

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

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VOLUME I

PUBLIC MEETING

Bethel, Alaska
October 5, 2006

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Harry Wilde, Sr., Chairman
- Bob Aloysius
- William Brown
- James Charles
- Edgar Hoelscher
- Beverly Hoffman
- Joseph Mike, Sr.
- Phillip Moses
- Raymond Oney
- Greg Roczicka
- Lester Wilde, Sr.

Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

Louie Andrew, Yup'ik Translator

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
3522 West 27th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-243-0668
jpk@gci.net

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/5/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. I'm kind of very well secure this morning. I got lady next to me and my brother over there, and Bob over in the corner, and her over there.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is Mary here?

MS. HOFFMAN: Not yet.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roll call.

MS. HOFFMAN: I was asked to do roll call by the Chair.

James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Here.

MS. HOFFMAN: Raymond Oney.

MR. ONEY: Here.

MS. HOFFMAN: William F. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Here.

MS. HOFFMAN: Harry Wilde, Sr.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Here.

MS. HOFFMAN: Edgar P. Hoelscher.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair, Edgar was scheduled to arrive yesterday but I haven't seen him around.

Thank you.

MS. HOFFMAN: Mary Gregory.

(No comments)

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Phillip Moses.
2
3 MR. MOSES: Here.
4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: Lester Wilde, Sr.
6
7 MR. WILDE: Here.
8
9 MS. HOFFMAN: Joseph Mike.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MS. HOFFMAN: Greg Roczicka.
14
15 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Greg asked to
16 be excused this morning, he needs to be in AVCP
17 participating on resolutions this morning.
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: Bob Aloysius.
20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Here.
22
23 MS. HOFFMAN: And I am here, too. That's
24 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight; is that
25 enough for a quorum Mr. Chair.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, ma'am.
28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We'll ask
32 our elder to give us invocation this morning.
33
34 (In Yup'ik)
35
36 Phillip (In Yup'ik)
37
38 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)
39
40 (Invocation)
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Phillip. We
43 will continue on our agenda. Housekeeping items and
44 announcements, Alex Nick.
45
46 Review and adoption of draft agenda
47 Council
48
49 Review and adoption of draft and approval
50 of minutes from the February 22-24 2006 Council meeting

1 at Emmonak. Council you find it in your booklet Page 6.
2
3 Regional Advisory Council concerns and
4 comments.
5
6 Subsistence Fisheries Issues.
7
8 Subsistence Post-Season Review and Joint
9 Federal and State presentation. Mike Rearden and John
10 Linderman.
11
12 Deferral of Yukon Northern Area Fisheries
13 Proposals, Don Rivard.
14
15 Alaska Board of Fisheries AYK Proposals
16 for Yukon/Kuskokwim Review and Recommendation, Don
17 Rivard.
18
19 Yukon Drainage Fishermen Association
20 Stakeholder Group, progress report.
21
22 Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea and
23 Aleutian Island Pollock Fisheries.
24
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
26
27 Draft 2007 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
28 Plan, Cliff Schleusner. Council you find it in your
29 booklet at Page 22.
30
31 Yukon Region, Council Review and
32 recommend, Council you find it on 28 in your booklet.
33
34 Kuskokwim Region, Council Review and
35 recommendation, Council you find it on Page 53.
36
37 Strategy Planning Update.
38
39 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
40 Program.
41
42 Yukon. David Waltemyer.
43
44 Association Village Council Presidents
45 and Kuskokwim Region, Eva Patton.
46
47 Association Council President,
48 Yukon/Kuskokwim Native Association Fisheries Program
49 update.
50

1 Subsistence Wildlife Issues.
2
3 WP06-30, Public Education Plan update
4 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta, Mike Rearden.
5
6 Call for 2007/2008 Federal Wildlife
7 Proposals, Alex Nick.
8
9 Customary Trade for Subsistence Foods,
10 Greg Roczicka. I also have hard time with that last
11 name.
12
13 .805 and Federal Subsistence Board Action
14 Report, Annual Report Reply.
15
16 2006 Annual Report Topics, Alex Nick.
17
18 .805c Federal Subsistence Board Wildlife
19 Action Report, Alex Nick, you find it in your booklet at
20 72.
21
22 2005 Annual Report Reply, Alex Nick,
23 Council you find it on Page 82.
24
25 Agency Organization Reports.
26
27 Office of Subsistence Management.
28
29 Call for Comment, Proposed Rural
30 Determination, Action Item, Council you find it in your
31 booklet Page 86.
32
33 Update Council Composition, Staff,
34 Council you find it on 98 in your booklet.
35
36 Update on Closure Review of Subsistence
37 Among and Customary and Traditional Determination Policy,
38 Staff, Council you find it on Page 98.
39
40 Update on the Kenai Subsistence Resource
41 Rural Region, Council handout.
42
43 Southeast Council Draft Petition to the
44 Secretary concerning hunting license, Action Item, Don
45 Rivard, Council you find it on your booklet at Page 99.
46
47 Update on Avian Bird Flu, handout.
48
49 National Wildlife Refuge.
50

1 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
2
3 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Council
4 you find on your booklet at Page 108.
5
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
7
8 Association of Village Council President.
9
10 Tribal Representative.
11
12 Municipal Government Representative.
13
14 ANCSA Village Corporation Representative.
15
16 Other Organizations.
17
18 Regional Council Business.
19
20 Review of Council Charter, Alex Nick,
21 Council you find it in your booklet at 114.
22
23 Election of Officers.
24
25 Chair.
26
27 Vice-Chair.
28
29 Secretary.
30
31 Appointments.
32
33 Lower Yukon River CFC Member.
34
35 Lower Kuskokwim River CFC Member.
36
37 Oh, other side, okay. Agenda continue.
38
39 Confirm Next Meeting on March 15 and 16,
40 2007 in Hooper Bay, Alex Nick, Council you find on Page
41 117.
42
43 Date and Place of Fall 2007 Fisheries
44 Meeting, Alex Nick, Council you find it on your booklet
45 at Page 118.
46
47 Closing Comments, Council.
48
49 Adjourn. Chair.
50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: I make a motion to adopt
2 the agenda.
3
4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, point of
7 order. We never got through the Item 4, housekeeping and
8 announcements.
9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: Oh.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Housekeeping and
13 announcements.
14
15 MR. A. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
16 Alex Nick, Regional Council coordinator. Please bear
17 with me I'm just getting over my cold and I can't speak
18 too clearly at times.
19
20 I'd like to welcome you back to Bethel
21 and also welcome audience to Bethel. We've had very,
22 very busy summer because we were not involved in, not
23 only preparation of the Council but we were also involved
24 in other things like 19(A) moose and other things that
25 were happening over the summer.
26
27 And I also was in Anchorage last week.
28 I escorted my wife for medical reasons and that kind of
29 put me back a little bit in planning. But we're pretty
30 much ready.
31
32 You might be wondering why we have Louie
33 Andrew as translator. We are not using contract
34 translators this go around. We're going to be using RIT
35 translators throughout the meeting.
36
37 And the coffee, you might be wondering
38 why coffee's not out at the table out here. Coffee is
39 going to be in the lobby this morning but it's going to
40 be moved in here this afternoon.
41
42 I do have the per diem checks and when we
43 take a break I will give some of you your advance.
44
45 All Council members were notified about
46 this meeting and those who have email and -- rather those
47 who have email were sent reminders and I think I did send
48 reminders to all Council members through the mail as
49 well, at least a couple times this summer, that this
50 meeting is going to happen today.

1 We almost had -- or rather we almost
2 experienced another snafu on hotels yesterday but we got
3 that corrected. So hopefully we'll have the rooms
4 throughout the meeting.

5
6 I also informed key agency Staff about,
7 you know, the request Council had a couple meetings ago
8 that all reports should be in written form and submitted
9 on a timely basis or bring them to this meeting and
10 provide you with written reports so you'll have ample
11 time to review those.

12
13 Also, for the new people in Bethel,
14 people who are here first time, I tried to prepare
15 information sheet, cheat sheet on eating places, where
16 you could go eat and information on taxi, they're on the
17 information table out there.

18
19 I think that's just about it on my part,
20 but I think Bob Aloysius has something else.

21
22 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a request that in
27 the case that the meeting goes beyond tomorrow afternoon,
28 past check in time for travel, that you arrange another
29 night of lodging for us.

30
31 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

34
35 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair, the travel
36 arrangements were made for return travel, all Council
37 were scheduled to travel home on Saturday. If your
38 itinerary indicates, you know, that you're returning on
39 Friday then there must be some mistake on that.

40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: The hotel said my last day
42 is Friday so that's the thing I'm worried about.

43
44 MR. A. NICK: You mean the lodging?

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 MR. A. NICK: Yeah, I'll talk to them
49 during break, thank you.

50

1 Doi.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Review and adoption of
4 agenda.
5
6 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll make a motion that we
7 adopt the agenda. Bev Hoffman.
8
9 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair, excuse me.
10 There are several people who need corrections or
11 additions to the agenda so if you could give them time
12 from the audience, and Cliff is one of them.
13
14 Thank you.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's no second on the
17 motion.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second on the motion.
20
21 MS. HOFFMAN: No, he said there's no
22 second on the motion.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, no, okay. Is there
25 any second for discussion purposes.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'll second the motion to
28 adopt the agenda as presented.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye,
31 adopting.....
32
33 MR. CHARLES: Discussion.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE:the agenda.
36
37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of order, Mr.
38 Chairman, it's now the time for discussion and changes on
39 the agenda.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay, discussion
42 on the agenda.
43
44 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. My name
45 is Cliff Schleusner. There's one addition we'd like to
46 add under the agenda under No. 8F, under 3, and that's
47 the addition of -- it's the Partners for Fisheries
48 Monitoring Program, and Kay Larson-Blair has prepared a
49 presentation on the Partners Intern Program that she's
50 like to present. So that would go as A under No. 8,

1 Section F 3 A. So right before David Waltemyer would be
2 Kay Larson Blair.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your name.

5

6 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Cliff Schleusner with
7 the Fisheries Information Service, Office of Subsistence
8 Management.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Can that be under D
15 because those are already in order of A, B, C, Partners
16 for Fisheries Monitoring Program?

17

18 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The reason I suggested
19 it be put before is she's going to do a brief overview of
20 the program before you hear from the individual Partners
21 biologists.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more additions to
26 agenda.

27

28 MR. MASCHMANN: Chairman. My name is
29 Gerald Maschmann, and I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
30 Service, Fairbanks Subsistence Fisheries Branch. And I
31 would like to add the Yukon River 2006 Salmon Season
32 Overview under 8A, and I'd like to have Kevin Clark with
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game who will be
34 presenting with me.

35

36 MS. HOFFMAN: Where did you want to put
37 it, Mr. Chair?

38

39 MR. MASCHMANN: 8A, after Mike Rearden
40 and John Linderman will probably be doing the Kuskokwim
41 River.

42

43 MS. HOFFMAN: After 8A?

44

45 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Am I to understand you
2 want Item 8A1?
3
4 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, sir, that's how I
5 would probably put it.
6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
10
11 MS. HOFFMAN: Who will be presenting
12 this?
13
14 MR. MASCHMANN: It will be myself, Gerald
15 Maschmann and Kevin Clark with the Alaska Department of
16 Fish and Game.
17
18 MS. HOFFMAN: Could you spell your last
19 name, please.
20
21 MR. MASCHMANN: M-A-S-C-H-M-A-N-N. Thank
22 you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more additions to
25 the agenda. Don.
26
27 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with
28 the Office of Subsistence Management. This is just a
29 real quick kind of flip, I talked with Mike Rearden this
30 morning and if you look under 11 A 6 on Page 3 it says
31 update on Avian Bird Flu, Mike is going to present that
32 to you, give you an update on that in his report under
33 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which is just
34 the next item down from that one. So it will be just a
35 little flip on that. It will be part of his report.
36
37 I would ask for that change. Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more additions.
40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I'd like to hear
46 from the St. Mary's subsistence fishers who had a concern
47 at our meeting last year to see if there was any
48 resolution to the concern they had, and they know which
49 one I'm talking about.
50

1 If you recall there was a concern that
2 there was one family fishing out of St. Mary's that
3 didn't seem to have any restrictions on the amount of
4 fish they were shipping out of St. Mary's and I was just
5 wondering if anybody had a report on what the findings
6 were.

7
8 If that could be included in the agenda
9 somewhere.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, say your name.

12
13 MR. BEARS: Mr. Chairman, I believe we
14 discussed this last year but I got another commitment at
15 St. Mary's tomorrow so I'll be leaving on the 5:00
16 o'clock flight this afternoon. And there isn't much of
17 an update because I haven't heard of any kind of action
18 that was taken on it.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: What was that?

21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: It was reported that they
23 will be covering that under the season summary which is
24 under what item, where is that?

25
26 MR. BERGSTROM: The one that Gerald
27 brought up.

28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more additions on
32 our agenda.

33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, i just want to
35 know when people fill out these green slips, when they
36 will be heard?

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, public comments
39 are welcome on each agenda and you could fill out green
40 sheet of paper back there and you'll be given chance to
41 testify or comment on our agenda.

42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: So, Mr. Chair.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: When the items arrive to
46 the -- on the agenda.

47
48 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay, Mr. Chair. Mr.
49 Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: I notice that Philip Guy
4 from Kwethluk filled out on subsistence concerns, so I
5 just wanted to make sure he is clear as to when he'll be
6 able to address that.
7
8 Are you clear, Mr. Guy, as to when you
9 can address.....
10
11 MR. GUY: Other than -- Mr. Chairman.....
12
13 MS. HOFFMAN: Could you come up here. I
14 just wondered if you were clear as to when you could
15 address your concerns.
16
17 MR. GUY: I thought I would leave it up
18 to the Chair to determine when it would be more
19 appropriate.
20
21 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Okay.
22
23 MR. GUY: Okay.
24
25 MS. HOFFMAN: Quyana.
26
27 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair.
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
30
31 MR. A. NICK: Yeah, those testifier
32 sheets, they should be given to either myself or to Don
33 Rivard and then we'll hand them to you, you know, from
34 the public.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
37 Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
40
41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, when are we going to
42 address their concerns, that hasn't been answered?
43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
45
46 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
47 of Subsistence Management. If I understand your concern,
48 Bob, it's when would they testify?
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, when would we address

1 their concerns, the ones they have on the green paper?

2

3 MR. RIVARD: Well, usually what happens
4 is the Chair will call if anybody needs to testify, will
5 give some kind of -- their views on a topic when the
6 topic is being discussed. But people can sign up at any
7 time on these sign-up sheets and have that ready for him
8 as well, then they should identify which topic they would
9
10 like to talk about.

11

12 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Betty.

15

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Beverly.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: I think that maybe -- I
23 just wanted to make sure that Philip Guy knew, and I
24 would think maybe the subsistence fisheries post-season
25 review, because he didn't say here, it just stated
26 subsistence concerns. So maybe you guys can determine
27 and let him know what part of the agenda he can speak at.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: We will talk with him and
30 determine which topic he really wants to discuss, yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more additions on
33 the agenda or questions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. The
48 agenda, we got an agenda approved. We're on 6, review
49 and adoption of draft unapproved minutes from February
50 22-24, 2006 Council meeting at Emmonak. Council you find

1 it on Page 6 in your booklet.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move we adopt the
8 minutes for the meeting we had in Emmonak February 22,
9 23, 24, 2006.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. chairman I'll second
12 the motion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
15 second to adopt the February 22-24 meeting at Emmonak,
16 there's been a motion and second. All who favor say --
17 discussion.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: I never had a chance to
24 review these minutes because I didn't get my packet until
25 yesterday so I.....

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I reviewed
28 the minutes and everything seemed to be in order. There
29 was one confusion I had when I first started and there
30 was a section on there where it stated -- let me get back
31 to No. 6 here, public comments. The bullets under public
32 comments, when I got into the minutes, I noticed some of
33 the typo -- or some of the language that was in there and
34 I was going to ask to have those corrected, but not being
35 able to memorize exactly what was said by the individuals
36 that made the statements of these bullets, I've since --
37 I know the people in our area, I thought that maybe that
38 they were written as stated, so that was the only comment
39 I had and that was the only concern I had, but it's no
40 longer a concern because I feel that was what was said by
41 the individuals, was captured in the minutes quite well.

42

43 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm just curious as to why
48 you didn't receive your deal until yesterday?

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: In September I was home

1 for four days. And in October I was home for one day.
2 That's why.

3

4 MS. HOFFMAN: Oh, problemo.

5

6 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

9

10 MR. A. NICK: Just a little explanation
11 on the bullets, the public comment bullets. We did the
12 best we can to capture using the transcripts, all of the
13 comments that were given during your February meeting,
14 just to let you know, okay.

15

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
19 for, all who favor say aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Number
28 7 on the agenda, Regional Advisory Council concern and
29 comments.

30

31 I think I do have concern and comments.
32 I have been sitting on this Chair for a long time and
33 it's getting to where it's starting to bother me, not
34 only that, I do have a problem like Federal and State
35 concern because I feel that me, myself, I been standing
36 for long time and I feel that some of us, that we're
37 sitting here and some of us people don't understand what
38 is the problem going on.

39

40 Just like one elder told me, Harry,
41 subsistence way of life is eroding away. It's no longer
42 as used to. Everything is take over by the law and
43 regulations, just like that in the early days back in --
44 our concern for thousands of years Alaska Natives harvest
45 fish and wildlife. Fish and wildlife.

46

47 And also back in 1968 the Federal
48 government transfer the authority to manage fish and
49 wildlife to Alaska to the new State when the state of
50 Alaska was new. And the State subsistence law creates a

1 priority for subsistence over all other fish and wildlife
2 used by -- or does not define subsistence users. And
3 then Congressmen passed ANILCA, Title VIII, ANILCA
4 protects subsistence needs of rural Alaskans. Alaska
5 Board of Fish and Game adopt regulation creating the
6 rural subsistence preference, the State program is not
7 compliance with ANILCA. Alaska Supreme Court rules that
8 the rural resident preference violates State
9 Constitution. If the Alaska State Supreme Court rules
10 that the rural residents preference violate Alaska
11 Constitution and my question is why then still State
12 managing and enforce the fish and wildlife. Unless State
13 adopt policy contained in the Title VIII of ANILCA into
14 State Constitution because the State think that
15 subsistence management by the State is the best for the
16 resource and the best for the people. In the news
17 release, October 1, 1999, when Secretary Babbitt has
18 said, he said he will oppose any proposed amendment that
19 would weaken ANILCA protection.

20

21 Today we, most of the people, like me,
22 I've been trying to subsist ever since I was about 13
23 years old and lots of us, I, with Native people, elders,
24 that we don't understand what's really going on.

25

26 There must be some way to -- there is a
27 way. We need t understand where we're at and what we do.

28

29 So that's really my concern so hopefully
30 that some day that we will understand what's really going
31 on in our area.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 Any comments from Council.

36

37 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

40

41 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
42 I am James Charles from Tuntutuliak. I live down river
43 from Bethel. I'm with Kuskokwim Salmon Management
44 Working Group.

45

46 We have a lot of meetings during the
47 summer, both for subsistence and commercial so for
48 subsistence my village has been calling me about when
49 they can subsistence fish because we're still on windows
50 down on Kuskokwim -- down here in Kuskokwim. So when

1 they -- some people are learning that we have closure --
2 subsistence fishing closures for three days but some
3 people think that it's already gone and lifted up so they
4 still don't know.

5
6 The older people tell me that there is
7 enough fish on the river and they shouldn't be closed for
8 subsistence fishing. And so I've been reporting to the
9 Department of Fish and Game, even women who cannot go out
10 fishing, call me, when can we go subsistence fishing and
11 I tell them that we go by calendar that is given to us
12 when we can fish subsistence.

13
14 So last year the lower Kuskokwim AC was
15 going to write a proposal to lift that window for good
16 but I was told by somebody in the Department that they
17 were going to work on that so we did no write a proposal
18 for that.

19
20 But when people complain I tell them to
21 write a proposal and give it to the State or Federal
22 because they work together on these closures. And we --
23 people see that we have a lot of salmon on the river now,
24 both chinook and -- or kings and chums. We have not look
25 at sockeye too much because there was not too many reds
26 on the river before but now we have a lot of reds.

27
28 And so that's my comment on subsistence
29 fishing.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

36
37 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I'd like to
38 welcome all of the folks that are sitting out there in
39 the audience. And I'd just like to say that I know this
40 is my last meeting with this group. I do sit on the
41 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group with a lot of
42 these same folks and will continue to be involved on some
43 level.

44
45 And even though my seat originally was a
46 sportsfishing seat I've always made it quite clear that
47 my priority, of course, is always subsistence, because
48 having been born and raised on this Kuskokwim River
49 subsistence is very important and should always be given
50 first consideration.

1 But was we look at economic development
2 that works well in this area, my family, which was born
3 and raised on this river started a very diverse business
4 where we deal with birding because we're a very rich area
5 in birds and these birders who come with their binoculars
6 seem to enjoy checking off on their life list our birds,
7 and it's been very interesting delving into that, as well
8 as dealing with cultural tours and sportsfishing and just
9 people wanting to go camping that can't do it.

10
11 I'm a local person, part Native, the best
12 part of me is Yup'ik I always say, but I would like to
13 encourage the Federal Refuges around here and around the
14 state to really look at local preference. It really
15 bothers me when people from Florida, Utah, Oregon come up
16 here and guide on the rivers like they know the place.

17
18 And I encourage local communities to look
19 at economic development. Look at this business. It
20 doesn't pay all my bills at all but it allows me time to
21 enjoy and make some money and enjoy our wilderness.

22
23 I would also like to encourage all
24 communities to educate everyone on no trace camping. It
25 just bothers me immensely when I see anyone, local or
26 otherwise, leaving any kind of trash in our area. We
27 live in a beautiful, beautiful area, we have access to
28 beautiful country and that's a real concern of mine.

29
30 I've enjoyed working with this group and
31 I know I'll stay involved. I know Bethel, at some point,
32 will be on the agenda for that rural status determination
33 and sometimes I feel like being from Bethel and watching
34 folks move in from wherever, you know, surrounding
35 villages, out of state, in state, that we should all keep
36 our residency where we're from so my rural determination
37 status isn't changed.

38
39 Those are my comments, Mr. Chair, and
40 thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Council.
43 Concern or comments you have.

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, I have one concern,
50 that is the game boundaries for Unit 18, it's too

1 ambiguous. It says State lands from Piamuit where to
2 Lower Kalskag, where, but the thing of it is is there is
3 no definite land marking in the regulation as to where
4 the boundary is because it's very confusing when you say
5 Lower Kalskag. Is that in the middle of Lower Kalskag,
6 on the west boundary, east boundary, and does that
7 straight line continue down to the mouth of the old river
8 because that is a very definite point and people identify
9 with that point. And in the map it doesn't even come
10 close to showing where Unit 18 ends and Unit 19 begins.

11
12 So if anybody in the Fish and Game, Fish
13 and Wildlife has the same concern, I would sure like to
14 meet with them to see what we can do to clarify that
15 boundary definition. Because there's a lot of people who
16 are confused. Even 25, 50, 100 feet or a mile or even
17 one foot could make a lot of difference whether you're an
18 outlaw or not. So I really think that this has to be
19 really addressed in a proper way and put a definite
20 definition on that point on the Kuskokwim River.

21
22 So anybody from Fish and Game, Fish and
23 Wildlife, if we could get together I'd really appreciate
24 that.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other comments and
29 concern from Council.

30
31 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

34
35 MR. BROWN: (In Yup'ik)

36
37 INTERPRETER: I don't quite understand
38 him, he speaks in a little bit -- but, however, though,
39 he understands -- (In Yup'ik) -- sorry -- but, however,
40 though, he understands that, you know, as a group,
41 although -- even though he may be with AVCP so hoping
42 we'll bring out the public comments that we have
43 concerning our subsistence way of life is good.

44
45 And I do have a concern -- he has a
46 concern because the area or something that is closed, in
47 this area, because of moose moratorium and part of Unit
48 18 is open on the Yukon side.

49
50 Then he also wants to know if we're going

1 to be able to hunt sometime as with the Yukon side.

2

3 He used to go hunting beyond Unit 19(A)
4 but it's getting to be very expensive to travel far now.

5

6 So, you know, on top of that you have
7 licenses and sometimes we we're short on funds and
8 sometimes we don't catch anything.

9

10 And so he's talking about some sports --
11 flying in Holitna area, that's in 19(B) game management
12 unit.

13

14 And then like, say, for example, now they
15 have a chance down here and then they go past that area,
16 and you pass that and you're into Game Management Unit 18
17 that is open but once you get past -- if you get to
18 Kasigluk then it's closed.

19

20 He would like to know how we can go about
21 working together to get the management units so that
22 people can be aware of what they're getting into.

23

24 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

27

28 MR. ONEY: Yes, good morning, thank you,
29 Mr. Chairman. Again, I'd like to welcome all the
30 audience that are present here during this meeting and
31 also the Board that are here.

32

33 Good morning. Good to see you guys
34 again.

35

36 My concern is that looking at the agenda,
37 I was wondering why we don't have the Yukon River
38 Inter-tribal Watershed Council meeting report to this
39 body. The Yukon River and the Tribal Watershed Council
40 is a big part of the subsistence fisheries on the Yukon.
41 I'm sure that should be concern for the people on the
42 Kuskokwim River, too, I guess they just started their
43 watershed council just recently. So, you know, growing
44 up a semi-nomadic lifestyle as far back as I can
45 remember, you know, going from season camp to season
46 camp, you know, that was a big part of my life. And the
47 Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council, you know, has
48 been working hard, you know, to clean up the rivers so
49 that we could, you know, have the fish that migrate from
50 the Bering Sea all the way up to Canada.

1 So I'd like to see some kind of report
2 from them whenever that can be possible.

3
4 That's all I have. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, you got
7 comment, your concern.

8
9 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

12
13 MR. L. WILDE: My name is Lester Wilde.
14 I'm from Hooper Bay. And as you all know we had a
15 devastating fire down in Hooper Bay that destroyed a
16 total of \$35 million worth of property. And it displaced
17 a number of families.

18
19 On behalf of those families I'd like to
20 thank everybody that's here that participated in donating
21 whatever they could to help Hooper Bay regain its
22 composure as we could say, I guess.

23
24 After that fire we found out that Alaska
25 is a very small state. We had donations coming from way
26 up north to way down south and even from out of the
27 state. And I find that people within our state are ready
28 to share what they have with others within the state that
29 don't have and this is one ideal, in that, the way that
30 it was used in the early days, even today, as far
31 subsistence is concerned, where we shared with each other
32 what we had and that is one thing that keeps me on this
33 organization as long as it has.

34
35 And I'd like to say thank you from the
36 people of Hooper Bay that were affected, because a lot of
37 those people who were affected by that disaster were also
38 members of my family and also friends of my family. So
39 I'd just like to take this one moment to thank each and
40 every one of you who helped us out on that, on behalf of
41 the Native people there.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: I have one other concern
50 and I'll probably bring it up throughout this meeting and

1 that is the development of Donlin Creek and the effect
2 that it's going to have on our environment and social,
3 the impact that it will have.

4
5 And I just want to remind everyone again,
6 it's been 11 years since they discovered that that was
7 such a rich gold area. They're talking about developing
8 an area about the size from here to Akiak square -- 42
9 square miles, uh-huh, that's the area designated.
10 They're talking about a huge development, bigger than
11 Bethel. There's going to be impact on our waterways with
12 four barges a day -- possibly four barges a day possibly
13 going up everyday in the summertime carrying cyanide,
14 carrying oil, and we have to be concerned.

15
16 I've gone to, most recently the other
17 night, another meeting by Barrick Gold and Calista
18 Corporation, of which I am a shareholder, we need to be
19 vigilant about this. All people. The permit process is
20 going to be starting as soon as they present their
21 environmental statement and proposal to the Department,
22 I believe, of Natural Resources, we need to be vigilant.
23 It is going to impact our area on the Kuskokwim River.

24
25 We've seen, you know, they won't really
26 say for sure what mining has done to the Tuluksak River
27 but we know that the fish aren't up there in the
28 quantities that they used to so I'll keep reminding
29 people to be vigilant. It's going to change our life,
30 our way of life here.

31
32 Quyana.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more comments,
35 concerns from the Council.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If it's not, we'll go to
40 the next on our agenda, subsistence fishery issues. Mike
41 Rearden here or John Linderman.

42
43 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chairman. My name is
44 John Linderman with the Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries here in Bethel.
46 What Alex has just handed out to all Council members is
47 a copy of the preliminary 2006 Kuskokwim area salmon
48 fisheries season summary.

49
50 There's a lot of details and detailed

1 tables and figures in this document that folks are
2 welcome to refer to. What I plan on doing for the
3 Council today is just doing a brief overview with some of
4 the items that are in this document.

5
6 I guess to start the 2006 Kuskokwim River
7 salmon fisheries were managed according to their
8 respective management plans for the Kuskokwim River.
9 It's the Kuskokwim River -- excuse me, Salmon Rebuilding
10 Management Plan, and there's also a Kuskokwim Bay Salmon
11 Management Plan as well. From the beginning of the
12 season there was a good showing of chinook and chum
13 salmon throughout the Kuskokwim area, chinook salmon
14 abundance was characterized as average to above average
15 while sockeye and chum salmon abundance was characterized
16 as above average to near record with overall late run
17 timing for all three of those species. Coho or silver
18 salmon abundance was characterized as average with
19 overall average run timing.

20
21 It is believed, given the abundance of
22 salmon in 2006 that amounts necessary for subsistence use
23 is expected to have been achieved throughout the area.

24
25 Specific to the Kuskokwim River, as part
26 of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan
27 the subsistence fishing schedule was implemented
28 according to that plan and put into effect initially on
29 June 4th from Bogus Creek downstream to the mouth of the
30 river for the first week closure period. It was
31 implemented in the second week from Chauthbaluk, which is
32 just up stream from Aniak, down stream to the mouth of
33 the Kuskokwim River. After that time period it was
34 determined through deliberations with the working group
35 that there was adequate abundance to rescind the schedule
36 for 2006, after that time period subsistence fishing was
37 open seven days per week, 24 hours a day with the
38 exception of closed periods by regulations before, during
39 and after commercial fishing periods.

40
41 The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
42 Working Group, as several members mentioned they are on
43 the Council today also participate in that working group,
44 met 11 times in 2006. Fishery management information was
45 presented by working group members, Federal Staff, tribal
46 organizations, fishery partners, State of Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game and the public. Information
48 discussed included subsistence and commercial fishing
49 reports from working group members and the public. The
50 Lower Kuskokwim Subsistence Catch Monitoring Project,

1 which has been ongoing since the late 1990s by ONC, a
2 local tribal organization, test fishery project summaries
3 and reports from weir tagging, sonar and aerial survey
4 programs.

5
6 A little more detail with respect to
7 Kuskokwim River escapements. Chinook salmon escapements
8 were characterized again as average to above average
9 throughout the entire drainage. Their escapements are
10 evaluated by aerial surveys as well as by weir projects
11 in several different locations throughout the Kuskokwim
12 drainage. It wasn't quite as high in abundance of
13 chinook as we saw in the last two years, but still above
14 average compared to some of the low years we saw back in
15 1999 and 2000.

16
17 Sockeye salmon escapements. We don't
18 have a lot of diverse monitoring locations for sockeye
19 and one of the main ones is on the Kogruklu River in the
20 upper Holitna drainage. And this year was the second
21 consecutive year of record escapement at that location.
22 Escapements at Kogruklu River weir have been higher than
23 they have ever been seen since 1976 when that project was
24 initiated. Very high escapement of sockeye salmon to
25 that system and overall throughout the Kuskokwim River
26 this year.

27
28 Chum salmon escapements are also
29 monitored at weir projects throughout the drainage as
30 well as by a sonar project on the Aniak River. Chum
31 salmon showed a second near record run in 2006. Higher
32 escapements of chum salmon throughout the drainage than
33 we've seen, again, going back to about the mid'-1970s,
34 exceeding previous record escapements by two to three
35 times what we've seen in prior years, so another very
36 good abundance year of chum salmon in the Kuskokwim
37 River.

38
39 Coho salmon escapements are also
40 typically evaluated through weir projects throughout the
41 drainage. Coho, again, was classified or characterized
42 as being average this year and one thing of note is
43 within the commercial fishery for coho salmon we saw one
44 of the smallest average weights that we've ever seen
45 historically here on the Kuskokwim. Fishers, subsistence
46 and commercial fishers noted that very small fish size
47 this year and that it was something we saw consistently
48 throughout the entire commercial fishery. It was a
49 record low average weight which is representative of that
50 small fish size this year.

1 For Kuskokwim Bay area, which includes
2 Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay. Subsistence fishing in
3 Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay was allowed seven days per
4 week throughout the season, again, with the exception of
5 closed periods before, during and after commercial
6 fishing. Given the run sizes that we saw down in that
7 area in Kuskokwim Bay area this year, it's also expected
8 that subsistence needs were met in Kuskokwim Bay
9 communities.

10

11 I'll just briefly go into some of the
12 evaluation for salmon runs in Goodnews Bay and Kanektok
13 River areas and then I'll be done for now.

14

15 Chinook and sockeye salmon aerial surveys
16 were flown on the Kanektok River drainage. We saw an
17 above average and exceeded our escapement goal on an
18 above average abundance of chinook salmon and exceeded
19 our escapement goal for the third year running. But,
20 again, similar to Kuskokwim River, it wasn't quite the
21 same abundance, high abundance that we saw in the last
22 two years, but still above average.

23

24 Sockeye salmon in the Kanektok River was
25 the highest aerial survey count that we have ever
26 encountered on that system going back to the 1960s.
27 Given the scale of sockeye salmon counts that we saw this
28 year in that drainage, it's one of the largest sockeye
29 escapements that the Kanektok has probably seen, at
30 least, in the past 20 years. We did not have the weir
31 operational this year on the Kanektok River,
32 unfortunately, but we did move forward with rebuilding of
33 that weir this year and we plan to have it operational in
34 2007. It's possible based on the aerial survey counts of
35 sockeye on the Kanektok, that the escapement may have
36 been in excess of a million fish but they're still going
37 to be doing some post season analysis to see -- to try
38 and get a better estimate of what escapement was. And
39 that would certainly be one of the larger escapements
40 that that system's ever seen.

41

42 Chum salmon and coho salmon were not
43 evaluated specifically on the Kanektok this year. We do
44 have information to show that chum salmon was above
45 average and coho salmon was about average escapement
46 based on commercial catch statistics in the Kanektok
47 River district.

48

49 For the Middle Fork Goodnews River, the
50 weir was operational this year throughout the entire

1 season with the exception of high water periods that
2 ceased operations on September 7th.

3

4 Sockeye and chum salmon counts were on
5 the highest on record for that system and this is going
6 back to 1980, so we saw a second consecutive year of
7 record sockeye salmon returns in that system and we also
8 saw a record chum salmon return in this year
9 specifically.

10

11 Chinook salmon was also above average --
12 or king salmon was also above average. In 2006 we
13 exceeded our escapement goal again for the third season
14 straight on that system but not, again, quite as high as
15 what we may have seen in the last couple of fairly good
16 to above average chinook salmon runs throughout the area.

17

18 Coho salmon escapement achieved its
19 escapement goal on that system. Unfortunately with the
20 premature stop date of the project on September 7th there
21 was definitely a significant number of fish that were
22 unable to be counted so we expect and will try to do a
23 reconstruction post-season to get a more accurate
24 estimate what the overall escapement was. Initial
25 preliminary assessment was probably about average for
26 coho salmon in that district.

27

28 And that's about all I have, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

33

34 MS. HOFFMAN: John, thank you for your
35 report. You didn't mention something that you mentioned
36 to the working group, that you were going to be
37 recommending to the Board of Fish to remove chum and
38 chinook as a stock of concern. Can you talk about that
39 a little bit.

40

41 MR. LINDERMAN: Yes, certainly. And that
42 is correct. The Department is putting together comments
43 to the Board of Fish based on recent returns and
44 increasing returns since 2001, which is the first year
45 that the stock of concern designations were put into
46 place. We have seen very good returns of both of those
47 species, especially with chum salmon on the Kuskokwim
48 River so the Department will be recommending to the Board
49 to remove those designations, which if they accept that
50 proposal and accept that recommendation would be in

1 effect for the 2007 season.

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

6

7 MS. HOFFMAN: And we'll continue to be
8 vigilant.

9

10 MR. LINDERMAN: Correct.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: John, is that -- to me,
17 that's like an indication that you're not going to have
18 any windows for subsistence harvest?

19

20 MR. LINDERMAN: M. Chairman. Bob. We
21 still plan on keeping the windows and the structure of
22 the windows on the regulatory books, so to speak.
23 Essentially keeping it there is a tool to use in case the
24 runs return weaker than expected.

25

26 Given -- assuming that the stock of
27 concern designation is lifted for chinook and chum salmon
28 there would be less, if little expectation, of
29 implementing the schedule in a given year, but we will be
30 evaluating that on a year to year basis based on what our
31 projected return is and would definitely have a pre-
32 season assessment that we would get out to the public as
33 to whether or not we plan to put the schedule into place.

34

35 But it's almost the opposite, I guess, of
36 what is currently in place. Given the stock of concern
37 designations, by default, we go into the season with the
38 expectation that the schedule will be in place until we
39 have adequate information to show abundance is high
40 enough to remove or rescind that schedule. We would
41 probably see somewhat of an opposite strategy if the
42 stock of concern designation is rescinded.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 John, so keeping the window like that would still give
50 you authority for emergency order to lift the schedule

1 anytime or just like shortening the closure before and
2 after commercial fishing, since you folks changed that
3 time it relieves -- I mean it's easier for us to go
4 subsistence fishing, so that's the same thing for.....

5
6 MR. LINDERMAN: (Nodding affirmatively)

7
8 MR. CHARLES: Okay, thank you.

9
10 MR. LINDERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. James.
11 To answer your question, specifically, currently and as
12 of the 2004 Board cycle, the Department has authority
13 through emergency order to put both the schedule in place
14 as well as the closed periods before, during and after
15 commercial openings. So in order to put the schedule in
16 place it needs to be done by emergency order and to lift
17 it the emergency order would be rescinded. So that will
18 definitely continue.

19
20 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

25
26 MS. HOFFMAN: And I'll probably ask the
27 same thing of Mike Rearden but in the development of
28 Donlin Creek and the permit process, are you receiving
29 notification of meetings of the process? I don't see at
30 -- at any of the meetings that I've been at,
31 informational meetings, I haven't seen a present by the
32 Department and I'm wondering when your presence will be
33 noted in getting that information.

34
35 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Beverly.
36 With respect to the State on Donlin Creek and development
37 of that mining project DNR would be the primary agency
38 that has authority over the development in the permitting
39 process. The Department -- and I have been -- to answer
40 your question specifically I have received supplemental
41 information with respect to the status on that project
42 but it's very minimal so they would be the primary
43 agency. And we have made efforts, the Department has
44 made efforts to bring DNR into specific meetings and so
45 on and so forth to speak to that project, but we are not
46 the primary State agency that is dealing with that
47 permitting process.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: Right. But the reason that
50 I brought it up and the Department of Natural Resources

1 was at one of our working group meetings but with
2 concerns of environmental impact on the river and our
3 fisheries I would like to just, you know, remind the
4 Department that it's an important issue and needs to be
5 on the front burner because of the possible impact on our
6 fisheries.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, any more
11 question to John.

12

13 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

16

17 MR. BROWN: Yes, I was going to ask you
18 if you uplift the schedule is it possible to do it early,
19 early in June when the climate is.....

20

21 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Charlie. If
22 I understand your question correctly, is that, if the
23 schedule is put into place it would be preferable that it
24 would be implemented just in the beginning of June; is
25 that correct, and so far I think if it is put into place
26 it would be done as a tool in case the runs are returning
27 weaker than anticipated or if we anticipate a weak return
28 in a given year. The time period would probably start in
29 the beginning of June, but how long the schedule remained
30 in place would be a function of getting adequate
31 assessment information that it was no longer necessary.

32

33 I think in any given year if it was
34 necessary to put the schedule in place it would
35 definitely begin in the first week of June. It is
36 somewhat of a question mark of when it would be lifted.
37 That would probably be determined through the working
38 group process and through assessment information.

39

40 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

45

46 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 John, you mentioned that you noticed smallest fish size
48 on record, you know, that should be a concern to all of
49 us here that our sitting down in this room, you know, if
50 there is anything being done in this point in time.

1 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Ray. Yes.
2 And it's something when I say on record, keeping in mind
3 that that goes back to about the mid-1980s. We do have
4 additional information beyond that time period with
5 regards to commercial harvest information but it's hard
6 to -- the data doesn't match very well beyond that time
7 period is what it comes down to, there is a different
8 schedule, different fishing type going on.

9
10 But with respect to small fish size, the
11 theory behind the small fish size and we saw this in
12 other areas, including Kuskokwim Bay, Kuskokwim Bay also
13 had smaller than average, not quite as below average as
14 Kuskokwim River, but smaller than average coho salmon and
15 smaller than average for their age, sockeye salmon, red
16 salmon, in Kuskokwim Bay as well. The theory behind what
17 might be causing that is very high abundance of salmon
18 out in the open ocean. A lot of different areas of the
19 state have been receiving very, very high returns,
20 exceeding escapement goals in some areas by millions of
21 fish, the type of abundance to produce of those types of
22 escapements out in the ocean, as those fish return, are
23 also going to be very, very high. The competition
24 between those fish as they inter-mix in the ocean would
25 potentially reduce, again, this is in the theory,
26 potentially reduce the available food resources so that
27 they would not be able to grow to the same size because
28 there are so many other fish out there in the ocean.

29
30 So that is the primary theory behind that
31 small fish size this year.

32
33 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Were there other areas
40 that were reporting smaller size salmon like Yukon,
41 Arctic area?

42
43 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
44 would defer to Yukon Staff to answer that question if you
45 would like to bring it up during their presentation, Bob.

46
47 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more question to
50 John from Council.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you, John.

4

5 MR. LINDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike.

8

9 MR. REARDEN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

10 Good to see you Harry, and everybody here. I've just got

11 a few comments, kind of similar to what they've been the

12 last several years when we've been fortunate to have good

13 salmon runs here on the Kuskokwim River.

14

15 I think we're all very fortunate to have

16 the working group where we can work cooperatively and

17 discuss things during the season and, you know, James and

18 Bob and Charlie always are in there talking about their

19 concerns and the village concerns, and our job is only to

20 pretty much oversee the management to make sure that

21 subsistence fisheries in Federal waters are prosecuted

22 appropriately and frankly the last several years there

23 hasn't been any concern in that matter.

24

25 I think the State has managed

26 conservatively in their commercial fisheries and have

27 worked very closely with local people and the Federal

28 government, me, in particular, and Robert Sundown, who

29 often times sits in my place in there. I think they've

30 worked very well with us. Communications have been very

31 good. And frankly it's made my job a lot easier to have

32 this kind of management occurring.

33

34 Bev, in response to your request about

35 comments on Donlin Creek, we really don't have the

36 opportunity to leap into the fray until the official NEPA

37 process starts and then it becomes available for agencies

38 and individuals to comment on what the effects are going

39 to be. But you can be assured that when that time comes

40 that we'll give it full consideration as to how

41 activities on the Kuskokwim River, in particular, could

42 affect fisheries, what the risks are going to be involved

43 with hauling fuel up the Kuskokwim River, and barge

44 traffic and all the different things that the mine may

45 do.

46

47 The mine, of course, is not in Federal

48 lands, it's not in the Refuge, so we don't have any

49 direct influence on that or any control of any kind but

50 the potential effects of that mine will certainly be of

1 interest to us and we will address them.

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

6

7 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 Thank you, Mike. And not just the fish, you know, of
9 course everything, the birds, the animals, berries, the
10 everything, I just bring up fish because it's first and
11 foremost on all of our minds, I think, in this area, but
12 thank you for that comment. And I feel more comfortable
13 knowing that you're going to be part of that process.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Phillip. (In Yup'ik)

16

17 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: I want to let our
20 counterparts, those who work with us, they understand
21 more of the situation that we're in, but, however, though
22 never forget, you know, those people who live a
23 subsistence lifestyle or use the land for subsistence.

24

25 You all know your that your -- know your
26 parents and grandparents. I haven't seen Yukon and the
27 Kuskokwim, their subsistence lifestyle, I have not
28 experienced, but they utilize the land and water
29 resources for their subsistence -- to provide for their
30 dogs and for their families and people used to be
31 traveling out to the lands where they subsist in the
32 camp. Those are the people that I was born with.

33

34 And I watch them, I observe them. I
35 observe what they use and I utilize their knowledge, what
36 was alive, the dogs and ourselves, we utilize the land to
37 live.

38

39 And then I try to visualize, you know, it
40 was hard, you know, to subsistence, together helping with
41 each other, and now times have changed, we don't utilize
42 the dog teams anymore but other things.

43

44 I am with the people that are in my land,
45 our land, you know, who are subsistence in whatever
46 manner, of whatever they catch, and then after they catch
47 an abundance of fish they take care of what they use,
48 they put it away for another time, they utilize their
49 equipment until it cant be used no more.

50

1 Starting from spring, summer and then
2 winter, fall seasons, at that time we did not experience
3 Western culture, and we did not see any of that. They by
4 living hard, by subsistence off the land, they learned of
5 what behavior or what wildlife resources to gather. So
6 they, themselves, they put up enough, you know, to last
7 them throughout the winter as well. During the
8 wintertime we have the river, we have the creeks and the
9 people who live in the coastal area or the rivers, they
10 have some general knowledge of how much fish or game
11 there would be in that area. In my area the elders knew
12 and told us and guided us when and where to start
13 harvesting.

14
15 But now it is a rare that the elders are
16 teaching us and that times we did not have that much
17 regulations and people were close knit together. And
18 then the Yukon and Kuskokwim -- and the fish and game,
19 the people did not travel far to hunt their fish and
20 game. But, however, now people travel even further from
21 their home areas, even further to hunt that particular
22 game or get that particular fish.

23
24 At the time before regulations were in
25 place people utilized their natural knowledge of the land
26 and the resources they used and we were guided by our
27 parents and by our elders when and how and where but,
28 however, now it is different, and then we have to worry
29 about our children's children and also our children's
30 children concerning the use of these resources.

31
32 What you -- the resources, the natural
33 resources for fish and game, we now are guided or
34 directed by rules and regulations of both State and
35 Federal and now we try by like the commercial fishing for
36 fish and sometimes when, say, like for a sportsfisherman
37 who has a rod and reel goes up the river, catches a fish,
38 takes it off and throw it back or throw it away, it isn't
39 our way.

40
41 Although, I have a lot more to say but,
42 however, I'll just leave my comments, not for now.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Mike you
45 continue.

46
47 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman, that's all I
48 had.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have a

1 question to John or Mike.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you and we're
6 going to have a 10 minute break.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda Yukon
13 overview.

14

15 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Chairman
16 Wilde. Council members. My name is Gerald Maschmann.
17 I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of the
18 Fairbanks Office. I work for Russ Holder who is the
19 Yukon River Federal Subsistence Board fisheries manager.
20 I'm handing out a summary authored by Russ Holder.
21 Instead of reading it verbatim, I'm just going to read it
22 and summarize it as we go.

23

24 Both in-season and post-season assessment
25 projects support that summer and fall season subsistence
26 fishers were provided a meaningful preference to fish on
27 adequate numbers of salmon for the 2006 season. The U.S.
28 Fish and Wildlife Service in-season salmon catch
29 interview project and the weekly YRDFA teleconferences
30 indicated that most lower Yukon River fishermen were able
31 to meet their subsistence salmon needs this year but that
32 subsistence fishermen above Grayling had to work harder
33 than in 2005 to fulfill their chinook salmon needs.

34

35 Overall the 2006 season was successful in
36 meeting escapement objectives, providing preferential
37 subsistence opportunities and ADF&G providing commercial
38 and other harvest opportunities.

39

40 A pre-season U.S. Fish and Wildlife
41 Service Staff worked with ADF&G to develop the pre-season
42 and in-season management approaches which were
43 distributed in May as this light colored purple
44 information sheet, those of you on the Yukon River may
45 have received this.

46

47 Managers entered the season anticipating
48 that all four Yukon River salmon runs would return with
49 sufficient abundance to meet escapement objectives,
50 provide for normal subsistence harvest and provide for

1 additional harvest opportunities.

2

3 The chinook salmon run was anticipated to
4 be average to below average and similar to the 2005 run.

5

6 The summer chum, fall chum and coho
7 salmon runs were anticipated to be average to above
8 average.

9

10 The summer season began with most
11 subsistence salmon fishermen delaying their fishing
12 effort due to the late ice breakup, high water, high gas
13 prices and low fish numbers early in the season. As fish
14 abundance improved, subsistence fishing effort increased.

15

16 Subsistence salmon in-season harvest
17 information collected by both U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service and ADF&G indicated that lower Yukon subsistence
19 fishing households were about one week behind in
20 harvesting their subsistence salmon needs. Run strength
21 assessment and the in-season abundance of chinook and
22 summer chum salmon was based on the Lower River Test
23 Fishery, Pilot Station Sonar and subsistence fishermen
24 catch reports. A DIDSON sonar was used at Pilot Station
25 throughout the 2006 season for estimating left bank near
26 shore fish passage due to the difficulties with the bank
27 profile identified during the 2005 season. A larger than
28 anticipated return of summer chum salmon was thought to
29 be causing conservative Pilot Station chinook salmon
30 sonar passage estimates.

31

32 Subsistence fishing was liberalized in
33 District 3 to seven days per week after the six hour
34 commercial opening on Wednesday, June 21st. Consistent
35 with pre-2001 fishing regulations Subdistrict 4A and
36 Subdistricts 4B and C were liberalized to five days per
37 week.

38

39 Up river fishermen reported the following
40 as some of the reasons they were having to work harder to
41 catch chinook salmon.

42

43 Chinook salmon were migrating in
44 different portions of the river possibly
45 due to the record abundance of summer
46 chum salmon pushing the chinook salmon
47 off shore.

48

49 The second pulse appeared smaller in
50 size and more compressed than

1 anticipated.

2

3 Higher water.

4

5 More debris.

6

7 And the windowed subsistence schedule
8 not allowing fishermen to fish when
9 chinook salmon were most abundant.

10

11 To address the difficulties local
12 fishermen described harvesting their subsistence chinook
13 salmon, all of District 4 was liberalized to seven days
14 per week on July 6th, and the subsistence drift net
15 season was extended by an additional week in Subdistrict
16 4A.

17

18 Subsistence fishing in Subdistricts 5A,
19 B and C was liberalized to five days per week on July
20 18th.

21

22 In December of 2004, the Federal
23 Subsistence Board adopted a regulation that provided
24 Federally-qualified subsistence fishermen the opportunity
25 to use drift gill nets to harvest chinook salmon in
26 Subdistricts 4B and 4C. In 2006 a total of 18 permits
27 were issued by the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife
28 Refuge Staff to rural residents, mostly from Galena. Of
29 the four permittees who reported their fishing activity,
30 all four reported not fishing. And it appears that there
31 remains an interest in this fishing opportunity but
32 Subdistricts 4B and 4C fishermen have not reported
33 finding any productive drifting spots within Federal
34 waters.

35

36 The summer chum salmon run strength was
37 improved over the abundance experienced in 2003, 2004,
38 2005 with a season passage greater than 3.7 million fish.
39 Although the abundance of summer chum salmon would have
40 allowed a directed commercial period, the summer chum
41 salmon harvest was taken largely incidental to the
42 chinook salmon fishery except in District 6 due to the
43 depressed chum salmon market.

44

45 Post-season evaluation of chinook and
46 summer chum escapement numbers confirmed that most
47 tributary goals were achieved and that the chinook salmon
48 passage into Canada was estimated to be 43,000 and 49,000
49 fish.

50

1 For the fall season, the pre-season ADF&G
2 fall season salmon outlook was updated entering the fall
3 fishing season in mid-July by incorporating this years
4 summer chum salmon run performance resulting in an
5 outlook for a return of near 1.2 million fish.
6 Consistent with an above average outlook the pre-2001
7 [sic] subsistence fishing schedule of seven or five days
8 per week which was in place at the end of the summer of
9 season was continued into the fall fishing season.

10
11 In-season run indicators near the mid-
12 point confirmed an above average fall chum salmon run
13 with a run size projection of near 1 million fish. At
14 the end of the season approximately 800,000 fall chum had
15 entered the river in four distinct pulses with 61 percent
16 being five year olds and 38 percent being four year olds.

17
18 For the third season the U.S. Fish and
19 Wildlife Genetics Lab in cooperation with ADF&G and
20 Canadian Staff provided in-season genetic assessment
21 information of fall chum salmon samples collected at
22 Pilot Station Sonar. The in-season data will be compared
23 to the post-season results this winter.

24
25 Yukon River coho salmon return this
26 season was closer to average production with 123,000 fish
27 passed Pilot Station Sonar by the end of August
28 discontinuing the above average production experienced
29 the previous three years.

30
31 The fall season salmon runs continue to
32 be monitored as fish are still migrating to spawning
33 areas. Based on information collected to date, it
34 appears that the fall chum and coho salmon escapement
35 objectives will be achieved and that the Yukon River
36 Panel Interim fall chum salmon border escapement
37 commitments will be exceeded.

38
39 The outlook for 2007 will be prepared by
40 ADF&G after escapement information and age composition
41 analysis are completed over the next several months.

42
43 If you don't have any questions for me,
44 I believe ADF&G has some more information they'd like to
45 present.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from
48 Council.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.

2

3 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. My name is
4 Kevin Clark. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game. I'm the Yukon area assistant manager. With us
6 today is also Dan Bergstrom. He is the regional -- what
7 is your title?

8

9 MR. BERGSTROM: Manager.

10

11 MR. CLARK: Manager. My supervisor.
12 I've handed out a summer season summary to you guys
13 already that has a bunch of the tables and charts and
14 figures in the back of it so I'm just going to try to
15 gloss over that as much as possible and try to keep it as
16 brief as possible in summary.

17

18 So we've already talked about the pre-
19 season projection and what we had seen for border
20 passages and Pilot Station estimates. So we had 3.7
21 million summer chum salmon passage at Pilot Station,
22 which is three times the average of 1.3 million, so we
23 had a big summer chum run this year. Based on pre-season
24 discussions the first -- based on pre-season projections
25 the first commercial fishing period occurred on June
26 15th. This was done so that the Yukon salmon name could
27 be put into the market place to help bolster interest in
28 the -- the commercial interest in the Yukon name. The
29 fishing period was conducted in Y2 and lasted three
30 hours. During that time a small 900 fish were harvested,
31 which is a pretty small harvest which is in line with
32 what we were anticipating.

33

34 The subsistence fishing scheduled was
35 relaxed up river in the same manner as it was implemented
36 as we have done in previous years. Like we have already
37 said the summer chum harvest was incidental harvest
38 except for one directed lower river harvest and six
39 periods in District 6.

40

41 There were 13 commercial fishing periods
42 in the lower river. There were five commercial fishing
43 periods in District 5 and there were six commercial
44 fishing periods in District 6. Our total commercial
45 harvest for king salmon was 45,830, which was up from
46 approximately 32,000 last year. We had a harvest of
47 summer chum of approximately 92,000 this year which is up
48 from 2005, up approximately 41,000. We had 594
49 fishermen that participated in the commercial fisheries
50 this year which is approximately as the same as 2005 of

1 598 fishermen.

2

3 Assessment so far for the summer season,
4 assessment in the Yukon River has been complicated this
5 year by high water early in the season. Also the Koyukuk
6 River and tributaries were especially prone to high
7 turbid water conditions in 2006 with the Henshaw Creek
8 weir being inoperable throughout the season and the
9 Gisasa River weir being delayed to later in the season
10 than normal. All projects met or exceeded their goals
11 and were near, above or well above their recent averages
12 for chinook and summer chum. The one interesting thing
13 that we saw this year was that the Chena and Salcha
14 Rivers there in the Tanana did not track as well with
15 each other as they normally do.

16

17 That's about all I have if you have any
18 questions. In that case I'll move on to fall season.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have a
21 question for Kevin.

22

23 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

26

27 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Your window schedule, allowing fishermen to fish when
29 chinook salmon were most abundant at that time in
30 Subdistrict 4B and 4C, how were the other districts doing
31 on their subsistence fishing, were they about like the
32 same as Subdistrict 4B and 4C?

33

34 MR. CLARK: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. MASCHMANN: We got some reports that
37 due to the compressed run and high water that some
38 fishermen in that district were having trouble meeting
39 their needs so we, working with ADF&G, gave them another
40 week on their drift schedule and then provided the
41 Federal drift -- in 4B and C, we provided them with
42 another week of drifting to hopefully help them meet
43 their needs. However, when we reviewed our post-season,
44 after the season was over, we reviewed our in-season
45 subsistence interview information and it appears that
46 most people were able to meet their needs. They had to
47 work harder but they were able to meet their needs.

48

49 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

4

5 MS. HOFFMAN: Just out of curiosity
6 because we have a working group down here, that all the
7 user groups get together before -- when we're thinking
8 about commercial openings or they're proposed, you know,
9 they take into consideration way up the river if their
10 subsistence needs aren't met, there's some hesitancy to
11 open up a commercial fishing period that might tap into
12 the chinook resource and I notice that you almost double
13 in your commercial take of kings on that river.

14

15 Do you have that mechanism? I mean like
16 we harvested commercial a little over 24,000 kings on the
17 Kuskokwim and you harvested 45,000 kings on the Yukon
18 commercially, do you have a mechanism in place to where
19 you check with -- before opening a commercial period that
20 you're really checking with those folks up river to make
21 sure that their subsistence needs are met?

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

24

25 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, Bev, this is Dan
26 Bergstrom. First off as far as the catch there, actually
27 45,000 is a small harvest historically. Historically
28 through the 1990s it was 100,000 commercial harvest so
29 we're saying that it's been conservative management since
30 the low run in 2000 and then in 1998 it was low so we've
31 been much more conservative in harvest. And we do try
32 and talk with fishermen, YRDFA, the Yukon River Drainage
33 Fisheries Association has weekly conference calls and so
34 we try and get input from fishermen on the management
35 strategies. But it is hard on the Yukon for subsistence
36 needs or escapements to be met or have a lot of that
37 information in-season because the fish don't -- the kings
38 don't get to the Canadian border for a month. So all the
39 fish are pass the lower river by the time fishing occurs
40 in upper river areas. So it's based on the run
41 assessment that there's enough fish based on test fishing
42 and Pilot Station sonar counts that there is an abundance
43 of fish headed up river for escapement and subsistence
44 needs.

45

46 And the one thing I wanted to say with
47 that early opening, there was a lot of -- from further up
48 river there was concern having an opening early in the
49 season like that and it was really different but the
50 catch was small and our anticipation of runs similar to

1 the previous year we figured there is a surplus so a
2 small amount can be taken. And after that first period
3 we did delay until we were at a kind of the normal
4 quarter point of the run and continued some periods at
5 that time.

6
7 One other thing I wanted to bring up was
8 there's pulses of kings that are really noticeable into
9 the Yukon, you get large groups that come at a time and
10 then it will go down and then another group comes in.
11 And so we identified one group coming in and then the
12 second pulse we saw we fished just after that,
13 commercially, we let some of that head up stream and then
14 up river fishermen, as you heard from Gerald, that they
15 had trouble catching fish further up and it was the water
16 conditions and such and they thought that maybe this
17 second group of fish wasn't there. But if you look
18 through our report, we have some charts that show the
19 Canadian tagging fish wheels at the border, how their
20 catches went and then there's a border sonar, or we call
21 it Eagle Sonar that shows chinook salmon going into
22 Canada and you can see that there was fish in a second
23 group that arrived up there. It was just difficult
24 fishing conditions in some sections of the river.

25
26 And besides the difficult fishing
27 conditions, one of our hypothesis was that there was that
28 huge summer chum run was right on top of the kings and
29 that that probably changed how the kings were running up
30 the river and it was harder to catch them with like
31 fishwheels and maybe set nets because the kings were
32 further off shore because of all the summer chum.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Questions from Council.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan. In the Yukon River
39 there is subsistence fishermen, they having a problem.
40 That the subsistence opens, when it's open the ice is
41 still running so take away that schedule. A lot of work
42 of people trying to get subsistence and the ice is
43 running and they couldn't do very much when its ice
44 running and the same thing is weather. If there's any
45 way that schedule, bring it back little bit or something,
46 give subsistence fishermen opportunity to get their
47 winter supply because they don't -- most of the people
48 down there don't have any dog team, they do not fish for
49 dog team and it's kind of -- pretty hard when the ice is
50 running and high water.

1 And like me and my family we got a camp
2 down there. We used to put up somewhere around two to
3 three households. We put away seven or eight buckets,
4 now we have only three, four buckets, it's kind of hard
5 when the bugs start coming around when it's late and all
6 that. There should be some kind of relax a little bit of
7 that schedule. Something should be done, I'm not the
8 only one complaining, a lot of people they complain.
9 Because some of them, they have to travel about 36 mile
10 to their camp. And at the same time you don't waste gas
11 anymore when gas is about \$6 a gallon, you don't waste
12 hardly anything. So it's something that need to be done.
13

14 And also you notice that lower Yukon
15 fishermen they don't make any kind of proposals. If you
16 want to know why. Our elders, the rest of our elders,
17 like me and others, we tell our young people not to fight
18 over the fish, you never see hardly any proposals, but
19 the young people are -- start getting wake up, they going
20 to start doing something. So we sure need some kind of
21 help down there. Like we get both waves, out in the
22 oceans of fish coming in and we expecting out in the
23 ocean the people that fishing, they bycatching all that
24 stuff, and up river they fighting you all the time and
25 reduce your fish and game and all that and fish and
26 increase schedule time, and it's really hard.
27

28 We need to have some kind of help down
29 there, you know, like mouth of Yukon. At the mouth of
30 the Yukon, those people there are expecting everything
31 and all that and that's where all the ice would come in
32 last, hardly any -- nothing. They were asking us how you
33 guys doing up there, well, we do best we can, we start --
34 they couldn't even set their net down there, too early
35 for the schedule.
36

37 I think something should be done.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. BERGSTROM: Thanks, Harry. This is
42 Dan Bergstrom again. And I think one of the things you
43 have to remember as far as proposals, and I'm not sure
44 what they did at the Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory
45 Committee, because you tend to look at the proposal and
46 go I support this or I don't support it and so at the
47 State proposals, there's some windows, like I think four
48 proposals about windows and it doesn't have to be where
49 you just vote I am for this or against this, you can
50 suggest changes. So you can say that you'd like longer

1 ones, like right now it's two 36 hour periods, maybe it
2 could be a suggestion of two 48s or some other change or
3 to say you don't want windows at all, I mean that's what
4 you can do with these proposals.

5

6 Okay.

7

8 MR. CLARK: This is Kevin Clark, Mr.
9 Chairman. Another thing that we had this year. The
10 schedule started, under pre-season agreements that we had
11 with Fish and Wildlife, and this year's schedule started
12 one day earlier than the schedule started last year. And
13 we try to keep the schedule starting at around the same
14 date, where the ice out this year was about a week later
15 than normal, so, you know, if we would have known pre-
16 season that we were going to have ice out a week later
17 then we probably would have started the schedule at a
18 different time but hindsight's always 20/20.

19

20 Mr. Chair.

21

22 MR. MASCHMANN: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
23 add to that that the YRDFA teleconference is a good media
24 for voicing that if, you know, during the first YRDFA
25 it's another year with the late ice out and you know that
26 fishermen in your area are having trouble and might need
27 an extra week, I would definitely voice that on the YRDFA
28 teleconference. I know the Federal manager is open to
29 considering a different start date if the conditions on
30 the river warrant it. So I would definitely voice your
31 opinion on the teleconference.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions for
36 Dan or Kevin.

37

38 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: William.

41

42 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Do you guys have
43 a working group down there like we do here in the
44 Kuskokwim?

45

46 MR. MASCHMANN: We don't have the working
47 group but we do work with the YRDFA group, which is the
48 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and they
49 represent Alaskan fishermen on the entire river and we
50 have weekly teleconferences where management actions are

1 discussed and we look for input from fishers on the
2 river.

3

4 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

7

8 MS. HOFFMAN: Is that made up of
9 subsistence, commercial, sports, all user groups,
10 processors?

11

12 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes. From what I believe
13 it's made up of subsistence and commercial fishermen
14 primarily but I believe there's other users on the
15 council too.

16

17 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

18

19 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

22

23 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Did that Yukon commercial fisheries exchange happen over
25 there this year that was going to -- that they wanted
26 observers from down river and Canada, people were going
27 to go down river in the Yukon or Lower Yukon go up there
28 to observe the commercial fishing there? I think it was
29 going to be in August and if they couldn't find anybody
30 to go I was asked if I could go but I'm from way over
31 here in Kuskokwim, but I was thinking about the people in
32 the Yukon would be the people to go.

33

34 Did that happen this year?

35

36 MR. CLARK: Yes, Mr. Chair. James. This
37 year, actually fishers from the Canadian side came down
38 to the lower river but we didn't have anybody from the
39 lower river go the other way.

40

41 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

44

45 MR. L. WILDE: Jill, you are very much a
46 part of YRDFA, could you answer his question about the
47 exchange, Canadian/US exchange?

48

49 MS. KLEIN: Okay, good morning Council
50 members. Mr. Chair. My name is Jill Klein with the

1 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, which is
2 known as YRDFA.

3

4 And just to backtrack a little bit before
5 we answer James' question, to compare to the Kuskokwim
6 working group, which it sounds like some of you have some
7 questions, and YRDFA is comprised of both subsistence and
8 commercial fishermen from up and down the river, from the
9 Coast until the Canadian Border. And we do have
10 processors that are members, and sportsfishermen that are
11 members. But primarily on the teleconferences it's open
12 participation to whoever wants to join in and managers
13 take input during the season on their different
14 management actions.

15

16 But we operate a little bit differently
17 than the Kuskokwim working group because we can't meet in
18 person and I think the structure is a little different of
19 how decisions are made.

20

21 And then in response to James' question
22 about the -- it's called the Educational Exchange Trip,
23 and we've done this program now for three years where
24 we've brought Canadian fishermen who live along the Yukon
25 River down to the different communities in Alaska, two or
26 three communities and they visit each others location on
27 the river to learn about both subsistence and commercial
28 fisheries and different research projects that are
29 happening on the river. And as Kevin mentioned, we were
30 able to bring five Canadians down to Emmonak, St. Mary's
31 and Kaltag this year. And unfortunately we didn't find
32 enough Alaskans from the Yukon portion of the river to go
33 up to Canada, so we decided not to carry out that second
34 trip and we will readvertise for people to go next year.
35 And for better or worse it's just a program for the Yukon
36 River because it's part of the agreement that we have
37 Canada, it's part of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement to
38 share the Canadian origin chinook and fall chum.

39

40 But we appreciated your interest and it
41 would be great, I'm sure, as an opportunity for people
42 from the Yukon and the Kuskokwim to keep learning about
43 each others fisheries, too.

44

45 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

48

49 MS. HOFFMAN: Jill, what time of year is
50 the Alaska exchange, I mean what date, did it interfere

1 -- the reason you didn't get participation, was it
2 because it was a tough time of year, people needed to be
3 fishing or what's the problem?

4
5 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Beverly. We're
6 not entirely sure what the problem is. The trip takes
7 place in the later portion of the summer because that's
8 when the fisheries are taking place up in Canada so it
9 was mid-August. And we think, in general, it's a hard
10 process sometimes to recruit people for different
11 programs even though it's a completely paid trip. I
12 think as you all know, as Bob mentioned, he was hardly
13 home. A lot of you have a lot of commitments and travel
14 a lot and it's hard to get people to want to leave their
15 home for 10 days during the summer season, so we did have
16 a hard time finding people.

17
18 MS. HOFFMAN: And one more thing, Mr.
19 Chair. Jill, yeah, I know there's -- you know, our
20 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, I mean we use
21 teleconference big time because we have folks way at the
22 head water and it's always interesting dialogue and how
23 we -- I mean it's just been a process for all these
24 years. Bob, James, Charlie's been involved with it
25 since the beginning and it's a good group to make
26 decisions by consensus sometimes, you know.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have any
29 more questions.

30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: This might be a good time
36 to bring up the question I had regarding the concern that
37 the subsistence fishermen had in the St. Mary's area last
38 year with that family who was shipping out plane loads of
39 salmon and there was no -- it seemed like there was no
40 subsistence reason for doing that. So if you guys could
41 address that at this time I'd really appreciate it.

42
43 What I really want to know is if anything
44 was done to follow up their concerns, was there any
45 findings of what that family was doing with those fish?

46
47 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Bob. You know
48 the phone calls we received, you know, basically what we
49 did was we forwarded that information that we received on
50 to the Troopers and what, if any action, and/or

1 investigations that is either ongoing at this time or
2 will be ongoing I am not at liberty to disc -- I don't
3 know, so that would be a topic to discuss with the
4 Troopers.

5

6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Okay, thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Say your name.

9

10 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
11 members. My name is Bill Alstrom. I'm a resident of St.
12 Mary's. I also participate in the subsistence and
13 commercial fisheries there. Also I sit on the Board of
14 the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association as co-
15 Chair for the lower river.

16

17 And to refresh your memories, last year
18 at this meeting there was a small group of residents from
19 St. Mary's that were very concerned about a certain
20 individual that was fishing during our subsistence
21 activities, before the commercial season and this
22 individual was, you know, taking a considerable amount of
23 subsistence fisheries, not smoking them or putting them
24 up, but shipping them out, and I think he was processing
25 them and it was reported this to the Board last year, and
26 this was a concern of the residents of St. Mary's, it's
27 been happening, if I'm not mistaken for about three
28 years, and at first, you know, it wasn't very much of a
29 concern until last year when we seen a considerable
30 amount of subsistence fish caught fish going out of the
31 airport and we were wondering, you know, where was all
32 this fish going to, you know, whether they were going
33 into markets over in Anchorage or on the outside, and all
34 this information was passed on to the Troopers and I
35 think -- you know, I'm not the one to kind of give a
36 report on what happened, but I'm glad we do have a
37 Trooper here that will probably answer your questions.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 TROOPER DOBSON: Well, good morning. My
42 name is Matt Dobson (ph) and I am a Sergeant with the
43 State Troopers here in the Bureau of Wildlife
44 Enforcement, and I supervise the St. Mary's and in Bethel
45 region.

46

47 And to answer this question that's come
48 up, this individual that everybody talks about a lot of
49 times, this has been going on for probably five or six
50 years since I've been here. And this individual in

1 question is a resident of the state of the Alaska and he
2 does come out to the St. Mary's area, Pitka's Point area
3 and he is a commercial fishermen as well as a subsistence
4 user and he does subsistence fish on the river.

5
6 He has been spoken to, or there has been
7 some investigations done on him five or six years in a
8 row to see exactly what he's doing with these fish. And
9 from every time we've done this we cannot find that he's
10 actually doing anything wrong. He knows what the rules
11 and regulations are pertaining to subsistence fish and he
12 is not violating any of them. He catches a large amount
13 of subsistence fish but there's no limit. He then
14 processes it properly by removing the dorsal fins and he
15 takes it up to the airport and he ships it to Anchorage,
16 where it goes to New Sagaya and is custom processed,
17 presumably for his use or his family. That's where it
18 kind of gets somewhat tough because he does legally take
19 a lot of fish out of Pitka's Point area or St. Mary's
20 area, takes it to Anchorage, gets it processed. He also
21 then commercial fishes and he takes all of his commercial
22 fish, sends it to Anchorage to New Sagaya to get
23 processed and he can legally then sell that, in which he
24 does have a market. The hard part is that once it gets
25 to New Sagaya and it all gets processed into little
26 packages it's very hard to track where that fish goes
27 from, from there.

28
29 DEC has intercepted one of his shipments,
30 inspected it all, it was completely legitimate.

31
32 So at this point it ruffles the feathers
33 of a local individuals, however there is nothing that we
34 know of that is -- he hasn't done anything illegal.

35
36 We've also spoken to multiple people in
37 the villages. There's probably been seven different
38 Troopers that have worked on this particular case,
39 individual, and as of yet not one person has ever come
40 forward and said that he has paid them money for
41 subsistence fish or that he is hiring subsistence users,
42 and that's always the thing, that this year he had local
43 kids from St. Mary's and Pitka's fishing for him and then
44 he would buy the fish. They've all been spoken to,
45 questions, parents have been spoken to, family members,
46 no one has ever yet come forward and said, yes, he paid
47 me money for these fish.

48
49 He just knows the rules and regulations
50 right now very well and like I said we don't see that

1 he's doing anything wrong other than it just kind of
2 ruffles the feathers of a lot of local folks.

3
4 So the way the rules and regulations are
5 written right now he legitimately can do this.

6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

10
11 MS. HOFFMAN: IT seems to me like you
12 could keep track of this situation by looking at the
13 pounds of commercial fish that he takes out of the area,
14 look at his tax returns, look at his records and do a
15 comparison. If it looks like it exceeds, like in his
16 sales, find out who he's selling to, look at their
17 records, easily enough if he's a commercial person you
18 could do that, and if it exceeds what he took out of
19 there, there you go.

20
21 TROOPER DOBSON: Yes, Ma'am, we have
22 actually done that. And the thing is that, like I said
23 this person is a very smart individual, and this fish
24 most likely goes back to the East Coast where it's sold
25 at small little kiosk stands and there's really -- I mean
26 he can report -- if he has a thousand pounds of king
27 salmon for sale, it's very very hard for us and they're
28 sold throughout little stands all over New York City,
29 he's not going to report more than a thousand pounds
30 sold. Do you understand what I'm trying to say, is that,
31 he's not -- this person is smart enough to know he's not
32 going to report or have documentation that says he sold
33 2,000 pounds of fish when he only has a thousand pounds
34 available to sell. So the fish leaves the state or goes
35 wherever, you know, he sells it in small little clumps
36 here and there and it's very, very hard to track exactly.

37
38 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

41
42 MS. HOFFMAN: If he sells it in small
43 little clumps outside the state, he must sell it in
44 pounds to individuals and it seems like his sources that
45 he -- the people that he sells it to, it just seems like
46 you could catch him, he has to keep some kind of record
47 of who he sells to and whatever pounds of clumps. I'm
48 just trying to help resolve some of the -- I mean it just
49 boggles me that somebody could be that smart.

50

1 TROOPER DOBSON: Well, I think what
2 happens is, is that it's no different than if somebody
3 who took strips and sold them at AFN and you know, if you
4 say, well, who did you sell to, you know, they're being
5 sold in individual packets here and there or through
6 family members or -- there's probably not a lot of
7 tracking record and it is frustrating, because we know
8 basically that this is going on and until the -- and the
9 State actually attempted to purchase more fish from him
10 in an undercover capacity than he legally had and there
11 was, no, I don't do that, I mean he just flat out said I
12 don't do that, this is how much fish I have and it's
13 already spoken for on a very small limited market.

14
15 So unless there is something that limits
16 the number of subsistence fish he can remove from the
17 region it's a very tough deal or if somebody comes
18 forward and said here's the cold hard cash that he paid
19 me for my subsistence fish, it's -- I mean trust me, we
20 would really like to be more involved with guy.

21
22 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

27
28 MR. L. WILDE: Go ahead.

29
30 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 Can the village itself do something legally to stop this
32 activity?

33
34 TROOPER DOBSON: I don't see how, sir,
35 because as it's done he is not breaking any laws and
36 unless, like I said, there is a limit that is put on the
37 number of fish that can legally be removed from the
38 region then I don't know how -- if he could take a
39 thousand king salmon legally he can take a thousand king
40 salmon.

41
42 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

45
46 MR. L. WILDE: I think that the rule that
47 needs to be changed or a ceiling that needs to be put on
48 is under the Federal regs where customary trade is
49 allowed. That's the problem that we foresaw that there
50 was going to be somebody coming in here and that's the

1 reason why we tried to put a dollar limit on what you can
2 say is customary trade in selling of your subsistence
3 caught fish, but that's legal as far as the Federal
4 regulations are concerned.

5
6 And I can see Trooper Dobson's problem.
7 He's looking at a regulation that was put in by the
8 Federal program, and as far as that stands if we're not
9 going to put a limit on that, this is not going to be the
10 only place that -- as time goes on, it's going to expand
11 out to other parts of the state. So next time somebody
12 comes up with a limit or even now, we should discuss
13 placing a limit by putting in a proposal to OSM that a
14 limit be placed on customary trade.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike.

17
18 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman. In this case
19 it doesn't involve any Federal regulations, because this
20 guy is not a Federally-qualified user so he's actually
21 operating under the current State regulations that don't
22 impose any kind of a limit on how many subsistence fish
23 you can catch. So this one is not dealing with that
24 customary trade issue that you were thinking about.

25
26 Although ironically just a few miles away
27 if you were fishing there, you could catch all the fish
28 you wanted and sell them fresh legally under the Federal
29 regulations as long as you caught them in Federal waters.

30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: Mike, any solutions you
32 might have on this situation?

33
34 MR. REARDEN: No, I understand Matt's
35 situation. I mean he's got to go by the law and what is
36 allowed under State law and he's just run up against a
37 situation here, it's going to be very difficult to prove
38 the guy might be selling subsistence fish, which is
39 illegal under State law. But to prove that he's selling
40 subsistence fish rather than his commercially caught
41 harvest is very difficult.

42
43 MR. L. WILDE: I got one question, Mr.
44 Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

47
48 MR. L. WILDE: Is there provision for
49 customary trade in the State regs, I'm not too familiar
50 with that?

1 TROOPER DOBSON: I'm not positive. I
2 know that they're expanding some of them with like bear
3 parts, et cetera, that there can be some use of those and
4 things, and I apologize that I don't know right off the
5 top of my head. I can't remember how the halibut, 500
6 pounds of halibut or I can't remember if it's -- we don't
7 deal with it that much here, I don't think there is any
8 under salmon.

9
10 The only other comment I had, that
11 several people had about a potential solution, I know
12 that when it comes to hunting purposes and Mike can help
13 me too here, up in the Kotzebue region, there are some
14 very generous bag limits for caribou but there's some
15 restrictions on where that meat can go, it can't come
16 below the Arctic Circle, that meat can't be taken below
17 the Arctic Circle, and it's five a day, 365 days a year
18 and on some of the Federal lands, it's 15 a day, 365 days
19 a year, but that meat cannot leave the local region. So
20 other than, like I said if there's a limit placed on the
21 number of fish that can leave the region, right now
22 that's kind of it.

23
24 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman. That might
25 be a solution people would consider is limiting how much
26 fish could leave the Yukon River, for instance, if there
27 is a way to implement some kind of a regulation through
28 the State process, it would say no more than a certain
29 number of fish can leave. That might be a solution that
30 could eventually get to solving an issue like this.

31
32 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

35
36 MS. HOFFMAN: I think that's a good
37 solution, not only for the Yukon but for the Kuskokwim,
38 you know, to introduce a proposal the next process to
39 limit the number of subsistence caught fish that can
40 leave the area. I think a lot of our folks that have
41 moved from villages and this area to Anchorage would
42 probably have a cow but it's a real solution to a problem
43 that has stopped you in your tracks.

44
45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. I would ask
50 the Chairman to instruct our Staff, local and the Office

1 of Subsistence Management to draft up some proposal to
2 address this particular issue that we could act on.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
5 Council.

6

7 MR. BERGSTROM: I had one other thing.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

10

11 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah, since I think that
12 it was Bev that brought up for the Kuskokwim about stocks
13 of concern, that we could quickly summarize for the Yukon
14 that the Department will be recommending for chinook
15 salmon to maintain the yield concern because as we talked
16 about earlier the harvest is still well below what the
17 historical averages were and so the chinook for the Yukon
18 River will stay as a -- we'll recommend keeping as a
19 yield concern but we will be recommending for summer chum
20 and fall chum to remove the concern -- to discontinue
21 them as a stock of concern and that's based on these last
22 basically three years of really good runs of fall chum
23 and summer chum into the Yukon.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any question from
26 Council to Dan.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Kevin.

31

32 MR. CLARK: If there's no more questions
33 on summer season I guess I'll do a quick synopsis of our
34 fall season.

35

36 Pre-season for fall chum we're looking at
37 a projected run size from one to 1.4 million with a
38 commercial harvest range from 100,000 to 400,000. We are
39 expecting a similar run to the recent years for coho with
40 a commercial harvest ranging from 50 to 70,000. Based on
41 our current assessment so far we're estimating that the
42 total fall chum run this year was between 800 and
43 900,000, which is slightly less than what we projected.
44 Overall the coho run was average this year, which in
45 comparison with -- it's less than the last three years
46 overall. Also it appeared that the size of the fish, for
47 cohos anyway was smaller this year than it has been in
48 previous years, which sounds like it's been a trend for,
49 not only the Kuskokwim, but the Yukon and I believe also
50 Norton Sound area. Based on the performance of summer

1 chum this year, we didn't change the subsistence
2 schedule, we didn't reimpose it from summer to fall, we
3 just let it carry over, the same schedule that we were on
4 already, which was liberalized and the subsistence
5 schedule remained relaxed.

6

7 There were a lot of -- we had a lot of
8 commercial fishing this year as far as the fall chum
9 goes, and you guys have the handouts so I don't think we
10 really need to go into the details on that. But overall
11 we had a harvest of 169,576 fall chum, which is slightly
12 less than it was last year. We had a total of 62,995
13 coho harvested this year which was above the total last
14 year, about 58,000, and we had 219 fishermen participate
15 in the fall fishery this year, which is about doubled of
16 what it was last year of 120 fishers.

17

18 Assessment so far in the lower river was
19 complicated by a large number of late running summer
20 chum, so it isn't until the fish move up river that they
21 separate out and we can really qualify where they were
22 summer versus fall chum. We're still counting fish on
23 the ground so it will be a while before the final
24 assessment is done. Possibly the upper tributaries had
25 a higher production rate than the Tanana but the Tanana
26 still had a good production. The Delta Clearwater River
27 is the only stream with an established coho escapement
28 goal in the Yukon but like I said the counts are still
29 going on, but we don't have any concerns that it's going
30 to not make its escapement at this time.

31

32 So the one thing the Department would ask
33 is anyone that hasn't already been interviewed and/or
34 sent in their subsistence calendars, to get those in the
35 mail to us as soon as possible, we would greatly
36 appreciate it.

37

38 Is there any questions.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from
41 Council. William.

42

43 MR. BROWN: Yes, I got curious on your
44 coho, are they average this year or smaller than last
45 year?

46

47 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Yeah, William,
48 like the Kuskokwim and Norton Sound, we did notice that
49 the coho were smaller this year than they've been in
50 previous years. Exactly why that is is a matter of

1 debate. I don't know that there's been any kind of
2 consensus on why that is. But it's something that we've
3 seen -- appears that you've seen it in the Kuskokwim and
4 they've also saw it in Norton Sound so it sounds like
5 it's probably a wide ranging phenomenon this year.

6

7 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

10

11 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chair. One more
12 thing on the fish sizes. During the season we do get
13 emails from Bristol Bay and they said that in Nushagak
14 the sockeye were smaller, in probably all of Bristol Bay,
15 but I know specifically in Nushagak, they said they
16 though they were running through those five and three-
17 eighths inch mesh nets. So there's more than one species
18 that appears smaller. And I also heard through a friend
19 in Southeast, they said cohos were smaller. So that
20 could be really widespread that there's that occurrence.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
23 Council.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If it's not, thank you.
28 And we're going to have a break. We'll be back at 1:00
29 o'clock.

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: 2:00 o'clock.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 2:00 o'clock.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MS. HOFFMAN: 1:30.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: 1:45.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to come back
44 at 1:30. Make sure our Councilmen don't have any more
45 money so they'll have something to eat. And also people
46 that who giving us these to address the Advisory Council,
47 we'll give you the first opportunity when we come over
48 this afternoon, it will be around 1:30.

49

50 Thank you.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Philip Guy.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Philip Guy, I want you

10 to come forward and sit down here and subsistence --

11 before we get subsistence too far back, we give you

12 opportunity to go ahead and talk. Say your name and

13 where you're from for the record.

14

15 MR. GUY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

16 Council members. I thank you for this opportunity to be

17 with speaking before you. And also I would like to thank

18 Mr. Don Rivard for faxing me your agenda for today and

19 tomorrow. And I want to thank the Council for having

20 this area concerns, the last sentence, the agenda is an

21 outline for the meeting and is open to the area of

22 subsistence concerns, whether it is listed or not, that's

23 where I'm coming from.

24

25 At this time, I want to also introduce

26 Herman Evan, he's back there, he came in with me.

27

28 I have two different incidences of

29 subsistence concerns which I would like for the Council

30 here to be aware of.

31

32 The first incident seems to have happened

33 in 2004 and this incident hasn't faded away in our

34 village. It seems keeps coming back up, that's why I'm

35 making this known. It seems that in the fall of 2004 a

36 party of eight subsistence hunters chartered a plane to

37 travel to their customary and traditional hunting,

38 trapping and fishing area at Hart Lake. The party

39 apparently was diverted by the pilot of the flying

40 service to lake area with the statement that there were

41 too many sport hunters in the area of Hart Lake who had

42 reportedly had been flown there by the flying service.

43 And it seems a statement was made to the effect that when

44 customary and traditional subsistence hunting, trapping

45 and fishing areas become more known from observations of

46 travel destinations of subsistence people, the

47 subsistence people tend to get displaced from those

48 particular areas and that seems to have happened.

49

50 And, again, I want to say, this doesn't

1 seem to want to fade away. If it's happened before it
2 may happen again, and it may have happened elsewhere,
3 too, I don't know. But that is the extent of my report
4 to the Council on this incident.

5
6 MS. HOFFMAN: Philip, yeah, I'm familiar
7 with that. I don't know if that came to our Council last
8 fall, too. But I remember something coming up about
9 that, but what I wanted to ask you, first of all, you
10 know, I feel that that was totally wrong and should have
11 been -- whoever was hunting, going up to Hart Lake to
12 subsistence hunt should have stated otherwise to the
13 pilot, no, I'm going to Hart Lake.

14
15 MR. GUY: To Eek Lake area.

16
17 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, to Hart Lake area.
18 First, you know, that's what I would encourage our
19 people to do. But I wanted to ask you in regards to
20 this, did you contact Fish and Wildlife, Department
21 of.....

22
23 MR. GUY: No.

24
25 MS. HOFFMAN:Fish and Game, I'm not
26 sure who has jurisdiction over that area?

27
28 MR. GUY: No, ma'am. I have not
29 personally made any contacts. But I sure hope that our
30 local Kwethluk IRA Council has done that for the reason
31 that, first, I wanted to make known that Kwethluk
32 Incorporated, Board of Directors, are members of the
33 group that's known as Kwethluk Joint Group, comprising of
34 the IRA Council, which we've always used as a lead entity
35 with respect to our way of life. The city council is
36 also a member, which also leads when it comes to certain
37 concerns that may come up before the community.

38
39 Likewise for Kwethluk, Incorporated, the
40 Board of Directors make known certain concerns that may
41 come up with respect to selected lands. And that is how
42 the Joint group has functioned through all these years.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

45
46 MS. HOFFMAN: I would encourage you --
47 are you with one of these groups, the IRA, are you an
48 administrator?

49
50 MR. GUY: I am a member of the board of

1 directors of Kwethluk Incorporated.

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: I would encourage, and I
4 think all of us would support this, from the Council, I
5 would encourage you to contact via, you know, under the
6 umbrella of Kwethluk, Inc., IRA, City Council address
7 this concern to the Wildlife Refuge and -- no, not to the
8 Wildlife Refuge, to -- who -- Mike, who would he address
9 his concern to?

10

11 Sorry, Mr. Chair, I wanted to address the
12 concern, so I ask Mike because he was shaking his head,
13 who?

14

15 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman. Mike
16 Rearden, manager of the Yukon Delta Refuge. We don't
17 really regulate commerce and this appears to be that kind
18 of an issue.

19

20 I would recommend that they contact the
21 air charter service that denied the service and work with
22 them on it.

23

24 MS. HOFFMAN: But also it was a
25 subsistence issue, of subsistence hunters going in, who
26 could help facilitate that?

27

28 MR. REARDEN: I don't know. I mean
29 certainly it's open for subsistence hunting and there's
30 no regulation keeping anybody from going there. And if
31 an air charter outfit did not want to take them there for
32 some reason, then it's an issue between the individuals
33 and the charter service and it seems to me that would be
34 the likely avenue to address the problem.

35

36 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, I guess, Mr. Chair,
37 what we have is a subsistence issue and I just wondered
38 if there was another -- and I think that's what Philip is
39 addressing.....

40

41 MR. GUY: Yes, ma'am.

42

43 MS. HOFFMAN:with this particular
44 case.

45

46 MR. GUY: Yes, this is a customary and
47 traditional subsistence issue and I might as well bring
48 this up at this time.

49

50 Our village requested of the Alaska

1 Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
2 through the former special Michael W. Coffing, to draft
3 a contemporary land use patterns, wild resource harvest
4 and use and the subsistence economy of the lower
5 Kuskokwim River area communities, it's Technical Paper
6 157, this is our copy.

7

8 MS. HOFFMAN: Um.

9

10 MR. GUY: I would encourage the Council
11 members to get a copy of it. It shows where our locals
12 have been subsistence hunting, fishing for many, many
13 years. But I did note down, Mr. Rearden's statement to
14 work with the flying service or services.

15

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

19

20 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I guess I just -- you
21 know, and thank you Mike, I didn't mean to put you on the
22 spot, but I just wanted to reassure Philip Guy that I --
23 that I would recommend, one, contacting them, but also to
24 let people in your community know that if you charter a
25 flight to go to Point A that is your right to go to Point
26 A and not to Point B because they have other hunters in
27 there. And I think, you know, people have a right to be
28 there the way the laws read, you know, even sportshunters
29 the way the laws read, but you were denied -- or whoever,
30 you know, I don't know if you were on the trip but.....

31

32 MR. GUY: No, I wasn't.

33

34 MS. HOFFMAN:yeah, the subsistence
35 hunters that were trying to go to Hart Lake, they were
36 denied something by somebody and that was not right, and
37 it shouldn't happen again. And I would encourage you to
38 let your whole community know that if they charter a
39 plane to go to Hart Lake area to hunt, because they know
40 traditionally it's been used by people, that that's their
41 right, and it should be clear from the get-go, and I
42 would even work with some of these operators and say, you
43 know, traditionally we're in there, we're in this area,
44 and just let them know this is our traditional area. And
45 you can't exclude them, but you sure can let them know
46 that that's your traditional area.

47

48 MR. GUY: Uh-huh.

49

50 MR. REARDEN: And incidentally, Mr.

1 Chairman, for the record, Hart Lake is in the Togiak
2 National Wildlife Refuge.

3
4 MR. GUY: Mr. Chairman. The Togiak area
5 is Unit 17, also is a portion of residents of Kwethluk
6 hunting and fishing area traditionally. And occasionally
7 we have been in contact with the village of New Stuyahok,
8 it's not Togiak it's New Stuyahok.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 And, Mr. Chairman, if I may continue.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

15
16 MR. GUY: I thank you. Another incident
17 that has come up for two or three years now is that it
18 seems that some of our local subsistence hunters had gone
19 up by boat to Kisaralik and they had done some fishing
20 there and I believe they mentioned -- it was mentioned it
21 was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service people that came
22 to them and then they were asked where they were from,
23 and when they responded that they were from Kwethluk they
24 were -- the fish that they had caught were taken away
25 from them. Last summer when the Unit 4 village held a
26 meeting in Akiachak, we brought up -- excuse me, I'm
27 getting ahead here.

28
29 Those people, the protection officers
30 that took the subsistence caught fish were told that only
31 Akiak and Akiachak were the only ones who could be
32 allowed to subsistence fish, hunt, trap in that area.

33
34 But the village representatives, both
35 from the corporation and the village traditional council
36 or IRA were not aware that they were the only ones that
37 could be allowed subsistence activities in the Kisaralik
38 River. They were shaking their head, that shouldn't have
39 been the case.

40
41 Again, Mr. Chairman, if there are other
42 occurrences similar to the incident, what worries me is
43 it might build up some anger within our people, and
44 whatever they might do, I do not know, but I would like
45 to see non-confrontational efforts in these kinds of
46 incidents.

47
48 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, again, Mr.
2 Chair, I don't want to monopolize the mic, but, yeah,
3 Philip, that definitely -- that situation did come in and
4 I think everyone learned a lot from that situation. And
5 I felt that, I don't know, I thought that it was somewhat
6 resolved and that was my understanding, that it was -- it
7 had been resolved and that lessons were learned from
8 that.

9
10 I just happened to be on the Kisaralik at
11 my camp during that time and the kids stopped by and they
12 were pretty freaked out, to put it mildly.

13
14 MR. GUY: Oh, you're aware, okay.

15
16 MS. HOFFMAN: And I encouraged them to,
17 you know, make their contacts and I thought it was
18 resolved. I know it came up several times and maybe at
19 the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group meeting
20 maybe, and maybe here, but hopefully we all learned our
21 lessons from that and can avoid that in the future.

22
23 MR. GUY: Mr. Chairman. It would be very
24 good if incidences like that could be avoided in the
25 future. I don't know if those people had -- rather
26 regarding the resolution of the concern, if our local IRA
27 had been made aware of some correctional efforts on those
28 actions to try to avoid future similar happenings, we
29 haven't heard, at least I have not.

30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

34
35 MS. HOFFMAN: There were charges brought
36 forth -- I thought there were charges that were brought
37 forward but were dropped; is that correct?

38
39 MR. GUY: Charges?

40
41 MS. HOFFMAN: I mean -- no, no, no, when
42 the kids had their fish taken away I thought they were
43 issued a citation but that was dropped, was it not, Mr.
44 Guy, do you know?

45
46 MR. GUY: No, I'm not aware that charges
47 had been made or citations.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: Oh, maybe I'm thinking of
50 a different case then.

1 MR. GUY: Please be aware that Kwethluk
2 is in Unit 4 compromising of Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak
3 and Kwethluk and we make an effort to communicate
4 regarding various concerns that we may have.
5
6 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
9
10 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 You stated that the State said Akiak and Akiachak were
12 the only.....
13
14 MR. GUY: That's.....
15
16 MR. HOELSCHER:ones able to hunt in
17 that area.....
18
19 MR. GUY: That's.....
20
21 MR. HOELSCHER:was this -- I'm not
22 done yet, sir. Was this a jurisdiction issue, was that
23 private lands or was that water ways where the State
24 oversees the area, you know, when we talk jurisdiction,
25 you know, there's jurisdictions here and there and so I'm
26 just trying to get the eyeball, you know, within that
27 area, I don't know.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 MR. GUY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
32 close now if there are no further questions. We have
33 heard over and over again regarding the subsistence
34 priorities that we have within both the Federal and State
35 agencies.
36
37 I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Council.
38
39 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: Mike Rearden.
44
45 MR. REARDEN: Yes.
46
47 MS. HOFFMAN: Could you just explain for
48 Edgar's question or comments, he was wondering about
49 jurisdictions and how that all breaks down and the whole
50 idea of where we can or cannot.

1 MR. REARDEN: Mr. Chairman. Mike
2 Rearden. Frankly, I'm not even familiar with the case
3 you're talking about so I guess I don't know any details
4 on it. But looking in the Kuskokwim area, subsistence
5 fishing regulations, there are Federal regulations here
6 for local use of rainbow trout and salmon and other
7 things in this area, and looking on here they talk about
8 residents of all these communities, of which Kwethluk is
9 one of them for rainbow trout with no limit, year-round,
10 for the rivers in this area here, so I don't know what
11 the case was about.

12
13 I'm sorry.

14
15 MS. HOFFMAN: I thought it was the case
16 of Earl Samuelson, Jr., and he had some kids from
17 Kwethluk with him, is that the case?

18
19 MR. GUY: No, those had been complaining
20 or bringing this to our attention back home were just out
21 there subsistence hunting.

22
23 MS. HOFFMAN: Right. That was the case
24 I was thinking of. I mean you're familiar with that
25 case, right?

26
27 MR. REARDEN: Yeah, I remember he
28 contacted them in the field and everything was dropped
29 before anything was issued on that.

30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: Right.

32
33 MR. REARDEN: Yeah.

34
35 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, that's it.

36
37 MR. REARDEN: If that's the one you're
38 talking about.

39
40 MR. GUY: Yeah.

41
42 MR. REARDEN: Okay, nothing was issued on
43 that.

44
45 MR. GUY: Okay. Again, I thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Philip. Now
48 then we go to our agenda.....

49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: The guy in the brown suit
4 over there was shaking his head about something when
5 somebody was asking a question and I would like to have
6 him address, you know, if he knows anything about this
7 incident with these young people up there in the Kwethluk
8 River.
9
10 MR. STALLER: Doug Staller (ph), Deputy
11 Manager at Yukon-Delta and I was just confirming that
12 there weren't any charges in that case. I was trying
13 to.....
14
15 MS. HOFFMAN: I didn't see you.
16
17 MR. STALLER: Yeah, I was shaking my head
18 no, that's all.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Quyana.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We will continue on our
23 agenda. Deferral to Yukon Northern Area fisheries
24 proposals. Don.
25
26 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
27 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a
28 Division Chief for the folks that cover the Kuskokwim and
29 Yukon drainages with the Office of Subsistence
30 Management.
31
32 You may recall that a year ago there were
33 fisheries proposals that went before the Federal
34 Subsistence Board, actually in January of this year,
35 January 2006, that dealt with some of the issues dealing
36 with the size of salmon, especially chinook salmon on the
37 Yukon River, and those proposals were turned down, but
38 with the idea that there would be a working group that
39 would be formed to look into the issue of what people's
40 concerns are regarding what they see as the size of
41 chinook salmon are getting smaller in general in the
42 Yukon River. So there's been a working group that's been
43 formed and they're going to meet -- YRDFA's leading that
44 effort and they're going to meet for the first time at
45 the end of this month, and I think Jill Klein will have
46 more to speak about that later.
47
48 But even though the Board formed this
49 group, asked that this group be formed, the Eastern
50 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council did put in

1 for four different proposals this past fisheries cycle,
2 all dealing with, again, with the issues of trying to
3 address what they consider the size of chinook salmon in
4 the Yukon. The Federal Subsistence Board, when they got
5 those, reviewed them, just right after receiving them,
6 and decided to defer those four proposals until this
7 working group can meet a few times and maybe make
8 recommendations themselves on what could be done, and
9 then either take up those same proposals or some other
10 proposals that maybe modified that would address the
11 issue better.

12
13 So there are no Federal, as you've
14 probably noticed, here's no Federal fisheries proposals
15 before you for this round, and that's the reason. There
16 were only four that were submitted for the Yukon and
17 Kuskokwim drainages, and those four were deferred for
18 this round.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I have
21 on that particular subject.

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Could we get the make up
28 of this working group, so we could have some input, who
29 comprises this working group you're talking about?

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Well, it might be best to
32 have Jill Klein answer that. I can answer it in general.
33 I know there's going to be people from all up and down
34 the Yukon River that are going to be part of that. I
35 think we've got Ray Oney who's going to be representing
36 your Council on that. There's also going to be a
37 representative from both the Western and Eastern Interior
38 Councils as part of that group. And then the State and
39 Federal fisheries managers will be involved, as well as
40 other fishermen.

41
42 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I ask Jill to come
45 over and respond to that question.

46
47 MS. KLEIN: Okay, for the record my name
48 is Jill Klein with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
49 Association, and I was slated to talk about this in
50 letter D, so if we're moving it up now I can address

1 that.

2

3 So I can explain to you a little bit in
4 detail about what we're calling a riverwide meeting on
5 the size of Yukon River chinook salmon. And as you heard
6 from Don, this started somewhat from the Federal
7 Subsistence Board facing numerous proposals last year
8 that were to address the size of chinook on the Yukon
9 River, and they were quite controversial and the three
10 RACs had different viewpoints and opinions. As well
11 there were proposals that have been put into the Board of
12 Fisheries over the years also to address the size of
13 chinook salmon.

14

15 So YRDFA's going to sponsor a fish size
16 working group meeting to try to address this issue so
17 that we can have some riverwide consensus and try to go
18 in in an organized manner to the different State and
19 Federal Boards and hopefully try to have people on the
20 river come to some compromises instead of just letting
21 the Boards make decisions for the people.

22

23 And so the group will be compromised of
24 fishermen from up and down the river, the fisheries
25 managers, scientists and researchers and the non-profits
26 and tribal groups, together, to discuss the issue. And
27 some of the support for the meeting is coming from NOAA,
28 which is the National Oceanic and Atmosphere
29 Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the
30 Office of Subsistence Management, and Alaska Department
31 of Fish and Game. And the main presentations will be
32 from, what's called the Joint Technical Committee, which
33 is part of the Yukon River Salmon Agreement that we have
34 on the Yukon River with Canada and so that's a group of
35 scientists, that because this is across -- it's a
36 riverwide issue, it's a cross-border issue, so we're also
37 including Canadians in our efforts, so the Joint
38 Technical Committee has also composed what they're
39 calling a -- it's also a fish size committee that will be
40 doing some presentations at this meeting.

41

42 And we'll also have a chance during the
43 meeting for fishermen, and so as you heard you already
44 have your designated RAC member who will be attending the
45 meeting and we'll have time during the day, about a
46 couple of hours, for people who are on the ground to say
47 what their observations are related to any trends they're
48 seeing with the size of salmon and what local people
49 perceive the problem to be. And as well we'll hear from
50 scientists on data that's been analyzed or data that can

1 potentially be analyzed.

2

3 And this is only going to be a one day
4 meeting in Anchorage. It's taking place on October 30th,
5 and we're thinking that this is going to be the first
6 meeting of a series of meetings, potentially, and that
7 after one day we're not necessarily going to answer the
8 question of this problem. So we're hoping that there'll
9 be a second meeting in December. And there could be
10 additional meetings into the future because this might be
11 a longer term issue that the Yukon River has to deal
12 with.

13

14 And we will have a meeting summary and it
15 will be sent out to all the Regional Council members, so
16 even if you didn't attend the meeting, we'll make sure to
17 send you a summary of what happened. And the agenda is
18 still being developed, so we can send that out to you, if
19 you're interested, to see what that looks like, but we're
20 still in the development stage.

21

22 And I think that's all the information I
23 had on the meeting.

24

25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

28

29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, it says the Arctic,
30 Yukon, Kuskokwim working group to address the smaller
31 size of king salmon, now you're only concentrating on the
32 Yukon River at the present time, and when do you think
33 you're going to address the same issue for the Kuskokwim
34 and the Arctic?

35

36 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office
37 of Subsistence Management. Mr. Chair. Bob. Right now
38 this group is just for the Yukon chinook salmon. And I
39 would imagine if there are some things that come out that
40 may pertain to the Kuskokwim, then that would be shared
41 as well, and that information, if there is some
42 information that comes out then maybe at some future date
43 that might be considered as well. I think there's also
44 been a report done on Kuskokwim fish by the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game, kind of addressing this
46 already, and maybe somebody from ADF&G can confirm that,
47 I forget who the author is on that paper.

48

49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
2 Council to Jill or Don.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Don, if you
7 could continue on the agenda.

8
9 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
10 you know on September 20th I mailed out to all of you,
11 and I hope you all received it in plenty of time for this
12 meeting a memo with a copy of the State of Alaska
13 fisheries proposals for the AYK region, and this is an
14 opportunity, if your Council decides to, to provide
15 comments on any of those proposals. It's an option, it's
16 not something you have to do or it's not really an action
17 item. You have done so in the past, you may recall three
18 years ago you met in Wasilla with the other two Councils
19 on the Yukon River and provided both recommendations to
20 the Federal Subsistence Board on Federal proposals and
21 developed comments on State proposals that were very
22 similar, a lot of them were the same.

23
24 In my memo I pointed out that there are
25 approximately 16 proposals that you may want to look at,
26 and weigh in. Most of those are here in your area, and
27 then there's one statewide.

28
29 So it's up to the Council whether you
30 want to go through these at all. I know we had asked Dan
31 Bergstrom to be here to be able to answer any specific
32 questions you might have on these State proposals and
33 he's here today. So it's just up to the pleasure of your
34 Council what you want to do with these proposals.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don, we do have a couple
39 audience people who would like to comment on -- one is
40 172 and 166, I think these are State. Is someone over
41 here, back there.

42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: 174.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 174 and 166. Marvin
46 Paul, here.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: How about Stanley Pete.

1 MR. PETE: Here.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You want to come forward
4 and maybe give -- maybe your question would be answered.
5
6 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Isn't there a procedure
11 that we have to follow in addressing proposals?
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
14
15 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard.
16 Bob. I think -- this is not a formal process like we do
17 with our Federal proposals, so I think you have the
18 option of either starting the discussion among yourselves
19 or listen to testimony first and maybe hearing the
20 testimony may help you decide as a Council whether you
21 want to make recommendations or any kind of comments you
22 want to give to the State Board on this. So there's not
23 a -- we haven't established any real formal process for
24 reviewing State proposals.
25
26 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
27
28 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. If I may add, I
29 know that James Charles and maybe Beverly, last week, you
30 also looked at these as part of the working group and you
31 might want to share what that group did as well with the
32 State proposals.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.
39
40 MR. CHARLES: We, as working group, voted
41 on three State proposals on Kuskokwim. And I had the
42 proposals here but I don't know where they are now. John
43 may know the numbers but, me, I forgot the numbers, but
44 he knows what actions we did.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
49
50 MR. RIVARD: If I may, Mr. Chair, John

1 just pointed out to me and they're the same that we
2 listed for you on the Kuskokwim area, they're Proposals
3 No. 155, 156, and 157.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, yes, we'll go
8 ahead and take your testimony now on Proposal No. 174 --
9 I don't even have no proposal numbers before me.

10

11 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may -- Don
12 Rivard here. I could give you a quick summary of what
13 that one is.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

16

17 MR. RIVARD: Okay, Mr. Chair, 174 is
18 entitled, in the State's proposal book, closures to non-
19 salmon fisheries and it's asking that there be no
20 commercial fishing for fall cisco, whitefish or sheefish.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 MR. ALOYSIUS: What page are you on?

25

26 MR. RIVARD: That is Page 131.

27

28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MR. RIVARD: Let me make that clear, it's
33 the proposals that I sent to you, not the Council book,
34 I'm sorry, it's the proposals that I sent to you a couple
35 weeks ago.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly, you want to say
38 something?

39

40 MS. HOFFMAN: Oh, no.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, and say your
43 name for her.

44

45 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. Council. My
46 name is Stanley Pete. I'm from NunamIqua. I'm speaking
47 in opposition to Proposal 174.

48

49 I believe there's not enough information
50 out there to support this closure. They're still doing

1 a lot of information gathering. I believe it's too early
2 to shut down this fishery that's just developing.

3
4 Closing this whitefish and cisco fishery
5 will lose the recently acquired markets that they have
6 found within the last year, markets in California, the
7 East Coast, and down in the states. And so if this small
8 fishery were taken away, it's a very small fishery. This
9 summer we were allocated 10,000 pounds and that is a
10 minuscule amount and that fishery was taken in less than
11 four days. And I believe it's too early to shut it down
12 before more information is out there to determine if it
13 should close or not.

14
15 Also it doesn't disturb the subsistence
16 harvest of these fish out there.

17
18 I'd like to see it continue because it's
19 not a limited entry fishery. There's youth that
20 participated in it and elders, one of the elders being 85
21 years old had purchased a commercial fishing license for
22 this fishery. Unfortunately he wasn't able to
23 participate because the quota was eaten up in a few days
24 before he was able to participate, and he was looking
25 forward to participating in this fishery because it's not
26 a strenuous fishery. I felt bad for him because he did
27 not be able to participate, and they're only like less
28 than two pounds per fish.

29
30 I'd like to speak on them other
31 proposals. I think there's enough regulations out there
32 for the lower Yukon River that there shouldn't be any
33 more regulations on the lower river, there's already
34 enough in place out there, there shouldn't be any more
35 additions.

36
37 I don't have anything else, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from
40 Council.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, thank you.

45
46 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't know they had a

1 non-salmon commercial fisheries in the lower Yukon. And
2 it's just very frightening to me that, you know, another
3 species of fish that we subsist on is going to run the
4 gamut of a commercial fishery.

5
6 I really don't like it because of what
7 happened in our area. We have a 10 by 8 mile lake called
8 Whitefish Lake about 20 miles from my home where we used
9 to harvest in the falltime a lot of big whitefish and
10 smaller whitefish and the cisco that you're talking
11 about, and unbeknownst to them people up there the
12 Department of Fish and Game opened that up to commercial
13 fishing and practically devastated the whitefish in that
14 area. And it's been 10 years and it's starting to
15 recover but it's going to take a lot more than that to
16 recover to the amount of fish that that lake used to
17 produce for the people up there. And I hate to see
18 something like this happen to the fishery, I mean the
19 non-salmon fisheries that we subsist on.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

22
23 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. This whitefish
24 fishery is such a minuscule -- very small amount, we have
25 the support of the whole community to continue something
26 like this. It's a very small, small, minuscule amount.
27 And the community of NunamIqua would like to see this
28 continue, there's just not -- it's a minuscule amount,
29 there's not enough information out there to even say that
30 there shouldn't be one. This first -- this year has been
31 more information gathering than anything. They've worked
32 very closely with the Department of Fish and Game on this
33 to try to gather more information.

34
35 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

38
39 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 When you're talking whitefish, are you talking kaktook
41 (ph) or (In Native)?

42
43 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. This fishery
44 was specifically targeting (In Native), the bering cisco
45 and the Department of Fish and Game was out there, you
46 know, with the test fishery. And we got support from the
47 majority of the people in the village to continue
48 something like this, and the elders really appreciate,
49 you know, having the opportunity to go out there and
50 harvest these little fish. Like I said it was

1 unfortunate that this 85 year old was unable to
2 participate, and he was looking forward to doing
3 something. There's not very much things he can do. He
4 can't do the salmon commercial fishery because they're
5 too darn big for him.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

8

9 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm just curious, one, how
10 long this commercial fishery has been in operation, and,
11 two, it was proposed by Edward Abraham by -- and is it
12 the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association -- no,
13 that's a different one -- oh, okay, it was just on the
14 same page -- Edward Abraham proposed it, is he somebody
15 from your community and can you give us a little history?

16

17 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. Last year there
18 was a lot of -- it was a permit given by the State of
19 Alaska for a test fishery to see what other fish were out
20 there in our region that would be to possibly, you know,
21 develop a small fishery. And last year they harvested,
22 if I'm correct, I think it was 6,000 pounds. And this
23 year they requested for an increase to 40,000 pounds but
24 they were denied but they got 10,000 pounds, and it was
25 harvested in a few days. One day it was -- you know,
26 within like four or five days the whole quota was
27 harvested. And the fish, it's -- I'd really like to see
28 a small fishery like this developed so the youth and
29 elders can participate, and it's not a limited entry
30 fishery.

31

32 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

35

36 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Can I get the boundaries of where they're commercially
38 harvesting these fish?

39

40 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. I have the
41 boundaries, they're -- I didn't bring that packet with
42 me, but anyway it was -- the villages that participated
43 were NunamIqua, Alakanuk, Emmonak and Kotlik, and it
44 probably averaged 2,500 pounds for each village which is
45 a very small amount. But Kevin is here with the ADF&G,
46 he has the -- I think he might have what the exact
47 boundaries were.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I ask you a
50 question, I'm from Yukon -- lower Yukon, I didn't know

1 they got a whitefish fishery, commercial down there, who
2 buy the fish?

3

4 MR. PETE: Mr. Chairman. It was
5 Kwethluk, the Kwethluk, I don't know if you're aware of
6 the fish buying operation in Emmonak. They took over the
7 Coop, so that's the buying operations out of Emmonak.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I would like to
10 hear from, Dan, do you know anything about this fishery,
11 this new fishery?

12

13 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. My name is Kevin
14 Clark, I'm with Fish and Game. Basically this whitefish
15 fishery that was prosecuted this year was similar to the
16 whitefish fishery that was prosecuted last year, in that,
17 we wrote a Commissioner's permit allowing for the
18 processor to buy 10,000 pounds of whitefish with some
19 limits on the sheefish, and the broad fish, and/or
20 humpback whitefish, anyway caps on those species so that
21 we wouldn't get any kind of a -- we wouldn't have any
22 kind of problems with overharvesting of those important
23 subsistence fish.

24

25 And there has been other limited
26 whitefish sales, you know, for the last 25 years, off and
27 on, in the Yukon drainage, you know, it's small, small
28 amounts.

29

30 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 It's same way on Kuskokwim, we used to have small amount
36 of commercial fishery on whitefish over here, too,
37 because you people used to see those whitefish in
38 freezers at Swanson's and AC, those are commercial
39 caught. I was buyer too for whitefish, commercial -- the
40 Department used to divide amount of fish people were
41 buying. I bought some, BruseCrew bought some, AC and
42 Swanson's, and there was a list of who bought some on
43 Kuskokwim, and we were limited to so many fish per
44 season. So I believe that they're doing the same thing
45 on the Yukon.

46

47 So the State gave us -- gave the
48 fishermen freshwater commercial fishing permit, it's not
49 limited fishing permit, it's different -- a little
50 different kind of commercial fishing permit.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
6
7 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Dan, is this whitefish that migrates down along the
9 Kuskokwim up through the Yukon?
10
11 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Edgar. Now,
12 whether or not this whitefish migrates between Yukon and
13 the Kuskokwim, that I have no idea on.
14
15 MR. HOELSCHER: I'll follow up. The
16 reason I'm asking is along the coast in Hooper Bay and
17 Chevak, you know, whitefish is one of our main sources of
18 subsistence fish, and, you know, hearing that commercial
19 fishing is going up in the lower Yukon, you know, is a
20 big surprise.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions
23 Council of whitefish fishery.
24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, the question
30 hasn't.....
31
32 REPORTER: Bob. Bob.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: The question hasn't been
35 answered about what the boundary is for this new fishery.
36
37 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Bob. At this
38 point there really isn't a boundary per se for the
39 whitefish fishery. We do have net restrictions as far as
40 the length. There's a 150 foot length restriction and
41 there's also a restriction on greater than six inch to
42 kind of keep people off the larger fish, the older fish.
43
44 But as far as boundaries, at this point,
45 the only boundaries that have been imposed have been
46 imposed by the buyer themselves, and the distance away
47 from the processor for people to bring the fish in. So
48 at this point, the major fishing areas at this point are
49 NunamIqua, Alakanuk, Kotlik, and then right there around
50 Emmonak.

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: I know this is a State
6 issue so I'm just asking what's the Department's
7 recommendation?
8
9 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Beverly. At this
10 point, you know, we don't have a -- the Department hasn't
11 finalized our responses to the proposals, but at this
12 time we are looking at opposing this proposal.
13
14 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions on
17 whitefish fishery.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Don, may we
22 continue.
23
24 MR. RIVARD: You're the Chair.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Continue.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. RIVARD: I believe you have another
33 one that's asking to have testimony on 166.....
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.
36
37 MR. RIVARD:is that correct? Okay.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, 166, Marvin Paul.
40
41 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. That one is on
42 Page 124. It was submitted by the Fairbanks Advisory
43 Committee and it's requesting that no gill nets in the
44 Yukon River larger than six inches stretch mesh will be
45 more than 35 meshes deep.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead, say your
48 name for her.
49
50 MR. PAUL: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. My name

1 is Marvin Paul. I'm a commercial fisherman, and I also
2 do subsistence fishing.

3

4 I oppose this proposal. I believe that
5 fishing has enough restrictions as it is, 45 mesh. The
6 chum gear was 60 -- no, 70 mesh, the king gear was 60
7 mesh, and they restricted that gear down to 45 mesh, the
8 king gear, and 50 mesh for the chum gear. And this
9 proposal is like putting a 7mm bullet into a 30.06. I
10 don't see how we could sustain our livelihood because our
11 livelihood mainly comes from the king salmon, chinook,
12 and it takes certain gear to fish certain species of
13 fish. You know I can't use a five inch mesh for an (In
14 Native), I have to use a smaller gear to catch a smaller
15 fish.

16

17 And downsizing our gear, I just feel, you
18 know, it's just gone too far. And if the Board is to
19 accept this proposal, it will impose a lot of problems to
20 our communities, not just in one community but from the
21 mouth of the river on up who depend on the chinook and
22 subsistence way of life. I like eating strips, not just
23 summer chum, some prefer to make strips during the fall
24 season.

25

26 And I fished this summer, you know, the
27 fall season, the price was 25 cents a pound and I didn't
28 make money, I came out in the red over a hundred dollars.
29 And having a big motor and it just -- you know, for that
30 price, for a fisherman, it just restricts us from going
31 any further, we have to really be careful how we're going
32 to go about doing things. And if they were to accept
33 this idea of restricting our gear, downsizing it, you'll
34 just create a hardship among a lot of families that
35 depend on the fish.

36

37 That's all.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don, I'm having a little
40 bit of problem. I think we are Federal Subsistence
41 Council, not the State, how is that going to work?

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair -- Don
44 Rivard. It's my understanding, as I stated earlier, that
45 your Council has the option to submit comments to the
46 Alaska Board of Fisheries. And I was going to ask to
47 also remind the people that are testifying here, that
48 they really should also submit their comments directly to
49 the Board of Fisheries because they're the deciding body,
50 they're going to make the decision on these proposals.

1 What you're doing here is listening to
2 this, the testimony, and deciding then whether you, as a
3 body, as a Council, want to also provide comments maybe
4 similar to what's being testified to, to the Board of
5 Fisheries; so you have that option.

6
7 Hopefully the people that have been
8 testifying know that you're not the deciding body here,
9 but you can decide whether you want to submit comments to
10 the Board of Fisheries, and maybe what you're hearing
11 here is the kind of comments you want to provide as well,
12 if you're in agreement to it. If not, you don't have to
13 do -- you have the option of not doing anything. In
14 other words, you don't have to submit any comments to the
15 Board of Fisheries as a Council.

16
17 I hope that's clear, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

23
24 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, this reasoning -- I
25 mean this statement doesn't make any sense to me at all,
26 no gill nets in the Yukon River larger than six inches
27 stretch mesh will be more than 35 meshes deep. You know,
28 somebody correct me if I'm wrong, I thought this was
29 already in regulation, and what -- and it doesn't say
30 anything about whether this restriction would apply to
31 commercial fishers or to subsistence fishers; so, you
32 know, I have a big question mark on the rationale behind
33 whoever -- I mean on why this Federal Advisory Committee
34 [sic] is putting this proposal forward, it just doesn't
35 make sense to me at all.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

38
39 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard. Mr. Chair.
40 Bob. This is one of the proposals that was also
41 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board and was
42 deferred this round. I think it was also one of the
43 proposals that the Board took up last year and rejected,
44 the Federal Subsistence Board, and this is related,
45 again, to the issue of chinook salmon size in the Yukon
46 River, and this is one way of addressing that. There's
47 some thought that larger fish, or the larger females run
48 deeper and that by limiting the depth of the nets it
49 avoids those larger fish.

50

1 So these are all related issues and the
2 Federal Board, again, has deferred those proposals that
3 were submitted to them to let the YRDFA working group
4 meet maybe a couple three times and discuss this issue
5 and see if they can come up with a plan for addressing
6 the issue.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: The question still is, is
15 this geared towards commercial fishermen or to
16 subsistence fishermen?

17

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan.

19

20 MR. BERGSTROM: You can just kind of take
21 your pick on these proposals. On those two that you have
22 in there, one of them, I have to look at it, one of them
23 just addresses commercial gill nets, and one of them
24 addresses commercial and subsistence. So 166 says
25 commercial, is this for commercial and 165 has for both,
26 subsistence and commercial gill nets. And on the Yukon,
27 I think Paul covered some of that, is that, for the
28 commercial fishery in the lower Yukon it's a 45 mesh
29 deep; but with subsistence gill nets, you know, there's
30 no restrictions of depth of nets in the Yukon, at this
31 time.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan, seems to me for
34 three years every meeting we're just about presented this
35 to the Council from up river -- upper Yukon, reduce
36 depths of subsistence and commercial fishery nets for
37 three years now just about. I don't know, I'm getting
38 kind of mixed up, how do they -- they present it to State
39 in Fairbanks, too.

40

41 MR. BERGSTROM: You're right, Harry, I
42 mean it's been at least three years, and it's to both the
43 Federal Board and the State Board that we've been seeing,
44 it's the depth of the gill nets and then on the mesh
45 size.

46

47 And I think one of the ideas, as Jill
48 Klein brought up, with YRDFA, is to try and get a group
49 together and go over this and try and come to some kind
50 of agreement on defining the issue and, you know, what

1 you want to address, what you need to do and have an
2 objective of what you're trying to get for results so
3 that, you know, you can come up with appropriate gear if
4 you need to change it and what you would do and what
5 you're trying to accomplish, and right now it's just that
6 these proposals come in and, you know, everybody's trying
7 to respond to them. And so that's the idea of this
8 group, is getting fishermen from all along the river
9 together. One of the problems we see is, you know, it's
10 an up river RAC, Eastern Interior that puts in these
11 proposals, and it would be nice if, I think, we've
12 suggested this before from the Department, you know, that
13 the RACs communicate more so that when they put this in,
14 that you guys would know and maybe be able to talk about
15 it before they go in so that you could have, you know,
16 less division.

17
18 But there's -- it's a big issue and the
19 best way now, at this point seems to be, you know, with
20 YRDFA getting fishermen from all along the river together
21 at one time, you know, so they can talk about it.

22
23 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

26
27 MS. HOFFMAN: So with all that in
28 mind.....

29
30 REPORTER: Bev. Bev.

31
32 MS. HOFFMAN: I had it on. So with all
33 that in mind what's the Department's position on this?

34
35 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, as a Department,
36 you know, we have different divisions, you know, there's
37 subsistence and sportfish so the Department hasn't, you
38 know, put their comments together yet where we have
39 actual staff positions and stuff.

40
41 MS. HOFFMAN: What are you thinking?

42
43 MR. BERGSTROM: I think we're waiting for
44 that group to get together to see what they're going to
45 come up with. We're a part of it, the Department's
46 there, and Fish and Wildlife Service, and we have the JTC
47 Subcommittee looking at this. So I think one of our
48 things is that there's still more analysis to kind of get
49 a better handle of what's going on, you know, because
50 there could be gill nets that cause some of this, but

1 there's probably some environmental factors, too, because
2 we've seen other fish that are smaller, you know, on some
3 years, too, so it's really getting all the information
4 together, and we're not sure, between now and the Board
5 meeting in early February that we'll have all that
6 together, plus, you know, getting the public together and
7 hopefully coming to some kind of consensus, that probably
8 could take some time.

9

10 So I would say we're kind of waiting for
11 where these next couple of meetings go before we even
12 have a good comment on our Staff position.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Appreciate Dan's
17 words. And I think one of the options you could also do
18 as a Council on this chinook salmon size issue is you
19 might just want to make a statement that you also endorse
20 this process that's going on led by YRDFA and see where
21 it leads, and then just leave it at that.

22

23 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

26

27 MS. HOFFMAN: I'd be in support of making
28 a motion that this Council wait until the association --
29 until these meetings to get more information in support
30 of that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You make this a motion.

33

34 MS. HOFFMAN: I would. I would make a
35 motion that we.....

36

37 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: We're getting information
42 on this specific proposal and I think at an appropriate
43 time we have some action items that need to be taken care
44 of and that motion could wait until that time.

45

46 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

49

50 MS. HOFFMAN: Well.....

1 REPORTER: Bev. Beverly.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: I keep thinking it's on and
4 it's not.
5
6 We need to make a decision as a Council,
7 too, Bob, whether or not we are going to go through that
8 process and so maybe before I make a motion on this,
9 maybe we could make a decision as a Council whether or
10 not we're going to comment on any of these proposals
11 going in front of the Board of Fish. That was your --
12 it's up to this Council, right?
13
14 MR. RIVARD: Yes, that's correct, you
15 have the option.....
16
17 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.
18
19 MR. RIVARD:of making some
20 comments, submitting them to the Board of Fisheries or
21 just deciding not to do anything with them right at this
22 particular time.
23
24 MS. HOFFMAN: And so I guess, Mr. Chair,
25 what I'm thinking is that since people came forward to
26 comment on specific items, you know, that maybe we
27 should, as a Council, comment, at least on those specific
28 items, and I'd like to hear what the rest of the Council
29 thinks.
30
31 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
34
35 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 I noted under Proposal 165 it states the report went on
37 further that without accurate baseline data on age, sex
38 and length composition of the Yukon River salmon it's not
39 possible to determine whether any of the trends we found
40 were due to selectivity of the gill net fishery. So with
41 that comment, you know, I'd like to sit and wait and see
42 what their findings are.
43
44 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.
47
48 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Yeah, it's going to be interesting to see how this
50 working group is going to work out since there's a lot of

1 fishermen, subsistence users from one end of the river
2 down to the Bering Sea, so it's going to be interesting
3 to see how it's going to work out.
4
5 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
8
9 MR. L. WILDE: I noticed that there is a
10 lot of proposals.....
11
12 REPORTER: Lester.
13
14 MR. L. WILDE: I'm having the same
15 problem she is.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll take care of.....
20
21 MR. L. WILDE: Somebody's automatically
22 turning me off.
23
24 REPORTER: No, no, it's not me, I'll fix
25 it on break.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MR. L. WILDE: I notice that in all these
30 proposals it does affect the subsistence users in more
31 ways than one. Most, if not all of these proposals
32 coming into the State, Board of Fish, affects subsistence
33 in one way or another. And I think we should put a lot
34 of faith in Jill and her group, which I am a member of,
35 YRDFA, to come up with a recommendation on these and back
36 that recommendation if we feel that it's what we believe.
37 But I think a comment should come from this group, as a
38 subsistence council, on all of these recommendations or
39 these proposals that are going before the State Board.
40
41 If you're going to put all your dimes
42 behind YRDFA's recommendation on this, we better make
43 sure that the Board of Fish also puts a lot of faith in
44 YRDFA and come and go with their recommendations on some
45 of these, otherwise it's going to be affecting you, as a
46 subsistence user.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more from Council.
49 Yeah, (In Yup'ik)
50

1 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: I'd like to speak. Near my
4 area we subsist, my families, my family subsists and
5 then, you know, the fish that is caught in the Yukon or
6 Kuskokwim, it's good and it's good that some try to get
7 fresh fish. And in my home area on Nelson Island the
8 herring is of great importance to the people because it
9 is their way of life, their food.

10

11 Then they come sometimes and survey the
12 amount of fish we have and the herring we catch are
13 plenty rich, very rich in oil and at this time -- and the
14 chum that we caught are plentiful.

15

16 When it is time sometimes some of the
17 people don't go after the chum and some they harvest
18 those fish and then we work with other types of fish as
19 well, such as flounders, as well, and we get the amount
20 that we need, not what we want. And we have been doing
21 that from -- for quite some time. And we are here today
22 and we gather the fish that we need. In our home area
23 and the nearby villages along the coast are the ones they
24 catch different types of fish, whitefish, ciscos as well,
25 herring and when we need fish we go get the fish, the
26 fresh fish out there.

27

28 And then when they first arrive and --
29 and then I participate at these meetings, Fish and
30 Wildlife, they working together and with us as well and
31 sometimes seem to bend the rules a bit, and so that is
32 good. However, though, you know, whatever we do we need
33 to talk and discuss openly what we have encountered
34 together and we know we -- we've lived with all these
35 natural resources, the fish. And then you're talking
36 about permitting, providing permits for those harvested
37 whitefish commercially, he doesn't go very well along
38 with that.

39

40 So, you know, they might be very limited,
41 because those that want to participate cannot because
42 they're not given a permit to do so. But, however,
43 though, they go out and harvest for their own subsistence
44 and so you're using all resources at different times for
45 subsistence to put away. And it's good .

46

47 And sometimes we have families, or people
48 who do not catch enough and it's not a happy situation
49 for them, and for us either, however -- but with permits,
50 very limited permits is not good, or even in the future

1 if we were to make -- utilize permits for all fish and it
2 would hinder or burden the people, or the communities
3 that have - however, though, you know, for those people
4 who are allowed to harvest fish without the use of
5 permits for their own is good, yes, we have people who
6 commercial for herring, yes, but I -- and that is enough.

7

8 Quyana.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

11

12 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

15

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. Getting back to
17 getting our Council's position on the different proposals
18 that are going to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, I don't
19 know if our agenda, if we have time to address all of
20 these proposals but I feel like these people that came to
21 talk to our Council in regards to specific proposals,
22 that we should act on those, and I'd like to see what the
23 rest of the Council feels about that. Maybe not
24 addressing every one specifically because we might be
25 here until Sunday.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: But specifically those that
30 were brought forth to this Council, and I'd like to know
31 the feeling of Council.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the desire of
34 Council.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let's have a five
39 minutes break, maybe best time we able to -- if we come
40 back from a break, maybe we could be able to speak a
41 little bit better.

42

43 (Off record)

44

45 (On record)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to come back
48 to order now, Council.

49

50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Before we continue I would
4 like a clarification on what the particular item is on
5 the agenda, 8D, Yukon -- I mean 8C, Alaska Board of
6 Fisheries AYK proposals for Yukon Kuskokwim review and
7 recommendations, who's going to review and who's going to
8 recommend is the question I have and I think it's a
9 question that a lot of these members have up here on the
10 Council, so would somebody please clarify what this
11 agenda item is about?

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

14

15 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair. Alex Nick for
16 the record. The agenda topic that Bob is concerned about
17 is there only to allow you to review and make
18 recommendations if you wish on the State proposals, it's
19 up to you whether you want to do that or not.

20

21 MS. HOFFMAN: Then, Mr. Chair, and that's
22 what I asked Council, what the rest of the Council was
23 thinking because I feel like we should review and make
24 recommendations from this Council on these different
25 proposals. And with the help of maybe some folks from
26 the Yukon we could group them so we could -- you know,
27 like for example some of these issues that are in regards
28 to affecting chinook salmon size, that's when that YRDFA,
29 that group, they need to work together and come up with
30 the solution, so, you know, I think we should review
31 these. They came in front of us and we're a subsistence
32 Council, a lot of them deal with subsistence issues.
33 That's my feeling.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

38

39 MR. ALOYSIUS: My view on this is that
40 there are other entities that should have been reviewing
41 and making the recommendations prior to us, the ones who
42 are mostly affected, the people on the Yukon River.

43

44 I would like to find out whether they
45 recommended any of these proposals or not, or if they
46 backed them up.

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

1 MR. L. WILDE: As far as proposals are
2 concerned, Proposal 163 to 167 are all related to fish
3 size and they're proposals from the Fairbanks area and if
4 we could direct them -- I think these proposals can be
5 deferred until YRDFA has an opportunity to come up with
6 recommendations to the Board of Fish, and hoping that the
7 Board of Fish will also wait until YRDFA has
8 recommendations for these, that we wait until such time
9 that the recommendations come out of YRDFA for those
10 proposals, 163 to 167.

11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: If the Board of
17 Fisheries.....

18
19 REPORTER: Bob.

20
21 INTERPRETER: Bob. Bob. Bob.

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: The Board of Fisheries
24 will meet to consider these proposals during their
25 January 1 to February 5, 2007 [sic] meeting and our next
26 meeting is scheduled after that date.

27
28 MR. L. WILDE: That's the reason why,
29 Bob, that we would like to recommend to the Board of Fish
30 that they wait until that YRDFA comes out with their
31 recommendations concerning these proposals, for their
32 decision.

33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: Is that a motion?

35
36 MR. L. WILDE: And if you need a
37 resolution or a motion to that effect, I will move that
38 this body recommends to the Board of Fish that all
39 proposals related to fish size, that the decisions are to
40 be left until such time that YRDFA does comes out with
41 recommendations on these Proposals 163 to 167.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion for
44 discussion purposes.

45
46 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

49
50 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Unless YRDFA are here to hear what our recommendations
2 are to be -- wanting to be relating to these proposals.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: What was that?

5

6 MR. ONEY: Unless YRDFA Board are here to
7 hear our recommendations on these proposals.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: There are a number of us
10 board members that are here from YRDFA that will pass it
11 on to our group.

12

13 MR. ONEY: (Nods affirmatively)

14

15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

18

19 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a question for Don
20 [sic]. During the January 31 to February 5, 2007 Board
21 of Fisheries meeting, are they going to act on any of
22 these proposals or are they just going to consider them?

23

24 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. They're
25 going to act on these most likely. I mean sometimes they
26 table or defer, but actually that's, you know, not that
27 often, usually there's an action taken.

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 And I'd like to apologize to the group for not being able
35 to make it here earlier, I was involved in the AVCP
36 convention and the agenda changed dramatically on the
37 major issues that I was heavily involved in, so I'm
38 catching up to speed here to where you guys are at and
39 not being part of the discussions.

40

41 I see this as deferring to YRDFA and
42 their comments, from what I'm understanding of it,
43 essentially is that YRDFA will meet before the Board of
44 Fish does and if we defer comments to YRDFA, we're
45 basically allowing them to speak. And I'm from the
46 Kuskokwim so certainly I don't feel real comfortable
47 speaking specifically to issues on the Yukon. What I'm
48 wondering, however, though, is I see several people in
49 the audience who are from over that other big river in
50 this country and if they had specific concerns that they

1 came here to address that they'd get on the record
2 regarding actions on these proposals, I'd be interested
3 on hearing those as well before we made any determination
4 as to -- or before I'd feel comfortable making a
5 determination on how to dispose of them.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. YRDFA has
14 been charged by the Board of Fish to go to study this --
15 the declining fish size so I think the Board of Fish will
16 go with what YRDFA has to say at that meeting because the
17 Board of Fish, I remember at the last meeting, tell me if
18 I'm correct or wrong, Jill, they charged YRDFA to come up
19 with a solution to this fish size or recommendations?

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jill.

22

23 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chairman. Lester. Yes,
24 at the last Board of Fish meeting, three years ago, in
25 response to some of the proposals related to fish size
26 that had gone into the Board of Fish, YRDFA said that
27 they would work on this topic, and then in addition due
28 to the proposals that when into the Federal Subsistence
29 Board, that Board also asked that YRDFA help to bring
30 together a group of people to work on this issue. So in
31 response to both Boards, the State and the Federal
32 Boards, we're trying to bring people together to try to
33 see if we can come up with a riverwide solution to these
34 proposals. And we may not come to a conclusion by the
35 Board of Fisheries meeting but at least we'll have had
36 one to two meetings where people from up and down the
37 river will meet together to talk about these topics.

38

39 So that's our hope. But we still may go
40 into the Board of Fisheries meeting with different
41 viewpoints between the upper and lower river but at least
42 we can try to get organized before that meeting. So we
43 would, though, like to receive your support for that
44 process and know that one of your members will be at our
45 meeting and you'll have every opportunity to participate
46 in the process.

47

48 But as a RAC, you still may want to take
49 your own action on this issue for the record.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: Bob first.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
10
11 REPORTER: Bob.
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: To answer Craig -- Greg,
14 I've been here too long, question, the reason we're at
15 this point of discussion is because someone from the
16 Yukon did bring up a concern regarding one of the
17 proposals, so they are here to address us with their
18 concerns.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: There is a motion on the
23 floor and it was seconded, and I think Jill was wanting
24 some support from this group asking that the Board of
25 Fish defer or not support these proposals until they had
26 a chance to meet.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So then Council we'll
29 discuss.
30
31 MR. ALOYSIUS: We have.
32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, would you
40 have the secretary read the motion clearly so we
41 understand what we're voting on.
42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, I'm not the
44 secretary, I just took roll call but I asked Don Rivard
45 to please handle anything like that.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
48
49 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
50 Rivard. And if I'm acting secretary you're all in

1 trouble.

2

3 But what I have down here is that Lester
4 made a motion to defer a recommendation -- it's a
5 recommendation basically to the Board of Fisheries to
6 defer action on Proposals 163 through 167 until the YRDFA
7 working group can meet and develop recommendations to the
8 Board. Now, you may not agree to those recommendations
9 when they come about but you're allowing the process to
10 go forward. And Bob seconded it.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you for clarifying
15 my second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
18 for. And all who favor say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose, say no.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. So we
27 going to wait until Yukon Drainage Fishermen
28 Association.....

29

30 MS. HOFFMAN: On those proposals.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

37

38 MR. ALOYSIUS: What about the other ones
39 that go all the way up to Proposal 228, we have no
40 direction on what to do with those -- the rest of the
41 proposals from 123 to 228.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

46

47 MR. RIVARD: If I may suggest, Mr. Chair,
48 and Beverly already brought this up, you have heard some
49 public testimony on 174, the one about the commercial
50 fishing for fall cisco whitefish or sheefish and you

1 might want to just decide whether you want to make any
2 comments on that one by itself.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any comment from
5 Council, Proposal No. 166.

6

7 MR. RIVARD: No, it's 174.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 174.

10

11 MR. RIVARD: You've already taken care of
12 166.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: 174, okay. What is the
15 desire of Council that 174 say no commercial fishing for
16 all whitefish, and the sheefish.

17

18 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
23 consider this proposal and get Council's recommendations
24 on it. We heard from Mr. Pete, I believe it was, that he
25 opposed this proposal and we heard from the Department
26 that they also would -- are looking at opposing this
27 proposal due to not enough information on this recently
28 -- this commercial fisheries. So I would like to get
29 Council's recommendation on this.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

34

35 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move that we favor --
36 recommendation -- I mean Proposal 174.

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: Second.

39

40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

43

44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Again, for your
45 information, we are a group that makes only positive
46 motions and if you don't favor this you vote no, and if
47 you favor it you vote yes.

48

49 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll second that motion,
50 Beverly Hoffman, for discussion purposes.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
2
3 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard. If
4 my understanding is correct, Bob has made a motion to
5 adopt Proposal 174, and if you adopt it then that means
6 that -- the proposal is that there be no commercial
7 fishing. So if you're in favor of it that means that the
8 recommendation from this Council would be that there be
9 no commercial fishing for those species.
10
11 Okay. Does everybody understand that?
12
13 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes. If you want to be
14 more specific to change the word favor to adopt, I'll
15 change the wording to adopt.
16
17 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
20
21 MS. HOFFMAN: A yes vote means you
22 support it and a no vote means you oppose the adoption
23 and when it comes to that time I want a roll call vote.
24
25 MR. RIVARD: Just to remind you there's
26 been a motion but there's been no second yet.
27
28 REPORTER: No, Beverly seconded the
29 motion.
30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes, I did, thank you.
32
33 MR. RIVARD: I'm sorry.
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
36 floor and second to Proposal 174, no commercial fishing
37 for fall whitefish and sheefish. And it has been
38 seconded. I ask Council for discussion.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. L. WILDE: Question, Mr. Chairman.
43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. chairman, you
45 have.....
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.
48
49 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)
50

1 174 (In Yup'ik) yes or no, how did you
2 say it, Bev, for yes you support this proposal.
3
4 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes, that's because Bob
5 reminded us that it's best to make your motions in a
6 positive form so a yes vote would be support it and a no
7 vote means you oppose it, Robert's Rules.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: And Bob's rules.
10
11 MR. L. WILDE: Question, Mr. Chairman.
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
14 called for. I'll ask Beverly for roll call.
15
16 MR. RIVARD: I'll substitute. I'm Don
17 Rivard, I'll substitute for Beverly on this one and do
18 the roll call.
19
20 William Brown.
21
22 MR. BROWN: No.
23
24 MR. RIVARD: No. Edward Hoelscher.
25
26 MR. HOELSCHER: Edgar. No.
27
28 MR. RIVARD: Edgar. What was it, no?
29
30 MR. HOELSCHER: (Nods affirmatively)
31
32 MR. RIVARD: Greg Roczicka.
33
34 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
35
36 MR. RIVARD: Lester Wilde.
37
38 MR. L. WILDE: I'm a little confused on
39 this, I thought you said a yes vote would mean for the
40 proposal?
41
42 MR. RIVARD: Yes, a yes vote is for the
43 proposal.....
44
45 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.
46
47 MR. RIVARD:which means.....
48
49 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.
50

1 MR. RIVARD:there would be no
2 commercial fishing.
3
4 MR. L. WILDE: I voted yes.
5
6 MR. RIVARD: Okay. Beverly Hoffman.
7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: No.
9
10 MR. RIVARD: Harry Wilde.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
13
14 MR. RIVARD: James Charles.
15
16 MR. CHARLES: No.
17
18 MR. RIVARD: Bob Aloysius.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
21
22 MR. RIVARD: Raymond Oney.
23
24 MR. ONEY: Oppose.
25
26 MR. RIVARD: So that's no?
27
28 MR. ONEY: Yes.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MR. RIVARD: Beverly, you want to go
33 through that again -- no, never mind.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 MR. RIVARD: Phillip Moses.
38
39 (Pause)
40
41 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik) Yeah. (In
42 Yup'ik)
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik) No.
47
48 MR. RIVARD: The motion fails by a count
49 of nine to one.
50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

4

5 MS. HOFFMAN: In regards to the rest of
6 the proposals here, I'm not sure if we want to address
7 all of them but I wondered if this Council, if there was
8 anything in particular the rest of the Council would like
9 to address and make recommendations on, if there's
10 anything specific.

11

12 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: I would like to address
17 Proposal No. 170 and 171, CDQ bycatch would be part of
18 Y1, king salmon allocation. And in the same vein CDQ
19 bycatch would be part of Y1 and Y2 king salmon
20 allocation. I think we should oppose this and I don't
21 think that the river fishermen should be punished for
22 something that's being done outside of their realm.

23

24 We have no say so on what the CDQ people
25 do because they're in an altogether different -- they
26 operate under a different regulation than do the salmon
27 fishermen of the river.

28

29 Am I correct or wrong in that, Dan?

30

31 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, in a certain sense
32 it is because it's under the North Pacific Fisheries
33 Management Council, you know, what the bycatch is and I
34 mean they would regulate how many and the whole pollock
35 trawl fishery and all that is under the Council for the
36 most part rather than State.

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

41

42 MS. HOFFMAN: And what are your
43 recommendations, your Department on this proposal, what
44 are you going to say?

45

46 MR. BERGSTROM: We would likely oppose it
47 but like I said as a Department we haven't made any final
48 staff positions. I think one of the problems is if you
49 were truly trying to do it you'd actually be trying to
50 figure out were Yukon king salmon caught in the trawl

1 bycatch rather than whatever number that this would come
2 up to. I'm not sure if it means only CDQ and which CDQ
3 catches fish out there, it doesn't really say which one
4 and so it's really unclear on that as to what numbers
5 they're talking about or is it the total catch --
6 bycatch, I don't.

7

8 But one of the problems would be is,
9 obviously, you know, other kings caught out in the ocean
10 rather than only Yukon.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

15

16 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move we adopt Proposal
17 170.

18

19 MR. CHARLES: I second the motion, Mr.
20 Chair.

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

25

26 MS. HOFFMAN: The motion on the floor has
27 been made and seconded but can there be an amendment or
28 would that have to come from you, Bob, to combine them?

29

30 MR. ALOYSIUS: If you look at the
31 proposal, one pertains to bycatch of the king salmon
32 along the coast -- the mouth of the Yukon River it
33 doesn't say anything about it changing the boundaries.

34

35 MS. HOFFMAN: If we could take them one
36 by one, I would say question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

39

40 MS. HOFFMAN: Clarification on the
41 motion.

42

43 MR. RIVARD: Well, what I heard is that
44 Bob has made a motion to adopt Proposal 170.

45

46 MS. HOFFMAN: Clarification again. A yes
47 vote means you support this proposal, a no vote -- just
48 for clarification purposes so everyone's clear, and a no
49 vote is you oppose it and I prefer roll call.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. There's a motion
2 and a second.
3
4 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.
5
6 MR. RIVARD: William Brown.
7
8 MR. BROWN: Abstain.
9
10 MR. RIVARD: Abstain, okay. Edgar.
11
12 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
13
14 MR. RIVARD: Greg.
15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
17
18 MR. RIVARD: Lester.
19
20 MR. L. WILDE: No.
21
22 MR. RIVARD: Beverly.
23
24 MS. HOFFMAN: No.
25
26 MR. RIVARD: Harry.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
29
30 MR. RIVARD: James.
31
32 MR. CHARLES: No.
33
34 MR. RIVARD: Bob.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
37
38 MR. RIVARD: Raymond.
39
40 MR. ONEY: No.
41
42 MR. RIVARD: Phillip.
43
44 MR. MOSES: No.
45
46 MR. RIVARD: Motion is rejected 10 to
47 zero.
48
49 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
2
3 MR. ALOYSIUS: I move we adopt Proposal
4 171.
5
6 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 171, it's.....
9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's no second that I
11 heard.
12
13 REPORTER: Yes, Edgar.
14
15 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Edgar seconded.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a second.
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: So discussion.
20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a second,
22 Council discussion.
23
24 MR. ONEY: Question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
27 for. Don.
28
29 MR. RIVARD: You want another roll call
30 vote I take it?
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.
35
36 MR. RIVARD: Okay. William.
37
38 MR. BROWN: No.
39
40 MR. RIVARD: No, okay. Edgar.
41
42 MR. HOELSCHER: No.
43
44 MR. RIVARD: Greg.
45
46 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
47
48 MR. RIVARD: Lester.
49
50 MR. L. WILDE: No.

1 MR. RIVARD: Beverly.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: No.
4
5 MR. RIVARD: Harry.
6
7 MR. L. WILDE: No.
8
9 MR. RIVARD: James.
10
11 MR. CHARLES: No.
12
13 MR. RIVARD: Bob.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
16
17 MR. RIVARD: Ray.
18
19 MR. ONEY: No.
20
21 MR. RIVARD: And Phillip.
22
23 MR. MOSES: No.
24
25 MR. RIVARD: Okay. Motion is rejected 10
26 to nothing, thank you.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: Point of clarification,
29 when you say the motion is rejected, we are not rejecting
30 the motion, we are not approving a proposal, so that
31 needs to be clarified.
32
33 MR. RIVARD: Correct.
34
35 MR. L. WILDE: We're not supporting it.
36
37 MR. RIVARD: Correct, you're not
38 supporting the proposal.
39
40 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
43
44 MS. HOFFMAN: I just wanted to know if
45 Council has any other proposals we need to consider.
46
47 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
50

1 MR. L. WILDE: For 173, amend coho salmon
2 management plan, that is still being worked on by YRDFA,
3 and I guess we won't be ready to vote on that until they
4 get it done and it goes through the Fish and Game
5 Department.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

8
9 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I don't
14 know if this is the right time, if we'll get through all
15 the -- if there's no other Yukon proposals, before we
16 move off the issue, I believe this Council ought to
17 address Proposal 155 in Kuskokwim.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. You want to do
20 it, 155 increase mesh size to eight inch or less in
21 District 1 of Kuskokwim River.

22
23 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

26
27 MS. HOFFMAN: John Linderman, I'd like
28 you just to take a time to talk about the Department's
29 position and what the Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working
30 Group decided please.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

33
34 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Council
35 members. John Linderman, Alaska Department of Fish and
36 Game here. The Department's draft comments on this
37 proposal are in opposition. The final comments will be
38 put to the Board at the meeting, but that is our draft
39 position currently.

40
41 The Department brought this proposal to
42 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group just
43 recently in last week's meeting to get feedback from the
44 working group to make them aware of the proposal and to
45 have them deliberate and have discussions on the
46 proposal. Currently that's where it stands.

47
48 Sorry, Mr. Chair, one other comment, the
49 working group came out in opposition, did not support
50 this proposal at that same meeting.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: If there's a motion on the
8 floor, again, it needs to be in the form of a, Bob, a
9 positive?
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)
12
13 MS. HOFFMAN: So I'd like to make a
14 motion on the floor that we support this proposal.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Proposal number, please?
17
18 MS. HOFFMAN: 155, meaning a yes vote
19 would be to support it and a no vote is you agree with
20 the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group and the Department to
21 oppose it, a no vote.
22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion and a second,
26 increase the mesh size to eight inch or less in District
27 1 of Kuskokwim River.
28
29 Discussion.
30
31 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, just for the record
36 I'd like to lay out some of the concerns that were
37 brought forward at the working group for this body as
38 well.
39
40 At present there is no restriction for
41 subsistence on mesh size, there is, however, a
42 restriction for commercial fishing to six inch or less.
43 And the reason for that is that there is no directed king
44 fishery on the Kuskokwim because the king run is
45 essentially entirely allocated to -- any harvestable
46 surplus is considered to be allocated entirely to the
47 subsistence needs. And we have just gone through a five
48 year period of rebuilding, we kind of feel that it's
49 still in the rebuilding stage, some people do, we've had
50 three years of very good returns, very good escapements,

1 subsistence needs are being met but there is a very valid
2 concern, in my mind, out there, that a commercial fishery
3 of any level right now directed towards kings is still
4 unwarranted and certainly I cannot see having a directed
5 king fishery targeting those larger kings with eight inch
6 gear and a commercial fishery, I believe that they -- and
7 the majority of people who spoke at our meeting and the
8 feedback we've gotten is essentially the same, that using
9 the larger mesh for commercial directed king fishery is
10 not appropriate on the Kuskokwim.

11

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chair.

12

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

13

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Just a question, the lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee
15 is a separate committee from the working group or is it
16 the working group?

17

MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair.

18

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your name.

19

MR. LINDERMAN: John Linderman.

20

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

21

MR. LINDERMAN: Yes, the Lower Kuskokwim

22 Advisory Committee is the State Advisory Committee and it
23 is a separate organization, separate committee to the
24 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.

25

MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

26

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called

27 for, Don.

28

MR. RIVARD: Okay, the motion by Beverly
29 is to support Proposal No. 155, it was seconded by Bob.

30

William.

31

MR. BROWN: It's a commercial fishery, I

32 abstain.

33

MR. RIVARD: Abstain, okay. Edgar.

34

MR. HOELSCHER: I vote yes.

35

1 MR. RIVARD: I'm sorry, I didn't catch
2 that.
3
4 MR. HOELSCHER: Yes.
5
6 MR. RIVARD: Yes, okay. Greg.
7
8 MR. ROCZICKA: No.
9
10 MR. RIVARD: Lester.
11
12 MR. L. WILDE: No.
13
14 MR. RIVARD: Beverly.
15
16 MS. HOFFMAN: No.
17
18 MR. RIVARD: Harry.
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No.
21
22 MR. RIVARD: James.
23
24 MR. CHARLES: Yes.
25
26 MR. RIVARD: Bob.
27
28 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.
29
30 MR. RIVARD: Raymond.
31
32 MR. ONEY: No.
33
34 MR. RIVARD: Phillip.
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)
37
38 MR. MOSES: Yes.
39
40 MR. RIVARD: Yes. Okay, there's three
41 yes, six no, one abstain, motion fails.
42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other proposals.
44
45 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.
48
49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 The working group last week acted on two other proposals,

1 that's 156 and what was that, John, for the up river --
2 up the Holitna, that place, I'd like to act on those
3 proposals, too, one is 156, and I don't remember the
4 other one, 170.

5
6 MS. HOFFMAN: It's 157.

7
8 MR. CHARLES: 157, thank you.

9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

13
14 MS. HOFFMAN: And I would like to hear
15 from John Linderman's the Department's position again,
16 just for other folks information and also if you could
17 give the working group's recommendation, on first 156.

18
19 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair. Council
20 members. Proposal 156 is to allow 8 hour fishing periods
21 in Subdistrict 1B. The primary commercial fishing
22 district in the lower Kuskokwim is District 1 which is
23 broken up into two subdistricts. The catch rate in that
24 lower river subdistrict has been consistently lower
25 compared to the up river, up stream of Bethel
26 subdistrict.

27
28 The primary rationale or reason, we
29 believe, for that difference is it's a much wider river
30 down stream of Bethel, much more tidal influence and
31 harder for fishers to catch more fish compared to the
32 more channelized more narrower portion of the river up
33 stream of Bethel. This proposal is attempting to
34 equalize, for lack of a better term, that disparity by
35 always allowing additional fishing time during commercial
36 openings to that lower river district. The nature of
37 this proposal is allocative.

38
39 The Department -- our draft comments on
40 this proposal will be neutral because it is allocative in
41 nature. This was brought forth to the working group last
42 week, the working group voted on this proposal and a
43 motion similar to what this Council has been doing, a
44 motion to support the proposal and that motion failed
45 through the working group.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49
50 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. I'd suggest
4 that we take no action on this proposal and given that it
5 is an allocative issue between commercial fishery, this
6 Council is here to address subsistence issues. And
7 that's kind of my thinking at this point. And as far as
8 balancing the hours back and forth there's administrative
9 ways to do that present under the Department's authority
10 and working -- along with the working group and the
11 various fisheries organizations that exist on the
12 Kuskokwim. I don't see it as an appropriate issue for
13 this Council to address.
14
15 MR. ALOYSIUS: Greg, you got a motion.
16
17 MR. ROCZICKA: I move we take no action
18 on Proposal 156.
19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: If it's a motion I second
21 it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 156 allow 8
24 hour fishing period in the Kuskokwim River District 1,
25 there's a motion and second. Discussion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
32 for. Don.
33
34 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, point of
35 clarification. The motion is just to take no action on
36 this proposal and a yes vote means that you don't want to
37 take any action, so beware.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob, I thought I'd give
42 opportunity a choice either way.
43
44 MR. RIVARD: Do you want a roll call vote
45 on this one as well or do you just want to go with a
46 voice vote.
47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: All who favor say aye.
49
50 IN UNISON:

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Council
6 any other proposals.
7
8 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.
11
12 MR. CHARLES: How about that other
13 proposal, Proposal 157 I think it is. That's for
14 subsistence fishing or hunting or.....
15
16 MR. LINDERMAN: Mr. Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.
19
20 MR. LINDERMAN: Thank you. Proposal 157
21 is the third Kuskokwim area proposal. What this proposal
22 is seeking to do is get a recommendation or approval from
23 the Board of Fisheries to recommend to the Legislature to
24 establish a fisheries reserve within the Holitna River
25 basin.
26
27 The Department comments on this -- draft
28 comments on this proposal would, again, be neutral. The
29 Department is already tasked with allowing for a high
30 level of consumptive use from the stocks that exist
31 within the Holitna River drainage, and also manage for
32 those stocks based on sustained yield. We do recognize
33 that the Holitna drainage is a very important system
34 within the overall Kuskokwim River. It's been estimated
35 to supply upwards of 30 percent of the total salmon
36 return to the Kuskokwim River drainage and it is highly
37 utilized, both locally and by subsistence -- all users
38 from the Holitna River down stream.
39
40 At present there is no precedent within
41 State regulations with respect to fisheries reserves. It
42 would be similar to critical habitat areas, similar to
43 Refuges under State regulatory authority, but to date no
44 fisheries reserve has been passed. So it is unclear what
45 the effect of such a designation would be on management,
46 which is one of the primary drivers for the Department's
47 neutrality on this proposal.
48
49 Again, this proposal was brought to the
50 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group last

1 week, a roll call vote was cast, unanimous support for
2 this proposal by the working group.

3

4 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

7

8 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, I move that
9 we adopt Proposal 157.

10

11 MR. ALOYSIUS: I second the motion.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
14 second for Proposal 157, establish a fisheries reserve
15 area. Motion and second, discussion.

16

17 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, I move for
18 a unanimous consent.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: No objection, Mr. Chairman
23 is all that's required for that, a unanimous consent, ask
24 if there's any objection and if there's none it passes
25 unanimously.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council is there any
28 objection.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No objection so motion
33 carried.

34

35 MR. RIVARD: Motion carries by unanimous
36 consent.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Council I want to
39 make sure that Yukon have a lot more, I don't know we got
40 some people here from Yukon, and I don't know what their
41 desire, same as when you look at 165 and 166, restrict
42 the subsistence and commercial net over six inch.

43

44 MR. L. WILDE: We took care of that
45 already.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: We took care of that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Took care of that
50 already, okay. Is there any other proposals to be

1 discussed from Yukon/Kuskokwim.

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: I just have a question for
8 Dan. Dan, what do you feel about this allowing earlier
9 commercial opening for king salmon, have you heard a lot
10 of discussion on it, and I think I could -- what's your
11 feeling on this proposal?

12

13 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman. Lester, I
14 have a lot of feelings.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. BERGSTROM: We basically would be
19 neutral on this but, you know, right now we have
20 flexibility through emergency order actually to, you
21 know, do this type of thing. I think what these
22 proposals are asking is kind of for, you know, more Board
23 direction that it could happen, to have an earlier
24 opening for commercial, and that's kind of where we're at
25 right now, is we'd be neutral.

26

27 I think it's important for the public to
28 respond to these as far as, you know, how it went this
29 last year doing it.

30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

34

35 MR. ROCZICKA: I guess a question to
36 Staff regarding the -- and it kind of brings in the
37 action that we took in deferring until after YRDFA had
38 met or the working group on the Yukon had met. Is it --
39 can it be anticipated that some of these proposals may be
40 brought forward as well through the Federal process and
41 then, therefore, it would be back before this Council
42 next February, after the -- even after the fact of the
43 Board of Fish and depending on if we like or not what
44 they did, we might end up with conflicting regulations,
45 but there's still the option for this Council to weigh in
46 on them, the issues.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.

49

50 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Greg. Don

1 Rivard. As I pointed out at the beginning of this, the
2 Federal Board deferred four proposals, basically
3 pertaining to Yukon chinook salmon size. And when the
4 program defers a proposal, it's automatically brought up
5 the next round. So it will go on, it will be considered
6 by your Council next year at this time.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

11

12 MR. ALOYSIUS: No, I didn't mean to hit
13 that thing.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Any more
16 proposals to be discussed. Don.

17

18 MR. RIVARD: Well, Mr. Chair, I'd just
19 point out the list that I sent you all, it looks like you
20 looked at most of them already and I just wanted to point
21 out the ones you haven't weighed in on and whether you
22 want to do so or not, it's 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, then
23 there's a 173 and statewide 228.

24

25 MR. L. WILDE: We've already taken care
26 of 173.

27

28 MR. RIVARD: Okay, 173 has been taken
29 care of.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion no
32 proposals.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are we finished or what.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's anymore we'll
41 continue our agenda. Next on our agenda is Yukon River
42 Drainage Fishery, that's the one.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: Jill Klein already talked
45 about that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, Yukon River Drainage
48 Fisheries Association stakeholders group, progress
49 report.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Oh, you have no more?
2
3 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Jill Klein already
4 talked about that and moved it up one, so the next one
5 would be 8E.
6
7 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: For the sake of comfort,
12 can we have another five minute break before.....
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, maybe I'll honor
17 your request so will do.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
24
25 MS. HOFFMAN: Maybe at this time, we
26 could discuss, are we going to go to 5:00 tonight or are
27 we -- what is the wish of the Chair as far as that/
28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Earlier I was saying
30 that we going to have a meeting tonight because whole and
31 a half, two pages of agenda yet to go until -- I think if
32 we don't have evening session we going to have one more
33 day and we are only allowed to stay here at hotel for one
34 day, one night. So I think it would be good if we have
35 a meeting tonight even 7:00 to 9:00, something like that.
36
37 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.
40
41 MS. A. NICK: All the Council members
42 hotels are guaranteed through Friday night, through
43 tomorrow, so you have two days scheduled, we have this
44 meeting for two days and your rooms are guaranteed until
45 -- I mean through tomorrow and Council members are
46 scheduled to return on Saturday.
47
48 MR. ALOYSIUS: Well, wait a minute, you
49 said our rooms are guaranteed until tomorrow, well, we
50 better have rooms Friday night.

1 MR. A. NICK: Through tomorrow night and
2 checking out on Saturday morning, that's how we
3 guaranteed the rooms here.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: That's not what they told
6 me, they told me Friday.
7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex. When I came here
9 and registered on the desk they told me I got two days.
10
11 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, me too.
12
13 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chair, like I mentioned
14 during the housekeeping this morning, we almost had some
15 problems with the Council rooms but Don Rivard and I we
16 corrected that, just when was it, it was yesterday.
17
18 MR. RIVARD: But we'll double-check.
19
20 MR. A. NICK: But we'll double-check on
21 that.
22
23 MS. HOFFMAN: So Mr. Chair.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
26
27 MS. HOFFMAN:we'll have a five
28 minute break and then we'll meet until 5:00 and then
29 we'll come back from 7:00 until 9:00; is that correct?
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.
32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 (Off record)
38
39 (On record)
40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on agenda is E,
42 salmon bycatch.
43
44 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon Council
45 members and Mr. Chair. My name is Jill Klein and I'll be
46 giving this presentation for YRDFA instead of Becca who
47 is listed on your agenda. And some of you earlier
48 received this handout, I think, Alex had handed it out
49 earlier when I spoke but there's a few extras coming
50 around that Don has, and then for those in the audience

1 this is in the back as well on the table and it's just a
2 bycatch update.

3

4 So I know some of you in the past have
5 heard presentations on salmon bycatch. Some of you that
6 were at the AYK Salmon Board of Fish meeting three years
7 ago heard from the pollock fishery and I think they have
8 even, at some point, addressed your Council. And just
9 some background, YRDFA has been working on salmon bycatch
10 over the years. In 1994 is when some of the first caps
11 or salmon savings areas in the Bering Sea were created
12 and YRDFA was involved in this effort at that time, and
13 now more than 10 years later we're still working on this
14 issue as it still continues to be a problem of salmon
15 being caught in the pollock fishery in the Bering Sea.

16

17 So I just wanted to update you about the
18 salmon bycatch in the pollock fleet.

19

20 Okay, so just to update you in 2006,
21 which is the current season that we're in, as of October
22 1st there are 69,000 chinook salmon that have been caught
23 to date in the pollock fishery and 268,000 chum salmon.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 MS. KLEIN: Okay, this is an overall
28 graph, which still looks a little blurry, so this just
29 gives you a little bit longer timeframe to look at, and
30 you can see most of the bycatch goes up in 2003.

31

32 And last year we had record high amounts
33 of chum salmon bycatch as you can see the really high bar
34 on the right. So last year there were over 76,000
35 chinook salmon caught, that was for the full season and
36 700,000 chum salmon.

37

38 And so just to discuss the origin of the
39 bycatch YRDFA had received Federal funding that we were
40 able to contract out with Kate Myers who works at the
41 University of Washington and she analyzed the scales from
42 the observer program. Some of you may remember that most
43 of the boats have observers on them out on the pollock
44 fleet and they take scale samples off of the salmon that
45 they catch, but unfortunately there's not always money to
46 analyze those samples, so YRDFA was able to help by
47 funding the analysis of the scales. And Kate Myers found
48 that of the scales she analyzed and this was scales from
49 '97 to '99, 56 percent of the scales were from Western
50 Alaska, so 56 percent of the salmon, and then of those 56

1 percent, you can see the breakdown on the pie chart on
2 the bottom right, showing that the Kuskokwim made up 26
3 percent, the Yukon was 40 percent and Bristol Bay was 34
4 percent. So that gives you an idea of the numbers, the
5 percentages of salmon that are from Western Alaska and
6 where they're exactly from.

7
8 So since YRDFA works mainly on the Yukon
9 we just applied this calculation to the 2005 salmon
10 season on the Yukon River and if we did that, took those
11 percentages, that 40 percent of the bycatch would have
12 been from the Yukon River, that means 13,400 fish would
13 have returned to the Yukon River. And then just to show
14 you that would mean it's 42 percent of the commercial
15 catch, 27 percent of the subsistence catch and 47 percent
16 of our border passage goal with Canada. So you can see
17 these are numbers that would really make fishermen, you
18 know, have concern, percentages of their potential
19 catches and of our escapement goals.

20
21 MR. ALOYSIUS: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: Are these percentages of
26 that 13,400 or percentages of overall catch?

27
28 MS. KLEIN: It's percentage of overall
29 catch, so 13,400 is the total amount that would have
30 returned to the Yukon and that number makes up 42 percent
31 of the commercial catch when we applied it to what was
32 commercially caught, or it would be 27 percent of the
33 subsistence catch. So we just tried to show people what
34 that might look like in different ways, what is 13,400,
35 and I think these are -- this just says fish, I'm not
36 sure, yeah, if 70,000 chinook salmon were caught as
37 bycatch, and we're just talking about chinook,
38 approximately 13,400 of those would have returned to the
39 Yukon.

40
41 So these are the salmon savings
42 management areas that were put in place in 1994 so these
43 maps might look familiar to some of you. Those red
44 squares are what you can see are the chinook and chum
45 savings areas. So basically there's a program in place
46 that when a certain amount of salmon are caught by
47 certain dates, the pollock fleet has to move out of those
48 areas, so it's basically a trigger. It's not a cap. It
49 doesn't shut down the fishery, but it makes the boats
50 move. And the idea at the time, when these were created,

1 was that there were higher concentration of salmon in
2 these areas and so by moving the pollock fleet off of
3 these fishing grounds, we would likely save salmon. But
4 more than 10 years since this program has been
5 implemented, the boats have been moving out of these
6 areas but still they've been having increasingly high
7 bycatch rates. So the theory is starting to change that
8 maybe static boxes aren't the best answer to the problem.

9
10 So the pollock fleet actually came up
11 with a program on their own which is called the Voluntary
12 Rolling Hot Spot Program, and it's coordinated by a group
13 called SeaState, and they put out these reports
14 throughout the fishing season, it's like a real-time
15 data, sort of like the Kuskokwim Group works and the
16 YRDFA teleconferences work where, on a weekly basis, and
17 this might be even more often, there's information from
18 the pollock boats coming back to this centralized entity
19 saying where they're catching salmon and then the
20 organized group is sending information back out to the
21 pollock fleet and trying to move the boats around so that
22 they can try to get away from where the salmon are, and
23 it's called the Hot Spot Program. And this program has
24 been in effect since 2001, but it's been in effect in
25 addition to the salmon savings areas, so we're just
26 getting to a point, this August, where this program will
27 fully be operational.

28
29 And like any new program, there are some
30 problems, and part of some of the problems that we see
31 still with this is that there is no limit to the number
32 of salmon being caught so they can still keep catching
33 the salmon and it won't shut down the pollock fishery and
34 there's no penalties. Also they calculate how much
35 bycatch can be caught based on a rate, and sometimes this
36 rate may be set too high. And the system is conducted
37 outside of Federal and agency control, it's voluntary
38 managed by the pollock fishery. And I do see some value
39 in that, you can all think for yourselves as fishermen,
40 that you'd like to be part of the problem-solving and
41 you'd like to be involved in any kinds of fishery issues
42 you're working on and not have it be mandated from a
43 State or Federal entity, so I do see a fishermen involved
44 program as being something positive but it might be nice,
45 though, to have some Federal and agency involvement in
46 the process.

47
48 So what's coming up at the North Pacific
49 Fisheries Management Council, and they're actually
50 meeting right now in Dutch Harbor and bycatch is on their

1 agenda and they go through what's going to be called
2 amendment package B alternatives and they're going to be
3 looking at alternative programs, which could be new
4 salmon savings areas because as you saw, those red boxes,
5 those were set in 1994 and there's a lot more information
6 that's available now on where salmon migrate and we could
7 apply some of that new information to creating new salmon
8 savings areas.

9
10 As well we could look into caps, which
11 would say, how many salmon could be caught, and what's
12 too high of a number, and that's something where, I
13 think, local people from the Western Alaska regions would
14 have to discuss what might be an acceptable amount of
15 salmon that you feel is okay to be caught as bycatch in
16 the Bering Sea, and those could be fixed or they could be
17 linked to salmon abundance. And that's one of the
18 scientific areas that we're still hoping to address, is
19 what's the relationship between salmon populations out in
20 the Bering Sea, the amount of salmon caught as bycatch
21 and then what returns to the rivers.

22
23 And as well there's on the list of
24 options, what's called an individual vessel bycatch
25 accountability program, which is where we would try to
26 link some kind of penalty program, which may include fees
27 or fines, financial fines if there continues to be salmon
28 bycatch.

29
30 So ways that you can be involved in this
31 process is to give testimony at a North Pacific Council
32 Fisheries Management meeting, and some of those meetings
33 are in Anchorage, sometimes they are out of state,
34 though. You can also write letters to the council, and
35 we have their contact information. You could pass a
36 resolution in your communities or bring this up at your
37 monthly tribal council meetings that you'd like to pass
38 a resolution or a letter. And you can let us know that
39 you'd like to receive updates and we can do that via
40 email or also through the regular postal service.

41
42 And that's the end of my presentation, so
43 I'll take any questions if anyone has any.

44
45 I did put a sign up sheet in the back,
46 it's on the table, so if people would like to receive
47 information you can write down your name and mailing
48 address or email address and we'll be happy to keep you
49 on the list.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly and then Bob.
4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: I just wanted to ask you,
6 it's your group that's taking forward those
7 recommendations to the Council, the cap and.....
8
9 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Beverly. Those
10 alternatives are developed by the Council and their
11 advisory committees, they have a scientific and policy
12 advisory committee, and we've been going to the Council
13 meetings and testifying for the past year so we're
14 involved in that way. But we're not -- we were -- by
15 giving testimony and participating in the process helpful
16 in crafting what the alternatives might be but those are
17 created by the Council and then passed by the Council and
18 now it's up to the Council and their staff to work on
19 those alternatives so it is important for them to know
20 that this is an important issue so that it stays on the
21 agenda because it could get buried if there are other
22 more pressing issues, according to the Council and their
23 constituents.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: The question I have is
28 these bycatch figures you gave were only for the pollock
29 fishery, are there other fisheries that have a bycatch of
30 our salmon?
31
32 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Bob. There are
33 -- there's some chum salmon, summer chum and some fall
34 chum migrate through the Aleutian chain and some of those
35 salmon that are headed for western Alaska are intercepted
36 in that area, that's the Area M or False Pass fishery,
37 some of you are familiar with that too, I imagine. And
38 we're not addressing that through this process but we are
39 involved in other ways where we're working on that and
40 there is a program to work on genetic identification of
41 those stocks in that area as well and that's actually an
42 organized group from the AYK region as well as the
43 Aleutians Area M region and the State and Federal
44 agencies are all working together on that. And then
45 there might be international fisheries but some of those
46 fisheries are enforced by the North Pacific Anadromous
47 Fish Commission which also tries to look at any salmon
48 that's caught out in international waters.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: So basically the only

1 major bycatch are the pollock fisheries -- I mean the
2 boats that are involved in pollock fisheries in the
3 Bering Sea?

4
5 MS. KLEIN: Yes, it's mainly pollock.
6 There's cod fisheries but pollock seems to be the main
7 fishery where there's high enough amounts of salmon
8 bycatch that it's addressed.

9
10 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

13
14 MR. L. WILDE: Jill, do you know for sure
15 whether there are more bycatch being caught after the
16 rolling hot spots were put into place or is there less
17 bycatch being caught?

18
19 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Lester. There
20 are high amounts of bycatch still being caught and that's
21 why right now YRDFA is still interested in pursuing the
22 alternatives such as the caps or the vessel
23 accountability program to have a program in place in case
24 the hot spot program doesn't seem to be effective at
25 reducing salmon bycatch.

26
27 It is hard to know why the boats are
28 catching so much salmon. Some people will say well the
29 Bering Sea is very productive and that's why they're
30 catching lots of salmon when there is years of low
31 abundance, they'll catch less bycatch. And sometimes
32 some scientists believe that that's when it will actually
33 be more important to look at the numbers because lower
34 amounts of bycatch during lower salmon abundance years
35 might be more detrimental to the runs and to the harvests
36 on the rivers. But there's more science that's needed.
37 But if I go back to that slide, you can see since 2003
38 there's been higher amounts of salmon bycatch and last
39 year was the highest amounts and this year it's still
40 growing, we're still in the pollock fishing season. But
41 the hot spot program hasn't been fully implemented yet,
42 we're still in a trial stage with it.

43
44 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

47
48 MR. ROCZICKA: And you answered part of
49 my question already by saying you said the season was
50 still going, and it's -- in your presentation you said

1 69,000 to date, 76,000 last year, how much more fishing
2 do they got to do, to me it looked like they'd be heading
3 for exceeding -- well exceeding the bycatch of last year
4 again. I don't suppose you would have a forecast on
5 that.

6

7 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Greg.
8 Unfortunately I don't know the ending date for the
9 fishery for this coming year, I didn't write that down
10 but I know there is the potential for more salmon to be
11 caught.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Jill, do you have that
14 information by companies or is that -- can you get that
15 information?

16

17 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Lester. As you
18 can see the SeaState memo, I know it's in small print but
19 they do put out, SeaState puts out information about
20 which boats are catching fish. And you can see, I don't
21 have a pointer, but on the second page, the middle chart,
22 you see Aleutian Coop, Arctic Coop, Mothership Coop,
23 those are the different boats and so -- and then they do
24 have a program called the Dirty Dozen, which they put out
25 every week and they show the boats with the highest rates
26 of bycatch and they get listed on their Dirty Dozen list
27 and it's supposed to be like a peer pressure program,
28 that boats don't want to be listed on that, if they're
29 having high rates of bycatch.

30

31

32 MS. HOFFMAN: Who is it? Who?

33

34 MS. KLEIN: The program is called
35 SeaState, and that's a program that works with all the
36 pollock fisheries and they coordinate with the boats,
37 where they're fishing and how much bycatch they're
38 catching and they calculate all this information and then
39 they tell boats where to move, and so that's their memo
40 that they put out, on the left and the right, if you just
41 ignore that chart to the right. We get weekly emails
42 that tell us information about what boats are catching
43 what and where they're fishing.

44

45 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

48

49 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Jill, the CDQ groups are comprised of communities along

1 the coast and we know the factory trawlers are huge boats
2 like up to 300-some-odd feet, I noticed there on the
3 Fishermen's News, it says today many are donated to food
4 banks. Is it possible to propose that, at least, some of
5 it goes to the -- the CDQ that are like even in Bethel or
6 they donate instead of being thrown overboard?

7
8 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Edgar. I think
9 you raise a really good point. Unfortunately a lot of
10 the -- so the bycatch that are caught, the salmon are
11 small, a lot of them are immature, they're not full-size.
12 Most of them are caught in these huge trawls and die and
13 they're not found until after the pollock is sorted out.
14 And so I think the ones that are remaining that are
15 useable go to local food banks and I think most of the
16 boats, or some of the boats are down in the Seattle area
17 so there might be -- or out in Dutch Harbor and there
18 might be higher costs associated with shipping that
19 salmon back into the western Alaska communities, so I'm
20 not sure it's that efficient, but I think it's worth
21 looking into.

22
23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob, and then James.

26
27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Are these bycatch figures
28 pretty accurate or are they just like John White would
29 say, a wag?

30
31 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Bob. I think --
32 I don't know that many details about the observer program
33 and I think there's probably ways to refine the observer
34 program, but there are certain rates of coverage on the
35 different size boats and somebody is there standing and
36 watching and taking scale and calculating information on
37 how much salmon there are so I don't know -- I'm probably
38 not the best person to answer that but I think it's a
39 good question and we could look into it or see if anyone
40 else has some information on the observer program.

41
42 But these numbers seem to be reliable and
43 people use them, but I do think there are people who --
44 I think there are people who would like to improve the
45 program, how they count the fish.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

48
49 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Jill, these salmon saving areas that are closed, when are

1 they closed, throughout the whole season or sometime
2 during the season?

3

4 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. James. For the
5 chinook salmon savings area, this one is a little bit
6 more complicated and has three different trigger dates,
7 so I can read through it, but -- and the trigger is an
8 amount so the chinook salmon savings area gets closed
9 when 29,000 chinook are caught. And so if 29,000 chinook
10 are caught before April 15th, then the area closes
11 through April 15th.

12

13 After April 15th the areas reopen but
14 they'll close again from September 1 to December 31.

15

16 And then if the trigger is met after
17 April 15th, but before September 1st, then the area is
18 closed through September 1st and through the end of the
19 year.

20

21 And then if the limit is reached after
22 September 1st the areas are closed immediately through
23 the end of the year.

24

25 So that one's a little bit more
26 complicated.

27

28 The chum salmon savings area closes when
29 42,000 chum salmon or they're called other salmon are
30 caught, and that area is closed to all trawling from
31 August 1st to August 31st, so that one is simpler.

32

33 MR. CHARLES: Thank you.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ray.

38

39 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 Jill, I remember sitting on the YRDFA Board, I don't
41 know, about I think in the mid-90s we brought this
42 concern up during a meeting at Holy Cross where we had
43 someone -- the NMFS people were there, the Coast Guard
44 people were there, and they -- you know, we had the
45 concern of the bycatch and trying to find some ways to
46 reduce that bycatch of salmon that are coming into the
47 Yukon, but, you know, looking at this graph it seems like
48 it's just gotten higher since that time we brought up the
49 concern. I don't remember the year that I sat on the
50 YRDFA Board, it might have been in the mid-90s but that

1 concern was brought up during that meeting in Holy Cross,
2 I remember.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So any more questions to
5 Jill.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

10

11 MR. L. WILDE: Jill, it seems, I don't
12 know if this is what I'm catching by myself or not, but
13 it seems that the salmon saving areas, when they were
14 implemented, the bycatch was less, using the salmon
15 saving areas; is that correct, in my assumption or just
16 that figures look different?

17

18 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Lester. Well, if
19 the savings areas were created in 1994 and we seem to
20 have data here since 1996 and you can see that the scales
21 are different with the two charts but at least with the
22 chum salmon the numbers were much lower from '96 through
23 2003, it really started increasing. And with the chinook
24 salmon you can see it was higher in the mid-to late '90s
25 and then dropped down in those years when runs were low
26 on the Yukon River and then they started to increase
27 again.

28

29 There were also high rates of salmon
30 bycatch in the '80s, I think, also by international
31 fleets before we had certain agreements in place, so this
32 is the only data that we have right now to review, but I
33 think the numbers fluctuate. And the idea with those
34 salmon savings area was that those areas are where there
35 are higher concentrations of salmon.

36

37 There was also a change due to steller
38 sea lions that that made the boats move around a little
39 bit, too, to try to conserve steller sea lions and so
40 that has led to different -- the boats fishing in in
41 different areas and catching the different age
42 structures, perhaps of salmon that are returning to the
43 rivers as well, so not only is it important to look at
44 the numbers but it's important to look at the ages of
45 salmon because there's a natural percentage of mortality
46 that takes place out in Bering Sea with juvenile salmon
47 but as they get older there's a more guaranteed return of
48 a lot of those and so it looked like the boats were
49 shifting to also catch older fish because of the steller
50 sea lion move.

1 So I don't know if that answered your
2 question but I think there's definitely changes over time
3 since the mid-90s to now with salmon populations.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, Joe Mike.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Joe.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Can this body make a proposal
10 to have the pollock fishery moved to another month
11 instead of fishing while the chinook salmon and chum are
12 migrating to Western Alaska and to the Interior? Could
13 we do that?

14

15 MR. L. WILDE: Jill, you got an answer to
16 that?

17

18 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. I think it would
19 be great if the Council wanted to make a motion with
20 respect to salmon bycatch. I don't know if you need to
21 tailor it, you could tailor it specifically to something
22 like when the boats fish or where they fish, you could
23 also just make it a general letter or resolution stating
24 that you're concerned about the high rates of salmon
25 bycatch and you urge the Council to look at all
26 alternatives to try to come up with the best program
27 possible to insure your salmon return to your rivers.

28

29 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

32

33 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I'd certainly endorse doing something like that, however,
35 we are prevented from doing that by the policy of Office
36 of Subsistence Management, in that, we are not allowed to
37 send letters of anything of any nature to anything except
38 the Federal Subsistence Board or respond to Board of
39 Fisheries proposals unless it's to tell somebody thank
40 you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

43

44 MR. CHARLES: Edgar.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

47

48 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 But YR DFA has that right to do such things, so.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jill.
2
3 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Edgar. Groups
4 like YRDFA and groups like the Kuskokwim Working Group
5 and then all of you, through any other entities you're on
6 or through your local communities or as an individual can
7 write to the Council and I'll be happy, or any of our
8 other staff will be happy to assist you in that process
9 with contact information, mailing addresses, what to say
10 in your letter so if there's any help we can give you we
11 will do that and urge you to try to be involved in any
12 way that you can even if it's outside of the RAC process
13 and just wanted to inform you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any more
16 questions to Jill.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's not we're
21 going to break until 7:00 o'clock tonight.
22
23 (Off record)
24
25 (On record)
26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, we'll start again
28 on our agenda.
29
30 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.
33
34 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
35 ask for suspension of the rules so we could address the
36 four proposals that we overlooked or that we didn't have
37 any action on since we had actions on the other proposals
38 and since these proposals affect the Yukon River and the
39 lower Yukon, from where we're at I think we should go
40 into check these four proposals, 158, 159, 160 and 161 --
41 60, 61 and 62. Do I need to make a motion to suspend the
42 rules?
43
44 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yes, you do.
45
46 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
47 move that the we suspend the rules, make a motion to
48 suspend the rules to address these four proposals.
49
50 MR. HOELSCHER: Second the motion.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any second to
2 the motion?
3
4 MS. HOFFMAN: There, is, Edgar.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly, you second it?
7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: No, Edgar Hoelscher.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion.
11
12 MR. HOELSCHER: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called,
15 all who favor say aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose, say no.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. The
24 motion to suspend, we look at those certain numbers.
25
26 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, that's
27 Proposal 158, change subsistence marking requirements for
28 king salmon. Could we have the particulars on that,
29 please.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Don.
32
33 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard. I
34 will give just a real brief description of this.
35 Proposal 158 is found on Page 116 of the handout that I
36 gave to all of you, or mailed to all of you.
37
38 What this is doing is, right now
39 subsistence caught fish have to be marked by removing the
40 dorsal fin, and this proposal wants to change that mark
41 to where both lobes of the caudle fin or the tail fin
42 would be immediately removed upon being caught instead of
43 doing the dorsal fin.
44
45 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: On our recommendation,
50 you're saying -- what's the State's recommendation?

1 MR. RIVARD: Beverly. I think the State
2 folks may have already -- are they still here, okay, it
3 looks like Kevin is still here.

4
5 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. We would like to
6 know what your recommendation on Proposal 158 is, and
7 that's the marking and use of subsistence taken
8 salmon, there's an amendment.

9
10 MR. CLARK: Yes, hello, my name is Kevin
11 Clark Mr. Chairman. The Department supports this
12 proposal at this time. Like I said we haven't finalized
13 our Staff comments yet but at this time we are supporting
14 this proposal.

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

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

19
20 MR. L. WILDE: Can I ask what is the
21 purpose, why are you suggesting that the lobes of the
22 caudle fin be clipped as opposed to the dorsal fin?

23
24 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Lester.
25 Basically what we're trying to do is we're trying to make
26 it easier on the fishermen to demarcate the subsistence
27 caught fish from the commercial harvest. Basically it's
28 easier to clip off just the lobes of the tail fin versus
29 actually cutting the dorsal fin off because when you cut
30 off the dorsal fin, as you know, many times you can like
31 cut into the flesh, et cetera, when you're removing that
32 dorsal fin, so that also adds, you know, an area where
33 you can get contamination so this proposal was put in
34 during YRDFa to basically make it easier for the
35 fishermen to demarcate their salmon, and it'd help with
36 compliance we also believe. So that's basically the gist
37 of where that came from.

38
39 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: On your tail fin, how much
44 of the tail are you talking about, the whole thing or,
45 you know, what?

46
47 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Bob.
48 Basically what we're looking at is clipping off the lobes
49 of the tail fin, not necessarily taking the whole tail
50 fin off, but, you know, at least half of that lobe on the

1 tail that way you'd have a good demarcation between the
2 commercial and subsistence caught fish is basically what
3 we were looking at.

4
5 And this also will bring our regulations
6 into parallel with other areas. Because like in Cook
7 Inlet -- in the Cook Inlet and Southeast and some of
8 those fisheries there, they also have the same marking
9 requirement for taking off the caudle fin and clipping
10 the lobes off the caudle fin as a way to demarcate the
11 salmon. And, you know, basically it's easier to do than
12 to cut the dorsal fin off, to be quite honest with you
13 and it will make it easier on the fishermen to, you know,
14 comply with marking requirements.

15
16 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

19
20 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make
21 a motion that we support Proposal 158.

22
23 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second it, Mr.
24 Chairman.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
29 second to support Proposal 158, change subsistence
30 marking requirements for king salmon, there's a motion
31 and a second. Discussion.

32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: Question was called.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called.
36 Don.

37
38 MS. HOFFMAN: If we could do it
39 unanimously. Just ask all in favor.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I'd like that you take
42 over.

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, it sounds like
45 your Council members just want you to do a voice vote and
46 not a roll call vote.

47
48 MS. HOFFMAN: Just do a voice vote, all
49 in favor say aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll do a voice vote,
2 all who favor say aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Next
11 Proposal 159, require subsistence window fishing schedule
12 May 1 to September 1.
13
14 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
17
18 MS. HOFFMAN: Is 159, 160, 161 virtually
19 the same, I mean it's pretty much identical, is there a
20 big difference, May 1 through September 1, all season,
21 could one of you address that?
22
23 MR. RIVARD: This is Don Rivard. I think
24 that they're going to be distinct enough that you may
25 want to take them up one at a time.
26
27 If you're looking at 159, I've got here
28 highlighted, for 159 it saying the effective dates of the
29 windowed schedule would be May 1st to September 1st and
30 that the window schedule will not be lifted for any
31 reason. Right now there's some management flexibility
32 that allows those windows to be lifted depending on the
33 strength of the runs, and this would put it in regulation
34 that those windows have to stay in place the entire
35 season.
36
37 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
40
41 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll make a motion to
42 support Proposal 159, to keep it in a positive note, to
43 support Proposal 159.
44
45 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 159, there's a
48 motion and a second. Discussion. Greg.
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Greg.
2
3 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I'm going to vote against supporting this proposal.
5 Recognizing the way salmon runs go and having had to deal
6 with windows on the Kuskokwim and saying something pre-
7 season, that flexibility really should be there, you
8 know, for the managers to be able to respond if the run
9 comes in stronger than expected, and the same way if the
10 run doesn't come in, there should be flexibility for
11 restrictive actions as well.
12
13 So I'd urge to vote no on this proposal.
14
15 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: What's the Department's
20 recommendation on this?
21
22 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Beverly. At
23 this time, again, I'd like to reiterate that they're not
24 finalized yet but we are proposing to oppose adoption of
25 this because it does tie our hands a lot as far as
26 flexibility for managing the fishery. So the Department,
27 at this time, is probably going to oppose this.
28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.
30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
32 second and question. All who favor say aye.
33
34 (No aye votes)
35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And who opposed say no.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Don.
41
42 MR. RIVARD: Okay, No. 160 is on Page 117
43 and it's similar but a little bit different. What this
44 is asking is that the window concept for all fisheries,
45 including subsistence and commercial. This has somewhat
46 to do with the issue of the size of chinook salmon in the
47 Yukon as well.
48
49 I'll just read this other thing. The
50 windows schedule has been established since 2001,

1 however, whenever there is a commercial opening at the
2 mouth they get out of the window schedule. The purpose
3 is to force strict adherence to the schedule. No change
4 for anything or anybody.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion.

9
10 MR. ALOYSIUS: There's no motion Harry.

11
12 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

15
16 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll make a motion to
17 support Proposal 160, yes meaning we support it and no
18 meaning we don't.

19
20 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second the motion.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion to
23 reject.....

24
25 MR. ALOYSIUS: No.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No?

28
29 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm keeping it a positive
30 to support.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, support.

33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: And making it clear that a
35 yes vote is to support it and a no vote means you don't
36 support it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and
39 second.....

40
41 MS. HOFFMAN: And Lester seconded it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE:I'll turn this over
44 to Don.

45
46 MR. RIVARD: I think you can do just what
47 you've been doing on these other ones, discussion if you
48 need any and then probably a voice vote.

49
50 MR. L. WILDE: If there are no further

1 questions, Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
4 Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

7

8 MR. ALOYSIUS: I'd like clarification on
9 exactly what this means. It says the proposal is to
10 force strict adherence to the schedule, no change or
11 anything or anybody, you know, that sounds pretty
12 concrete to me and I don't think that's very good.

13

14 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman. Bob. Yeah,
15 this is proposal is vague in its description of exactly
16 what it means by adherence to the subsistence schedule,
17 whether it ever gets pulled off, whether it's in place
18 throughout the season, et cetera. For this reason and as
19 we said before, for management's flexibility, at this
20 time, the Department is planning on opposing this
21 proposal.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and
28 second and question been called for, Don, you want to
29 take over this.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I think you would
32 just, again, ask all in favor and ask for them to vote
33 and then all opposed, as you've done in the last two.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Voice vote then, all who
36 favor say yes.

37

38 (no aye votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And all who against say
41 no.

42

43 IN UNISON: No.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So no has it. Don.

46

47 MR. RIVARD: Okay, the next one, 161 is
48 very similar. I think it looks like it could be
49 basically the same proposal, it's worded just a little
50 differently.

1 It says in the Yukon River drainage, both
2 subsistence and commercial salmon fishing will be subject
3 to and maintain the windowed fishing schedule throughout
4 the summer season. So that's the proposal.

5
6 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move to
7 not support this.

8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: No. No.

10
11 MS. HOFFMAN: No, keep a positive motion.

12
13 MR. ROCZICKA: What are you doing,
14 keep.....

15
16 MR. L. WILDE: Okay, if I must then I
17 will, make Bob happy by supporting this proposal, I move
18 to adopt Proposal 161.

19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion to adopt
23 and a second. Discussion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MR. L. WILDE: Question.

28
29 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

32
33 MR. ALOYSIUS: I would like clarification
34 on exactly what this proposal is because it doesn't sound
35 very -- it sounds like it wants to keep the windows --
36 the windowed fishing schedule throughout the summer.

37
38 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: And over here it says they
41 don't want a window and the other one says they want a
42 window for nothing or nobody and this one here -- and
43 they want a window all summer, what -- I mean whoever
44 these people are, you know, they -- it just doesn't make
45 sense and they don't even have it broken down to what
46 they're talking about, you know, what is it in the
47 windows that they're talking about.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: Because of the similar
4 language I am going to vote in opposition to this, I am
5 going to give it a no vote and I'll call for the question
6 again.
7
8 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: What's the Department's
13 feeling on this proposal?
14
15 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. Again, Bob, well,
16 basically, you know, at this point we are planning on
17 opposing this, again, like the last proposal we went
18 over, this proposal ties our hands as far as management
19 flexibility, it imposes a windowed fishery schedule
20 throughout the summer season so at this time the
21 Department is planning on opposing it.
22
23 MS. HOFFMAN:MAN: Question.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
26
27 MS. HOFFMAN: Question, with a voice
28 vote, same as last time.
29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called,
31 all who favor say aye.
32
33 (No aye votes)
34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose, say no.
36
37 IN UNISON: No.
38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Next
40 is Proposal 162, set number of fishing days following by
41 days of no fishing subsistence and commercial. What that
42 mean, Clark, explanation to that?
43
44 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chair. This proposal is
45 a lot like the last three that we've actually looked at
46 and it basically imposes a fishing schedule and doesn't
47 allow much flexibility for management of the fishery. At
48 this time the Department is planning on opposing this
49 proposal.
50

1 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.
4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 I move to adopt Proposal 162.
7
8 MR. HOELSCHER: Second.
9
10 MR. CHARLES: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on 162
13 set number of fishing days following the day of no
14 fishing subsistence has been motion and second.
15 Discussion.
16
17 MR. ONEY: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been called
20 for, all who favor say aye.
21
22 (No aye votes)
23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.
25
26 IN UNISON: No.
27
28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. That's
29 it.
30
31 MR. RIVARD: So that last motion, it
32 failed?
33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.
35
36 MR. ALOYSIUS: All of them failed.
37
38
39 MR. L. WILDE: So we're back to Resource
40 Monitoring.
41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.
43
44 MR. RIVARD: So we're at the Monitoring,
45 and we're all done with proposals?
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we look at our
48 agenda we're at Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
49
50 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, Cliff.

2

3 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Council.
4 My name's Cliff Schleusner. I'm a fisheries biologist
5 with the Office of Subsistence Management. A big part of
6 what the Office of Subsistence Management does is to fund
7 research and monitoring projects, that's one half of our
8 program, the other half is the regulatory program, which
9 you guys are very familiar with.

10

11 What you have before you today is the
12 Draft 2007 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The
13 material for this starts on Page 23 of your yellow book,
14 your Council book. And it begins with a little
15 background information about the program. The goal of
16 the program is to fund Technically sound research
17 projects that address important subsistence issues,
18 providing that information to the Federal and State
19 fisheries managers.

20

21 So turning the page it begins to describe
22 some of the process that goes into developing this draft
23 monitoring plan. We heard earlier today from the Federal
24 and State managers, they talked about their season
25 summaries and they talked about the projects that they
26 got that information from, how they concluded whether
27 escapements were made, a lot of those projects are funded
28 through the Office of Subsistence Management and today,
29 in fact, there's 14 of those projects up for -- or as
30 part of this 2007 Draft Monitoring Plan that we'll be
31 asking your recommendation on a little later.

32

33 For the evaluation process, it begins
34 with a TRC review, that's the Technical Review Committee
35 composed of five Federal agencies and the Alaska
36 Department of Fish and Game, senior scientists and
37 anthropologists are on that committee, they come up with
38 a draft recommendation based on four factors that are
39 used to evaluate the study and those are on Page 24 and
40 25, it's strategic priority, technical and scientific
41 merit, investigator ability and resources and partnership
42 and capacity building.

43

44 On the bottom of Page 25 you have the
45 guideline model for funding for 2007. In 2007 there's
46 3.9 million available for projects, new starts in '07,
47 and this is statewide. How that breaks down to for the
48 Yukon and Kuskokwim, which we're talking about today, is
49 there's approximately \$778,000 available in both regions
50 to fund projects in 2007.

1 Continuing on, Page 26, you have Table 1
2 which shows what we received for investigation plans for
3 2007. At the bottom of that table, we received 37
4 investigation plans requesting funding from our program,
5 and right next to that, to the right gives the TRC, the
6 Technical Review Committee's recommendation, they're
7 recommending funding 35 of those 37 investigation plans.
8

9 The pie chart on the top of Page 27 gives
10 you a breakdown of the funding in this Draft Monitoring
11 Plan as recommended by the TRC. 35 percent of the money
12 would go to Alaska Native organizations, 33 to the State,
13 28 to Federal agencies and four percent to other NGOs.
14

15 All right, turning the page we get to the
16 meat of what we're discussing here tonight, this begins
17 the Yukon River.
18

19 In the Yukon River we have -- or since
20 the inception of the Monitoring Program in 2000, 70
21 projects have been funded by the Office of Subsistence
22 Management in the Yukon River, and these projects and the
23 dollar amount and the years they operated are provided in
24 Table 1, which goes through Pages 29 through 31. It's
25 really a testament to the program, the breadth and the
26 quality of the projects that have been funded and that
27 this Council has been a part of making recommendations to
28 fund.
29

30 Then turning over to Page 33 we see the
31 eight projects listed in order of priority that are
32 before you for the Yukon River for 2007. And, again,
33 four of these projects are continuation projects that
34 you've already received, you know, reporting on from the
35 managers they're projects that you've seen before, you've
36 voted on before. And if I could just briefly go through
37 some of the highlights of these projects. And then
38 following that one of your papers in your packet, which
39 has a chum salmon on it, the second page of that is the
40 action items for the FRMP, and I've got it broken into
41 two blocks, the top block being the Yukon River. It's
42 got all eight of the projects that are being recommended
43 -- or all of the projects that are part of the FRMP and
44 the TRC recommendations for funding right next to that.
45 And what I'd ask.....
46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: What page is that on?

48
49 MR. SCHLEUSNER: This is a handout that's
50 part of your handout.

1 MR. ROCZICKA: It's part of that blue
2 folder Bev.

3
4 MR. SCHLEUSNER: It's a loose handout
5 with a chum salmon on it.

6
7 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

8
9 MR. SCHLEUSNER: All right. For the
10 Yukon, again, these are in order of priority by the TRC,
11 the first project is continuity in change in Yukon River
12 salmon harvest patterns. This is a project that's going
13 to look at the trends in subsistence salmon fisheries on
14 the Yukon River drainage using systematic household
15 surveys in selected communities in the lower, middle and
16 upper river. And, again, this was addressing a big
17 information needs to understand the harvest patterns and
18 changes in the subsistence harvest in the Yukon, taking
19 a drainagewide perspective.

20
21 Project 07-202 is the East Fork
22 Andreafsky River salmon weir. This weir supports a
23 database of 12 years, it's been in existence for a long
24 time and a very successful project monitoring chinook and
25 chum salmon in the lower Yukon.

26
27 Project 07-207 is the Gisasa River salmon
28 weir. Again, this one supports a long data set, a 12
29 year data set for the lower Koyukuk and, again,
30 addressing chinook and chum salmon.

31
32 Project 07-204, this is the lower Yukon
33 River drift test fishing project. This is one of the
34 first indicators they have for fall chum and coho salmon
35 in the lower Yukon.

36
37 Project 07-252 is a non-salmon fishing
38 practices and TEK in the northern Yukon Flats, it's a new
39 start. It's a TEK project and it's looking at
40 complimenting some of the existing TEK projects that have
41 been funded in the past by the monitoring program and
42 trying to understand the non-salmon harvest and use in
43 Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Ft. Yukon and Venetie.

44
45 Project 07-206 is another new start.
46 This is a sheefish radiotelemetry project where they'll
47 be looking at putting radiotags in 50 sheefish annually
48 in the Innoko River and then tracking them throughout the
49 drainage to identify spawning, overwintering and feeding
50 habitats. Almost nothing is known about the life history

1 of these fish and as you've heard earlier there is a
2 commercial for whitefish in the lower Yukon and so this
3 is an attempt to start getting some of that basic
4 information collected.

5
6 Project 07-208 is the Tozitna salmon
7 weir. This one is one of our newer weir projects and
8 supports five consecutive years of salmon escapement
9 which is why it's at the bottom of the list, but it's --
10 it's a middle Yukon stock assessing chinook and chum
11 salmon.

12
13 The final project 07-251 is salmon run
14 abundance and timing in the upper and middle Yukon River.
15 This project proposes to document traditional, ecological
16 knowledge, have natural indicators of spawning -- or
17 pertaining to chinook and summer chum and fall chum
18 salmon, abundance and run timing. So they're looking for
19 natural indicators to predict these things. And six
20 Yukon River communities, that's Nulato, Huslia, Galena,
21 Ft. Yukon, Nenana and Eagle. The TRC had some concerns
22 about this project and, in fact, it's the only one for
23 the Yukon that they didn't recommend funding. And their
24 rationale was the AYKSSI is funding a similar project to
25 this in the lower Yukon. And because the methods that
26 were proposed in this project are largely experimental
27 and the analysis part wasn't developed very well in the
28 investigation plan, the TRC thought it best to wait to
29 see the results of the AYKSSI project to determine
30 whether or not there's applicability of this to actual
31 management of the fish. And there was also concerns over
32 the increased cost from the proposal to the investigation
33 stand.

34
35 So with that, I'll be glad to answer any
36 questions about the eight projects that are proposed for
37 funding in the Yukon.

38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

42
43 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, I'm curious, other
44 than the TRC does the Yukon have any of your -- such as
45 YRDFA or other organizations of that nature that look
46 over and prioritize and make recommendations to the
47 Department on funding of proposals, such as the Kusko
48 Fisheries Resource Coalition does on this side of it?

49
50 MR. SCHLEUSNER: No, there isn't a

1 parallel process to the Kuskokwim on the Yukon. The same
2 people that -- I guess the same people in the TRC make
3 the Draft Monitoring Plan for the Kuskokwim and the Yukon
4 and the whole state for that matter. So the genesis, the
5 beginning of it is exactly the same.

6

7 For the Kuskokwim you're using the
8 strategic planning process that was funded through the
9 AYKSSI prioritize your projects, for the Yukon, we're
10 using the JTC Salmon -- Yukon River Salmon Management
11 Plan to prioritize the projects on our side of the thing.

12

13 MR. ROCZICKA: How much more input do you
14 get from the local folks as far as what their priorities
15 are?

16

17 MR. SCHLEUSNER: As far as local input,
18 the three Councils on the Yukon River weigh in and make
19 recommendations on the Draft Monitoring Plan so that is
20 the -- yeah, that is the local input.

21

22 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

25

26 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 In your executive summaries under costs, you have both
28 07. 8 and 9, so if these recommendations were approved,
29 then it would follow up with '08 and '09 also?

30

31 MR. SCHLEUSNER: That's correct. Part of
32 the guideline funding for the FRMP allows us to fund
33 projects for up to three years. Annually what's
34 available to fund projects is 6.25 million. Why there's
35 only a little under 4 million available to fund projects
36 is because previous years we've agreed to fund projects
37 for three years so they have out years that we have to
38 continue to pay. And all of the projects before you are
39 three years.

40

41 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

44

45 MR. ALOYSIUS: Yeah, what happens to the
46 146,000 from 07-251 if it's not approved?

47

48 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Right now the budget for
49 the 2007 Draft Monitoring Plan fully allocates the funds.
50 So if it was to get approved something else would

1 probably have to fall off, it's not that that money goes
2 away. There's 77 -- what did I say, \$778 available for
3 the Yukon and I forget what the total was for the seven
4 projects but it's pretty close, and it's for the entire
5 FRMP statewide it fully allocates the funds that are
6 available. In other words besides the Yukon and the
7 Kuskokwim there's four other regions that have Draft
8 Monitoring Plans that have projects being funded with the
9 same dollars. So when you look at them all in total, the
10 monies in the Draft Plan is fully spent.

11
12 MR. ALOYSIUS: Where would use this
13 money, this 146,000 if that project wasn't approved?

14
15 MR. SCHLEUSNER: The project is just
16 requesting that money from us so it's our bank account,
17 what I'm saying is the Draft Monitoring Plan spends all
18 the money in the bank account, so it's not -- they're
19 proposing us to give them that money and the TRC did not
20 recommend that for funding, so that's just money that we
21 don't pass out. But I'm saying, that the amount that we
22 have to give out is fully allocated, so it is being spent
23 it's just not being spent on that particular project.

24
25 The net is there isn't any leftover if
26 that doesn't get recommended to be funded.

27
28 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

31
32 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
33 move that TRC, the Technical Review Committee's
34 recommendation on proposed fisheries projects on the
35 Yukon River for this year be approved as a packet, namely
36 07-253, 07-202, 07-207, 07-204, 07-252, 07-206, 07-208.

37
38 MR. ROCZICKA: Second.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any second to
41 the motion.

42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: Greg.

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, you second it?

46
47 MR. ROCZICKA: (Nods affirmatively)

48
49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council discussion.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called
4 for, all who favor to recommend this whole block Yukon
5 River, all who favor say aye.
6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.
8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose, say no.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. The
14 whole block is accepted.
15
16 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Okay, the second group
17 of projects we have before you are from the Kuskokwim
18 River. And in the Kuskokwim things get even simpler.
19
20 Since the inception of the Monitoring
21 problem.....
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. SCHLEUSNER:program in 2000, 57
26 projects have been funded in the Kuskokwim and that,
27 again, is on Page 53 of your Council book. And that's,
28 again, on Table 1 on Page 54, 55 and 56. In the
29 Kuskokwim almost 60 percent of the monitoring projects
30 that were reported on today are being funded through the
31 Office of Subsistence Management.
32
33 You turn the page over to Page 57, six
34 investigation plans were submitted for funding
35 consideration and the Technical Review Committee
36 recommended funding all six.
37
38 So these here are 07-303, the Kuskokwim
39 salmon age six, length assessment. This continues the
40 ASL work done here in Bethel collecting data from over
41 30,000 salmon both caught in projects and subsistence
42 fisheries.
43
44 07-304 the Tatlawiksuk River salmon weir.
45 This is an excellent example of a cooperative project
46 between Alaska Department of Fish and Game and KNA
47 serving not only as an assessment project but a training
48 platform for interns.
49
50 We have 07-306, the Kwethluk River salmon

1 weir. This enumerates escapement of chinook, sockeye,
2 chum and coho salmon.

3

4 And then we've got the Kanektok and
5 Goodnews River salmon weirs, which are the primary
6 escapement projects in the Kuskokwim Bays -- for the
7 Kuskokwim Bay subsistence fisheries. Again, monitoring
8 chinook, sockeye, chum and coho.

9

10 07-307 is the Tuluksak River salmon weir,
11 a cooperative project between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service and the Native Village of Tuluksak enumerating
13 chinook, sockeye, chum and coho.

14

15 And then 07-302, the Kuskokwim River chum
16 salmon run reconstruction. This is actually a new start
17 where they're looking at going back at some of the
18 historical data to try and come up with a model to better
19 predict run abundance and returns on using some of the
20 datas in the spawner recruitment relationship. That was
21 actually a new start for the Kuskokwim but, again,
22 recommended for funding by the TRC.

23

24 So all six projects were recommended for
25 funding and that's the bottom block on the handout I gave
26 you, the TRC supported all of them and wanted all of them
27 to go forward.

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: I'll turn yours on if you
34 remind me about mine.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: Approve all of these
39 projects as recommended by TRC in one block.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's your motion.

42

43 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by James.

46

47 REPORTER: Harry. Harry.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion.

50

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob, and Greg.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: 07-303 what are you going
6 to do with the age, sex and length assessment, what part
7 of the river are you talking about here?
8
9 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Bob.
10 This project continues the funding that ADF&G is
11 currently doing for the ASL assessment on the Kuskokwim
12 River, so it funds all of the salmon age work that's done
13 here in Bethel and in the Kuskokwim from the monitoring
14 projects and around the Kuskokwim River.
15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: The reason I ask that is
17 because they did a project up river and then dropped it
18 for what reason, I don't know, and it doesn't make sense
19 that we don't know where this money is going to go. You
20 know I'd like to see that project done up river again
21 because it was very important to see how much of the
22 salmon are going up there and what size they are and what
23 age they are. But in the last couple years that hasn't
24 been happening.
25
26 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Bob. Our
27 process, our funding process begins every November with
28 a call for proposals so if there's a project that you
29 think needs to be done on the Kuskokwim River, you can
30 get with either an agency or an NGO that has the
31 capability to do that work and recommend that they submit
32 that to our process and then it would come up before you
33 in 2008 in a package just like this.
34
35 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman, I have
36 another question regarding 07-302.
37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
39
40 MR. ALOYSIUS: Again, the project will
41 support the analysis of existing data, what areas of the
42 river are you talking about, the whole river or some
43 tributaries, or, you know, just what?
44
45 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Bob.
46 This project is actually looking at databases, it's not
47 looking at fish from the river, it's looking at the
48 historical data archived in the Alaska Department of Fish
49 and Game and trying to develop a model to predict returns
50 of chum salmon. So it's trying to develop a tool for the

1 mangers to use to explain the -- you know, one year
2 they'll come back strong and one year they'll come back
3 weak, it's looking at things that they can use to predict
4 that so they can better manage the stocks.

5

6 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

9

10 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 I intend to vote in support of the motion. I just wanted
12 to make a clarification for the record, when you say that
13 you got six projects and they were all funded, just so
14 people have an understanding there, when the groups all
15 get together, made up of AVCP, some of the tribal
16 organizations, the different Federal and State agencies,
17 we look at like 25 to 30 different proposals and look at
18 all the different funding sources that we have and
19 prioritize those 25 to 30 projects and we'll select the
20 ones to go to the -- these ones we'll put in for the
21 Fisheries Resource, we'll put in for funding from there,
22 others we'll put in for the funding from SSI, and others
23 through cooperators such as the Coastal Village Resource
24 area, Coastal Village Fisheries, and select and go
25 through that process up ahead. So even though we put in
26 only six proposals and they all got funded there's
27 actually -- when we look at it, you know, there's several
28 proposals that come before us from the various
29 organizations that don't even go forward for funding
30 because we do that prioritization process.

31

32 So it's not like we got everything we
33 asked for just because -- well, we did because we planned
34 it out ahead, but there's a lot of projects out there
35 that we'd still like to do, certainly.

36

37 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

40

41 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Greg, that is an
42 excellent point. And I didn't mention in my presentation
43 that all six of these projects were supported by the
44 Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group but that
45 certainly carries a lot of weight in the TRC, you guys do
46 a great job in prioritizing your projects and bringing
47 quality projects before us.

48

49 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

2

3 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I thanked some organizations last week like Federal and
5 State for working with these organizations like this
6 body, other organizations, I have been with the Kuskokwim
7 Salmon Management Working Group for 18 years on and off,
8 and things are looking better now with all these projects
9 and funding we get from the Federal and State and these
10 other organizations that were mentioned, like Coastal
11 Village and KNA and ONC, and AVCP, all working together
12 to make things easier for us because let me tell you what
13 I said last week, when we first started working as
14 working group members, we did not know how the fish are
15 doing on the river. We knew some but we didn't quite
16 know what they were doing, so one elder who was in our
17 group told us -- told a manager or the biologist you
18 don't know what the fish are doing on the river because
19 you don't swim up the Kuskokwim River with the fish.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. CHARLES: So instead we got more
24 projects going and that helps us with these projections,
25 with assessments or escapement goals and all this other
26 information. That helps us to know better what the fish
27 are doing.

28

29 So I'm really happy that we get a lot of
30 support from State and Federal and other organizations.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. HOFFMAN: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
37 second to recommend support this whole block of
38 Kuskokwim, is there any discussion to the motion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. HOFFMAN: Question was called.

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called
45 for. All who favor say aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, say no.

50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.
4
5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
8
9 MR. ALOYSIUS: Before we get off of this
10 thing here, I'd like to know what the procedure would be
11 for us to recommend the reestablishing of our post-salmon
12 subsistence harvest surveys on the Kuskokwim River? As
13 you know for the last few -- one of the last few summers
14 that I know of for fall -- the subsistence -- the post-
15 subsistence survey has been non-existent because there
16 was no money and that's why I asked about that \$146,000,
17 what's going to happen to it, and, you know, if there was
18 some way that we could tap into that resource, I would
19 really like to have that post-season survey reestablished
20 on the Kuskokwim River.
21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tracy.
23
24 MS. KRAUTHOEFER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 My name is Krauthoefer and I'm with the Alaska Department
26 of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.
27
28 Bob, that project is still ongoing. What
29 happened was last year 2005, yeah, 2005, our funding from
30 OSM, when it got to the investigation stage, they
31 recommended funding only 50 percent of the project and
32 Fish and Game would need to match that with the remaining
33 50 percent, and so we've sort of been struggling with the
34 Fish and Game budget to try to make up that match.
35
36 So the project is still ongoing, there
37 hasn't been any break, but because we're struggling to
38 make up that match we haven't been able to do quite as
39 many villages as we did in the past. And part of that
40 also is the cost of gas has sort of increased the budget
41 and we can't increase.
42
43 MR. ALOYSIUS: My mistake, I guess --
44 okay (speaker feedback)
45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. ALOYSIUS: I guess my concern is

1 that, you know, I guess what hit me the most and stuck in
2 my mind is that up river was neglected again, that's what
3 I was trying to get at and I forgot that that project was
4 still going on but it's not going on 100 percent. So
5 thank you for that correction.

6
7 But I still would like to tap into that
8 \$146,000.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Cliff, more?

13
14 MR. SCHLEUSNER: All right, Mr. Chairman.
15 Council. That concludes, I believe, the Fisheries
16 Resource Monitoring Program, the second item under F
17 would be the strategic planning update. And basically
18 this has been just kind of a placeholders that's been on
19 the agendas for years as these planning processes have
20 developed.

21
22 And in 2005 the U.S. and Canada Yukon
23 River Joint Salmon Technical Committee Plan was
24 completed. In November of 2005, the Yukon River Joint
25 Technical Committee, Alaska Escapement Monitoring Plan
26 Working Group held a meeting and prioritized the
27 monitoring projects on the Yukon River. And Mr.
28 Roczicka, that's what I was referring to when I say
29 that's what we use to help us prioritize the projects,
30 the monitoring projects we bring before you.

31
32 On the Kuskokwim, in 2005, OSM has
33 partnered with AYKSSI on a long-term plan for salmon
34 monitoring and that was completed. And, again, that's
35 the plan that is used to help prioritize the projects
36 through the working group for the Kuskokwim River.

37
38 That's the only update I had for
39 strategic planning.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll continue on our
44 agenda. Next is strategy planning update.

45
46 MS. HOFFMAN: No, we did that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Partners for
49 Fisheries Monitoring Program.

50

1 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Council.
2 The next part of our presentation here is for your
3 information. One of the programs within FIS, besides
4 funding the monitoring programs is the Partners for
5 Fisheries Monitoring in which we fund professional
6 positions in rural organizations, both fisheries
7 biologists and social scientists so that we can build the
8 capacity of rural organizations and help them better work
9 with the managers in managing the Federal subsistence
10 fisheries. And with that, I'd like to introduce Kay
11 Larson-Blair, she was formerly an intern in the Partners
12 for Fisheries Monitoring Program, she now is an intern at
13 OSM while she's going to the University of Alaska-
14 Anchorage and pursuing a bachelor's degree in biological
15 sciences.

16
17 Kay is going to give you a brief overview
18 of the Partners Program, as well as give you an update on
19 the intern program. So with that, come on up Kay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead. Please
22 say your name for the record.

23
24 MS. BLAIR: Mr. Chair. Board members.
25 My name is Kay Larson-Blair.

26
27 (Pause - getting equipment together)

28
29 MR. SCHLEUSNER: There we go.

30
31 MS. BLAIR: Before I begin, I'd like to
32 tell you a little bit about myself. I'm from Dillingham.
33 and I grew up subsisting with my family since I was a
34 little girl so this program means a lot to me, both as a
35 biologist and from coming from the Bush.

36
37 The goal of the Partners Program is to
38 build capacity and expertise of Alaska Native
39 organizations to participate in Federal subsistence
40 management of fisheries. This is funded through the U.S.
41 Fish and Wildlife Service.

42
43 In order to achieve this goal, the
44 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program had set up
45 three objectives. To facilitate participation in the
46 fisheries research monitoring program; to support
47 community outreach and education; and to encourage future
48 scientists through the mentoring of college students.

49
50 During the last three years of the intern

1 program it has benefitted over 60 students from 30 rural
2 communities. The Partners Program for the internship
3 started back in 2003 and since then has averaged about 23
4 internships during the summer.

5
6 Yukon and Kuskokwim region biologists and
7 social scientists work with the interns. There's Eva
8 Patton and David Waltemyer from the Association of
9 Village Council Presidents, David Radar with the Council
10 of Tribal Government, Heather Hildebrand with the
11 Kuskokwim Native Association, and Brandy Berkbigler from
12 the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

13
14 This summer we had 10 interns from the
15 Yukon and three interns from the Kuskokwim. They were
16 from Aniak, Bethel, Chevak, Chauthbaluk, Ft. Yukon,
17 Kotlik, NunamIqua, Ruby, St. Mary's and Tuntutuliak.
18 These interns ranged from high school to college age.

19
20 During the summer the interns get to jump
21 in with various projects, they work on weirs, sonar,
22 counting tours, they learn how to do genetic sampling,
23 they gather age, sex and length data, they also work with
24 the elders gathering traditional ecological knowledge.
25 They get high school and college credits. They get to
26 help out with the younger kids with the science camp.

27
28 These interns get to jump right in and
29 participate with the research with the biologists and
30 social scientists. They get to ask questions and get
31 answers, they learn how to properly gather data while
32 working alongside them. They get to see how management
33 is strengthened by the use of modern science and
34 traditional ecological knowledge.

35
36 The interns learn many things during the
37 summer. They learn how science can be used to make sure
38 that there is fish for years to come. They learn that
39 there are different jobs and different career
40 opportunities within science and how they can go and
41 pursue them. And most importantly they learn that it is
42 important for the locals to be involved in the management
43 of their subsistence fisheries.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 Were there any questions.

48
49 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: And you're an intern -- you
4 have been an intern in the field and you're an intern in
5 OSM, was this part of a project that you worked on
6 putting together, this powerpoint?
7
8 MS. BLAIR: Yes, it was.
9
10 MS. HOFFMAN: You get an A.
11
12 MS. BLAIR: Thank you.
13
14 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.
17
18 MR. ALOYSIUS: I have a question, do you
19 visit high schools to promote this program you're in
20 because, you know, and what high schools do you go to?
21
22 MS. BLAIR: Well, right now I'm going to
23 -- sorry. Mr. Chair. Right now I'm going to college at
24 UAA and depending on the different, which association
25 they're working with, some of them allow high school age
26 students to work and others you have to be 18 years or
27 older. But they do have science camps that the middle
28 schoolers and high schoolers can go and participate in.
29
30 MR. ALOYSIUS: Another question, you
31 know, I keep hounding everybody whenever I see this TEK,
32 it's just rubbing me the wrong way because it's so
33 ambiguous. And if you were sincere in gathering
34 ecological knowledge, it should be indigenous ecological
35 knowledge because it pertains to a people, an area, and
36 when you say traditions it could be anywhere in the world
37 because each area has their own experts and their own
38 knowledge of the ways and means that the people have used
39 subsistence fisheries for thousands of years. And if
40 they use traditional, it doesn't mean a thing to me, like
41 that (In Yup'ik) and name the villages that the
42 information is gathered from, then it makes sense.
43
44 (In Yup'ik)
45
46 And, you know, things like that, makes
47 sense to me and to people who are from this area but when
48 you use words that have ambiguous meanings and it doesn't
49 mean very much.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.

4

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

6 You say you're an intern, how long have you been an
7 intern and does the office have funds available to send
8 you to such school districts like Career Fairs to, you
9 know, show what's available to the high school students?

10

11 MS. BLAIR: I'm not sure about them
12 having funding to send me around but if there were
13 anybody that would want to talk to me about different
14 routes to go to college or how they could apply or if
15 they had any questions I'd be more than likely -- for
16 people from your villages, and the kids, to talk to them.

17

18 I believe that this program is really
19 good. I've learned a whole bunch from it and I know many
20 kids who actually switched to go into fisheries
21 management so they can go back to their villages and help
22 their people with it.

23

24 And if you'd like I can get your guys'
25 email addresses and I can email you when I get back to
26 work so you guys can have my contact information if you
27 guys or any of your kids have any questions.

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: I know that there's
34 advertising processes in trying to get high school
35 students and college students, I've seen the ads and
36 heard them but it would be good to -- I don't know if you
37 notify people, school districts, I think -- I imagine you
38 do, correct?

39

40 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Beverly.

41 One of the things that, I guess, maybe is a little
42 confusing here is are our partners biologists and
43 anthropologists are the ones that go out and they do the
44 science camps and they go to the high schools and the
45 local communities where they are. Here in Bethel you're
46 fortunate that you have two and they're going to be
47 presenting next, and I think their presentations will
48 show you what they've been up to and how they are
49 approaching this outreach.

50

1 Kay is the product of that, where one of
2 the partners reached out and she's actually gone on to
3 the university and is working now for OSM.

4

5 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Aloysius.

8

9 MR. ALOYSIUS: It's all well and good to
10 have these people who are not from here but if our
11 students see someone like her from this area it makes a
12 lot more impact on them. If she can do it, boy, I can do
13 it too, you know, and it really makes -- I mean we really
14 need positive role models for our young people, somebody
15 they can see and go up there and be, you know, one on one
16 with and how did you do that, you know, did you start
17 dreaming about this when you were in kindergarten or in
18 HeadStart, you know, they'll ask you these questions, you
19 know. And it's really important that we have people like
20 her, young people, up in there in the forefront for our
21 young people to see and talk to and let her or anybody
22 who's gone through this program, let them really know
23 what they're going to get into and how they have to study
24 science and math, science and math, science and math all
25 the way up to the top.

26

27 And I really appreciate you being here,
28 it really touches my heart to see one of our own people.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
33 Council.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, thank you.

38

39 MS. HOFFMAN: Quyana.

40

41 (Applause)

42

43 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

46

47 MR. ALOYSIUS: If louie could translate
48 it, right on.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, if there's no
2 more, then AVCP, David Waltemyer, presentation.

3
4 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Council.
5 Next I'd like to introduce David Waltemyer, he's our
6 partners biologist with AVCP.

7
8 David's worked for AVCP for two years now
9 and he's got a bachelor's of science degree in fisheries
10 biology from CSU and a Master of Science in fisheries
11 biologist from UAS.

12
13 With that, I'll turn it over to Dave.

14
15 MR. WALTEMYER: Thank you, Cliff. And
16 good evening, and thank you Chairman and fellow Council
17 members.

18
19 I'd like to speak to you a little bit
20 about kind of my part in the Partners Program. Again, my
21 name is David Waltemyer and I'm with the Association of
22 Village Council Presidents as the Yukon River partner
23 fishery biologist. I've been involved with AVCP now to
24 the point that I'm really starting to hopefully
25 understand a little bit better of the region and the
26 people and I'm finding that that's pretty exciting to me
27 to have this experience because I, again, like Bob was
28 saying, I'm not, you know, the -- like the age of Kay,
29 but yet I believe that I hopefully will have something
30 that I can share from my experience and my education to
31 the young people here on the YK-Delta.

32
33 I guess I'll go right into more or less
34 the objectives of our program again and what I was going
35 to do is there's four essential objectives. And what I'd
36 like to do is within each objective I'll tell you a
37 little bit about what I've been doing here in the past
38 and then recently and then hopefully where we're going
39 with our program.

40
41 The first one is to promote the
42 cooperative partnerships among Alaska Native and rural
43 organizations and State and Federal agencies, college
44 level and then also others like the non-government and
45 government agencies. In promoting those partnerships
46 this has been a key area for me in the sense of building
47 bridges with the local people and between my experience
48 in fisheries is and also then with having ACP [sic] as my
49 employer and trying to work from their standpoint and
50 what they offer the people on the YK-Delta.

1 And a lot of the partnerships are, you
2 know, again with, not only the non-governmental, but with
3 the State and Federal agencies, and then also the local
4 village tribal councils and staff in the AVCP region.

5
6 And I find it so exciting to be able to
7 get a chance to get out to the villages and meet the
8 people and really visit and hopefully be able to have the
9 time to kind of listen and find out what their concerns
10 are and the things they're thinking about in the area of
11 fisheries and along the lines of being able to develop
12 partnerships.

13
14 The second objective is assisting with
15 project development and the technical aspects of projects
16 and coordinating project activities. And under that one,
17 a lot of that, my part, has been writing project
18 proposals to such groups as the National Science
19 Foundation, the restoration and enhancement fund, which
20 is a part of the U.S./Canada Treaty and the salmon group.
21 Also then with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
22 through the Office of Subsistence Management. Other
23 aspects of that include memorandum of agreements with
24 say, tribal councils, or groups in the local area, say
25 for like conducting -- like here the last two years I've
26 operated in conjunction with different funding or
27 actually the funding came through the R&E fund to operate
28 the Marshall test fishery. And in that case it's where
29 -- we were able to hire locals there out of Marshall and
30 also contract, and that's been very successful. And also
31 other things such as like the possibility of potential
32 working or coordinating into the Andreafsky River weir
33 project in the sense of some of the -- maybe the
34 technical aspects I'd be able to offer some help and
35 assistance there. Possibly work out through the tribal
36 councils and doing local hire and things like that.

37
38 Another important objective is to support
39 community outreach education, intern training and
40 mentoring. And that is sort of like has been the bigger
41 focus within AVCP. They see that as one of the real
42 critical pieces here in the sense of begin able to get,
43 say, the young -- say the students out of the high
44 schools or they're just going into college, give them an
45 opportunity to get involved in, say, this type of career
46 and to see if they like it or not. So this outreach and
47 education for me, and working on the Yukon River has been
48 a little bit different than on the Kuskokwim in the sense
49 that I have had good chances, good opportunities to go to
50 a number of the schools along the lower river. And

1 basically I work with the villages from Hooper Bay out on
2 the coast up through the Yukon River to Russian Village.
3 And I've been able to get to all of those villages here
4 but it's taken three different summers to do that. And
5 in different regards, some of it depends on projects
6 that I get involved in, too, as to what villages I'm able
7 to get out to. Like this last year I was able to visit
8 folks in Marshall a number of times and, of course, that
9 was in part because of the test fishery we were
10 operating. Then also this year I tried to work with some
11 of the lower villages like Kwethluk and NunamIqua, and so
12 we also -- out of those I was able to hire interns out of
13 the high school, actually one of the interns was John
14 Strongheart who's a senior in NunamIqua, and then
15 Jennifer Johnson who is a junior in high school out of
16 Kwethluk. And it was really exciting to see that, you
17 know, they had this interest of wanting to try and do
18 something in this regard, you know, relative to
19 fisheries. Or in the sense of Jennifer, what she did was
20 develop a subsistence calendar for the village of
21 Kwethluk. And it was really neat to see her get
22 involved, she would go out and interview all the families
23 of the village and gather the information on when people
24 were out hunting, when they are out gathering and what do
25 they gather and those kinds of things. It's been really
26 exciting to see her take that as a charge or as a project
27 and develop it, especially at the age, you know, being a
28 junior in high school. And, John, he was able to get a
29 chance to go to Pilot Station sonar and work in the
30 different aspects of that project. And then also between
31 the summertime period that they are working they develop
32 a report that they'll bring back. And then as another
33 part we have the intern's day, and that's typically in
34 August, where we have our interns or the ones that are
35 able to come to attend in Anchorage and then present
36 their reporting of what they were able to do, the
37 experiences that they've had and the things they learned.
38 So that was really exciting to have that. And we had
39 something like 25 or 23, say, interns a year ago and then
40 this year it was around 19, 20 interns that were able to
41 come to our intern's day. A lot of times that depends on
42 travel and then school and different things like that as
43 to how many are able to come.

44
45 And then finally, the fourth objective is
46 the focus efforts on key issues facing subsistence users
47 by helping identify information needs. And that was like
48 -- one aspect of this is I want to mention the
49 consideration for potential fisheries projects. And the
50 one that I've been able to get involved in is the

1 Marshall test fishery at this point, others were -- or
2 are possibly like the Andraefsky River weir.

3
4 And then something else that's been
5 coming up, and it's almost one of those things that it
6 seems like there's -- it'd really be important to gather
7 the information and it has been brought up is whitefish,
8 you know, as a topic. And, you know, would that be
9 something that, say, the Regional Advisory Council would
10 be interested in possibly pursuing as a project, say, on
11 the lower river and thinking -- I was thinking more of
12 this potential for a new commercial market and fishery
13 versus the subsistence needs and uses, things like that.

14
15 So it's kind of developing, some of those
16 things are coming out of that focus in trying to
17 understand what the information needs are and what you
18 would like.

19
20 And then finally I would like to
21 sincerely thank you and all of you who have shared their
22 time and experiences with me, and it's really provided me
23 with much help and as I traveled around the region it's
24 been just an awesome experience. And because of this I
25 find it, my job, is very rewarding and I hope that the
26 exchange of information and the work that I'm doing has
27 been of help to you.

28
29 So with that, that's my report.

30
31 Any questions.

32
33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

34
35 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 Dave, I thought about asking, and I didn't think about it
37 in time and Kay's gone already but I'll ask you about it,
38 the internship programs, is this -- what kind of duration
39 are they, are they like a week, does it vary between high
40 school or whether you're a college student, is it like a
41 one week science camp type of thing for some or are the
42 guys out there all summer actually working on some of
43 these projects where they're getting really the full feel
44 of how it is to do a season of field work, I'm thinking
45 mainly college level and so on? What are the different
46 ranges there are or is it just like a one week thing for
47 any given intern at any given time, I guess I'd look at
48 that more like a science camp for a high school level,
49 but at the college level you're kind of looking at having
50 guys out there all through the season. I'm just curious

1 at what difference.....

2

3 MR. WALTEMYER: Well, in regards it's
4 very flexible. And part of it is dependent on our
5 funding and how much we have per year. But my -- the
6 different years that I've been able to do the internship
7 program, I've had one intern for two months full-time,
8 and two -- I had like John Strongheart who was able to
9 only get out to the Pilot Station project as a -- you
10 know, as a summer field trip, and a lot of that was
11 because of him and his fishing schedule, you know,
12 working with his parents and things like that. And then
13 anything in between, really is, you know, it can be as
14 flexible as you want it, it can be even -- it doesn't
15 necessarily have to be during the summer months. It
16 could be like -- say, like with the subsistence schedule,
17 or calendar project, that could be done in the fall or
18 whenever and it depends on who the person -- or where
19 they're at, if they're in high school, college, those
20 kinds of things.

21

22 So it's pretty flexible.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
25 Council.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

30

31 MR. ALOYSIUS: I don't have a question,
32 I just have a -- you know, I really appreciate you guys
33 doing what you're doing and, you know, but she takes the
34 spotlight, you know.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. WALTEMYER: I would have to agree
39 with you.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

48

49 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Dave.

50

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda.....
2
3 REPORTER: Harry. Harry.
4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE:is C, Kuskokwim
6 region.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eva Patton, Association
11 Village Council President and Kuskokwim Native
12 Association Fisheries Program update, Heather Hildebrand.
13
14 MS. HOFFMAN: That would be after.
15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's after Eva
17 Patton.
18
19 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Council.
20 I'd like to introduce Eva Patton, she's been with the
21 Partners Program since May of 2005. Eva has a degree in
22 wildlife ecology and conservation biology. She's the
23 AVCP partners biologist for the Kuskokwim.
24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Council. I had
28 a chance to spend a couple of days with some of you just
29 last week at the Salmon Management Working Group and that
30 was a real pleasure so for some of you this might be a
31 little bit of a repeat overview. But for others, good to
32 see you again this fall.
33
34 David Waltemyer touched on some of the
35 objectives of the Partners Program for this region and so
36 I'll touch on some of my highlights from within that
37 program for this past year.
38
39 As was discussed earlier there's been a
40 real call within this program to address education issues
41 and start at even a younger age than college students.
42 Originally the program was designed primarily to provide
43 college internships in conjunction with the Fisheries
44 Resource Monitoring Program projects. And on arriving to
45 this region it was really clear in doing outreach to the
46 communities that that was a priority for communities in
47 this region, was to provide more science education
48 opportunities and particularly for high school students,
49 to start at that younger age.
50

1 So that was one of the main focuses that
2 I had when I first arrived here, was doing that outreach
3 within the communities to meet with Councils, talk with
4 schools and the local college and help develop a network,
5 a real effective capacity through education in
6 conjunction with the effort on key projects and
7 cooperative projects with Fish and Game and Fish and
8 Wildlife. And there's a real strong effort going on in
9 this region, a lot of different avenues so we've been
10 working with the Lower Kuskokwim School District and the
11 Yupiit School District, we've been working with the
12 Kuskokwim Campus College here, Fish and Game, and Fish
13 and Wildlife have been very, very supportive in providing
14 mentoring through their biologists and assistance with
15 science camp programs. And we've also expanded that
16 effort more broadly to try and develop programs, bridging
17 programs for high school students to get exposure and
18 then to step into college giving them support in college,
19 providing professional internship opportunities and
20 college scholarships to support those students from this
21 region pursuing degrees in fisheries or the sciences.

22
23 And there is currently a large scale
24 effort going on to collaborate in that avenue throughout
25 Alaska through the other college campuses as well, UAF
26 and University of Alaska-Juneau and the Alaska Native
27 Science and Engineering program. So a real collective
28 effort for many, many people.

29
30 And one of my goals was to really network
31 there and try and make our program as effective as we
32 could to provide those opportunities too.

33
34 So this year we had, through the AVCP
35 college internship program, we had three college interns.
36 And Greg had asked about the nature of those programs,
37 two of those internships were set up as very stringent
38 academically and science skills building programs to last
39 for two and a half months to fit in between their college
40 terms and provide not only the fisheries science skills,
41 but a really broad education that would encompass, both
42 an understanding of fisheries habitat in juvenile salmon
43 and adult salmon escapement and understanding where their
44 spawning areas are.

45
46 So we had two projects. One was a
47 cooperative project with ADF&G which AVCP is a partner on
48 supporting the Kalskag fishwheel mark recapture program
49 and a cooperative project with AYKSSI sockeye telemetry
50 which I support both through my work and the interns

1 support doing very important research work there and in
2 turn are mentored by the local fisheries biologist staff.
3 So the Kalskag fishwheel project was one.

4
5 The other project was a cooperative
6 project been U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta
7 National Wildlife Refuge and Flathead Lake Biological
8 Station, which manage a long-term ecological monitoring
9 project on the Kwethluk River, which is part of a larger
10 network, it's called the Salmon Rivers Observatory
11 Network. Very detailed ecological study. Both of those
12 excellent biologists to work with to assist in the
13 mentoring of those students, I'm really happy to have had
14 that opportunity to work with them.

15
16 So we had two students Deserie Roam who
17 is from Chevak. And she is an Alaska Native Studies
18 Major, Yup'ik minor and getting her teaching degree as
19 well. And she fit really well into this program, I
20 think, of all of you on the Council who need to work in
21 both worlds of being able to convey subsistence fisheries
22 and talking to the management research aspects. And
23 Deserie is very dedicated to returning to her community
24 to work on subsistence issues there and also education
25 issues. So had an opportunity to work on both those
26 projects and also assisted in teaching with the Kwethluk
27 River Science Camp.

28
29 Olan Twitchell has family here in Bethel
30 and is a UAF fisheries major. And so for Olan, through
31 the AYKSSI cooperative partnership, we were able to also
32 provide him with a college scholarship which was part of
33 the arrangement for that cooperative grant. And we are
34 in the process of securing a matching fund, ongoing
35 matching fund for those AYKSSI scholarships as well, not
36 only for our program but for KNA and future scholarships
37 through AYKSSI. And Olan had an opportunity to work half
38 the summer up on the project and half the summer up at
39 the Kalskag fishwheel. And both students did an
40 excellent job and also provided some very hard work, very
41 stringent work. Olan did double duty studying for a
42 special fisheries credit through UAF, Fisheries 395 which
43 was established for the Partners Program college interns,
44 and so he was also studying, reading numerous academic
45 articles and technical reports, and fulfilled his credit
46 requirements by writing an in-depth technical report at
47 the end of his summer.

48
49 We also had a third intern Paul Evan from
50 Tuninak, an older gentleman who was able to work for a

1 month at the end of summer, on the extension of the
2 Surrón (ph) project program and he currently works with
3 the Tuninak Council on water quality monitoring and is
4 very passionate about doing that work and learning more
5 river ecology skills. So we also support other avenues
6 for people having opportunities at this level.

7
8 We had two high school internship
9 programs, too, to address the interests of the
10 communities in providing an opportunity for younger
11 students to have an idea that this is possible, to be
12 exposed to the sciences, to be exposed to the natural
13 resources and we had two cooperative partnerships. One
14 with the village of Tuluksak and the Kenai Fisheries
15 Office, which manages the Tuluksak weir. And we had one
16 with ADF&G, cooperative partnership with the Goodnews
17 Weir and the Goodnews Council. And for both of those it
18 was a one week program. It was established as a high
19 school internship program. They had eight hours of
20 hand's on field-based science, fish ecology, learning
21 during the day, including learning how to analyze data,
22 do habitat studies, physiology, anatomy, a full range of
23 exposure to the sciences that they would need to know as
24 biologists, and then two hours of the day were spent
25 actually working on the weir and learning the skills that
26 they would need if they were to work at the weir someday
27 themselves.

28
29 And one of the nice things, too, about
30 both those projects is, as you mentioned, those students
31 had an opportunity to be mentored by local hires from the
32 community as well and that made a big difference, I
33 think, in being able to envision themselves there,
34 working in those opportunities.

35
36 And we did hope to have elders involved
37 in teaching at those projects as well. Another high
38 school program that we were a cooperative partner on this
39 year was the Yukon Delta National Wildlife, and the
40 second year of the Kwethluk River science camp trip which
41 is a rafting trip which exposes the students to an area
42 where many of them have never had an opportunity to
43 travel before and it really, really opens their eyes to
44 the landscape and it's a wonderful process of actually
45 traveling through the watershed and seeing the fish
46 spawning underneath the rafts and passing by up stream.
47 And we had hoped to have Bob come teach with us on that
48 one and the weather was a bit rough those last couple
49 days, so hopefully next year. It's very important, I
50 think, for these programs, to have the elders teach as

1 well. For the students and for the staff and biologists
2 to learn.

3

4 So those are the high school and the
5 college internship programs.

6

7 We're also working towards developing
8 opportunities for the local communities, as you also
9 mentioned Bob, concerns that you have on the fisheries,
10 or issues that people would like to address in terms of
11 indigenous knowledge, ways to facilitate that for the
12 communities.

13

14 Currently this year, AVCP is a partner on
15 the lower Kuskokwim non-salmon, it's a harvest monitoring
16 and indigenous knowledge survey in the communities of
17 Tuntutuliak, Eek and Nunapitchuk and those are actually
18 -- key respondent interviews will be beginning on Monday,
19 so we'll see you again James. And that project will be
20 ongoing for two years.

21

22 But I am also hoping to learn more from
23 the communities in terms of your interests and the
24 research projects that you would like to pursue and
25 traditional indigenous knowledge projects that you would
26 be interested in pursuing as well.

27

28 We did submit a proposal last year under
29 the harvest monitoring, traditional, it is called TEK in
30 the proposal, to take a look at patterns and trends in
31 subsistence harvest, and this was a proposal in
32 conjunction with Louanne Renk who had been working with
33 the villages of Akiak, Akiachak and Tuluksak. And had
34 done several years of work looking at their ANCSA
35 14(h)(1) oral history archives. And the detail to which
36 that illuminated the patterns of subsistence harvest at
37 that time and the areas that were very important to those
38 communities at that time and looking at contemporary
39 knowledge and seeing the changes that have occurred and
40 interviewing those families again; that proposal did not
41 get passed on to the IP stage last year but was
42 recommended to be reevaluated for this year.

43

44 So I solicit your input in terms of what
45 this body, what this Council feels you would like to see
46 and are the key important issues to address in ways that
47 AVCP and the Partners Program may be able to help
48 facilitate submitting those proposals for this year.

49

50 Thank you, very much.

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council any questions to
2 Eva.
3
4 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.
7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: My only comment is to
9 commend, you know, the effort that is being done
10 especially, you know, with our young people and
11 partnering with local communities.
12
13 You know, I run one camp up on the
14 Kisaralik and one of the more rewarding groups that we
15 had were a group of young people from this area, spent a
16 week up there with us, kids from Kwethluk, Chauthbaluk,
17 all over and we weren't sure how it was going to be with
18 them, and we invited as a guest Doug Molonal (ph) from
19 Fish and Game, and to see young people so excited and
20 getting all that hand's on experience, the man from
21 Kwethluk was going, when I grow up this is where I want
22 to be. He had never been up in that area and to see, you
23 know, the difference from comparing that to down here.
24
25 So I have to commend the efforts in these
26 partnerships, especially with our young people. I wish
27 that these opportunities were available when I was
28 growing up here. It's awesome.
29
30 MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.
31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Edgar.
33
34 MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 On one of the objectives of the Partners Program, the
36 last one down there, focus efforts on key issues facing
37 subsistence users. On the agenda, I don't see Donlin
38 Creek.
39
40 You know practically every week in the
41 newspapers there's issues about Donlin Creek, you know,
42 it's going to affect our (In Native) neighbors, so are
43 the partners preparing, you know, and collaborating and
44 working with the agencies to assure that, you know, the
45 subsistence users will be protected or helped?
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chairman. Edgar.
50 I'd like to address that. There's some guidelines for

1 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and some of the
2 guidelines or things that we can't fund, and the Partners
3 Program is designed to get local involvement into the
4 Monitoring Program. Some of the things we can't fund are
5 habitat protection, contaminant studies, we can't fund
6 hatchery propagation. I mean these are the rules for our
7 money. And the reason they did that is because they
8 didn't want the program to be duplicative and there are
9 existing programs that deal within the Service and
10 agencies that deal with these issues.

11
12 Our program is unique to subsistence and
13 they wanted to focus it on that and not spread it so thin
14 that it couldn't make an impact.

15
16 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

19
20 MR. ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Eva and Dave.
21 I really appreciate what you guys are doing. I have one
22 question, have you ever approached the -- solicited the
23 Elder's Council, director Mark John, about possibly
24 making a showing at -- you know, they have three summer
25 camps, and I think it would be really nice, you know, for
26 you to go to two of them and Dave could go to one and
27 just do a presentation on what this Monitoring Program
28 is, especially, you know, you're trying to find our own
29 young people up here to get involved with fisheries, you
30 know, not only fisheries but the whole outdoor careers.
31 I mean there's life here, you know, why not make a living
32 out of it, you know.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Phillip. Go ahead.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, okay. Thank you,
39 Bob, that's an excellent idea, and that's the sort of
40 input that I would really love, feel free to send a fax
41 to AVCP or call their 1-800 number and ask for me. I
42 really appreciate those sorts of insights that I --
43 places that I don't think to look or who to ask, so
44 Calista Elder's Council, yeah, thank you.

45
46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Phillip, (In
48 Yup'ik)

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

1 INTERPRETERS: When I speak, I'm sort of
2 -- we seem to be much more at ease when we gather and
3 when we meet in a year or so and this evening. What I've
4 listened to you folks speaking about is very good and
5 it's good to listen to them. And we want to work
6 together as we are one, with one mind, and when we work
7 together and with good spirit, you know, some of these
8 projects go a long ways.

9
10 And then you talk about partnerships and
11 with partnerships you follow cooperatively together and
12 is appreciative and happy and it comes out like, say,
13 when you experience high school, he says that they're
14 much more at ease and when we work together with
15 students, they want to work with us, the schools
16 especially, want work with us cooperatively and I am
17 happy.

18
19 And if we do then we probably wouldn't
20 have so many other problems or obstacles. But, you know,
21 as Board members we sometimes we do have our
22 disagreements, yes, and this evening I was surprised, you
23 know, something good came about of this program. Working
24 close together with counseling, with confidence, and
25 confidence then the person becomes aware what their needs
26 are and they work towards it to learn. And with the
27 students and with us elders if we learn together we can
28 teach them a lot too because we've been taught before by
29 our own parents and by our own grandparents about
30 subsistence, about the use of land and the way of land
31 and the water and of the air.

32
33 I'm so happy I had to say something in
34 regards to these programs that are offered cooperatively
35 to the young people and it's worthy information to pass
36 along to others.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. More.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Thank you. I should
43 probably mention one more thing, Mr. Chair. I just
44 wanted to say thank you to some of the volunteers that we
45 had on these programs and some of the cooperators.

46
47 Chris Pike with Big Brothers/Big Sisters
48 helped us out for a week.

49
50 Ryan Early from MMCS (ph) program helped

1 us out on a couple of the high school programs.

2

3 Dan Gilligan (ph) a fisheries biologist
4 with Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge, master rafter
5 and Sharon Gilligan, his wife is master cook for all
6 those kids on that program.

7

8 Steve Miller with the Kenai Fisheries
9 Office provided us with the transport up and down the
10 river and serenaded us all the way.

11

12 So thank you very much.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll take the next on
15 our agenda Kuskokwim Native Association update.

16

17 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chair. On the
18 agenda it says Heather Hildebrand will be presenting
19 this, she wasn't able to make it so David Orabutt will be
20 doing the presentation for the KNA partners.

21

22 David was the former Partners biologist
23 for KNA and now he's the fisheries director for KNA and
24 they have a new Partners biologist and that was Heather
25 Hildebrand that was hired this March. So David Orabutt
26 will give our final presentation on the Partners Program.

27

28 MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman. Members of
29 the Council. My name is David Orabutt. I'm representing
30 Kuskokwim Native Association today. And I'd just like to
31 speak with you a little bit about what KNA does in
32 fisheries research and monitoring, but first I'd like to
33 thank you for letting me talk here. Coming to these
34 meetings makes me feel good and makes me like my job, I
35 guess, good to see people caring about the resources.

36

37 So like Cliff said, our fisheries
38 partners biologist is Heather Hildebrand, she's not here
39 right now. We actually switched duties and she's going
40 to attend the Western Interior RAC meeting instead of me,
41 and I'm attending this one instead of her.

42

43 So at KNA, the question is what do we do,
44 and we do several things. We partner on fisheries
45 research projects with Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife
46 Service, with others as well. We serve as a liaison
47 between members and agencies. We listen to our members,
48 our subsistence users and relate this message to our
49 agency partners. And then we teach, learn and
50 communicate with our members and we do this through

1 meetings, such as this meeting and others, like our
2 tribal gathering meeting and village meetings. And then
3 the one that you've heard a lot about in the last couple
4 presentations by Eva and Dave, we mentor local youth and
5 encourage them to pursue higher education. And we do
6 this in a large part through the Fishery Partners
7 Program. We were the recipient of a grant from the
8 Partners Program and it was money to hire a fisheries
9 biologist and to hire interns and just to kind of be our
10 core program so we appreciate that.

11
12 I'd like to put up our fisheries
13 employees from 2006. We've had several employees from
14 our region and some from out of the region. We had 13
15 technicians and interns this year, along with 19 one week
16 high school interns. And then we had three fisheries
17 biologists on staff this year.

18
19 And then I'd like to just show you some
20 pictures of our interns.

21
22 Shauna Hamilton from Aniak was our
23 Fisheries Partners research intern. And she worked on
24 several research projects throughout the Kuskokwim River,
25 weir projects, the fishwheel project, radiotelemetry
26 projects, a number of projects.

27
28 And then Rainy Diehl of Aniak was our
29 Fisheries Partners education intern and, Bob, this is
30 another example of a role model. Rainy was originally a
31 KNA high school intern when she was in high school. She
32 worked for Fish and Game for a couple years. She worked
33 for Dave Waltemyer with AVCP for one year underneath the
34 Partners Program, and this year she worked for us
35 underneath the Partners Program running the high school
36 internship, so teaching young kids out there.

37
38 And then Alex Dattilo of Aniak was our
39 Fisheries Partners expeditor. And he basically kept the
40 projects running, kept goods flowing, kept the field camp
41 staffed, made sure people got their stuff.

42
43 And then Samantha Epchook was our
44 genetics intern. And she worked with Fish and Game in
45 the genetics lab this spring semester.

46
47 That's just the list of the 2006 high
48 school interns. Like I said there were 19 high school
49 interns, five of them returning high school interns from
50 previous years, and we had villages from Kalskag to

1 Sleetmute, a number of our villages. We had two
2 different curriculums. One was for the new interns, and
3 then the people that came back for a second year got an
4 additional little more difficult curriculum.

5
6 And then new in 2006 was our long-term
7 high school interns. We hired Charles John of Aniak to
8 work for us on the Aniak seining project and he worked
9 for probably about eight weeks, off and on on different
10 projects. And then we hired Amanda Goods of Takotna to
11 work for a couple of weeks on the fishwheel project.

12
13 So now I guess I'd just like to talk
14 about some of the Fisheries Research and Monitoring
15 Program projects that we're involved in. There's a lot
16 of projects up there so I'm not going to go into detail
17 on those projects. Many of the Council members are also
18 salmon working group members and have heard about these
19 projects. However, if there is any project or you want
20 me to clarify or add any detail on any of the projects,
21 just let me know and I will address that.

22
23 So now I guess I'm just going to give you
24 a sample of a few projects that KNA is working on and
25 what we do on these projects.

26
27 So the Aniak River beach seining project
28 is a project to catch sockeye salmon, red salmon, and
29 chinook salmon, king salmon in the Aniak River in the
30 summertime to do two things. One is to increase sample
31 size of radiotagged king salmon, and then also to
32 recapture fish tagged at the Kalskag fishwheel. This is
33 a KNA project. We have a field crew and we go up there
34 three times a week throughout the summer sampling fish.

35
36 Another one of our projects is the
37 chinook run reconstruction project. This is a new
38 project for 2006 and was funded by AYKSSI and Fish and
39 Game. And one of our particular duties with this project
40 is to help run the Salmon River weir. And the Salmon
41 River weir -- the Salmon River is a tributary of the
42 Aniak River, and the purpose of this weir is to include
43 the Aniak River in our riverwide population estimate of
44 chinook salmon. And for this project we take care of
45 approximately half the field duties and we had the crew
46 leader position at the Salmon River weir and Fish and
47 Game handles the data and the data analysis.

48
49 So you've heard about the George River
50 weir probably. This is our longest standing project, it

1 started in 1996, and it's in partnership with Fish and
2 Game, Commercial Fisheries Division, and it's had a
3 variety of funding sources, but right now it's being
4 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Fish
5 and Game, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and Coastal
6 Village Region Fund.

7

8 And you've heard of the Tatlawiksuk River
9 as well. And, again, we've had this project since 1998,
10 and the same funding agencies on this project. So the
11 purpose of the weir is to monitor fish passage, monitor
12 escapement. And now I'm just going to flip through a
13 couple pictures to show you what they do in cleaning the
14 weir, they were counting -- in that picture they were
15 counting, and normally it doesn't take three people to
16 count fish, but those are high school interns and we're
17 showing them how to do it.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. ORABUTT: And there you go. And like
22 as Cliff mentioned, the weirs also support the high
23 school internship program. That's where our one week
24 high school interns go to learn about fisheries.

25

26 And these are good cooperative projects,
27 but I just wanted to put this map up to show you the
28 George and Tatlawiksuk in the middle Kuskokwim there.
29 They're very important monitoring projects for that
30 central region for the Kuskokwim. Those are the rivers
31 and the monitoring projects that tell us what's going on
32 in that region.

33

34 So let's flip and talk about whitefish,
35 a little different than the salmon. We have a project
36 with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kenai Office, Ken
37 Harper. Again, it's funded by the Fisheries Resource
38 Monitoring Program. And that's one of our technicians
39 there and then I guess a Fish and Wildlife crew as well
40 during surgeries on a whitefish, they're implanting a
41 radiotag in that whitefish. I guess that's Laura and
42 Darryl in that picture. One of our main duties with this
43 project is to monitor the receiver stations, the remote
44 receiver stations that are placed along the Kuskokwim,
45 and these stations pick up the signals from those
46 radiotagged fish, and KNA goes to these stations and
47 downloads them and collects the data and keeps them
48 running. And that's just a couple of pictures of us
49 going to the stations to take care of them. We do go
50 during the summer as well but I just have winter pictures

1 because they're, well, pretty.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. ORABUTT: And this is another project
6 that we're involved in, the subsistence fish harvest
7 monitoring. We work with Fish and Game, Subsistence
8 Division. And KNA portion, or KNA responsibilities on
9 this project is to do the Aniak -- do interviews of the
10 Aniak residents.

11

12 So that's all I really had for you.
13 There's a bunch of acknowledgements up there. We have a
14 lot of people to thank and especially our cooperators
15 with Fish and Game and with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
16 Service. Without them we really couldn't do our
17 projects.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have a
20 question for Dave.

21

22

23 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

26

27 MR. ALOYSIUS: I didn't know that Mike
28 Coffing was back in the country.

29

30 MR. ORABUTT: Who?

31

32 MR. ALOYSIUS: That picture you showed,
33 that's Mike Coffing. He's the predecessor to our Tracy.

34

35 MR. ORABUTT: Oh, there he is.

36

37 MS. HOFFMAN: That's Mike.

38

39 MR. ORABUTT: I always wondered who that
40 was, I thought he was one of our guys.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from
45 Council. Beverly.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: Just another comment saying
48 that it's just great to see the hard work that's being
49 done by all the partners. An excellent presentation.

50

1 MR. ORABUTT: Thank you.

2

3 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

6

7 MR. ALOYSIUS: I cannot be quiet about
8 what's going on up river, even I'm at the last village of
9 the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council,
10 whatever happens down here really has an effect up river.
11 And happens up river has an effect down here. And it's
12 really important that we never forget that. So if we all
13 work together in partnership for the good of all the fish
14 that have been our mainstay for generations and
15 generations and generations.

16

17 And I really appreciate people like all
18 these guys that are involved in this partnership program,
19 they're really opening the eyes of the people and say,
20 hey, it's not the (In Native) against us, we're all
21 together, we have a common interest, and that's to make
22 sure that our fish come back here year after year after
23 year. And some of the things I have found and a lot of
24 the agency people have found is what our own people have
25 been telling us for years, especially the whitefish in
26 the Whitefish Lake, the Whitefish Lake fish travel to the
27 ocean and back and go way the heck up river in the
28 headwaters of the Kuskokwim River to spawn and they go
29 back out to Whitefish Lake and later on and do whatever
30 they do. And it's amazing to see that, you know, that
31 those little radiotags that you guys put on those
32 whitefish are verifying the fact that, you know, our
33 people are not -- you know they are scientist and even
34 though they don't have it on paper, you guys are proving
35 the fact that what they were saying is true. And it's
36 really amazing.

37

38 And the other thing is it's really
39 amazing to me to find the age of those whitefish that
40 come of out Whitefish Lake. Some of the data that was
41 given to us, you know, some of those humpbacks live 28,
42 30 years, well this was three and four years ago, and
43 some of those big broads live that long and they have,
44 you know, they come back and they come back and they come
45 back. They're not a one time fish, they live here, just
46 like us, and it's good to see all these things proven on
47 paper with the help of these guys who are finally opening
48 up their eyes and their minds and hearts and spirits and
49 saying, hey, these people must have something otherwise
50 they wouldn't just tell us these things, you know, they

1 must know something. And I really liked that wording of
2 the indigenous ecological knowledge, not only ecological
3 but indigenous natural knowledge, and if you look at
4 nature, that covers every spectrum of creation and our
5 people know about it.

6

7 And I thank you guys for getting us more
8 and more involved with you guys to show the rest of the
9 world, hey, these guys are helping us to prove that we
10 know what we're talking about.

11

12 Qu yana.

13

14 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beverly.

17

18 MS. HOFFMAN: Speaking for those female
19 whitefish in Whitefish Lake, I don't think they like to
20 be called big broads.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

25

26 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chair. Council.
27 That concludes the Partners Presentation. I did want to
28 acknowledge two members of audience. We've got our
29 Partners biologist from Tanana Chiefs, Brandy Berkgigler
30 sitting in the front, and we also have Steve Miller who's
31 with the Kenai Fisheries Office, he's our newest resource
32 monitor helping to facilitate some of the resource
33 monitoring projects on the Kuskokwim, he works with the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He's standing in the
35 back.

36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

40

41 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah, before you guys took
42 off there, I wanted to offer a bit of comments and maybe
43 a question as well. I mean this is about the third time
44 in 10 days that I've seen this presentation.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: But I'm just as impressed
49 every time. And like at the working group meeting and I
50 didn't say it then but I'll say it now, I'm jealous of

1 what you guys are doing up there. And I would look and
2 hope that we could expand some of the projects to, you
3 know, Bob said, we're talking about the whole river and
4 it leads also into what Edgar mentioned and I was
5 wondering about your responses, Cliff, when you said what
6 the Partners Program can or cannot do as far as possible
7 impacts from the mine and looking into things of that
8 nature.

9
10 There's a lot of huge data void in so
11 many places that perhaps the Partners Program or, you
12 know, OSM and FRMP could look into. I mean we came up
13 with a list of a dozen questions just right off the bat
14 that we're looking at that are, you know, major, major
15 issues with the increased barge traffic and we need to
16 get that data up front or have that provided before we
17 can have any kind of assurance that this project can go
18 forward in a sound manner that's going to protect our
19 resources into the future, you know, with the barge
20 traffic going up two to three barges a day where we have
21 one every two to three weeks at present and what that's
22 going to do to the water table and the reliability that
23 the out-migrating smolt have and the temperatures and the
24 different levels of the water tables and things of that
25 nature. That's what I would really like to see it and I
26 hope that we can expand through AVCPs program or however,
27 or whatever the Partners Program can do along those
28 lines. There's a lot that can be done there.

29
30 It a little bit concerned me there when
31 Edgar asked his question about what are we doing and you
32 laid out a list of what you can't do and that always
33 makes me sit up when somebody says, what are you doing
34 and somebody says, well, we can't do this. And we're
35 looking for what we can do, if we can't do that, how can
36 we get it done.

37
38 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Mr. Chair. Greg. I'm
39 glad you brought that up. I didn't want to leave you
40 with a bad taste. The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Project has some pretty solid sideboards to it but the
42 Partners Program isn't just restricted to our funding
43 source, that certainly can look outside for other funding
44 sources like the AYKSSI and other monies that are
45 available to address some of these issues.

46
47 So there certainly are ways to address
48 the concerns but I was just trying to suggest, or at
49 least bring to your attention some of the sideboards that
50 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program operates under.

1 MR. ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bob.

4

5 MR. ALOYSIUS: It just hit me that there
6 might be another funding source that you can tap into,
7 the Coal Mining Company or whatever their big name is, I
8 mean they're all talk about, hey, we're here to help you,
9 we want to show you that it's safe to do this mining, and
10 we want to show you this and show you that, let them put
11 their money where their mouth is. Get after them to fund
12 some of your monitoring programs.

13

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, we're going to
16 have a break to 9:00 o'clock in the morning. We're going
17 to start off on subsistence wildlife issues, and we got
18 a couple more here from the audience, we'll take these at
19 the same time because they're concerning about
20 subsistence wildlife issues.

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay, good, good job.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Goodnight.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 175 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL I, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 5th day of October 2006, in Bethel, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of October 2006.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08