatever it  
13 wishes. If it wants to fine tune it now it can, if it wants to  
14 wait and do that later on, they can do it later on.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions or discussion from  
17 Council on this three, four, five proposals?

18  
19 MR. L. WILDE: Question, Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. Roll  
22 call.

23  
24 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

27  
28 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

29  
30 MR. DAVID: Yes.

31  
32 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Ilarion Nicolai?

33  
34 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

35  
36 MR. GEORGE: Steven White?

37  
38 MR. L. WILDE: Excused.

39  
40 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

41  
42 MR. McCANN: Yes.

43  
44 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

45  
46 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

47  
48 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

49  
50 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

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1 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

2

3 MR. JOHN: Yes.

4

5 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

8

9 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) Mr. Chairman, the  
10 motion has nine yeases.

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All those six proposals -- five  
12 proposals in the block, Council support them. Now that we're  
13 going to the next proposal, Dave, RFR 97 to 12 -- 97-12.

14

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, that's mine.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Pat.

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Chevak Village  
20 Council phoned a few minutes ago and asked if we could call him  
21 back and discuss them to the discussion for this RFR. With  
22 your permission we will put that on the.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh (affirmative). Go ahead. We  
25 will be glad to hear from them.

26

27 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) This proposal is  
28 to provide customary and traditional use determination for  
29 caribou hunting in Unit 22(A).

30

31 MR. BRELSFORD: Good morning. This is the Yukon Delta  
32 Subsistence Regional Council meeting in Bethel, and you all had  
33 asked that we call when RFR 97-12 was going to be under  
34 discussion. So we're at that.....

35

36 MR. SLATS: We would like to make a verbal submission  
37 to this Board.

38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. I think perhaps you're getting  
40 radio feedback. Maybe you're going to have to turn down the  
41 radio at your site.

42

43 MR. SLATS: We just did that.

44

45 MR. BRELSFORD: Great. If you'd like, the Staff  
46 Anthropologist, Pat McClenahan, was just going to offer a brief  
47 presentation to introduce this topic, and then I believe the  
48 Chairman would invite comments, including for the Chevak IRA  
49 Council. So I think what might be smoothest here is if we go  
50 ahead with the presentations and then have the comments in a

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1 few minutes time. Is that okay?

2

3 MR. SLATS: We will hang on for this.

4

5 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Thank you. I think we're ready,  
6 Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pat, go ahead.

9

10 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat  
11 McClenahan, the Staff Anthropologist for Fish and Wildlife  
12 Service and I'd like to speak to the Request for  
13 Reconsideration, RFR 97-12. That was submitted by the State of  
14 Alaska. This Request for Reconsideration was submitted by the  
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It would set aside the May  
16 1997 Federal Subsistence Board action to grant a positive  
17 customary and traditional use determination to the residents of  
18 Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak for Unit 22(A) caribou. And  
19 it would keep the 1996-1997 Federal determination for Unit  
20 22(A) caribou.

21

22 Proposal 97-54 expanded the customary and traditional  
23 use determination for Unit 22(A) caribou to include these three  
24 communities that are located in Unit 18. The ADF&G was very  
25 interested in having more information on our eight factors that  
26 we look at. They were concerned because we had not, they felt,  
27 submitted enough information on factors one and factors four.  
28 And that's what I'd like to do today. I would like to provide  
29 you with the information that we have gathered over this last  
30 year and present it to you.

31

32 The ADF&G requested that the Federal Subsistence Board  
33 evaluate the available for these two factors for customary and  
34 traditional use determination. The factors address the long  
35 term consistent pattern of use of caribou in Unit 22(A) by the  
36 communities and the consistent harvest and use near or  
37 reasonably accessible from the community or area. At the time  
38 the proposal was adopted, the State felt that the information  
39 available did not provide a strong enough basis for the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board to decide favorably.

41

42 With regard to factor one, a long term consistent  
43 pattern of use, excluding interruptions beyond the control of  
44 the community or area. The State Office of History and  
45 Archaeology files reveal documentation by Bureau of Indian  
46 Affairs Staff filed after the 14(h)(1) surveys and by Robert  
47 Ackerman, that bones of caribou or reindeer and antlers were  
48 observed in prehistoric and historic archaeological sites  
49 throughout the area documented as being used historically and  
50 in modern times by Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, and Chevak

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1 residents. And these residents, some of the elders, remembered  
2 the sites and the activities that were carried out there when  
3 they had been interviewed.

4  
5 Reindeer or caribou bones were located in  
6 archaeological contexts at Qaviniq, a Bow and Arrow War site  
7 near Old Chevak. After the community was destroyed by the  
8 Yukoners, the survivors fled to Kashunuk, inhabited until the  
9 1930s. Kashunuk residents established Old Chevak in the 1930s  
10 and Chevak in the 1940s.

11  
12 Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay have long histories. The  
13 historic village of Chevak was moved due to flooding sometime  
14 after 1948. The new Chevak Post Office was established in  
15 1951. And so that would make any cultural midden there,  
16 archaeological sites would be less than 50 years old at Chevak  
17 proper.

18  
19 I'd just like to say that under normal environmental  
20 conditions on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta there is no need to go  
21 very far away from home to get resources. But the region  
22 experience is very sharp, seasonal and yearly changes,  
23 variations in resource availability and due to population  
24 fluctuations upscale and down-scale of animal populations,  
25 changing herd, migratory patterns, movements of animals,  
26 weather conditions and available modes of transportation. For  
27 example, you may have a snow machine but you may not have  
28 gotten any money from fish that year to get gas. So that may  
29 be a factor to consider.

30  
31 For these reasons it's been in the past a necessity for  
32 members of these communities to travel between the territories  
33 usually used by other village groups and it remains so today.  
34 And several members of the Council have remarked on this very  
35 thing during the last couple of days.

36  
37 Ethnographic sources recorded the distant travels of  
38 and interaction between the residents of Hooper Bay, Scammon  
39 Bay and Chevak, and the Norton Sound Communities, today  
40 referred to as Unit 22(A). Historically, the residents of  
41 Hooper Bay are documented to have gone as far away as Paimiut  
42 Slough (near the border of Unit 18 and Unit 21(E) for  
43 subsistence resources. Edmonds in his historic reports refers  
44 to the travels of people from the community of Hooper Bay or  
45 near the area of Hooper Bay to have gone up to the St.  
46 Michael's region in 1866.

47  
48 Scammon Bay people and residents of the Unit 22(A)  
49 coastal communities come together yearly in summer salmon  
50 fishing camps at the Black River. And so they know one

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1 another. Black River is just south of the Yukon River. We all  
2 know that the caribou disappeared from the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
3 Delta for the greater part in the mid-1800s, and mostly have  
4 been gone for a hundred years. And so the opportunity to hunt  
5 caribou was limited to small pockets of animals that were  
6 remnants herds in the mountains surrounding the Delta. One of  
7 these areas was the Andraefsky Mountains and the caribou mixed  
8 apparently with local reindeer herds and there were feral  
9 reindeer and caribou in the mountains.

10  
11 That herd apparently was not much hunted, except in  
12 times of famine according to elders reports. Five or six years  
13 ago the Western Arctic caribou herd overran the area of the  
14 Andraefsky herd and in the last couple of years I guess the  
15 Andraefsky herd can't be found. Maybe it's been captured by  
16 that larger herd.

17 Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay have a positive  
18 customary and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit  
19 18 south of the Yukon River, which indicates that at the time  
20 the determination was made, information was made available that  
21 these communities used caribou and traditionally used them.

22  
23 Let me show you the map that Chevak, Hooper Bay and  
24 Scammon Bay drew for us. This is a use area map that residents  
25 drew up for us when we visited them a few months ago. John  
26 Andrew and I made a special trip to Hooper Bay to talk to the  
27 residents and to gather information for this response. I think  
28 that to sum up would be best now and then if you have specific  
29 questions you can ask them.

30  
31 The State's RFR suggests that inadequate information  
32 existed in the initial Staff analysis to fulfill the eight  
33 factors. Additionally, it said that there was negative  
34 evidence because there had been subsistence use studies on some  
35 of the communities there and they did not list caribou, nobody  
36 said that they had been using caribou.

37  
38 The 1997 Staff analysis presented some evidence that  
39 the three communities used caribou historically. We had  
40 testimony to that fact. And members of the community were  
41 present historically in Unit 22(A). At that time it also  
42 presented information from Native informants. Testimony in  
43 support of the proposal was given by several people in 1997 at  
44 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. New information in the  
45 form of additional published ethnographic information,  
46 unpublished information from anthropologists from universities  
47 doing field work in the region, public testimony at the fall  
48 1997 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting, information  
49 specific to each of the eight factors from 14 informants given  
50 to Staff anthropologists and to the Region V coordinator at the

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1 public meeting that was held in Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay in  
2 1998, and written comments and telephone calls received from  
3 the communities of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak, also in  
4 Stebbins, provided a sufficient amount of information to  
5 satisfactorily inform on all eight factors, including a  
6 subsistence use area map for Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak  
7 residents subsistence use of caribou in 22(A). That's this  
8 map.

9  
10 The evidence suggests that caribou were plentiful in  
11 the Unit 18 region until sometime in the mid-1800s when they  
12 essentially disappeared from the region, except for small  
13 pockets of animals that included feral reindeer and caribou in  
14 out-of-the way locations, such as the Andraefsky Mountains.  
15 The herd no doubt have fluctuated in numbers and were relied on  
16 only in times of great need when their numbers were small. The  
17 traditionally mobile residents of these communities no doubt  
18 weighed the energy costs of pursuing no longer readily  
19 available animals at greater distances when the herd numbers  
20 were down. At word of caribou herds flourishing and moving  
21 back into the region, or on the fringes of the region, hunters  
22 again may have ventured out in from these communities to hunt  
23 them with greater promise of success.

24  
25 A use that was disrupted by the movement of the caribou  
26 away from the Unit 18 communities was reestablished both  
27 through trade and through hunting activities as the caribou  
28 numbers increased and the animals traveled farther south each  
29 year. Taken all together, the available information strongly  
30 supports a positive customary and traditional use determination  
31 for caribou in Unit 22(A) for the three communities. That's  
32 all I have, Mr. Chairman. I'd also like to give Mike Coffing  
33 an opportunity to comment on this. You may be interested in  
34 his comments at this time.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, you're in the hot seat.

37  
38 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mike Coffing,  
39 Fish and Game Subsistence, Bethel. Actually I think what I  
40 want to say at least say initially here is that I think this is  
41 where we want to end up with information. When the Board made  
42 an earlier determination the State's concern was that we wanted  
43 determinations about who has customary and traditional use of  
44 resources. To be made with the best and thorough information.  
45 And we did feel that there wasn't all of the information that  
46 we needed initially. That was a year ago.

47  
48 I think the result of that, of our concern, was that  
49 we've heard that John Andrew and elders in the villages out  
50 there and Pat McClenahan have worked together to pull

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1 information here that existed, it just needed to be compiled so  
2 that it could be shown what was going on, including the map  
3 that we had up here. Initially we had no map information. We  
4 did have map information for other villages on the Lower Yukon.  
5 And a couple of years before that the Federal Subsistence made  
6 a positive determination based on that information. We now  
7 have some information for these villages. I'm glad to see  
8 that. And I think that's where we want to end up, is having  
9 information that could substantiate and support the decision  
10 that you're making and the recommendations that you're taking  
11 forward to the Federal Subsistence Board. And so I'm glad to  
12 see that's happened and that's what we wanted to occur.  
13 Outside of that I don't have any additional comments.

14  
15 I think that perhaps what's happened is that, you know,  
16 we've always contended the people in those communities used  
17 caribou, we never said they didn't. We always -- we knew they  
18 did. The question was where. And now we have information  
19 showing that people go up there. We have some map information  
20 showing that. We have more thorough information from many  
21 people that testified at Hooper Bay last fall, came forth and  
22 worked with John and Pat on this. So I'm real happy to see  
23 that. I think I'll end right there, unless you have any  
24 questions.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So are you supporting it or are you  
27 opposing it or.....

28  
29 MR. COFFING: I'm certainly not opposing it. I guess  
30 I'm in a position now where I'm not going to -- I mean I'm not  
31 in a position to give the State's comments because we need  
32 other people to look at it. And I certainly not going to  
33 suggest we oppose it. I think the information has been  
34 gathered. I think what this shows is that, you know, harvest  
35 patterns change over time when you have caribou and when you  
36 don't have caribou, as a good example. Sometimes caribou are  
37 around and sometimes they leave. And when they leave, they're  
38 not there to use.

39  
40 I think we've seen specifically with the Western Arctic  
41 herd is that populations came up over time and they've come for  
42 the south. It's obvious that people are going there and  
43 harvesting them, using them for food and they are important to  
44 them. So I don't disagree with that at all. I'm certainly not  
45 going to recommend that we oppose this proposal. I think  
46 Council, Council members, the people in the villages and the  
47 Staff have done the best job they can at pulling together  
48 information. And I think without doubt people are using  
49 caribou up there. So I'll end with that.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mike, I'm originally from Hooper  
2 Bay. My grandfather and my grandma, they're originally from  
3 Hooper Bay by they live in Saint Michael and Stebbins. I am 67  
4 years old today. When I was 13 years old I moved to Saint  
5 Michael. My brother over there, that last one is five years  
6 old. After our parents died, after we had the hardship that  
7 winter, me I tried to take care of my sister and brother. I  
8 was only 13. That summer when my grandma came we move up  
9 there. So I always say that we have grandfather's right to go  
10 hunt in that area. We still have still relatives up there.

11  
12 So my background it's really lovely to think of. When  
13 you need something to eat, when your stomach empty, start  
14 feeding your own family out of their clothes it's pretty hard.  
15 That's why I never try to talk about the subsistence today. And  
16 I'm glad that today it's always been open for someone who could  
17 fill his stomach anywhere, anyplace. And I have been thinking  
18 about this proposal for quite a while and I have been  
19 supporting it, even though there was a problem before. I'm  
20 glad that the State had more understanding now more about this  
21 certain proposal and I appreciate your comment.

22  
23 MR. COFFING: Thank you. And I appreciate the  
24 opportunity.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Federal people, I  
27 would like to hear from you now what this -- is the Federal  
28 Staff opposing it or supporting it or what?

29  
30 MS. McCLENAHAN: Let me get the exact wording here for  
31 RFR.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's on page 255.

34  
35 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's on page 253 is what I want to  
36 look at. Page 253 says Staff recommendation is oppose the  
37 Request for Reconsideration. We are not opposing the original  
38 proposal, we are opposing the Request for Reconsideration that  
39 the State submitted.

40  
41 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

44  
45 MR. DAVID: Is the State the one that want to  
46 reconsider this?

47  
48 MR. McCLENAHAN: Yes. They had asked that.....

49  
50 MR. DAVID: I don't believe this should -- remember

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1 yesterday, last night when I testified, newly formed State  
2 organization, the government. And we the people have been here  
3 for years and years and years. To me as Alaska Natives the  
4 State can't tell us how to live our life. If we support this,  
5 that's how it should be. Thank you.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Andrew?

8  
9 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) John Andrew says  
10 this RFR that State has proposed the proposal that Scammon,  
11 Hooper and Chevak make to remove that, but our Staff said this  
12 proposal only this R -- they're in opposition to RFR. Will  
13 oppose the RFR, our Staff recommendation.

14  
15 MS. McCLENAHAN: We support the original proposal.

16  
17 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) They support the  
18 original proposal for this. It's more difficult to understand  
19 but they now understand that the original proposal is going to  
20 remain the way it is, but oppose to the RFR.

21  
22 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) If the people in  
23 Chevak is listening at the present time, the State was in  
24 opposition but they have revised their opposition and the  
25 Federal Staff of this RFR but they have not supported the RFR  
26 but they are supporting the original proposal. But at this  
27 time we want to hear what you like to say, go along with the  
28 Federal Proposal, remove the RFR proposal and support the  
29 original proposal. Is this what you want to do?

30  
31 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Richard Slats, Chevak Council-via  
32 telephone) We want to thank you very much the support of the  
33 Regional Council, the Chevak Traditional Council and the Tribal  
34 Court. I'm Richard Slats and we have expert witnesses, his  
35 name is George Paniak (ph), Sr., and those people that have  
36 worked on this proposal and the Administrator of the  
37 Traditional Council. The Traditional Council met and spoke  
38 about the proposal and the customary and traditional use of  
39 caribou. And people that used to live in Kashunuk many years  
40 ago and they used to go hunting for caribou and that was also  
41 their food. Presently we don't have any records exactly as to  
42 where they went hunting for these caribou. But in our lands of  
43 our ancestors we see antlers and bones of caribou.

44  
45 But we have this information because our ancestors  
46 spoke with their sons and daughters and they say that there  
47 used to be caribou in the area. And we have some information  
48 by archaeological findings that these caribou used to be our  
49 food. And our lands we can see some of these antlers on the  
50 tundra. And we can hear all of these stories from our elders,

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1 our ancestors, about how we used to go caribou hunting many  
2 years ago. We would like to talk about this. This summer of  
3 1997 our archaeological projects in those areas where they used  
4 to stay and they found tools that were made from caribou bones  
5 and antlers. And our ancestors have said that there were many,  
6 many caribou in our area. And this evidence is clear in the  
7 historical places.

8  
9 And we also had sent a tape to Pat McClenahan to this  
10 effect. We want to make sure that you understand this, that  
11 there used to be a lot of caribou and then suddenly sometime, a  
12 long time ago, their populations crashed. And they used to go  
13 hunting for these caribou. And as their population started  
14 diminish, people used to go further and further out to go  
15 hunting for caribou. And when they run out of food they used  
16 to go hunting for animals far away out of the range where they  
17 generally go hunting. And our young people at the present time  
18 are doing the same thing today. When we go hunting for caribou  
19 we go very far and we've gone as far as Saint Michael to go  
20 caribou hunting.

21  
22 And we don't go hunting but because there's hardly any  
23 jobs around here, most of the meat that we get is usually  
24 shared with other people. And he is continuing to say that  
25 they go hunting not in close places, but in far away places  
26 just to provide food for their families. And when we go  
27 hunting we just don't go hunting for ourselves, we also go  
28 hunting for immediate family and the people in the village.  
29 And when we have potlatches we share this food with other  
30 people in the village. We know and understand that the caribou  
31 just don't stay in one spot and are constantly moving.

32  
33 At the present time, because caribou are always looking  
34 for their food, that's why they are always migrating in  
35 different places. And we do the same thing, wherever the games  
36 goes when we go hunting. The people of Kashunuk used to use  
37 caribou many years ago. Most of the time we don't depend on  
38 store bought food, but to survive on subsistence resources. Our  
39 ancestors used to depend on caribou for their food. We want to  
40 make sure that people understand this. (Hunt interjecting-  
41 He's starting to repeat everything he had said.) And the  
42 people in Stebbins have told the people of Chevak that if they  
43 want to go hunting within their lands to do so without any  
44 problems.

45  
46 And we have lot of respect for other villages. We are  
47 asking you to look at the reconsideration and deny that, but to  
48 go ahead and support the original proposal. Richard Slats.

49  
50 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Paul John) Paul John wants to

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1 speak to the people here. Many years ago we used to have our  
2 ancestor talk about those people that were originally that live  
3 in (indiscernible) and that they used to go hunting with bows  
4 and arrows. And not to be skeptical about the existence of  
5 caribou within the Y-K Delta and that those people many years  
6 ago had caribou for their sustenance and there have been many  
7 stories about that. And they went hunting for these caribou  
8 with bows and arrows.

9  
10 And when I was in New York I saw what was made many  
11 years ago and the wooden bows that have been there. There was  
12 a picture of caribou in the middle. And from that evidence we  
13 can see that these people had depended on caribou for their  
14 food. I thought that this would help out the evidence for  
15 that.

16  
17 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can I ask Staff a  
18 question? Now that there is no opposition from the Department  
19 of Fish and Game, what's the process going to be? Are you  
20 going to be reintroducing this back into, or is it already in  
21 the regulation and it would stay?

22  
23 MS. McCLENAHAN: It's in the regulations as it is now.  
24 We will take this same analysis to the Federal Subsistence  
25 Board with the Staff recommendations, with your recommendations  
26 and the State of Alaska, ADF&G, will make their recommendations  
27 and the Board will then -- we also take comments, and then the  
28 Board will make a decision on it. And they will be speaking to  
29 the Request for Reconsideration. So they will either -- if  
30 they accept the Request for Reconsideration, that means they  
31 would change the regulation back to the way it was originally  
32 in 1996.

33  
34 If they reject the Request for Reconsideration, the  
35 current regulation that grants Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon  
36 Bay positive c&t will stay in place. Mike spoke of support  
37 himself, I think. Right, Mike? And then there will be a  
38 formal comment? Is Mike back there? There will be a formal  
39 comment at the Board meeting, is that right?

40  
41 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Mike Coffing. Maybe to  
42 help clarify, the Request for Reconsideration was put in I  
43 guess more than a year ago, well, about a year ago in the  
44 summertime, since then Federal Staff have had it, we had a  
45 meeting at Hooper Bay, we've also gathered additional  
46 information. And so what we're seeing now is that new  
47 information is coming around to the Councils, it's going in  
48 this spring to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board will  
49 look at the new information and consider what the State's  
50 request was. I feel, you know, fairly satisfied now that we've

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1 had good information and.....

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: So would then confidently say that you  
4 are going to support this when the Board of Subsistence meets?

5

6 MR. COFFING: Well, I guess the short answer to that is  
7 no. And the reason is, because I'm not the person that's going  
8 to be at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting.

9

10 MR. L. WILDE: When I said you, I meant your  
11 Department. What is the feeling of your department as far  
12 as.....

13

14 MR. COFFING: Well, to answer that, Lester, I'm  
15 guessing that probably the person that's going to be there is  
16 going to be Elizabeth Andrews or Terry Haynes, probably  
17 Elizabeth. I'm going to express to Elizabeth what my thoughts  
18 are on it, it would be the same thoughts I've shared with you  
19 people here, that is we have some good information now. We  
20 have the map information. I am not going to recommend the  
21 State continue to support its own RFR. I think the point of  
22 that was to see new information. I think we have information.  
23 I'm not going to suggest that the State does not recognize c&ts  
24 for those villages. So, you know, if I were a betting man, I  
25 would bet the State is going to go along with what the Council  
26 wants to do here. That's about the best I can give you right  
27 now.

28

29 MS. McCLENAHAN: Another thing is that Mike Coffing and  
30 I have been working closely together during this time. The  
31 State has compiled some comments and given it to me, and I've  
32 incorporated those comments into this analysis. Hopefully, to  
33 their satisfaction. And so we are hopeful together that.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we understand this, what's  
36 going on now. I think we need to have some kind of action from  
37 the Council here.

38

39 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.

42

43 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) He's making a  
44 proposal to remove the RFR and to accept the original proposal  
45 for this proposal.

46

47 MR. JOHN: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion?

50

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1 MR. THOMPSON: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. Roll

4 call.

5

6 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

9

10 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

11

12 MR. DAVID: Yes.

13

14 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Ilarion Nicolai?

15

16 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

17

18 MR. GEORGE: Steven White? Excused.

19

20 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

21

22 MR. McCANN: Yes.

23

24 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

25

26 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

27

28 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

29

30 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

31

32 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

33

34 MR. JOHN: Yes.

35

36 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

37

38 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

39

40 MR. GEORGE: The motion has passed.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right now I think it's time for us to

eat. We'll be back 1:00 o'clock. Break for lunch.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) We are starting

49 again and it is now 1:04. I think this time I'll give

50 opportunity, John Burr to say something concerning AVCP

00072

1 proposal.

2

3 MR. BURR: Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, my  
4 name is John Burr. I work with the Department of Fish and Game  
5 for the Sport Fish Division. I really appreciate the chance to  
6 talk with you today and I appreciate your rearranging your  
7 schedule a little bit to let me talk because I do have another  
8 commitment tomorrow.

9

10 I just have one item that I wanted to bring before the  
11 Council's attention. During December of 1997, the Alaska Board  
12 of Fish considered a proposal which was submitted by the  
13 Association of Village Council Presidents. This request asked  
14 the Board of Fish to repeal the prohibition on the use of rod  
15 and reel during the summer season for subsistence fishing in  
16 the Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim area. Currently under  
17 State regulations the use of hook and line for subsistence is  
18 restricted to jigging through the ice.

19

20 During the Board of Fish's deliberation on this  
21 request, a number of concerns were raised and they found that  
22 they needed more information. The Board of Fish tabled the  
23 request until their first meeting after December of 1998. In  
24 the meantime the Board of Fish will be establishing a working  
25 group consisting of stakeholders and resource managers to  
26 address the concerns that were raised during their meeting.  
27 The working group's task will be to gather information and  
28 ideas on how they can implement a rod and reel subsistence  
29 fishery in the face of the growing sports fishery which is in  
30 the area.

31

32 This working group will prepare a report for the Board  
33 of Fish which hopefully will identify and clarify the concerns  
34 that were raised. The report will include any recommendations  
35 that the group can offer and help the Board of Fish make a well  
36 informed and fair determination. We anticipate that the  
37 Department will be sending out letters soon to this Council and  
38 to other groups concerning the working group. Potential  
39 participants will be invited to bring their ideas and concerns  
40 to the initial meeting. And at this point that probably will  
41 be sometime in April, although the schedule has not been set.  
42 And that's all I had to share with you. I'd be happy to try to  
43 answer your questions.

44

45 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) Chairman Harry Wilde  
46 at the present time is just summarizing what John Burr has just  
47 said. At the present time he is opening the floor for any  
48 questions to ask.

49

50 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Not exactly what

00073

1 you seen, but one of the Quinhagak boys seen that the waters  
2 terminated by feces and urine and stuff like that harm  
3 villages. Do you people have some kind of a role to keep the  
4 land clean for, you know, hookers to keep that land clean?  
5 That should be because that's the people on the stream down,  
6 harming them, just like Quinhagak. Sounds like it's really bad  
7 for health. That should be taken care of by you people if you  
8 want sport fishing. Because little different than the  
9 subsistence fishing. Some of them make fun and let the fish  
10 go. There's a lots of ways to take look at it. That should  
11 been taken care of it and make some kind of rule too, just like  
12 you got the rule what to do on fishing. That should be  
13 included to keep the land clean just account of the people  
14 living. Someday you guy's going to get something about it if  
15 it get worse. It might be money-wise too. I hope you  
16 understand that.

17  
18 MR. BURR: Yes. Thank you. One comment, that was one  
19 of the issues that was raised before the Board of Fisheries and  
20 that's something that we hope to try to address in this group  
21 that I talked about.

22  
23 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David.

26  
27 MR. DAVID: I see that you're from Sport Fish Division.

28  
29 MR. BURR: That's correct, sir.

30  
31 MR. DAVID: And AVCP proposal on hook and line  
32 subsistence is different. Have you realized that or do you  
33 know that?

34  
35 MR. BURR: I don't understand.....

36  
37 MR. DAVID: Do you know that hook and line fishing is  
38 different from subsistence? Hook and line fishing subsistence  
39 is different from sport fishing?

40  
41 MR. BURR: Yes, I understand that.

42  
43 MR. DAVID: And what I never did like is sport fisher  
44 using hook and line, don't let the fish go. If they don't have  
45 that catch and release thing I wouldn't mind, but when it comes  
46 to catch and release, I never did like that because if you as  
47 yourself can't even put the hook in your mouth and jerk it and  
48 cut yourself in your mouth, if that's done here you would run  
49 as fast as you can out through the door and run up to the  
50 hospital to have it fixed. But what about the poor fish that

00074

1 out in wet, in water. They're hurting too. You hurt them,  
2 your sport fish people hurt them. And they can't go to a  
3 hospital to have that fixed after they're caught and released.  
4 If you can take the fish home to eat it, that's fine.

5  
6 The sport fishing part for fun is something I never did  
7 support or go for. So you can't compare this hook and line  
8 subsistence, you can't compare that to sport fishing because  
9 we, our people, go out to catch fish for themselves to eat, not  
10 to let the fish go after they catch it. So that's my comment  
11 to you. I didn't hear your presentation very much but this  
12 Sport Fish Division gives me a message that you're one of the  
13 people that hurt our fish, our resource in the river. Thank  
14 you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I didn't quite understand why you  
17 present AVCP proposal hook and line. I didn't quite  
18 understand, are you against it or.....

19  
20 MR. BURR: No. The Board of Fisheries tabled the  
21 proposal because they realized or they determined that they  
22 needed more information in order to find a way to make this  
23 work. Under State regulations all Alaskan people are eligible  
24 to participate in subsistence gathering. And the major  
25 concern, as I understand it, that the Board of Fish had with  
26 this proposal was not what would occur if they legalized  
27 subsistence fishing with a hook and reel in this area, but it's  
28 the people that would come from outside the area that would  
29 also be able to do that under the State regulation.

30  
31 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman, you can't legalize -- it's  
32 our right to go out there and fish. You can't legalize that.  
33 It's already legal. There's no way you can stick your finger  
34 in that thing because it's ours already. I don't believe you  
35 should even bring that up. Tell the Board of Fish that it's --  
36 that use you to test you with hook and line and let them see  
37 how you feel after you're caught with a hook. And tell them  
38 that we don't fish to hurt fish, we fish to catch fish for  
39 food.

40  
41 MR. BURR: I understand.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anyone else? Thank you.

44  
45 MR. BURR: Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we're going back to our proposals.  
48 Dave, Pat. Council in front of you you can see a piece of  
49 paper, it's says Proposals Staff support with modification.  
50 And also Staff oppose certain proposals. So Staff proposed

00075

1 with modification 51, 52, 53, 54, 64 and 65, 66, 67. I would  
2 like to hear from the Staff according to that letter somewhere  
3 there. Will you read it to us?

4  
5 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This is Pat  
6 McClenahan. Carl Morgan was here from the Western Interior  
7 Regional Council, he's the Chairman of the Council, had to  
8 leave, but he left a letter that I'd like to read for you.  
9 This is from the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional  
10 Advisory Council. And it says, Dear Fellow Regional Council  
11 Chairs: The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council wants  
12 to share with you its current thinking about customary and  
13 traditional use determinations for black bears.

14  
15 The Regional Council's current thinking is if there is  
16 no biological reason for reducing harvest of black bears, then  
17 the current no determination for all rural Alaskans qualified  
18 should remain in effect. What he means is that in the current  
19 blue book, the current regulation book, there is no customary  
20 and traditional use determination at this time. That means  
21 that all rural residents can hunt there. And at this time they  
22 see no biological depletion of black bears. There seem to be  
23 plenty of black bears.

24  
25 We desire to keep harvest opportunity opened to all  
26 subsistence users and do not need at this time to decide who  
27 among rural subsistence users should be allowed to hunt under  
28 Federal regulations. Our c&t recommendations should not be  
29 taken as ignoring fellow rural Alaskans request for recognition  
30 of customary and traditional uses of black bear. We know that  
31 your regions have a long history of customary and traditional  
32 uses of black bear. The present c&t determination process does  
33 not allow for recognition only. In order to gain recognition  
34 defining who qualifies for a positive c&t determination, some  
35 other qualified rural subsistence user is cut out.

36  
37 The extensive travel between the regions by our  
38 regions' residents and the current healthy black bear  
39 population does not warrant a defined c&t determination.  
40 Finally, I look forward to discussing c&t determinations at our  
41 next Joint Chairs meeting before the Federal Subsistence Board  
42 meeting in May. We need to understand each other's thoughts on  
43 c&t determinations in order to protect rural subsistence uses.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So Proposal 51, proposed by Akiak and  
46 Akiachak for customary/traditional use determination, Fritz how  
47 do you feel about that?

48  
49 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) He said that his  
50 Village of Akiachak don't have any opposition to the letter

00076

1 that was written and read by Pat McClenahan.

2

3 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He's asking would  
4 it be okay for the Council to deter it?

5

6 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, the letter was in  
7 reference to Proposal 64 and 65, and also Proposal 69 and 70.  
8 The Proposal 51 is for Region IV and not Western Interior  
9 Region. There is already a positive c&t determination in  
10 Region IV.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay. I understand. So how  
13 will deal with this then? Your Staff, they say support without  
14 modification on 51.....

15

16 MS. McCLENAHAN: We suggested supporting with  
17 modification Proposal 51. That was black bear for Unit 17(A)  
18 and 17(B).

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You're talking about this only. How  
21 about brown bear?

22

23 MS. McCLENAHAN: Brown bear is Proposal 52.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. McCLENAHAN: We also recommend to support that with  
28 modification to change it to Unit 17(A) and 17(B).

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So 53 and 54, and all the way down to  
31 67, those proposals that Staff supported with modification.  
32 Which these are after -- from after 53 are modification was  
33 added to?

34

35 MS. McCLENAHAN: All of them are modified.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All of them?

38

39 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yeah.

40

41 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He wants to know  
42 how Fritz and the people of Akiachak feel toward the proposal  
43 that mostly came from Akiachak?

44

45 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) He said when he  
46 asked those people from Akiachak they had been very supportive  
47 of having the Council pass these proposals.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe at this time I would like to  
50 hear from ADF&G, Mike. All these proposals, what Federal Staff

00077

1 support 51 to 67?

2

3 MR. COFFING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike Coffing,  
4 Fish and Game Subsistence. What I can give you, and you're  
5 asking for me comments, the State position on these Proposals  
6 51 to 67, is that right? I think we've already provided  
7 comments to you on 55, 58, 59 and 60. So I'll begin with 51,  
8 that's Unit 17 black bear.

9

10 Formally, the State did not have any comments. We had  
11 deferred our comments. We'd ask for our comments to wait until  
12 we had a chance to look at the proposal. And as I looked at  
13 the map information for that proposal -- actually, I'd like to  
14 talk about Proposal 51 and 52 together because they both deal  
15 with Unit 17 -- well, I'm sorry, let me do 51 by itself.

16

17 Unit 17 black bear, as I look through the analysis, I  
18 think there is information there that shows that residents of  
19 Akiachak and Akiak do use a portion of 17 for hunting. I'm not  
20 exactly clear whether the information here is for black bear  
21 specifically or if it's general subsistence use information.

22

23 MS. McCLENAHAN: This is for the general subsistence  
24 use area.

25

26 MR. COFFING: So it would be for the general  
27 subsistence use information. Basically subsistence uses for a  
28 variety of resources. I think my comments would be similar to  
29 an earlier proposal, and that is for this one, Proposal 51, it  
30 looks like there is information to indicate they use a portion  
31 of 17 -- certainly 17(B). Now, Unit 17 is made up of three  
32 sub-units. As you can see on the overhead, 17(C) which is down  
33 here, 17(B) which is this area here, and 17(A). Now, this is  
34 for Akiak. And you see on this map a portion of 17(B) is used,  
35 there's no recorded use in Unit 17(C) or in Unit 17(A). So I  
36 guess my suggestion on this one, I think the State's comments  
37 on this one are going to be that, you know, we would probably  
38 support a finding for at least this part of 17(B). But  
39 currently the information does not indicate there's use in  
40 either 17(C) or 17(A).

41

42 Now, having said that, I'd also like to remind the  
43 Council that we will be gathering information for Akiachak  
44 certainly and possibly Akiak. Here's a map for Akiachak that  
45 Pat put up. And you can see again there's use in 17(B), a  
46 little bit of use in the upper end of 17(A). 17(A) extends  
47 down into here, and no use in 17(C). So I expect our comments  
48 are going to be that there's use in part of 17(B). Looks to me  
49 like we've got a map that shows more subsistence use area for  
50 Akiak than we have in the booklet.

00078

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: This is a general subsistence use area  
2 map.

3  
4 MR. COFFING: Right.

5  
6 MS. McCLENAHAN: All resources.

7  
8 MR. COFFING: So this is.....

9  
10 MS. McCLENAHAN: That's moose and bear.

11  
12 MR. COFFING: Okay. So it's mislabeled then. So this  
13 is moose and bear in the booklet. Okay. Well, the comments I  
14 guess would still stand. There is some use in 17(A) and 17(B)  
15 for both Akiachak and Akiak, nothing in 17(C). So I think at  
16 this point, you know, if we were to give comments it would be  
17 that we would probably support a finding in a part of 17(B) and  
18 a part of 17(A), information supports that. It doesn't support  
19 a finding in 17(C) though. The proposal asks for all of 17.  
20 And I wanted to again remind the Council that we hope to be  
21 working with the communities and gathering additional  
22 information, more thorough information on subsistence use  
23 areas. So if that comes about we'll have better information on  
24 details here.

25  
26 I guess as it stands, I don't think we're going to  
27 support it as it's written because it includes an area where  
28 there isn't any documented subsistence use going on, that is  
29 17(C). I think we can live with a finding in a part of 17(B)  
30 and 17(A) though for black bear for these two communities.

31  
32 Moving on to Proposal 52, which is a c&t finding for  
33 brown bear in again Unit 17, I think my comments would be  
34 exactly the same. The information shows some uses in 17(B) and  
35 17(A), it does not show any use in 17(C). It does exist in A  
36 and B but not in C. So again I think we could live with a  
37 finding for part of those units, perhaps not all the units, and  
38 we would support a finding for 17(C). However, if we gather  
39 information later on that indicates there are subsistence uses  
40 in other parts of 17(A) and (B) and 17(C), then we would not  
41 have a problem later on if we can get that full c&t  
42 determination for that unit.

43  
44 The next Proposal is 53 and 54, this asks for again a  
45 customary and traditional use determination for all of Unit 17  
46 again. And our comments on this one is that we would suggest  
47 deferring action on this proposal until we've been able to do  
48 the study that we're planning to do with Akiachak and gather  
49 additional subsistence information as we've done in Kwethluk  
50 and some other communities so that we have documentation, we

00079

1 have information that can support the finding by the Council  
2 and by the Board.

3  
4 And 58 through 60 we've discussed already. Proposal 64  
5 and 65 request a c&t determination for black bear up in Unit  
6 19. And, again, we think that there should be a complete  
7 comprehensive review of the information that's out there. There  
8 is some information certainly that's been prepared in the  
9 analysis. We think there might be some additional information  
10 available that's not in the analysis now. And we're likely to  
11 gather additional information during the study in Akiachak on  
12 black bear uses up in Unit 19. Unit 19 is divided up into  
13 several sub-units, A, B, C and D. Some of those extend all the  
14 way up to McGrath, or even east of McGrath up into the  
15 mountains. And at this time, you know, it doesn't appear to me  
16 that the information is compiled in a fashion that we can  
17 really evaluate whether, you know, which communities should  
18 have c&t of black bear and what portions of 19 c&t use should  
19 be recognized for which communities. So we would suggest  
20 deferring action on Proposal 64 and 65.

21  
22 Proposal 66 is a brown bear revised c&t determination  
23 for Unit 19. This proposal would include Akiachak and Akiak  
24 for brown bear in all of Unit 19, 19(D), 19(C), 19(B) and  
25 19(A). Although we haven't developed a formal State position  
26 yet, because we were waiting to see the analysis, I think at  
27 this point my recommendation is going to be similar to the  
28 earlier one, and that is that we suggest a thorough review of  
29 the available information that's there for brown bear in that  
30 unit and also the comments that -- you know, we may suggest  
31 deferring on this one as well until we have gathered  
32 information from Akiachak to document their subsistence use  
33 areas in a thorough fashion.

34  
35 Mr. Chairman, let me clarify, did you want me to give  
36 you comments on 67 and 68 at this time? That's for caribou in  
37 Unit 19.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

40  
41 MR. COFFING: Proposal 67 and 68 are caribou for Unit  
42 19(A) and (B). And the request for a revised c&t determination  
43 for that unit. This proposal came in from AVCP and what it's  
44 asking for is a more general application of the c&t  
45 determination, not so much by community but by area. And we  
46 certainly have information that shows that Kwethluk uses 19(A)  
47 and (B), as well as some communities up in Unit 19 where we've  
48 done work. I can't recall off the top of my head what Ron  
49 Thuma's maps looked like for some of the Unit 18 communities,  
50 but I would suspect that some of that map information may not

00080

1 have extended well beyond the refuge boundary in some  
2 instances. So there may in fact not be any map information at  
3 this time that can support a finding in much of Unit 19.

4  
5 On the other hand, I think it's likely that there are  
6 residents and perhaps people that are on the Council at the  
7 meeting here, those in the audience, that have information that  
8 can be added to the existing information. And I think our  
9 point here is to just help insure that the Council and Fish and  
10 Wildlife Service, Federal Board and certainly the State as well  
11 has the best information available, including information from  
12 elders and all the map data that's there. Again, we do hope  
13 and plan to do some work in Akiachak to gather data that I  
14 think will answer the question at least for Akiachak. So for  
15 this one I don't have information that I can really give you a  
16 firm position one way or the other. And I guess having said  
17 that, my suggestion would be to wait until we have a chance to  
18 do a complete review of the information, till the Federal Staff  
19 have had a chance to do that and compile all the existing  
20 information, to get some information from Council members or  
21 people in the communities about subsistence uses in those  
22 areas, and also roll in information that we got from Akiachak  
23 before the Board takes formal action on this proposal to adopt.  
24 That is my comments, Mr. Chairman.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Mike, seems to me that the  
27 State defer most of these proposals right now. However, that  
28 Federal Staff support them with modification and you need more  
29 information on these, that's the way it sounds.

30  
31 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, I think you summed it up  
32 very well. That's what I would say. Maybe add one other  
33 thing. I don't like having to be here in front of you to talk  
34 about RFRs like we had to do with Hooper, Chevak and Scammon,  
35 it's not pleasant. And what I would like to certainly avoid is  
36 the State coming back, you know, if the Federal Board makes a  
37 decision the State's not happy with, the State may come back  
38 with and RFR. I don't know, they may not, but they might.  
39 And, again, what I want to emphasize is that we are interested  
40 in, is having the best information that we can get from Council  
41 members, from public, if there's any documentation out there  
42 that's there that hasn't been pulled into the analysis, you  
43 know, that's useful and can support the proposal perhaps. But  
44 that's what we're asking, is just give a chance for all the  
45 information to be put together. That may involve some meetings  
46 in some of the villages or perhaps doing some work as we're  
47 doing in Akiachak. We just want to see the decisions based on  
48 good information and not done I don't want to use the word  
49 hastily, but not done without proper backup material there.  
50 Thank you.

00081

1 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) As I understand  
2 it, these proposals, there is eight of them that we are working  
3 on as a group. The Federal Staff said that they would be  
4 supporting this with modification, but the State at the present  
5 time has said that they want to get further information and  
6 data before they make any decisions on whether to support them  
7 or not support them, or to have better understanding of these  
8 proposals and determination of c&t.

9  
10 And I wanted to ask those people that may be affected  
11 by this Proposals number 51 to 67 if there is anybody that  
12 would like to say anything toward these proposals. The floor  
13 is now open. He is wondering at the present time what the  
14 recommendations are on these proposals by the Council members.  
15 David O. David.

16  
17 MR. DAVID: No comment.

18  
19 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He's wondering  
20 about Fritz George and wanted to know if the people in Akiachak  
21 wanted to have these supported or is supporting them?

22  
23 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) When they had  
24 worked on subsistence use maps (translator stops  
25 interpreting).....

26  
27 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) I would like to  
28 ask to Fritz with the Staff support of each of these proposed  
29 with modification, are these okay?

30  
31 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) He says that he  
32 does not have any problems with that.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: David O. David.

35  
36 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) Mr. David O.  
37 David said that if Akiachak don't have any problems with those,  
38 they way that it was set, I make a motion to accept those  
39 proposals.

40  
41 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He's saying that  
42 all of the Proposals from 51 to 67, the way that the Federal  
43 Staff had made the proposals.

44  
45 MR. McCANN: I second it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Bill McCann. Any  
48 discussion?

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

00082

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. Roll  
2 call.

3  
4 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

7  
8 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

9  
10 MR. DAVID: Yes.

11  
12 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Not present. Ilarion  
13 Nicolai?

14  
15 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

16  
17 MR. GEORGE: Steven White, not present. Billy McCann?

18  
19 MR. McCANN: Yes.

20  
21 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

22  
23 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

24  
25 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

26  
27 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

28  
29 MR. GEORGE: Paul John? Paul John?

30  
31 MR. JOHN: (Indiscernible - Yup'ik).

32  
33 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

34  
35 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

36  
37 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, (Indiscernible - Yup'ik).

38  
39 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Paul John asked to be  
40 excused because he had some pressing circumstances he had to  
41 attend to. And that's the reason why he left early.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, he's excused. And motion  
44 carried. Staff support with the modification from 51 to 67.  
45 Also the Council supported 51 to 67 with modification. Next on  
46 agenda is still continuation of proposals. Opposing the  
47 proposals, Dave.

48  
49 MR. FISHER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we have two Proposals,  
50 56 and 57. And in looking at 56 I'd like to skip that because

00083

1 there's nothing there that has anything to do with Unit 18. It  
2 would allow for the same day airborne subsistence hunting of  
3 caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So remove the 56?

6  
7 MR. FISHER: Yeah.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Council, remove the 56. Okay.

10  
11 MR. FISHER: Okay. Proposal 57 deals with caribou in  
12 Unit 17(A) and 17(C). And again in looking this over, Mr.  
13 Chairman, the way this proposal is worded, I believe that's  
14 similar to number 56. It's just designed for that Nushagak  
15 Peninsula for that special hunt for those animals there that  
16 Togiak, Twin Hills, Manakotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's  
17 Point and Ekuk have special use for those by permit hunt only  
18 there on Nushagak Peninsula.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Looking at Proposal 57, I see that  
21 Staff recommend oppose this proposal and also ADF&G comment  
22 oppose this 57. Also there's one written comment oppose 57.  
23 Do you have more information on 57?

24  
25 MR. FISHER: The only other information I have on 57  
26 would be just to go through and brief you on the proposal, but  
27 I see that it doesn't really apply to anyone in 18. So I'd  
28 like to lump that with 56 and move on.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

31  
32 MR. FISHER: Both 56 and 57 deal specifically with that  
33 Nushagak caribou herd.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we remove 57?

36  
37 MR. FISHER: Yes. Sorry to bother you with that, Mr.  
38 Chairman, but in closer review.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's okay. Next is 68.

41  
42 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, 68 was analyzed  
43 along with 67 caribou, Unit 19(A) and (B). And the action you  
44 took on Proposal 67 makes Proposal 68 moot. We don't have to  
45 deal with it. It's been dealt with. Akiak and Akiachak were  
46 included in the revised Proposal 67.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So delete 68?

49  
50 MS. McCLENAHAN: You can delete 68.

00084

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Council, delete 68. And we'll  
2 go down to 69.

3  
4 MS. McCLENAHAN: This is one of those proposals we were  
5 talking about that Carl Morgan was addressing for black bear in  
6 Unit 21. In light of Mr. Morgan's comments, is there anything  
7 that you'd like to do about that one? This is the proposal,  
8 change the determination from a no determination to a positive  
9 customary and traditional use determination for residents of  
10 Units 21 and 23 and residents of Tanana, Russian Mission and  
11 others who have traditionally hunted the Unit 21.

12  
13 And then Proposal 70 was the request from Akiak and  
14 Akiachak to establish a positive customary and traditional use  
15 determination for black bear in Unit 21. This is Region VI and  
16 we're proposing here from Region V. We're proposing to change  
17 the no determination to a positive customary and traditional  
18 use determination. That would narrow the people who could use  
19 the Unit 21 units.

20  
21 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Lester.

24  
25 MR. L. WILDE: I would like to support the presentation  
26 of Mr. Morgan to keep the determination as is because the areas  
27 that -- what he said was true, the residents from other areas  
28 on the lower river do go up there and do get their black bear  
29 whenever they need them.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the desire of Akiachak  
32 residents.

33  
34 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Fritz George) They had a meeting  
35 over there with an anthropologist to (indiscernible - in Yup'ik  
36 - not translated).

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You may go ahead and continue down to  
39 the next.

40  
41 MS. McCLENAHAN: The next one is Proposal 72 . The  
42 analysis was done for Proposal 72, 73 and 74. Proposal 72 is  
43 submitted by Akiak and Akiachak IRA, it requests a positive  
44 customary and traditional use determination for caribou in  
45 Units 21(A) and 21(E), located in Region VI for the residents  
46 of Akiak and Akiachak located in Region V.

47  
48 The Staff conclusions did not identify the residents of  
49 Akiak and Akiachak as among the traditional users of caribou in  
50 Units 21(A) and 21(E). The information that we have is in Ron

00085

1 Thuma's maps that I've shown you before and I'll put them back  
2 up. This the map for caribou use by Akiak and Akiachak that  
3 was recorded in 1985. I seem to have misplaced Akiak's caribou  
4 map.

5  
6 Let me show you again, this is the general subsistence  
7 use area for Akiachak that was recorded in 1985 by Ron Thuma.  
8 And you can see that Unit 21(A) is right here. This is the  
9 caribou use area for Akiak that was recorded in 1985 by Ron  
10 Thuma, this is 21 up in here, this is the area. And this one,  
11 this next map is the general resources use area for Akiak. And  
12 you can see that a little bit of 19(A) but not 21 is recorded.  
13 This is all the information that Staff has to the best of my  
14 knowledge.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The State, Mike Coffing, your comments  
17 towards these certain proposals.

18  
19 MR. COFFING: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mike  
20 Coffing, Fish and Game. I guess first let me clarify, are we  
21 talking about a block of proposals here or one single proposal?  
22 Are we talking about more than one proposal here or just 72?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If you could do all of them down from  
25 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74.

26  
27 MR. COFFING: Okay. Well, I don't have any comments to  
28 offer you on 69 at this point, Mr. Chairman, black bear c&t  
29 determination. Proposal 70, our comments initially, they are  
30 in the book, were to defer action on this one. This is for  
31 black bear use in Units 21(A) and 21(E). And our concerns,  
32 after looking at the initial analysis, was that again we wanted  
33 to assure that there was a complete review of all the  
34 information. We didn't want a determination to be made,  
35 recommended by this Council or by the Board, that then might  
36 mean that some people can't go there and subsistence hunt. And  
37 that's certainly the potential.

38  
39 If you determine which communities are in and which  
40 ones are out, then it might mean that people that are going  
41 there hunting won't be allowed to. I think perhaps the  
42 suggestion to wait and essentially let subsistence hunters hunt  
43 black bear there the way they have until there's a chance to  
44 gather more information or talk to residents in the community  
45 that potentially are affected is probably a good move at this  
46 point. So on Proposal 70, we're suggesting that you defer  
47 action on that one.

48  
49 Proposal 71 is also bear for the same units. Initially  
50 we had no comments. We deferred our comments until we look at

00086

1 the analysis. I don't have any additional comments to offer on  
2 that one. Again, until we have a chance to look at all of the  
3 information and hear from other folks, I guess my suggestion is  
4 going to be to my supervisor, is going to be to recommend  
5 deferring action on that proposal as well.

6  
7 Proposal 72 through 74 are all for caribou, Unit 21.  
8 And I'm looking at the State comments that I have here for  
9 those. There weren't any comments. We wanted to wait until we  
10 could look at the analysis. I have not had a chance to go  
11 through the analysis and look at it. So I have no additional  
12 comments to offer you the State's position on those proposals,  
13 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

14  
15 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) He wants to know  
16 the Council members -- what the Staff has proposed or  
17 recommended not to pass 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74.

18  
19 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 73 and 74, even  
20 though this analysis was done as a group analysis for 72, 73,  
21 74, this region does not have to vote on 73 and 74. It doesn't  
22 directly affect this region. Seventy-two is affected, but not  
23 the other two.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So we'll remove 72.....

26  
27 MS. McCLENAHAN: Seventy-three and.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seventy-two, 73.....

30  
31 MS. McCLENAHAN: No, 72 is in; 73 and 74 are out.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seventy-three, 74. What is Council's  
34 recommendation? David O. David?

35  
36 MR. DAVID: (In Yup'ik - not translated).

37  
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Rest of the Council? If there is no  
39 recommendation, what action are we going to take for those four  
40 proposals?

41  
42 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik - not translated).  
43 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) I can't hear from here, he's  
44 too far away.

45  
46 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) What we would  
47 like to do is not to stop these proposals, but to work on them  
48 at a later date. Maybe table them. Mr. Wilde does not want to  
49 drop these proposals. He's asking the Council -- he wants  
50 everybody to wake up and make comments on these.

00087

1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move that these  
2 Proposals 69, 70, 71, 72 be deferred.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There is a motion on the floor to  
5 these four proposals 69, 70, 71, 72 be deferred. Is there any  
6 second?

7  
8 MR. NICOLAI: Second.  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ilarion second. Discussion?

10  
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. Roll  
14 call.

15  
16 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

19  
20 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

21  
22 MR. DAVID: Yes.

23  
24 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Not present. Ilarion  
25 Nicolai?

26  
27 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

28  
29 MR. GEORGE: Steven White, not present. Billy McCann?

30  
31 MR. McCANN: Yes.

32  
33 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

34  
35 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

36  
37 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

38  
39 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

40  
41 MR. GEORGE: Paul John? Lester Wilde?

42  
43 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

44  
45 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman (Indiscernible - in Yup'ik).

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion carried. All those four  
48 proposal are deferred. At this time we're going to take a  
49 break.

50

00088

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On your agenda you could find the  
6 number 9, old business, in your booklet at Tab U. It's annual  
7 report, John.

8

9 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) Yeah. Thank you,  
10 Mr. Chairman. Last two meetings we've discussed the talking  
11 points on Broadhead whitefish and king salmon and moose,  
12 Kuskokwim moose. I would like the Council to go ahead and  
13 complete something on this. In the last two meetings that we  
14 had, we had already talked about these three problems. I would  
15 like for the Council to take a look at these and give us  
16 directions as to what we need to do. The third one is Lower  
17 Kuskokwim moose. I would like them to make a decision or to  
18 make a motion as to how we might be able to work on these. We  
19 have spoken about these and give directions to Fish and  
20 Wildlife and AVCP and ADF&G to work on these problems.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: Within our last two meetings we discussed  
23 the talking points on Broadhead whitefish, king salmon and  
24 moose. We don't have no authority and jurisdiction --  
25 ordinarily jurisdiction to work on fish. Our Council's not  
26 been able to do anything with. But I was going to ask our  
27 Council to take action on the Lower Kuskokwim moose issue.  
28 Because it's been something that we've heard reports on, been  
29 overlooking over the years in the recent years. And if  
30 agencies like Fish and Wildlife and the Department AVCP get  
31 directions from our Council, they should be able to get  
32 something started on this one. And I gave it to our Council to  
33 give us direction as to what we can do with it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor, shall we get more information  
36 from you if possible?

37

38 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Taylor  
39 Brelsford. The purpose of an annual report, if you remember in  
40 ANILCA Title VIII where it talks about the authority, the  
41 responsibilities of the Regional Council, it invites you to  
42 make an annual report each year to the Federal Subsistence  
43 Board, talking about any important changes in subsistence  
44 resources or in subsistence needs, meeting those needs with  
45 subsistence resources, or any strategies for managing resources  
46 to meet subsistence needs.

47

48 So this annual report is kind of like an opportunity to  
49 look ahead and problem-solve maybe an issue that's going to  
50 take a few years to create a good solution. So in the past

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1 this Council has had various issues that you've included in an  
2 annual report and over the last year and a half you've had some  
3 talking points, whitefish, king salmon, moose, as resource  
4 problems. There are some subsistence foods where the  
5 populations are not doing so well or there's some kind of  
6 little trouble out there. And the idea of an annual report  
7 would be a place to draw some attention to this problem and to  
8 try and look ahead, try and make sure that the agencies, maybe  
9 people in the communities realize that we might have to take  
10 some action, make some changes to strengthen the resource  
11 population.

12  
13 So, again, an annual report is a chance to identify  
14 problems and to address long term solutions. And then you've  
15 had some basic information about three issues, three resource  
16 concerns that you might want to draw more attention to by  
17 discussing it in your annual report.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor, my understanding that in order  
20 to make a good report, need to have more information some of  
21 these resource. And also listen to Andrew here, those  
22 information on those resource, what were mentioned while ago,  
23 it need to be worked on. Is there any way that State and  
24 Federal and AVCP could join working together and get more  
25 information on these items that we need to get?

26  
27 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. Of course coordinated work where  
28 the State and the Federal government and local people work  
29 together, that's the best way to save resources, to provide  
30 security for the future. You guys have done that for many,  
31 many years in the Y-K Delta on waterfowl, on Kilbuck caribou,  
32 on brown bear. That's I think what everybody wants us to get  
33 going on. So what you could do as the Regional Council is to  
34 write in your report that you urge coordinated action on Lower  
35 Kuskokwim moose, for example. You have heard conservation  
36 concerns and you want all of the parties, State of Alaska,  
37 Federal government, AVCP and the local villages to work  
38 together in an action plan to get more data, more information,  
39 and to perhaps have a coordinated management plan to address  
40 that conservation problem.

41  
42 I think what the Council can do is to request action.  
43 To say we've heard these concerns and we call on the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board to get something started, to get going on  
45 addressing this question.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. What is the desire of Council?  
48 What kind of recommendation that we're going to give?

49  
50 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

00090

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, David.

2

3 MR. DAVID: If we move now to ask AVCP and Federal and  
4 the State, is it possible for two groups to appoint one of --  
5 certain people to look after the moose, or will you work  
6 together in getting the information on moose?

7

8 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm not quite sure I understand your  
9 question, but.....

10

11 MR. DAVID: Then if you understand it, you heard the  
12 message then.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think, Taylor, if I understand it,  
15 the way you were saying before, you need to have Board approval  
16 in order to start information, work together with the AVCP, get  
17 resource department and the State also and you. And not only  
18 that, if you're talking about the Yukon include James  
19 (Indiscernible) got a resource department also. So before you  
20 start anything that force have to come from a Board --  
21 Department of Board or if we push it and ask Federal Board that  
22 we like to see this study go?

23

24 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. And you want to be sure that  
25 each of the groups works together?

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD: State, Federal and Tribal Associations,  
30 local people. And, Mr. David, your question was that nobody  
31 should push the other ones around, they should all work  
32 together?

33

34 MR. DAVID: Yes, that's my question.

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. I think when you write your  
37 report to the Board you want to emphasize that you would like  
38 to see coordinated action with participation by each of the key  
39 groups.

40

41 MR. DAVID: That we, this Council, not be expected to  
42 make any report. If we ask you to work on it, you'll report to  
43 the Board of Subsistence.

44

45 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy?

48

49 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Billy McCann said  
50 that it would be better not to put it to the Board, but also to

00091

1 ask people what we would like to do. And most of the time ask  
2 the people that are the users. And if that is what action we  
3 should take on any of these issues that is the one that is on  
4 the talking points. He said it would be a lot better if the  
5 -- for the people out in the villages to take care or make the  
6 recommendations.

7

8 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Myron Naning) Myron Naning,  
9 President of AVCP. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Together with AVCP, Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G, on talking or  
11 looking at this issue of whitefish, king salmon and Kuskokwim  
12 moose, it is important -- sometimes they don't look at them as  
13 being separate, but together. The State Board of Fish, when  
14 they talk about fish they always take care of it as one, king  
15 salmon, silvers and chums as one species and not as any other.  
16 And they didn't have any problems with that up north because  
17 they were taken care of that way. I'm talking about whitefish.  
18 When they were meeting in Fairbanks, pike, burbot and whitefish  
19 they took care of them as one issue, not as separate species of  
20 fish. And lot of times because they are not being taken care  
21 of as commercial resources or big game or other things, sport  
22 fish. They are taken care of as some other species of fish  
23 that are used for subsistence purposes.

24

25 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Billy is asking, I  
26 understand what you're saying, but looking at the three fish as  
27 one group of a problem. He says he's got a problem, maybe it  
28 might be whitefish or it might be burbot. He said that it  
29 would work as if one of them had a problem, then all of them  
30 would have a problem.

31

32 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Myron Naning) Well, what he's  
33 saying is that if there is any problem with burbot, then they  
34 will have to include them in as blackfish or pike or whitefish.  
35 If the Regional Councils (in Yup'ik - not translated).

36

37 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Chairman Wilde) If I understand  
38 what they were saying, if I told you why are the droughts in  
39 the river -- whitefish, why are they becoming low in their  
40 population? What is causing their diminishing in population is  
41 that river, are they putting out too many fish in order to get  
42 them higher in the population? If they make a report to the  
43 Council -- they talk about some of these things need to be  
44 checked out such as beaver dams and all of those other things,  
45 and it's going to cost a lot of money just to fund the  
46 research. And then we'll have to go to the villages to ask  
47 them about their use and possible problems and solutions and  
48 it's going to end up using a lot of money to do that.

49

50 Instead of saying that there's hardly anymore whitefish

00092

1 and pikes or -- but if we take a look at the species one by  
2 one, then it'll be much more easier to find out whether that  
3 species is diminishing or remaining the same in their  
4 population. And how do you think that we should make a  
5 proposal or motion so that these problems can be taken care of?  
6 And most of the time when we make a decision, a lot of the  
7 times it goes along with the funds for research. And also if  
8 AVCP is working on these, they will need some money too to help  
9 out. He feels that it would be coming from the Federal  
10 government or the State.

11  
12 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Myron Naning) And AVCP is not  
13 going to be working on this project alone. It'd be a lot  
14 better to have somebody working from those villages with us so  
15 that they would be able to help us out in finding out this  
16 information.

17  
18 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Johnny Thompson) What I'm going  
19 to say may not be worth anything, but I know at the present  
20 time these fish that are being surveyed, the chums, the king  
21 salmon and the silvers, they are at this time have become an  
22 issue. Whitefish, burbot, because they haven't really taken  
23 care of them, did any management of them. They haven't said  
24 whether their populations are decreasing or not. And all of  
25 these things are being taken care of by the Creator who can  
26 decide whether they're going to be increasing or decreasing, or  
27 disappear. I feel that.....

28  
29 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Nick Lupie) Tuntutuliak, Alaska.  
30 When I was a little boy these rivers just up river from  
31 Tuntutuliak used to have whitefish, burbot, sheefish and pike.  
32 And sometimes in the summer, in August when the berries became  
33 ripe, and the Galik River -- long time ago when they were in  
34 the -- went up to the rivers and into the lakes they used to  
35 put dams to cover them up so that the fish that are in there  
36 won't be able to get out of the river. And then in the fall  
37 time what they used to do was set traps after they'd take the  
38 middle part of the dam off and use crabs to get the fish. They  
39 don't do that anymore, but most of these beavers are now making  
40 dams on these small sloughs. And a lot of these at the end of  
41 these river at the present time used to be really deep, maybe  
42 at least six to seven feet deep but now it's dried up. Well at  
43 the present time there's hardly any beavers at the present time  
44 and a lot of the lakes that are around there are not as deep as  
45 they used to be.

46  
47 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Billy McCann) Billy would like  
48 to -- the way he wants to have this taken care of is to go see  
49 people and find out what the problem is. And I also go along  
50 with all of these -- nobody has any control over the whitefish,

00093

1 pike and blackfish and burbot at the present time. And he  
2 thought that they would start to argue about these resources.  
3 And if it gets to that point, when they take of it they don't  
4 take care of just one species but as a group. And just like  
5 all of the things that they have said, if one of those three  
6 species or four species of fresh water fish decline in their  
7 population, then they'll turn around and close all of them. I  
8 don't feel like taking care of this.

9  
10 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Frederick George) I'm from  
11 Akiachak. I look at this river. I have -- I do a lot of  
12 hunting and fishing in the fall time and I have gone to certain  
13 -- and some of those river have been -- and no more water in  
14 many of those areas on this river are getting full of water.  
15 There used to be trees and there's no more trees and it doesn't  
16 smell very good because of the over-population of beaver in  
17 those areas. Most of these things happen because eventually  
18 things are going to disappear. And when there's all of these  
19 caribou coming into over-population, it means there's going to  
20 be famine or all of the animals and the birds and fish are  
21 going to be gone.

22  
23 And another indication is that the sloughs and rivers  
24 are going to become shallow. I don't think that it has to do  
25 with anything that has to do with those fish. I think it has  
26 to do with all of the over-population of beaver in that area.  
27 And a lot of these beavers are seen swimming along the sea  
28 coast. And my mom is 99 years old at this time. Before there  
29 was any of boat motors around here I used to go out to places  
30 by using canoe and he used to take care of reindeer in the  
31 Goodnews area. And at that time they used to use reindeer for  
32 pulling sleds. I think that you understand all of these things  
33 from our elders. It's not from using the nets. And this has  
34 been affecting the pike and burbot and other fish. The future  
35 generations will have to start using money in order to do all  
36 of these fishing activities. I am not trying to let you people  
37 go according to what I said. I'm just saying what I have heard  
38 from my father.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

41  
42 MR. DAVID: Mr. Chairman?

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

45  
46 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (David O. David) David O. David  
47 just made a motion that they would like to take care of these  
48 issues like AVCP President Myron Naning had suggested, to be  
49 taken care of by Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G and the Fish  
50 and Wildlife Service on these three issues, Broadhead

00094

1 whitefish, king salmon and Lower Kuskokwim moose.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Indiscernible - in Yup'ik - not  
4 translated).

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Seconded.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Lester Wilde. Discussion?

9

10 MR. THOMPSON: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion? Question's been  
13 called for. Roll call.

14

15 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

18

19 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

20

21 MR. DAVID: Yes.

22 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Not present. Ilarion  
23 Nicolai?

24

25 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

26

27 MR. GEORGE: Steven White, not present. Billy McCann?

28

29 MR. McCANN: Abstain.

30

31 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

32

33 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

34

35 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

36

37 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

38

39 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Lester Wilde?

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

42

43 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, seven yes, one abstain,  
44 three (indiscernible).

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. The action was for  
47 Fish and Wildlife, ADF&G and AVCP to take care of those three  
48 issues.

49

50 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Andrew) Thank you, Mr.

00095

1 Chairman. He is talking about the renewal of the Regional  
2 Council Charters in 1998. It is on page -- or Tab V in your  
3 books. During the winter of 1998 meetings, the Regional  
4 Councils asked to provide recommendations on the charters.  
5 These recommendations are forwarded to the Board, which will  
6 meet in June 1998 to provide advice to the Secretaries of  
7 Interior and Agriculture. New charters will be signed in  
8 September '98.

9  
10 The charters require under the Federal Advisory  
11 Committee Act to provide the guidelines for Regional Council  
12 structure and procedures. The charters expire on December 2nd,  
13 in even number years. The Secretary of Interior, with the  
14 concurrence of Secretary of Agriculture, must renew the  
15 charters by December 2, 1998, to continue the Regional  
16 Councils.

17  
18 Many Councils have requested alternates for regular  
19 members. The requested provision is found in Section 9, under  
20 membership. Regional Council Chairs have forwarded a standing  
21 request regarding compensation for members. The Board has  
22 forwarded two requests to Secretary Babbitt regarding  
23 compensation, but no decision has yet been made. Draft  
24 language on compensation is found, for some regions, in Section  
25 9, under membership.

26  
27 One Regional Council suggested that a requirement for  
28 rural residency for Council members be included in the charter.  
29 This question had previously been reviewed by the Regional  
30 Solicitor's Office and the National Solicitor, at the request  
31 of the Board. Solicitor provided a formal legal opinion in  
32 January 1997 saying that a rural residency requirement for  
33 Regional Council was not allowed under ANILCA. This  
34 correspondence was distributed at the Winter 1997 Regional  
35 Council meeting. As a result this proposed change cannot be  
36 included in the draft.

37  
38 One Regional Council suggested a change in the charter  
39 to provide that if a member is obliged to relocate from the  
40 region for work or medical care, the member should be allowed  
41 to serve out the remainder of his or her appointment, rather  
42 than being obliged to resign. Based on involvement in specific  
43 situation, the Regional Solicitor's office has advised that  
44 temporary absences would not change a member's eligibility to  
45 serve, but a permanent change in their residence would  
46 disqualify continued membership. As a result this proposed  
47 change is not included in the draft charter for that region.

48  
49 The Charter for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence  
50 Regional Advisory Council. This is on the charter. The

00096

1 Council is expected to exist into the foreseeable future. Its  
2 continuation is however subject to rechartering every biennial  
3 anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation  
4 Act of December 2, 1980. The Council shall take no action  
5 unless the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act  
6 has been complied with.

7

8 The Council reports to the Federal Subsistence Board,  
9 Chair is also appointed by the Secretary of Interior with the  
10 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. Administrative  
11 support for the activities of the Council will be provided by  
12 the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. The  
13 Council possesses the authority to perform the following  
14 duties:

15

16 (1) initiate, review and evaluate proposals for  
17 regulations, policies, management plans, an other  
18 matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and  
19 wildlife on public lands within the region;

20

21 (2) provide a forum for the expression of opinions and  
22 recommendations by persons interested in any matter  
23 related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on  
24 public lands within the regions;

25

26 (3) encourage local and regional participation in the  
27 decision making process affecting the taking of fish  
28 and wildlife on the public lands within the region for  
29 subsistence uses;

30

31 (4) prepare an annual report to the Secretary  
32 containing the following:

33

34 A. An identification of current and  
35 anticipated subsistence uses of fish and  
36 wildlife populations within the region;

37

38 B. An evaluation of current and anticipated  
39 subsistence needs for fish and wildlife  
40 populations within the regions;

41

42 C. A recommended strategy for the management  
43 of fish and wildlife populations within the  
44 region to accommodate such subsistence uses and  
45 needs;

46

47 D. Recommendations concerning policies,  
48 standards, guidelines and regulations to  
49 implement the strategy;

50

00097

1 (5) make recommendations on determinations of  
2 customary and traditional use of subsistence resources;

3  
4 (6) make recommendations on determinations of rural  
5 status; and

6  
7 (7) provide recommendations on the establishment and  
8 membership of Federal local advisory committees.

9  
10 Seven: The Council shall perform its duties in  
11 conformity with the Operating Manual for Federal Subsistence  
12 Regional Advisory Councils.

13  
14 Annual operating costs of the Council are estimated at  
15 \$100,000.00, which includes one person-year staff support.

16  
17 Eight: Meetings: The Council shall meet at least  
18 twice a year at the call of the Council, Council Chair, Federal  
19 Subsistence Board or designated Federal official, with the  
20 advance approval of the Federal Subsistence Board Chair or the  
21 designated Federal officer, who shall also approve the agenda.

22  
23 Nine: Council membership shall be as follows: Eleven  
24 members who shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters  
25 relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and are  
26 residents of the region represented by the Council.

27  
28 Members shall be appointed by the Secretary of  
29 Interior with the concurrence of Secretary of Agriculture,  
30 based upon the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence  
31 Board.

32  
33 Vacancy: Whenever a vacancy occurs among Council  
34 members appointed under Paragraph 9, the Secretary shall  
35 appoint an individual in accordance with Paragraph 9 to fill  
36 that vacancy for the remainder of the applicable term.

37  
38 Terms of Office: Except as provided herein, each  
39 member of the Council shall serve a three-year term unless a  
40 member of the Council resigns prior to the expiration of the  
41 three-year term or he/she is removed for cause by the Secretary  
42 upon recommendation of the Federal Subsistence Board. Members  
43 shall be notified of their appointment in writing. If  
44 resigning prior to the expiration of a term, members shall  
45 provide a written resignation.

46  
47 Chair: Council members shall elect the Chair for a one  
48 year term.

49  
50 Removal of Members: If a Council member appointed

00098

1 under Paragraph 9 misses two consecutive regularly scheduled  
2 meetings, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board may  
3 recommend that the Secretary of the Interior with the  
4 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that  
5 individual.

6  
7 Compensation: Members of the Council may receive no  
8 compensation as members. Members shall, however, be allowed  
9 travel expenses, including per diem, in the same manner as  
10 persons employed intermittently in Government service are  
11 allowed such expenses under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

12  
13 Designated Federal Officer: The designated Federal  
14 Officer, pursuant to Section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory  
15 Committee Act, shall be the Federal Regional Coordinator, or  
16 his/her designee.

17  
18 Authority: The Council is established by virtue of  
19 authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands  
20 Conservation Act, (16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)).

21  
22 I submit my resignation. Is there anybody that want to  
23 make any changes on the charter?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor.

26  
27 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I can. I'm sorry that  
28 we've actually read the entire thing into the record. I think  
29 normally we would have summarized it in some way. But I would  
30 like to draw your attention to the question of alternates. And  
31 your Council has in the past put forward a request for two  
32 alternates, one from the Yukon drainage, one from the Kuskokwim  
33 drainage. That language is not included here right now but it  
34 should be. So in your motions, when you make a motion to  
35 recommend the charter, please include the alternates as you  
36 have in the past, and then it would be complete. It would have  
37 your complete recommendation.

38  
39 (Discussion and motion made in Yup'ik by John Thompson  
40 - not translated)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second to the motion?

43  
44 MR. McCANN: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann seconded.

47  
48 (Interpreter Hunt interjecting) There's a  
49 recommendation that this charter be accepted but have an  
50 alternate for -- one for the Yukon and one for Kuskokwim.

00099

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And discussion to the motion?

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. Request  
6 for roll call.

7

8 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

11

12 MR. GEORGE: David O. David?

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused.

15

16 MR. GEORGE: Paul Manumik? Not present. Ilarion  
17 Nicolai?

18

19 MR. NICOLAI: Yes.

20

21 INTERPRETER HUNTER: Fritz, yes.

22

23 MR. GEORGE: Steven White, not present. Billy McCann?

24

25 MR. McCANN: Yes.

26

27 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

28

29 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

30

31 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

32

33 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

34

35 MR. GEORGE: Paul John?

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused.

38

39 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

42

43 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, seven yes, four  
44 (indiscernible).

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Okay. Next on agenda  
47 is number 10. Number 10, new business, the Wolf Snaring  
48 Initiative.

49

50 MR. KOVACH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. My name is

00100

1 Steve Kovach, I'm with the refuge here in Bethel. I'm the  
2 Mammals Biologist. The local Fish and Game biologist could not  
3 attend this afternoon, so he asked me to present an update on  
4 the progress of the wolf snaring initiative.

5  
6 The organizers of the petition drive submitted their  
7 signatures to the Lieutenant Governor as required. They were  
8 short approximately 7,350 signatures of the required amount.  
9 They were given as by law another 30 days to collect the  
10 signatures that they needed. Their 30 day extension we believe  
11 began on the 15th of February, which means that it would extend  
12 through the 15th of March. They have 30 days to collect the  
13 signatures they need. They had a high number of signatures  
14 from people who were invalid as registered voters and that's  
15 why they fell short.

16  
17 If the ratio of valid to invalid signatures holds as  
18 what they had through their initial petition drive, they would  
19 need to collect 10,500 signatures in order to get the number  
20 that they require. In their very best month of collecting  
21 people to sign the petitions they only got a maximum of 7,500.  
22 Like I said, they have until about the middle of this month to  
23 collect the signatures that they need and resubmit to the  
24 Lieutenant Governor for verification. So that's all we know at  
25 this point in time on that.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council discussion and action  
28 if you need it.

29  
30 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (Myron Naning) Myron Naning of  
31 AVCP wants to bring an update on the wolf snaring initiative.  
32 At the present time those people that are in Doyon, Tanana  
33 Chiefs, they are at the present time collecting more signatures  
34 to oppose this initiative. And they thought that it is not  
35 only going to be affecting snaring, but leghold trapping. And  
36 it will have a detriment affect on the people that do fur  
37 trapping.

38  
39 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (John Thompson) Johnny Thompson  
40 says that he oppose. He make a motion that he oppose wolf  
41 snaring.

42  
43 INTERPRETER HUNTER: (James Charles) Second by James  
44 Charles.

45  
46 MR. McCANN: Question?

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00101

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose say no.

2  
3 (No opposing responses)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Federal Subsistence  
6 program update, Taylor Brelsford. That's on your booklet Tab  
7 W. Not Y, but W.

8  
9 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The  
10 first item that I would like to talk to you about is closer  
11 coordination with ADF&G. And we talked quite a lot about this  
12 in Hooper Bay. So I'll just update what has happened since  
13 then, rather than going through the whole thing. When we met  
14 in Hooper Bay we talked about how important it is to coordinate  
15 on data so that we don't have duplication of efforts or we miss  
16 out on good information that ADF&G has gathered. So we wanted  
17 to be sure that both the Area Biologists and the Refuge Staff,  
18 the Federal Subsistence Board had the benefit of all existing  
19 information by working together with ADF&G.

20  
21 So on this top sheet you'll see some specifics about  
22 joint review and joint preparation of technical papers,  
23 technical analyses. And we've actually been doing that this  
24 year. So the papers that you got this time have more  
25 involvement from ADF&G Staff. And the one significant change  
26 that I would like to draw to your attention, if you'd turn back  
27 to page four on this item regarding ADF&G coordination, you'll  
28 see the bottom half of the page it says Staff Committee  
29 recommendation. And the Staff Committee is suggesting to the  
30 Federal Board that ADF&G, this first paragraph says  
31 representatives of ADF&G would be invited to participate in  
32 Staff Committee meetings when the agenda is a discussion about  
33 proposed regulatory actions or other issues with impact on Fish  
34 and Wildlife management programs.

35  
36 Right now the Staff Committee meets in April and they  
37 have the technical papers and recommendations from the Regional  
38 Councils. But in the past ADF&G did not sit in on this  
39 meeting. Now, the Staff Committee is suggesting that ADF&G  
40 would sit in on that meeting. In the next paragraph it says  
41 representatives of Regional Councils may be invited to  
42 participate in Staff Committee meetings on a case by case basis  
43 where the Regional Councils have special information or special  
44 concerns about proposals, then the Chair of the Regional  
45 Council would also come to the Staff Committee meeting. That's  
46 the change that's being proposed in this area of closer  
47 coordination with ADF&G.

48  
49 This is in front of you right now to ask for your  
50 reaction, your agreement or concerns that you might have about

00102

1 it. There is a letter up in the front from Mitch Demientieff  
2 saying that the Board is ready to go ahead with this change,  
3 but they wanted to be sure the Councils were comfortable with  
4 that change. So that's the purpose of this agenda item before  
5 you, is to inform you of this change in the way Staff Committee  
6 meeting would be held and to ask for your agreement or concerns  
7 if you have concerns about it. Lester wants to make a motion.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, what's your.....

10  
11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept and  
12 approve the report by Mr. Brelsford.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any second? We're still  
15 waiting for the second.

16  
17 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by John Thompson. Discussion?  
20 Go ahead, Myron.

21  
22 MR. NANING: (Speaking in Yup'ik-not translated).

23  
24 (John Andrew interpreting) He's requesting that the  
25 Regional Council should be invited to participate in Committee  
26 meetings when the Committee considers proposals or others  
27 affecting respective Councils. Is that too much?

28  
29 MR. NANING: No, that's good. But I'd like to add that  
30 right now we're pushing towards the effort of tribal co-  
31 management. And many of the Staff recommendations from both  
32 Fish and Wildlife Service or Fish and Game, Alaska Department  
33 of Fish and Game will have impacts on our subsistence use  
34 resources. I think that we as subsistence users should be  
35 present to work with the Committees to come up with their  
36 recommendations because whatever recommendations that they come  
37 up may end up being the rules and regulations that are accepted  
38 at some point in the future and might negatively reduce the use  
39 of resources for subsistence purposes.

40  
41 So on the first paragraph it says the representatives  
42 of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game should be invited to  
43 participate. And on the second paragraph it says,  
44 representatives of Regional Councils may be invited. I think  
45 if we're going to a tribal co-management and emphasis on  
46 protecting our subsistence rights and way of living, Staff  
47 recommendations should be that representatives of Regional  
48 Councils should be invited.

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Will be invited.

00103

1 MR. NANING: Should be. Yeah, the same wording that  
2 they're using for Fish and Game, should be because if you place  
3 should be they'll have no other choice but to invite us there  
4 to their committee meetings. Okay. Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me ask this to who make the motion  
7 and who second it, shall we delete may be, put will invite?  
8 Should be? That will be included -- should be included?

9  
10 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, my intention on my motion  
11 was simply to accept the report as it was, but if you want  
12 another motion to adopt the recommendations with that included,  
13 I guess that would come in the form of another motion.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So it could be an amendment. Be  
16 amendment to the report.

17  
18 MR. L. WILDE: My motion was simply to accept the  
19 report, not to adopt it.

20  
21 MR. ANDREW: If you accept the report you're pretty  
22 much adopting the regulation.

23  
24 MR. L. WILDE: Not necessarily. But we could work it  
25 out. Anyway, I'm open to suggestions.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So the motion was to.....

28  
29 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, why don't I just withdraw  
30 my motion and then somebody can remake that motion over again.  
31 I withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion is that.....

34  
35 MR. L. WILDE: There is no motion.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There is no motion at this time.

38  
39 MR. THOMPSON: I'll make a motion to accept the  
40 recommendation with the correction of should be, and second  
41 paragraph.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Not may be? Okay.

44  
45 MR. McCANN: Second the motion.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a second. Discussion?

48  
49 MR. NICOLAI: Question.

50

00104

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for. Motion is  
2 now accept that report with the additional should be not may  
3 be. All who favor to the motion say aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose say no.

8  
9 (No opposing responses)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Now, approve with  
12 that additional wording.

13  
14 MR. BRELSFORD: The next item, Mr. Chairman, concerns  
15 the Federal Subsistence Board's restructuring. And this was  
16 the suggestion that we talked about in Hooper Bay of adding a  
17 Regional Council member, one representative of the Regional  
18 Councils onto the Federal Subsistence Board. This task force  
19 has been looking at restructuring or changing the makeup of the  
20 Federal Board over the past year. They got recommendations or  
21 input from all of the Councils in the fall meetings and then  
22 met again in January of 1998. And this report tells what they  
23 concluded when they met again in January of this year.

24  
25 Basically what happened is most of the Regional  
26 Councils supported Option number 2 that would add one Regional  
27 Council member to the Federal Subsistence Board. That was the  
28 suggestion of the Y-K Council in Hooper Bay. When the task  
29 force met in January they felt that this was not a good idea  
30 and they are recommending to leave the Federal Board as it is  
31 with no changes. So that at the present time Bill Thomas, the  
32 Regional Council Chair from Southeast who worked on this task  
33 force, he had some extra concerns that he wrote down on the  
34 pages here. They talk about how to strengthen the Council  
35 Chair participation at the Board meeting. And he wants to be  
36 sure that the Councils don't go backwards in their  
37 representation or their influence at the Federal Subsistence  
38 Board meetings. So he has written down his idea here. It's  
39 like his additional comments on the task force report.

40  
41 No action is required from you at this time. This is  
42 the task force recommendation that will go to the Board and the  
43 Board would talk with the Regional Council Chairs in May at the  
44 Board meeting. On Monday of the Board meeting week, the 10  
45 Regional Council Chairs meet in work session with the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board and they will talk further about this item at  
47 that time. So no action is required on your part. This was  
48 just to inform you about the task force decisions from January  
49 of 1998 and to make you aware, Mr. Chairman, so that when you  
50 go to the Board meeting in May you will be able to discuss this

00105

1 with the whole Board.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So, Taylor, this is my understanding,  
4 it's just a report.

5

6 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We don't have to take no action  
9 Council side?

10

11 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Go the the next.

14

15 MR. BRELSFORD: The next one is a policy statement. Up  
16 at the top it says Request for Reconsideration and Special  
17 Action Policy Clarification. Basically the issue here is the  
18 Board is worried that a lot of RFRs, Requests for  
19 Reconsideration, or we might call it an appeal of a Board  
20 decision, a lot of those come in and they don't have much  
21 content, they don't make a very strong case with alternative  
22 information or identifying an error in the Staff information  
23 and so on. And so this policy tries to set some standards for  
24 appeals. When the State wants to appeal a decision about c&t  
25 determination, this would say you have to demonstrate some new  
26 information or an error in the information.

27

28 And then there's a little bit of additional information  
29 about public notice and public involvement and Board special  
30 action meetings to be sure that the Councils and the public are  
31 aware of these meetings. This is very much a procedural  
32 statement. I don't believe that it raises any policy questions  
33 that the Councils have been concerned about. It's really  
34 focused on having good business procedures for the Board's  
35 decisions. And in my opinion nothing is at risk for the  
36 Regional Councils. You've had access to Board discussions  
37 about RFRs, you've actually had the RFRs come back before you  
38 for additional comment and so on. There's no change in the  
39 quality of involvement of the Regional Councils in RFR  
40 decisions.

41 What we are trying to do here it to make sure that very  
42 request that comes forward have some real content to it, some  
43 real substance to it. So this again requires no action. It's  
44 kind of a procedural update. If you wanted to understand more  
45 about the details of how the Board functions.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Taylor. Next.

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: The next one up at the top it says, the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board Consent Agenda. And this is also

00106

1 looking at efficiency in the Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
2 in May. This is actually a little bit like what you did today,  
3 where you grouped together a bunch of proposals that had a  
4 support recommendation, a past recommendation, and you went  
5 more quickly through those proposals that had a Staff  
6 recommendation of do pass or to support them.

7  
8 What the Board would do with the consent agenda is to  
9 identify proposals where the Staff and the Regional Councils  
10 recommend support, and they would decide on those as a block,  
11 rather than going through each one with a full presentation and  
12 taking additional time. So basically the idea is that where  
13 Staff and Regional Councils line up in support of a proposal,  
14 those would be moved in a block, a consent block. Again, this  
15 is a procedural change at the Federal Board meeting, it is  
16 provided for your information. Your Chairman always goes to  
17 the Board meeting and so would follow these procedures, but  
18 sometimes the Vice-Chair or other members might be there, and  
19 this way you would understand how the sequence of decisions  
20 would be made. It does not require any action on your part,  
21 it's informational only.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next.

24  
25 MR. BRELSFORD: And the final item for me to mention to  
26 you is the last one in Tab W for wild, and that is to update  
27 you on the applications for Subsistence Council Seats. There  
28 are help me, John, three seats?

29  
30 MR. ANDREW: Seven. Three seats are up right now,  
31 Steven White, David O. David and Fritz George.

32  
33 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. So new nominations are coming  
34 in and we have a total so far.....

35  
36 MR. ANDREW: And we've got a total of seven. And I  
37 just received within the last three more to send over.

38  
39 MR. BRELSFORD: So we just wanted to mention to you  
40 that the nomination period is still open until March 20th. And  
41 if you hear of people in your villages who are interested in  
42 applying for the Subsistence Council for these, these will be  
43 vacant seats, they can call us for an application or we have  
44 some applications here that you could hand on to people who  
45 might be interested. This comes up every year. The  
46 nominations are opened for those seats that expire within the  
47 calendar year. And we just want to be sure that all of the  
48 people who are interested would have a chance to submit an  
49 application. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I've concluded those  
50 items. Thank you.

00107

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Taylor. Next on the agenda  
2 C. Agency Report, next is Yukon Fish and Wildlife Service,  
3 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Mike Rearden. You're on  
4 the hot seat.

5  
6 MR. REARDEN: Actually, it's kind of cold here, Mr.  
7 Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we won't take too much of your time  
8 here, but Steve would like to go over and give you an update on  
9 some moose work we've done. And I would like to start it off  
10 by kind of filling in the report for Mimi Hogan, which was  
11 actually down here on C(3) to talk about the migratory bird  
12 management if that's all right with you. So I'll go ahead and  
13 to that if that's all right and then Steve will cover these  
14 items and we'll be out of your hair.

15  
16 Mostly this is just information I want to give you  
17 since you're all people that deal with subsistence and you'll  
18 be in your villages and this is information that's important to  
19 pass along to people. As all of you know, spring subsistence  
20 hunting has occurred on the Delta for a very, very long time  
21 and it's been a controversial subject for a lot of years  
22 because in 1916 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed and  
23 made it illegal for people to hunt birds between March 10th and  
24 September 1st.

25  
26 Just recently an amendment was made on that Migratory  
27 Bird Treaty Amendment that will allow legal hunting of birds in  
28 the spring in Alaska by rural people. And this protocol as  
29 it's called, this Amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,  
30 was ratified by the Senate on October 23, 1997, just this last  
31 fall. So we have begun the work now to go through the process  
32 to establish legal seasons for spring hunting out here on the  
33 Delta and elsewhere in Alaska.

34  
35 When the Senate said okay this is good, we're going to  
36 sign it, it doesn't automatically make the spring subsistence  
37 hunting legal. It has to be opened with regulations. And  
38 Amendments to the Bird Treaty Act now gives the Service the  
39 authority to set these regulations between March 10th and  
40 September 1st. And in the meantime we still continue on in  
41 this area with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan  
42 and the Closed Season Policy in the remainder of Alaska. So  
43 waterfowl hunting will still continue as it has for years and  
44 we'll begin the process of developing the regulations also.

45  
46 We think it will take several years to go through the  
47 process. As we know, it's taken a long time to get to this  
48 point and we feel it's very important that it gets done right.  
49 And if it takes three or four years to do it, then so be it.  
50 At least then we'll have it done properly. The first phase of

00108

1 setting regulations will be devoted to setting up management  
2 bodies. And the protocol mandates that subsistence users will  
3 have an effective and meaningful role in the development of  
4 implementation regulations through these management bodies.  
5

6 Now, this Council will not be that management body.  
7 It's a separate issue. Obviously you haven't dealt with  
8 waterfowl issues and so this is just informational so that you  
9 guys will be aware of it. But these management bodies will  
10 include Native people, Federal and State of Alaska employees as  
11 equals on these boards and will develop recommendations for  
12 among other things seasons, bag limits, law enforcement  
13 policies, population and harvest monitoring, education  
14 programs, research, use of traditional knowledge, habitat  
15 projection, all of those things. Village Councils will be  
16 involved to the maximum extent. And that's one of the reasons  
17 we think it'll take some time because we need to go to all the  
18 villages and gather input and information from those people.  
19

20 Once these management bodies are in place, the  
21 management bodies will develop proposals for regulations. That  
22 will go to the Flyway Council and the Service Regulation  
23 Committee. So once the proposals come out of these management  
24 bodies they'll go through the same process that all the  
25 regulations do now for waterfowl.  
26

27 The Treaty language and the Negotiating Report mandated  
28 how certain aspects of the subsistence harvest will be managed.  
29 And the following elements are in the Negotiating Report. The  
30 eligibility is established for indigenous inhabitants of Alaska  
31 and that originally was defined in the Negotiating Report to be  
32 Alaska Natives who were permanent residents of villages within  
33 designated areas where subsistence hunting of migratory birds  
34 is customary and traditional. The term also include permanent  
35 resident non-Natives of those villages who have legitimate  
36 subsistence hunting needs.  
37

38 When the protocols were ratified in the Senate, an  
39 understanding was attached that states the United States  
40 understands the term indigenous inhabitants means permanent  
41 residents of a village within a subsistence harvest area,  
42 regardless of race. The subsistence harvest areas are  
43 established to include most village areas in rural Alaska and  
44 does not include areas like Anchorage, Matanuska Valley,  
45 Fairbanks, North Star Borough and the Kenai Peninsula.  
46

47 That's about it. We have yet to start the process  
48 really. There have been some preliminary meetings of which  
49 Myron Naning is a part of it, so if you have questions I'll try  
50 to answer them and if I can't I'm sure that Myron can do it.

00109

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, you guys have any questions?

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask Mike,  
4 have you guys come up with anything as to the cause of the die-  
5 off of birds, especially the coastal birds?

6

7 MR. REARDEN: The seabirds this last summer? Well, the  
8 ones that people in the villages gathered and sent to us that  
9 we sent out for a necropsy, or they cut them open and tried to  
10 find out why, all of those birds starved to death. And the  
11 thought is that because the Bering Sea was much warmer this  
12 last summer than it normally is, that the fish the birds depend  
13 on to feed on were probably in much lower areas, so the birds  
14 couldn't reach them when they were feeding. That's one  
15 thought. Nobody knows for sure but that's a suspicion. But  
16 the birds that we did send in had starved to death.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions? Look like that's  
19 it.

20

21 MR. REARDEN: Okay. Well, Steve has a few minutes here  
22 on caribou and moose.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

25

26 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to update you  
27 from the information that we presented at your meeting last  
28 fall, the reported moose harvest, this is the harvest that's  
29 been reported to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, along  
30 the Kuskokwim River there were 24 moose taken, along the Yukon  
31 River from Mountain Village up to Paimiut, there were 52 moose  
32 taken. From Mountain Village downriver there was 19 moose that  
33 have been reported taken.

34

35 An interesting thing is that section from Mountain  
36 Village down to the mouth of the river, this hunt's been going  
37 for three years now. This is the third year in a row where the  
38 harvest has been the same thing, it's been 19 moose. In the 10  
39 day winter season, that's a to be announced season both for the  
40 Federal subsistence hunt as well as the State hunt, zero moose  
41 were reported taken during that hunt in Unit 18. Fish and Game  
42 also has recently sent out the reminder letter to hunters who  
43 picked up a harvest ticket but have not turned them in and they  
44 asked me to forward on to you a request for you people when you  
45 get back to your villages, if you know people who have harvest  
46 tickets and haven't turned them in, to please mail them in.  
47 All they have to do is drop them in the mailbox and they go in.  
48 And it helps us learn about where people hunt, how much effort  
49 they expended and the harvest. It helps us in managing.

50

00110

1 With regards to moose, we wanted to do censuses of  
2 moose in two different areas. Snow conditions and weather  
3 conditions only allowed us to do one of those. We selected and  
4 area along the Yukon River between Paimiut and Pilot Station,  
5 our count area is approximately 1,600 square miles in size.  
6 The count we conducted a month ago in the first part of  
7 February was the second time this area was counted. The first  
8 time was in March of '92. During the census they observed 625  
9 moose and the total estimate for the survey area was 994 moose.  
10 This last month we observed 1,253 moose, or about double what  
11 was observed six years ago. The current estimate for this same  
12 area is now just over 2,000 moose. It's obvious moose have  
13 been growing in this part of the Yukon River.

14  
15 With regard to caribou in the southern part of Unit 18,  
16 traditionally the Kilbuck caribou area, I reported to you at  
17 your meeting last fall that we had a fairly substantial  
18 migration of caribou into the area in August. Most of these  
19 animals left the unit in late September or early October,  
20 however, in the middle part of November approximately 15,000  
21 caribou moved back into the area. They came in through the  
22 Whitefish Lake area. Between this time and January they  
23 basically moved between Whitefish Lake and Three-step Mountain  
24 all winter long, then in late January we had more caribou move  
25 into the area. These animals seemed to be staying mostly in  
26 the hills between the Tuluksak River and Elbow Mountain.

27  
28 The last count that I completed on these animals was  
29 about three weeks ago. At that time I counted 38,000 caribou  
30 in the hills. Just to let you know, this is the highest count  
31 of caribou that's ever been recorded and in the unit. We have  
32 also at the refuge been receiving sporadic reports of caribou  
33 on the tundra north of Bethel in December and January. We  
34 haven't been able to find them by flying but we are receiving  
35 reports that there's small scattered groups of caribou out  
36 there, which is very encouraging, it tells us that caribou are  
37 using more areas than they have in recent past.

38  
39 In the northern end of the refuge, in the Andreafsky  
40 Mountains, we did have Western Arctic caribou move onto the  
41 refuge again in December, just like they did a year ago, and  
42 they were present for about a year and a half. We received  
43 reports from residents of Marshall that they were harvesting  
44 caribou just south of the Yukon River in that area. I did a  
45 fly-over in there in the middle part of December and found sign  
46 of caribou, but I didn't find any in there.

47  
48 Another note in our cooperative effort to monitor the  
49 caribou with Fish and Game, in early January the Fish and Game  
50 Biologist from Dillingham was checking on reports of Mulchatna

00111

1 caribou along the Yukon River. What he found was a continuous  
2 band of caribou and sign of caribou basically from Whitefish  
3 Lake up through the Blackburn Hills into the Unalakleet, Innoko  
4 and Iditarod River Drainages. Basically what this told us is  
5 that for the first time since the turn of the century we have a  
6 mixing of Mulchatna caribou and Western Arctic caribou. And  
7 that's all we have for now, Mr. Chairman.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Also that I hear east side of Scammon  
10 Bay Mountains there was some caribou around there too.  
11 Estimate of what I hear is 15 to 20 caribous in that area. So  
12 you could see that caribou is getting expanding all over now  
13 again now. Do you guys have a question for him?

14  
15 MR. NICOLAI: Mr. Kovach, has there been any  
16 consideration (inaudible-away from microphone).

17  
18 MR. KOVACH: The fire in the Red Devil area is what  
19 you're referring to, correct? That was one of the larger  
20 hotter fires that we've had in the State for a long time and we  
21 have very little information about how those kinds of fires  
22 affect moose. We do know there's a lot of movement of moose.  
23 And in and near the fire area. The best information that I  
24 have was from the fire in the Big Lake area outside of  
25 Anchorage two summers ago. And what they discovered with that  
26 fire is within a week after the fire cooling down there was  
27 moose moving right back into the middle of the burn area to  
28 forage on willows and grasses that re-sprout immediately after  
29 the fires goes through.

30  
31 A fire as large as the Red Devil fire probably caused  
32 some temporary relocation of moose, but I would suspect that  
33 next summer they'll see moose back in a lot of their original  
34 sites. But that's, you know, yet to be seen. We did have a  
35 small fire at the Breast (ph) Mountain area on the refuge this  
36 summer. Less than a month after the fire was out I observed  
37 caribou standing in the middle of the burn going in foraging.  
38 And so it really didn't disturb them at all.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions?

41  
42 MR. REARDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43  
44 MR. KOVACH: Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Do we have a Togiak  
47 Wildlife Refuge representative here?

48  
49 MR. FISHER: Mr. Chairman, I'll fill in for the refuge.

50

00112

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

2 MR. FISHER: I don't have very much, but they did want  
3 me to pass out this handout to you. I won't bother to go  
4 through it. I'd like to have you read it, there's some good  
5 information there. And then I just have a couple of brief  
6 items and then we'll move on on our agenda. Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman.

8  
9 As I mentioned earlier in the day, the Togiak Refuge  
10 and Fish and Game had their first moose hunt there in Unit  
11 17(A). This is the first time they've had a moose hunt there  
12 since 1980. The animals moved in and there's plenty of habitat  
13 there, so things look pretty good. There were 44 permits  
14 issued and there was 15 animals harvested. Most of those  
15 animals were harvested by people from Togiak and Twin Hills.

16  
17 Another encouraging thing that happened with moose in  
18 17(A), they counted about 430 animals in late January/early  
19 February. So that population is increasing. Another item they  
20 wanted me to pass on to the Council was they're in the process  
21 of updating and revising their public use management plan. As  
22 soon as that's completed they will have a draft out for public  
23 review and they do plan on attending and carrying out meetings  
24 in those villages that are associated with that plan. And I  
25 think probably at our next meeting they'll have a full report  
26 for you people and you people probably will get a chance to  
27 review the plan.

28  
29 I think that concludes what I have to say regarding the  
30 refuge. And if you have that handout, if you'd take a look at  
31 that. And if you have any questions on that, give me a call or  
32 call the refuge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Number 4 on agenda,  
35 Bureau of Land Management. Okay. Number 5, Alaska Department  
36 of Fish and Game, Fisheries, Charlie Burkey. Go ahead,  
37 Charlie.

38  
39 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, my name is Charlie Burkey,  
40 I'm the Kuskokwim Area Management Biologist for the State of  
41 Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries  
42 Management and Development Division. This report will cover  
43 the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries. The text of this report  
44 and its accompanying figures, which I'll be showing you on  
45 these overheads here, you have them, I passed them out earlier  
46 yesterday in a handout entitled, Pacific Salmon Fisheries in  
47 the Kuskokwim Area, Alaska. The cover page looks like that.

48  
49 This report will provide a geographical description of  
50 the Kuskokwim area, an historic overview of the Kuskokwim area

00113

1 salmon fishery and a description of the Department's salmon run  
2 assessment program. The Division of Commercial Fisheries  
3 Management and Development of the Alaska Department of Fish and  
4 Game is responsible for the management of commercial and  
5 subsistence fisheries in the Kuskokwim area. The overall goal  
6 of the Kuskokwim Area Management Program is to manage the  
7 salmon runs for sustained yield under the policy set forth by  
8 the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

9  
10           Subsistence fishing has been designated by the Alaska  
11 State Legislature and the Alaska Board of Fisheries as the  
12 highest priority among beneficial users of the resource. And  
13 Management of the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries must take a  
14 conservative approach to maintain the subsistence priority and  
15 to provide for spawning area escapements to sustain production  
16 of the resource. The Commercial Fisheries Management Staff and  
17 the Kuskokwim area includes one are management biologist,  
18 myself, one research project biologist, two assistant  
19 management biologists, one field office assistant and  
20 approximately 25 seasonal employees that are hired annually to  
21 assist in conducting various management and research projects.

22  
23           The Staff has also become increasingly involved with  
24 various Native and non-Native non-profit groups in the US Fish  
25 and Wildlife Service to develop and operate salmon escapement  
26 monitoring projects. Hopefully you can follow along with this  
27 map better in your handout there. This is not a very good  
28 projection here. The Kuskokwim area includes the Kuskokwim  
29 River drainage and all waters that flow into the Bering Sea  
30 between Cape Newenham in the south and the Naskonat Peninsula  
31 just north of Nelson Island.

32  
33           Commercial salmon fishing takes place in four  
34 districts, two in the mainstream Kuskokwim River and two in  
35 Kuskokwim Bay. District 1 is the lower 146 miles of the  
36 Kuskokwim River from the mouth to approximately nine miles  
37 upstream of the Tuluksak River. District 2, the middle  
38 Kuskokwim River, is 50 miles long, stretching from nine miles  
39 below Kalskag upstream to Chuathbaluk. District 4, Quinhagak,  
40 is in the Kuskokwim Bay waters off the Village of Quinhagak,  
41 and District 5 is the waters within Goodnews Bay.

42  
43           The Kuskokwim area commercial salmon fishery, it dates  
44 back to approximately the late 1800s. Most of the commercial  
45 sales in those years stayed locally within the Kuskokwim area  
46 and fish were sold as dog food primarily. In 1913 was the  
47 first year that the Kuskokwim commercial fishery actually  
48 caught fish for export to other areas. The commercial fishing  
49 started in District 4 in 1960, and in 1968 the commercial  
50 fishing just started in District 5. The Kuskokwim Chum Salmon

00114

1 Fishery, commercial chum salmon fishery, began in 1971 when  
2 gillnet mesh size was restricted to six inches or smaller after  
3 June the 25th. In Districts 4 and 5 gillnet mesh size has been  
4 restricted to six inches or smaller since inception of the  
5 commercial fishery. In 1985, the six inch maximum gillnet mesh  
6 size was applied to all Kuskokwim area commercial salmon  
7 fisheries. The directed chinook salmon fishery in the  
8 Kuskokwim River was discontinued in 1987.

9  
10 Coho salmon are the most important species in the  
11 commercial fishery both in terms of harvest numbers and value  
12 to the fisherman. The commercial fisheries in all four  
13 districts target coho in late July and August. Chum salmon are  
14 second of importance being the target species in the Kuskokwim  
15 River in June and July. Sockeye salmon are the third most  
16 commercially species with directed fisheries for that species  
17 in Districts 4 and 5. Chinook catch and value ranks fourth  
18 with the only directed commercial fishery on this species  
19 occurring in District 4, Quinhagak. And Pink salmon are the  
20 least numerous and the least valuable species in the commercial  
21 fishery.

22  
23 This graph here gives you an example of commercial and  
24 subsistence catch in the Kuskokwim area, or Kuskokwim River to  
25 be more specific from 1988 to 1996. You'll notice on this  
26 graph that the black bars or the dark bars, that's the  
27 subsistence catch, whereas the light bars are the commercial  
28 catch. And notice that for chinook salmon, the subsistence  
29 catch greatly exceeds the commercial catch on the river,  
30 whereas for the other species, especially chum and coho salmon,  
31 the commercial catch greatly exceeds the subsistence catch that  
32 species.

33  
34 Prior to 1983 the management strategy of conservatively  
35 increasing the commercial catch harvest guidelines allowed  
36 development of the fishery, commercial fishery. The change  
37 from a harvest-guideline-based management strategy, or  
38 basically a catch quota, to an escapement-objective-based  
39 strategy in 1983 has increased the harvest.

40  
41 And the expansion of the commercial has occurred  
42 primarily within the last 20 years and has since leveled off in  
43 the last couple of years. Since the peak of 829 permit holders  
44 fished in 1995, the number of active permits has declined.  
45 Economic factors are believed to be the main cause of this  
46 decline in commercial effort within the last couple of years.

47  
48 Fishing periods in Districts 1 and 2 are usually six  
49 hours long, while most periods in District 4 and District 5 are  
50 12 hours in length. And permit holders in the Kuskokwim area

00115

1 can freely transfer between commercial fishing periods in  
2 season.

3  
4 Now, again I'll apologize for the projection here, but  
5 this map will identify the different run assessment projects  
6 that the Department uses to assess the strength of the salmon  
7 run in season. And they are located in this map and delineated  
8 by the dark triangles. And I'll run down them briefly here.

9  
10 Now, the vast size and remoteness of the Kuskokwim area  
11 presents a tremendous challenge to monitoring salmon  
12 escapements and assessing run abundance. Table 1, which is  
13 listed in your handout, lists the various methods used by the  
14 Department to manage the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries and  
15 assess salmon run abundance.

16  
17 Weirs, towers and sonars are used to enumerate salmon  
18 on the spawning grounds. Seven such projects were operated in  
19 1997, they were: The Aniak River sonar, which is located 11  
20 miles from Aniak on the Aniak River. It enumerates chum salmon  
21 and it's located on one of the largest chum salmon producing  
22 systems in the Kuskokwim River drainage. The Department runs  
23 this project and receives staffing assistance from AVCP.

24  
25 The Kwethluk River tower, up near Three-step,  
26 enumerates primarily chinook, chum and coho salmon. It is a  
27 cooperatively run project operated cooperatively with AVCP and  
28 with assistance from the Department of Fish and Game.

29  
30 The George River weir enumerates primarily chinook,  
31 chum and coho salmon. It is another cooperative project  
32 operated with the Kuskokwim Native Association in Aniak area  
33 with staffing and technical and equipment assistance from the  
34 Department of Fish and Game. It's located near the mouth of  
35 the George River.

36  
37 The Kogruklu River weir enumerates chinook, sockeye,  
38 chum and coho salmon and the project is operated by the  
39 Department. It's located at Mile 1 of the Kogruklu River near  
40 its origin at the Holitna River.

41  
42 The Takotna River tower enumerates chinook and chum  
43 salmon. It's located in the Village of Takotna near McGrath.  
44 It is another cooperative project, it's operated by the Takotna  
45 Community School and with technical and equipment assistance  
46 from the Department of Fish and Game.

47  
48 Going down to the bay, the Kanektok River tower,  
49 located approximately 15 miles from Quinhagak on the Kanektok  
50 River. It enumerates chinook, sockeye, chum and coho salmon.

00116

1 It's a cooperative project operated by the Quinhagak IRA and  
2 which has staffing and technical and equipment assistance from  
3 the Department.

4  
5 Our last project here is the Middle Fork Goodnews River  
6 weir. It's located approximately 11 miles from Goodnews Bay  
7 Village on the Middle Fork of the Goodnews River. It  
8 enumerates chinook, sockeye, chum, pink and coho salmon and  
9 it's operated by the Department with financial assistance from  
10 the Quinhagak IRA and staffing and financial assistance from  
11 the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

12  
13 I'll move on to another run assessment tool that the  
14 Department uses, is aerial surveys. This is a map of the  
15 Kuskokwim area and the black lines denotes streams or portions  
16 of streams which are regularly surveyed by aerial surveys to  
17 enumerate salmon on the spawning grounds. Now, aerial surveys  
18 are generally restricted to clear water streams and lakes. The  
19 surveys are usually conducted on time each season during a  
20 window of just a few days when the maximum number of fish are  
21 expected to be on the spawning grounds.

22  
23 In most cases aerial surveys are best used to index  
24 populations of sockeye and chinook salmon because they are the  
25 most visible species when they're on the spawning grounds. A  
26 few streams are also surveyed for coho salmon, but weather  
27 conditions seldom allow reliable aerial surveys during the coho  
28 season. This figure shows the location of those streams and  
29 the sections on which aerial surveys are flown on a regular  
30 basis.

31  
32 Daily in season assessment of salmon run strength and  
33 timing is also available from a drift gillnet test fishery  
34 operated on the Kuskokwim River near Bethel. Twice a day  
35 gillnets are fished in a standardized manner. The test-fish  
36 catch from each tide is speciated and counted. And the catch  
37 statistics for chinook, sockeye, chum and coho salmon are  
38 presented as daily catch per unit of effort. Comparisons are  
39 made with test-fish results from previous years to assess the  
40 abundance and run timing.

41  
42 Management of the Kuskokwim area salmon fisheries also  
43 rely on salmon age-sex-size sampling, commercial catch  
44 statistics and verbal reports from subsistence and sports  
45 fishers to augment escapement and test-fish data. This  
46 concludes my oral report. Be happy to answer any questions.

47  
48 MR. NICOLAI: My name is Ray Nicolai from Kwethluk.  
49 I'd like to know how old your sonar equipment is.

50

00117

1 MR. BURKEY: Well, basically our sonar equipment,  
2 there's only one sonar presently on the river right now, it's  
3 on the Aniak River and that system has basically been in  
4 operation for two years. I can't tell you exactly when it was  
5 purchased or what have you, but it's basically considered up-  
6 to-date as far as its technical capabilities and its  
7 usefulness. So I could say that the equipment that's being  
8 used on that river presently has been there for the last two  
9 years. And now the Kuskokwim River sonar, we used to have a  
10 main river sonar near Bethel. That project has been  
11 discontinued temporarily and that also uses basically very  
12 sophisticated up-to-date equipment that the industry and  
13 technicians -- it gives us good reliable information as to fish  
14 passage.

15  
16 MR. NICOLAI: In this day and age if we were to make  
17 something electronically, tomorrow it's outdated. And I'm  
18 aware that there is new counting equipment that don't require  
19 such weirs, that when you go up you'll smell them a mile away.  
20 And even if there's one fish that didn't make it up the  
21 tributary, that's like thousand eggs that didn't spawn. My  
22 question was that is there a way that you can keep up-to-date on  
23 the counting equipment?

24  
25 MR. BURKEY: Mr. Chairman, the Department has technical  
26 staff that monitor this equipment. They regularly service this  
27 equipment, they regularly consult with industry sellers and  
28 vendors of this equipment and basically the equipment is  
29 maintained and up-to-date and technically competent for the job  
30 that it is asked to do. And, like I say, we have a staff of  
31 people who are paid to make sure that this equipment is  
32 operating correctly that the data it gives us is the best that  
33 is available.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions? Thank you.

36  
37 MR. BURKEY: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is B, Unit 18.  
40 Roger Seavoy here or Mike?

41  
42 MR. COFFING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roger Seavoy is  
43 not here and I'm not on the agenda but I'd like to take maybe  
44 an opportunity to provide some information to the Council. Ida  
45 Alexie was also on the agenda and Ida is in Nome attending a  
46 Board of Fisheries meeting, so she won't be able to be with you  
47 today.

48  
49 What I wanted just to briefly update you on, is I  
50 wanted to be sure and mention that the Department and Staff

00118

1 here in Bethel continue to work cooperatively with the Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service and with AVCP, as well as villages and  
3 advisory committees on projects here. And I just wanted to  
4 assure you that we certainly feel like that's the way we want  
5 to proceed, getting involvement from the communities through  
6 participation in the brown bear working group, or Kilbuck  
7 caribou or moose management plans. They have certainly been  
8 fruitful in the region and we've come a long ways doing that.  
9 We want to continue that kind of effort.

10  
11 One cooperative project that I'm pursuing now and have  
12 been working on is dealing with marine mammals. And although  
13 you're not in the process of managing marine mammals with this  
14 Council, I thought I still wanted to update you on that and let  
15 you know what we're doing with that because many of the village  
16 here do hunt and rely on marine mammals.

17  
18 The Subsistence Division is working with some  
19 communities along the coast to gather information on seals and  
20 sea lions, specifically. We were asked essentially by the  
21 National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal agency that  
22 regulates seals and sea lions, to try to find out more about  
23 subsistence uses, to go out and talk to the people in the  
24 communities and learn more about where people are harvesting.  
25 And it's important to get input from residents on their  
26 observations of marine mammals, specifically seals and sea  
27 lions, to learn from hunters, to learn from people in the  
28 communities how they feel the populations are doing. Do they  
29 perceive there to be any problem with the populations of seals  
30 and sea lions, or the health and condition of animals that  
31 they're harvesting.

32  
33 So in that effort a couple weeks ago I went to  
34 Quinhagak and worked cooperatively with Joshua Cleveland and  
35 residents there in Quinhagak and we did some interviews with  
36 elders and younger hunters to talk about seals and sea lions  
37 and gather information. And I hope to go back there in another  
38 week or so to actually hire a couple of individuals in the  
39 community who through the Natural Resource Department there  
40 will collect additional information on subsistence uses of  
41 seals.

42  
43 A week ago I was in Emmonak doing the same sort of  
44 thing with the Natural Resource program in Emmonak there  
45 through the Tribal Council. And we did some interviews with  
46 both elders and some younger hunters to learn about what time  
47 of year they see animals, what type of seals do they have, and  
48 their observations on the health of the animals and also to get  
49 their perceptions on how they feel the population of those  
50 animals are doing now and how were they doing before, to get

00119

1 some indication of whether there's any problem with seals.

2

3 There's been a fair amount of discussion and concern  
4 about what's going on in the Bering Sea. We've heard of birds  
5 starving to death, we've heard of concerns about fish and there  
6 has been a concern raised about sea lions as well. Talking to  
7 local folks will give us some additional information about the  
8 seals, identify what's there, how is it doing and how the local  
9 folks perceive those populations to be today.

10

11 I hope next week to get up to Hooper Bay and working  
12 through the Council there, hope to do the same sort of thing  
13 there. So we're continuing to work cooperatively with  
14 communities. Through these efforts we hope to be able to also  
15 provide some employment, to hire some people in those  
16 communities to help with this, to involve them directly in it  
17 and provide some job opportunities in the communities out  
18 there.

19

20 Lastly, I want to mention to the Board regarding fish  
21 and to this Council regarding fish. And it's primarily just an  
22 update to you on what's happened with customary and traditional  
23 use determinations for fish in this region. Last December in  
24 Fairbanks one of the topics that the Board of Fisheries  
25 listened to that we provided information on were subsistence  
26 uses of fish in Kuskokwim area and in the Yukon area. We  
27 provided information on what fish are harvested, seasonality,  
28 those eight criteria that you're so familiar with in your  
29 process. We used that process to describe this to the Board of  
30 Fisheries.

31

32 And after meeting they adopted customary and  
33 traditional use determinations for all fresh water fish in the  
34 Kuskokwim area and in the Yukon area, actually recognized  
35 customary and traditional use for all fresh water fish. They  
36 also adopted a positive finding for marine fish for the  
37 Kuskokwim area and for the Yukon area, and also shellfish. So  
38 currently under State regulations, State codes there is a  
39 positive customary and traditional use finding for basically  
40 all fish and shellfish throughout the Kuskokwim and Yukon  
41 areas.

42

43 That's noteworthy in that the Board had not dealt with  
44 that for some time. And I think those of you that have been  
45 involved in the work process can appreciate how the Board that  
46 we have now that is sitting there with John White as the  
47 Chairman has really invited and opened up their Board process  
48 to the public participation. During the Board process they set  
49 up sub-committees that work on these things, there's open  
50 discussion. The public, anybody that's there that wants to sit

00120

1 in can discuss them, bring their ideas forth and it goes back  
2 to the Board of Fisheries for deliberation.

3  
4 So it was a long meeting but it was a rewarding process  
5 for me to see that happen and more open opportunity for public  
6 involvement in that. I think that's all I have. I'll end with  
7 that. Thank you very much for your time today.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions for Mike? Thank you,  
10 Mike. Next on our agenda is D, Association Village Council  
11 President Myron Naning.

12  
13 INTERPRETER ANDREW: (Myron Naning) He's stating that  
14 he already gave his report yesterday right before this Council.  
15 A while ago he provided a handout to the Council members coming  
16 in from another source. The handout was requesting for  
17 information on subsistence as related to religion and our way  
18 of life as described in our area. He's the last one on the  
19 agenda. Myron is explaining what that paper was requesting.  
20 AVCP is part of the Federal takeover and the Federal management  
21 of subsistence fisheries because they know that any resource,  
22 if you start it in limited in numbers the Federal agency is  
23 more favorable and more liberal in granting rural preference.

24  
25 Like he said earlier, they're in support of the Federal  
26 takeover on Federal subsistence fisheries. He's describing  
27 that in the way that proposal came up, when it came up the  
28 proposed subsistence fishery rules are modeled after the State  
29 regulations. If the Federal takeover does occur and they  
30 should follow what's already in the Proposed Rule.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're getting there. There's no other  
33 reports, no other new business. Time and place. On your tab,  
34 your booklets X,Y,Z, you go back there. 1998 Regional Advisory  
35 Council Meeting Window. September 8 to 23, 1998. The whole of  
36 September is kind of busy month.

37  
38 (Council discussing selection of next meeting date - in  
39 Yup'ik - not transcribed)

40  
41 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the next  
42 meeting be held October 6 and 7 in Kwigillingok.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any second to the motion?

45  
46 MR. McCANN: Second.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Billy McCann. Discussion.

49  
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called for. All who  
2 favor say aye.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose same sign.

7  
8 (No opposing responses)

9  
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. October 6 and 7 at  
11 Kwigillingok. One thing I'd like to remind Staff, we're  
12 supposed to have a workshop, you know, this time and we didn't  
13 because of weather. So next time you guys please remember that  
14 we will have a workshop. Because some of our members that  
15 don't quite understand some of the English, you know, and we  
16 have to make sure this operational manual is -- it's very  
17 important in that meeting. It should be highlighted, let our  
18 rest of the Board understand. Like some of them didn't quite  
19 read the English like me. John make a motion to adjourn. Is  
20 there any second?

21  
22 MR. CHARLES: Second.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

25  
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27  
28 (Off record)

29  
30 \* \* \* \* \*

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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 Reporter and Owner of Computer Matrix, do  
9 hereby certify:

10  
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 26 through 121  
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
13 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory  
14 Council, Volume II, meeting taken electronically by Annalisa  
15 DeLozier on the 4rd day of March, 1998, beginning at the hour  
16 of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the KVNA Building, Bethel, Alaska;

17  
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by Mary  
20 E. Miller to the best of her 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 13th day of March,  
26 1998.

27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSEPH P. KOLASINSKI  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 04/17/00