YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Marshall, Alaska
September 6, 2007
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Aloysius, Acting Chair
William Brown
James Charles
Mary Gregory
Edgar Hoelscher
Joseph Mike
Phillip Moses
Raymond Oney
Greg Roczicka
Harry Wilde

Acting Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

Louie Andrew, Yup'ik Translator
Andrew Kelly, Yup'ik Translator

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
700 W. 2nd Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668
jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Marshall, Alaska - 9/6/2007)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Good morning, again, welcome to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Come to order.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. This morning I just handed out additional public comments we received, one we received today and others were received last week and the one we received today was from the Mayor of Marshall commenting on Proposal 13/14. And comments -- written comments are from the Emmonak Tribal Council, and Native Village of Alakanuk, and comments from the Association of Village Council Presidents and the Outdoor Council, which I handed out, Mr. Chair.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: That really wakes people up. Good morning, we'll reconvene, today is what, September 6th, at our RAC Council meeting in Marshall.

Yesterday we left off with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments on Proposal 13/14, wasn't it?

MR. ROCZICKA: Sure.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Was it 13/14 we were talking about yesterday?

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, we'll continue on with the presentation procedures for the proposal. Next is Federal, State and tribal agencies. We didn't have any Federal or State people, so we have -- maybe you can turn the volume down a little bit, is that too loud, testing, one, two, three, four, five -- okay, AVCP.

MR. ANDREW: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Council. For the record my name is Timothy Andrew, I'm the director of Natural Resources for AVCP. And with me today is Jennifer Hooper, who is the fisheries person for the Natural Resources Department.

We are here today to testify in opposition of both fishery proposals 13 and 14, I don't know if you're going to take them both at the same time or if you're going to do them separately -- you're going to do them both at the same time, great.

But I would like to say on behalf of AVCP, is that, we oppose the proposal, this has been proposed to us -- or proposed to the Federal Subsistence Management System and the State Management System for a number of years now. And over the years it is definitely starting to wear on us, it's definitely making our chains pretty short and developing anger within the organization that these proposals keep coming at us quite persistently every year.

One of the things I'd like to say about the OSM's report is, if you look on Page 13, taking a look at the data that is presented there, you can see up to 1982 or so, the seven and eight year olds, they were present in the data and then all of a sudden in 1983 that dropped significantly. And, you know, that is something that is being presented as a possibility that there is a change in the seven and eight year old presence in the -- in the escapement project.

To us it's extremely dramatic. It's an extremely dramatic drop that is probably, you know, although I'm not a fisheries expert, it's probably not because of gear selectivity, there's probably other factors as the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the OSM person also presented as well, you know, more than likely it's possibly the ocean conditions, the environmental situation that we're facing right now with potential climate change that is occurring. There could be many, many other factors.

And some of the people that are extremely well versed in the area of fisheries that we've heard of at the fish size meetings that YRDFA had sponsored over this past 2006/2007 winter, Dr. Jack Helle and his report is shown to you on -- if I can

remember the page here -- but in any case Dr. Jack Helle had indicated that the salmon sizes are declining everywhere, all along the Pacific Northwest. And the Yukon River is not alone, it's happening on the Kuskokwim River, it's happening in the Nushagak, it's happening all across the major systems that the chinook salmon spawn at. And, you know, the phenomena that happened this year with the chinook salmon on the western coast of Alaska, it happened in the Naknek River system where they have larger returns of salmon and, you know, the Yukon River is not -- probably not the same as Naknek but, you know, like situations occurred in that small river system where they didn't see the return that they had expected.

Helle is on Page 26, by the way, or the Helle report.

And the other thing I'd like to point out is on Page 12 of the report, Dr. Jeff Hard, who studies the Northwest fisheries quite a bit, had indicated at one of the meetings that it's a dangerous proposition to blame the reduction in fish sizes due to large mesh gear, you know, and he was pointing out that there were other things that could possibly cause the reduction in -- in our salmon sizes. And that includes everything that Dr. Jack Helle had indicated and also further strengthened by Dr. Jeff Hard.

There's also quite a bit of variability in these data that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had reported from 1916 up until the state of Alaska had started managing the river and then there's quite a bit of variability in the data that the State generates as well, primarily because just the way the people fish out here in the Yukon River during those times. Some of the data presented indicates, you know, that there's restricted periods, there's also unrestricted periods. Whenever there's an unrestricted opening where commercial fishermen are allowed to fish above six inch if the commercial fishermen does not get the -- get the salmon that he wants with large mesh gear during that unrestricted opening that -- I mean there's several fishermen that could possibly fish with small mesh gear when the prices were -- when the prices were -- were -- when the processes were paying the higher price for both chum and the -- and the chinook.

And, you know, that could possibly affect the average size of the salmon especially in the

1980s when we had -- when we had a high return of chinook salmon and chum salmon as well. You know, my dad, other people, other commercial fishermen along the Yukon River, if there's no chinook salmon out there during the unrestricted openings they'd go out with six inch gear and as you can see on the report from the Department, that the -- the salmon during a restricted opening is -- or the chinook salmon during a restricted opening is pretty small, 13 pound average or so, somewhere in that range and then during an unrestricted opening it -- it goes up to 20 pound plus. And, you know, there's quite a bit of variability if you take a look at the data and, you know, talk to fishermen, you know, the reliability of data -- you know the reliability of the data is probably well represented but you've got to understand that due to the nature of the commercial fishermen, if there's no salmon out there -- I mean no chinook out there they'd go out after -- they'd go out after chums at those -- at that point and it affects escapement, it affects -- it affects the escapement data, it affects how the data is presented, how the data is reported to -- to formulate these positions.

And the other thing that AVCP is really interested in is what are the impacts to the customary trade in the Interior as the Federal subsistence fishery is occurring in the Interior, we don't know what they harvest. We don't -- I haven't seen any hard data indicating how much they actually harvest and how much that harvest is having an impact on the quality of escapement and how much it's having on the -- how much impact it's possibly having on the genetic integrity of the fish that are escaping the lower Yukon subsistence commercial fishery. And we would like to see what those numbers are.

If there's any way possible that we can get some money directed towards studies, you know, as far as the customary trade, how it affects -- how it affects those situations that I had brought up.

The other thing is whenever we have a gear reduction or mesh restriction on the lower Yukon fishery it creates a pretty significant hardship on both the subsistence and commercial fishermen primarily because people hear the commercial fishermen -- or also the subsistence fishermen as well, they utilize the same gear, utilize the same boat, utilize the same people to go out and harvest salmon for their famil --

to feed their families over the winter.

And like I had indicated yesterday that when people go out and fish, they go out and get enough to feed their family for the winter and there is very little, if any, customary trade that goes on as far as Yukon -- Yukon chinook salmon. So it's primarily subsistence, there's a legitimate commercial fishery that occurs. And, you know, it's pretty well -- pretty well confined to those -- to those practices.

I'll be testifying later if -- if the Chairman permits, I'll do my personal testimony and at that time I'll probably elaborate a little bit more as far as my personal experiences with this fishery and how it relates to these two proposals.

But AVCP is in opposition to this because it affects our villages from Russian Mission on down -- or excuse me from Holy Cross on down to the mouth of the Yukon River and down into the communities of Scammon, Hooper Bay and Chevak because those -- those villages really are affected by -- by the commercial fishery, that drives their economy, that drives their subsistence activities, it basically drives everything that the community does and we stand in opposition of these two proposals.

And I'll have Jennifer present on -- on what's happening with the high seas interception issue and also to further elaborate more on the AVCP's written comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Is the high seas related to this proposal here?

MS. HOOPER: Yes.

MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MS. HOOPER: Good morning. for the record my name's Jennifer Hooper, I work for AVCP. And AVCP did submit formal written comments to Chairman Fleagle and the Federal Board, and I believe you have a copy of that. If not, the full copy, a synopsis is included in the summary of the proposal analysis.

And, basically in a nutshell today the

Alaska Department of Fish and Game and subsistence fisheries are not what they used to be. Everyone's on fairly strict schedules, windows, closures for subsistence. The commercial fishery is a fraction of what it was. And I'm sure as you're all well aware in February the State Board of Fish did not approve similar proposals that were before them.

We took it to partly mean that there has not been enough time to see the effects of the windows and those open periods where fish will be passing through the lower portion of the river. That would -- you know, you need generations to see how -- see the benefits of those handicaps to the -- to the local fisheries.

And basically AVCP stands firm that the fishermen on the lower river have carried the brunt of -- the burden of conservation over the years, and that any more disruptions or changes to the fishermen on the lower river will have, to put it basically, negative impacts on the economy, the culture and social aspects of the people.

So this is AVCP's comments, just briefly summarized.

And I did want to raise, make everyone aware, if you're not aware yet, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council regulates the high seas trawl fisheries and salmon bycatch has been an issue that has become fairly elevated the last five years or so. It's always been an issue but it's become more of a concern because the numbers that the trawl fisheries, namely the pollock fisheries, the numbers of chinook and non-chinook, which is mostly chum are becoming just astronomical, it's getting -- they used to average 20, 30-thousandish, the last three years -- right now they're at -- they're at just over 71,000 chinook and they have the rest of the year. Where they do catch a fair number of chinook as bycatch, people are estimating that they will hit the 100,000 mark for 2007. And so the North Pacific Council formed a chinook -- or a salmon bycatch work group where they have two members of the Council and three members from Western Alaska groups and three from industry try to come up with options for developing caps on the number of chinook that the trawl fishery would be allowed to harvest. And it's -- we've been meeting since March, April, and just last week had our third meeting. It's

a long process but it's something that is obviously -- you can't -- there's no way around it, this fishery and the bycatch that they take affects Western Alaska chinook returns.

And just a really interesting point, for 2007, the State Fish and Game managers there gave a report that between the Nushagak, the Kuskokwim and the Yukon, in 2007, these three systems were missing 260,000 to 270,000 chinook based on their preseason forecasts. So the Nushagak has missed 90 to 100,000 chinook, the Kuskokwim is missing 100,000 and the Yukon is missing roughly 70,000. So I guess this information is just to highlight that this is not a simple issue and I think everyone needs to be very careful, including the Federal Board when they take these proposals up in December that it's not as simple as, you know, telling a fisherman you need a shorter net or you need smaller holes in your net, there's a lot of factors that are affecting the chinook returns and we just are hoping everyone is very careful in making sure they have full comprehension and have all of the information available.

So this -- just wanted to highlight what is going on right now with the trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea.

And then one -- one -- also, sorry, one other point, I'm not sure if everyone's aware, there was a -- I guess an analysis, a study done by a pretty well -- I guess well known and well respected researcher at the University of Washington, Kate Myers, she did a project for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, and her analysis was that, of the high seas bycatch, 56 percent of those chinook that are caught as bycatch are from Western Alaska, and of that 56 percent, I believe 40 percent are destined to the Yukon, and I believe 26 percent are destined for the Kuskokwim. I have the numbers in my folder, if they're not right I can provide the correct percentages. But -- so there is, you know, support to -- it's not just a causal comment that the high seas trawl fisheries, you know, catch our chinook, there's, you know, numbers and there's data to support that.

So, doi.

MR. ANDREW: And, Mr. Chairman, if I may add.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Yes.

MR. ANDREW: The 40 percent component that comes to the Yukon River of the high seas interception, we don't know and I don't know if the scientific community really knows exactly what age class that possibly may impact.

You know the proposals that are generated by Eastern Interior and others indicate that they are concerned about the seven and eight year old class, we don't know how much of an impact the high seas interception has on the seven and eight year olds. As you can, you know, possibly think about it, the seven and eight year olds stay exactly about that time in the ocean, so they stay in the ocean longer, they're more susceptible to being intercepted in the ocean by the trawl fishery out there. And so that's -- that's why the high seas interception numbers are very important to the quality of escapement. Because, you know, that's the factor that we don't know.

So I just thought I'd make that connection, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Anybody, questions, comments to the presenters there.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the presentation Jennifer, and it's always good to hear it again even though I've -- refresh your memory on it, but it did jog me and if you don't know the answer I can look for it later in the department or actually -- but in the genetic studies that are taking place in this -- since size is one of the major issues being brought forward in this proposal, you know, the size at age and so forth, is anything being done in the genetics or have they even reached a level of sophistication yet where genetic differentiation can be identified for different age classes, you know, even if you're talking about the high seas and if they catch a three or four year old fish out there, is there anything to indicate on whether it's actually a seven or eight year old that would be returning if it wasn't intercepted; is any genetic work being done along those lines or is that a possibility, and if -- if not, maybe

that's something to suggest, if they could -- at your next meeting, with this group, through NMPF, ask if they can work that into their study plans, research plans in the future.

MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chairman. I'm not real savvy on just recalling from memory and how you determine age class but I know the National Marine Fisheries Service in their basis study, in the Bering Sea, Dick Wilmont, down in Juneau, has been doing a lot of research on analyzing the bycatch and kind of what it means and there's also the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program, WASSIP, that the Department, I guess, has been charged with trying to get going and I know there's a lot of samples from all over the place, they're ready to be analyzed, they just need the funding. And I haven't heard -- there was a proposal by WASSIP to the AYKSSI group for funding, I believe, their chinook component and that won't be decided until, I believe later this month. And then there was hopes that from the State's pot of funds that they would be allocated 1.4 or five million, I haven't -- know where that has gone, but I know that's a big hope of everybody's, is the genetics, to, you know, finally answer, you know, all these questions we have that -- you know, finitely.

MR. ROCZICKA: Right. And I realize, I mean we should be happy with we're at least getting stream of origin on it which is miles away from drainage of origin, if you will, it's still a great asset to finding out the impact to those fisheries. But if it could be worked into future plans, it's something to bring up as a suggestion for your meeting if you could see if that could be something to look at.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else from the Council.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: Tim, do they have -- do they do ASL sampling on chinook in Yukon like they do in Kuskokwim.

MR. ANDREW: There are ASL samplings that occur on various projects on the Yukon River. They do them down at the lower Yukon test fishery,

there's some being done at Pilot Station, I believe. And there's definitely ASL data that's being generated out of the Marshall test fishery, and the various projects -- escapement projects further on up the river up in -- up where the salmon -- the chinook salmon spawn.

And the Department probably -- the Department of Fish and Game would probably have more information on the ASL data.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Age, as you know, the older we get we slow down. Are the -- you know those drainages, such as the Koyukuk and the Gisasa, are the older fish, you know, stopping right around there or just going as far as they can go, like in the Kuskokwim?

MR. HOOPER: I wouldn't -- don't have the answer to that. I'd have to ask the Department for their idea. I know on the Yukon as far as fish entering the river they -- it's pretty well known that the fish that are traveling the farthest come in earlier, but I don't -- I can't recall age comp based on.....

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there was a radiotelemetry project that was going on for a number of years, do you know if any of that has been detected out in the high seas?

MS. HOOPER: The radiotelemetry project they had first started at Marshall and then Russian Mission, that was, as far as I recall, was just an in-river tagging to see where they went to from Russian Mission on up.

They do.....

REPORTER: Hold on, hold on a second.

(Power outage)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: We're dead

again.

(Power outage)

(Laughter)

MS. HOOPER: Up in Whitehorse they have a damn and they have a hatchery and I know they used to tag with just a simple spaghetti tag, fish that they released at the hatchery and they found a few of those over the years in the Bering Sea at different points. I can't, off the top of my head think of other tagging projects.

But I'd defer to the Department for their memory.

MR. ONEY: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else from the Council.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I got a couple questions. Who are the members on the bycatch committee?

MS. HOOPER: Mr. Chairman. There's myself, Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs Conference and Becca Robbins Gisclair from Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. And the work group is co-chaired by Eric Olson of the North Pacific Council. And Stephanie Mattson (ph) used to be on the Council but they've retained her for purposes of the working group. And then there's three industry representatives, John Groover, Carl Haflinger and they work for -- I guess a group not directly related to fishing but they take all the data from the fishermen and do different analysis and help to operate the -- or run a -- they have a voluntary program -- there's a lot of -- I -- if you're interested I can tell you more about who they work for. But anyways there's John Groover, Carl Haflinger and Paul Payton who works for Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Are there any fishermen on the committee, I mean working people who are affected by this bycatch?

MS. HOOPER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess not directly but the three representatives are supposed to represent local fishermen, like I'm there representing AVCP and the villages in our region.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: And another question is it's my understanding that pretty much everybody else understands it, pollock are a bottom fish, right, pollock, they're bottom fish, they live on the ocean floor, and that's why they call it a bottom fishery, right.

MR. HOELSCHER: Groundfish.

MR. ROCZICKA: Groundfish.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I mean, you know, they live on the bottom of the Bering Sea, and my question is does anybody know what level the salmon live in, you know, do they live close to the bottom, halfway to the top, or on the top or during their life span in the ocean; anybody have any answers for that? Because a lot of people are wondering why are so many salmon being caught if that pollock is just a bottom fishery or.....

MS. HOOPER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can take a stab at that. I don't have near enough detail as I'm sure you're looking for.

But -- and I can't recall specifically I think it depends where they're fishing. Because in the Bering Sea there's different places that they call hot spots as far as the ratio of pollock to, say, chinook, where they, you know, tend to catch more chinook bycatch and it depends -- there's -- their fishery, they have two seasons. They have an A season and a B season. And the A season is from January 20th through March 15th, I believe. Anyways it's, you know, winter, springtime-ish. And then they have a B season which is June-ish, through the end of the year. And the A season, earlier in January, they're really guarding that time, they have a roe fishery and I guess that's where they get a lot of their, you know, profit from, that that fishery is more profitable.

And I guess in a nutshell I'd have to go back and look at my papers, but from what I recall it depends on where you fish and what time of the year you fish.

And the gear they use kind of sweeps through -- you said at groundfish, that's their fishery and so they, you know, catch whatever's in that sweep, but for more detail I'd have to either have someone here give more information or go back or go back and look through my papers and I can provide you with that.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else, questions, comments for the AVCP reps.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Hearing none we'll go on to InterAgency Staff Committee.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's nobody here. Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee comments.

Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record my name is Ray Oney. I'll just go ahead and read off the comments that was written.

The Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes both proposals. The Eastern Interior Regional Council should apply these restrictions to their region prior to requesting that they be applied to other regions.

Districts Y1, Y2 and Y3 only have commercial fishing for their economic base.

These proposals will increase the animosity between up river and down river users.

There needs to be a better understanding of the uses of the resources.

And the vote was opposed with a vote of zero support and seven opposed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions for Ray.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

MR. ONEY: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any other Advisory Committees.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Hearing none. Summary of written public comments.

MR. D. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We received several comments, we received them just in the last few days. One was from Raymond Alstrom, Mayor of Marhsall. And they -- a letter from Mr. Johnny Thompson of St. Mary's. And Mr. Thompson and Mr. Alstrom requested that their statements be read into the record. So when the public testimony portion comes on the agenda I will read those into the record, Mr. Chair.

The Association of Village Council Presidents opposes the proposal as they've presented their comments to the Council.

The Native Village of Alakanuk Traditional Council opposes the proposal. Because areas of fishing across the Yukon River drainage are not the same. Passage of this proposal will cause even greater hardships for fishers that rely on commercial fishing to sustain their subsistence livelihood.

The Traditional Council also opposes FP08-14 because there is no hard data to support a smaller net size. Their elders mentioned that by using smaller mesh gear for harvesting chinook will be hazardous. It will kill bigger chinook salmon that are trying to save -- or let pass up the river to spawn. More damage will be done with reducing the mesh size for harvesting chinook salmon.

The Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes the proposal. Mr. Ray Oney presented their comments.

Mr. Jack Schultheis of Wasilla opposes the proposal. The proposal will have a profound effect

on the lives of people living on the Yukon River. These proposals are designed to place further restrictions on traditional, long established commercial fisheries that thousands of Native families depend on for their livelihood and food. These proposals are similar to previous proposals rejected by the Alaska Board of Fisheries based on current scientific data and overwhelming public testimony against them.

There is concern with how these proposals were developed and allowed on the Federal Subsistence Board's agenda. False statements were given when the Eastern Interior Regional Council approved these proposals and there was a question of procedures involved with the development of proposals.

And the other comment is from the Alaska Outdoor Council on Proposal 13/14. The Alaska Outdoor Council supports Proposal 14 to adopt.

The rationale, the Yukon chinook salmon have had lower return numbers and have been declining in size for the last decade. Enough data and anecdotal information has been gathered to support the Board's action on the conservative side of this long-growing debate. Section .815 of ANILCA clearly states a mandate in Federally-controlled waters for healthy populations of subsistence resources. Whether or not genetic viability of a species is being threatened by harvest of one size group of chinook salmon need not be decided by the Board at this time, but declining returns should be addressed from subsistence harvest to conditions in the spawning beds throughout the Yukon River drainage.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the written summary of public comments.

And Mr. Johnny Thompson requested that his letter be read into the record to the Council as well as when the Board meets later on this winter. And also Mr. Raymond Alstrom, Mayor of the city of Marshall provided his written comment that he would like to have be read into the record also, Mr. Chair.

Should I proceed?

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Johnny Thompson of St. Mary's letter dated August 31, 2007, addressed to the Federal Subsistence Board and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council. And it's from Mr. John Thompson, Sr. And you all -- the Council members have a copy on their -- I passed out a copy this morning.

The information contained in this letter does not have any demands but rather are the thoughts I have been thinking about.

I have been thinking about the oil pipeline and how it compares to the Yukon River. They both carry a very valuable resource.

The pipeline starts in Prudhoe Bay and ends in Valdez. It carries a valuable resource and is maintained. If there area any holes which develop in the pipeline they have to be fixed to ensure that the resource flows safely from one end to the other. If the holes are not fixed or the pipeline is not maintained then the resource cannot continue to flow from one end to the other. If we drilled a quarter inch hole in the pipeline at Prudhoe Bay, a half inch hole further down the pipeline, a three-quarter inch hole even further down the pipeline, and a one inch hole just before the pipeline reached Valdez we would be ruining the land and we would lose a lot of the valuable resource from the pipeline.

The Yukon River is similar to the pipeline. The resource of the fish instead of oil travels up the river instead of down the pipeline. Our Yukon River resource of fish starts in False Pass and ends in Canada. False Pass has one window and then the rest of the fish resource goes up river to Canada until we reach the agreed upon escapement between the U.S. and Canada before commercial fishing can begin.

Today we have four subsistence proposals which I believe are just sitting on the shelf. They are that Y1, Y2 and Y3 have 36 hours of fishing, then further up the river the proposals allow for 42 hours, and even further up 48 hours and the Koyukuk River allows for fishing seven days a week as a grandfather's rights.

I think there should be one proposal for the entire Yukon River and that we should all follow the proposal except for the Koyukuk River as that is their grandfather's rights. We should use the proposals that are currently on the shelf for all of the Yukon River one year at a time. For example the first year everyone on the entire Yukon River should have 36 hours subsistence fishing openings. The next year we should have all 42 hour openings. The next year we should have all -- all have 48 hour openings. If we can all agree to a moratorium on the number of hours for the openings like the down river moose hunt where we follow these subsistence hours up and down the entire Yukon River I think it will work and we'll have plenty of fish.

It makes me wonder sometimes when we have different proposals for the different parts of the Yukon River if we are trying to maintain the people or maintain the fish. If we are maintaining the fish we should use only one proposal for the whole Yukon and that is what I would like to see. The people on the Yukon River made the proposals which are sitting on the shelf and we should use what the people made.

I am 84 years old and I have been living on the Yukon River all my life. I have been thinking about a way to help the people on the Yukon and help our fiver for a long time. I worked for the State Fish and Game studying

fish on the Yukon River from the mouth to Fort Yukon counting the subsistence fish harvest for three seasons and studied fish for the Department six more seasons from the mouth to Holy Cross during the late '60s.

I am very concerned because a lot of things have changed. I have heard some rumors that some people may try to attack the net size and net depth. Instead of attacking net size, mesh or depth we should be using one proposal for number of hours to fish on the entire Yukon River The next sizes and depths we have are the only nets we have in this area. We have been very quiet for many years because we have been respecting what our elders taught us about not fighting over the fish. If people are going to start attacking the mesh size and the depth of the debts, then let's all go back to the old way and get rid of all the fishwheels and use only nets and everyone use the same net size and depth. Before the Western influence everyone on the Yukon only used nets made of sinew, barks and grasses.

I encourage all of you to gather information and think over the things that are discussed at this meeting and listen to the people and their concerns. They may be helpful. Let us all work together.

And it's signed by Mr. John Thompson.

And another public statement from Mr. Raymond Alstrom, Mayor of the city of Marshall. It's addressed to Mr. Chairman and Council members regarding Proposal 13/14 in opposition.

For the record, my name is Raymond Alstrom. I serve as the Mayor for the municipality of Marshall, Alaska. I will not be able to testify in person because of other meeting commitments so please accept my written opposition of

FP08-13/14.

Wade Hampton census area has one of the lowest income per capita in the state of Alaska. Any changes to the current regulations as proposed by the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council will have a devastating impact financially and socially in this region. Subsistence activities rely heavily on the outcomes of commercial fishing. We have sacrificed downsizing from 60 meshes deep to 45 meshes deep, shorter hours and less fishing periods. Geographical, fishing areas in this area are different from that of the Interior Region. The three year study of mesh size catch has just completed its first year so it is premature for the Eastern Interior to propose a gillnet size of 7.5 inch mesh until the three year study is complete and the results reviewed by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Furthermore, I agree with the fully support the written public comments in opposition to FP-08-13/14 included in the FP08-13/14 executive summary.

Thank you for giving me this brief moment in time to oppose FP08-13/14 on behalf of the city of Marshall.

Signed Raymond Alstrom.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Don. Any other written comments.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No. At this time we'll have the public testimony. And Mr. Tim Andrew wants to take off his AVCP cap and put on his Tim Andrew cap.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am taking off my AVCP hat and putting on my commercial fisherman also Chairman of the Board for the local village corporation this morning.

Since I didn't get the opportunity to indicate during the introductions, welcome to Marshall on behalf of the community. We are glad that you have chosen our community to meet about these various issues that we face today. All the issues that you've talked about will impact us in more ways that one and hope that you have enjoyed your visit to our community and hope that you slept well, been fed well, been taken care of well and look forward to hosting another meeting in our community at some point in the future.

But I would like to testify on Proposals No. 13 and 14.

I've been -- I lived in this community from the time that I was born up until 1990 and throughout those years I started commercial fishing since I was 11 years old. My dad put me and my older brother into our own boat, in a 16 foot wooden boat powered by an 18 horsepower outboard motor then. And at that time we used to fish out of District Y3, which used to be from here across to the slough that you can see on the other side of the river, on up the river, but we used to have a fish camp about three miles up the river where we shared it with a number of people there in that area.

And at that time we used to have -- we used to have six day openings. It would open on Sunday evening and it would close on Saturday evening, so it would be six day opening that we would have in District Y3.

And later on throughout the years the district boundary was changed, the Y3 border moved up towards Dusuk (ph), and we were restricted down to two 48 hour openings per week and then later on we were restricted down to two 36 hour openings per week and then later on two 24 openings, two 12 hour openings and now we're down to a maximum of two six hour openings per week. So our commercial fishery has gone from a six day opening down to two six hour openings in a week. And during the commercial openings we used to have a 24 hour waiting period before the opening would occur, like for example, if they announced a 12:00 o'clock opening on such on -- or a 6:00 p.m. opening on

a day the subsistence fishery would be closed 24 hours prior to the opening and it would be closed 24 hours after the close of the opening.

But now that I don't live here in the community, I don't really know what the windows are like for the commercial openings but it's been reduced down to, I believe six hours in some instances and 18 hours and 12 hours -- it all depends on the fishery manager, how they feel that a subsistence fishery wouldn't impact a commercial fishery.

But throughout those years our commercial fishing time has reduced significantly and it's no longer spread out during, you know, the six -- six day openings, it's significantly reduced.

So our opportunity to impact a fishery as indicated in Proposal No. 13 and 14 is reduced quite a bit.

And also our subsistence fishery that we have down here is also the most restrictive of the entire Yukon River water system. We have a, I believe, it was a 36 hour opening that we had during the windowed fishing system. And District Y4, I believe it is, further up the river, they have a more liberal subsistence fishery and it hasn't changed for quite some time so their subsistence fishery is basically the same. They're able to go out and subsistence fish the same way that they have practiced for generations. But our subsistence fishery down here on the lower part of the river is the most restrictive on the -- on the Yukon River system. So we bear the brunt of the -- or the burden of conservation for -- to make sure that we have salmon go up the river to the spawning systems to make sure that we have subs -- enough salmon for the subsistence fishermen further up the river as well. And that -- the window system that we have in place, the commercial fishing opportunity that we have in place, the limited commercial fishing time that we have definitely should allow for quality of escapement to occur. And if the quality of escapement does not -- does not improve that indicates that our commercial and subsistence fishery is not to blame for the quality of escapement, there is something else that is happening. We don't know if it's because of the fishery that occurs further up the river or is it because of the ocean conditions or the high seas interception, we don't know.

But, you know, our fishery is very much limited now and we take a relatively smaller portion of the run than we normally -- than we normally did and we're given a smaller opportunity to participate in that fishery.

So if anything, I believe that the lower Yukon fishery has probably contributed more to the improvement of the quality of escapement than anything.

And now to put on my village corporation hat.

We have three over -- over 380 people who live in this community now. We have 42 or so commercial fishermen that are issued limited entry permits that participate in the fishery in close proximity to the community, much of those people sell their catch to the local processor. We're the last processor in the lower Yukon district as you go up the river. There are three more that do business further down the river, so we're the last opportunity for people to sell their fish from Holy Cross, Russian Mission down to Marshall down to Pilot Station, some people from Pilot Station sell our [sic] fish to us but that's probably our furthest extent of the communities that we impact as a -- as a processor.

We employ up to about 20 people here int he community. We pay a half a million dollars in -- or excuse me, a quarter of a million dollars in salaries that we pay to the people. We pay anywhere between a quarter million to -- to a million dollars given a good year to the local commercial fishermen in fishermen's pay so we're -- we are more than likely a major contributor to the local economy than any other possible industry that we have.

Sure, we have seasonal jobs. Like for example, firefighting, we also have some construction projects that have occurred in the community that contributed to the local economy but over the years that I became aware that we are one of the major contributors, more consistent contributors to the local economy than anything else. So the commercial fishery is extremely important to us and the subsistence fishery is also equally important to our shareholders as well.

We have gone from 60 meshes deep on our commercial fishery down to 45 meshes deep so we've contributed that as well, our fishermen have done that as well.

And throughout the years that I've been involved in the operation of our local fish plant, the bigger fish that we catch in our commercial fishery generates the highest price that we can get from the chinook salmon. The smaller fish normally sells for a cheaper price. Like for example the jacks, we are -- we are having a hard time selling the jacks at this point. And the markets, what used to be the Japanese market, used to favor the larger fish, anything 20 pounds about, bright silver, number 1 salmon sell for a much higher price than what we get from the jacks. In order to sell the jacks we would have to include the -- include them into the bright No. 1 packs in order to get -- get our return for the smaller fish. So if we were reduced down to six -- or 7.5 inch gear and up to 35 meshes deep it would severely impact how people are able to make their money and also for our village corporation's fish processing plant to make any money.

So it would basically shut down our local commercial fishery.

And, you know, it would just create economic havoc in the community and, you know, people have -- people have grown to depend on the commercial fishery year after year after year. In the -- in 1999 when we didn't have a commercial fishery, I mean it was down to basically nothing, this community basically shut down. And the stores felt it, the -- the people weren't able to pay their light bills, they weren't able to pay their water bills. And -- and you know how it is, it's just -- it just has a big impact on our community.

And these proposals that are submitted by Eastern Interior have the potential of shutting down our community and we just are afraid of something like that to happen. We'd probably have to take our corporation and make our money elsewhere because we wouldn't have anything here in the community to generate the necessary dollars to make money.

That basically concludes my other hat testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Doi.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Tim. Any questions, comments from the Council.

MR. ROCZICKA: I got one.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Chairman. Not a question, just a comment, though, in your opening statement to welcome us here I want to assure you I've been well fed, had a very comfortable bed and I appreciate my host family a great deal.

But before I forgot it I wanted to also mention when me and Phillip Moses were coming in, it was the last plane, the hospitality of having between 70 and 100 geese out there to make gooseburgers out of from the airplane that were sitting in the middle of the runway, it was quite an impression.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I want to thank the AVCP representatives for giving us a good report and you've done your research and that's very good to know.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Sorry, for the interruption, I didn't hear what was going on between Mary and Tim, fill me in.

MR. ANDREW: Mary just expressed her appreciation.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else. Any comments, questions for Tim.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I, too, thank the community of Marshall, since you're the only rep

here it seems like, and I really am well fed, well bed and well entertained last night. I don't know how many of you guys missed out, man you should have been here.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tim, do you know if any of the commercial fishermen in this area have been test fishing with the 7.5 inch gear?

MR. ANDREW: I'm not aware of anybody utilizing 7.5 inch gear in the community. Most of the commercial fishermen we've sold nets to are -- they request anywhere between 8.5 to a maximum of 9 inch gear. And, you know, like I said in the previous testimony the local fishermen use the same gear that they do commercial for subsistence fishery and to change from a 7.5 inch -- or to change from 8.5 down to 7.5 inch it would cost a person anywhere from 12 to 1,800 bucks, maybe 2,000 bucks given the cost of transportation now, to regear to a new gear type, you know, the 7.5 inches, 35 meshes deep. Most people have that anywhere between 8.5 to 9 inch gear and a maximum of 45 meshes deep. But we still have some 60 mesh deep gear in the community but people don't use those anymore given the 45 mesh deep maximum gear restriction.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Quyana. Any other people for the public testimony on Proposals 13 and 14. Oh, I thought you were waiving to testify.

Anybody else.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: If not it's time for the RAC Council to make their determination, recommendations and justifying them.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: No comments, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I think as we heard from the testimony earlier by Tim and Jennifer, the lower Yukon fishermen have been taking the brunt of the -- been sacrificing all the cuts in the regulations that have been imposed in the chinook fisheries in the whole Yukon River.

It's about time we do something that will be equal to the whole river rather than trying to target the one area of the river. As John Hanson, excuse me -- John Thompson mentioned that we should -- you know, if we're going to impose any more restrictions on the fisheries for the chinook then it should be equal all up and down the river.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe Mike.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg. Get ready for a long -- go ahead.

MR. ROCZICKA: I don't intend to vote in favor of this proposal.

I don't find the evidence compelling either, yet, especially noted in the in the test fishery that they've done so far in subsistence, the one thing that jumped out at me is that sex ratio's were really not that largely skewed, we're looking at about a 50/50 male and female catch and I note that in the InterAgency Staff justification, that's one of the things they mention there, is that female sex ratios would likely increase but yet there is no evidence of that in the information that was found in a test fishery down below.

There's -- this is -- the fishery has been going on as it has for many years, escapements are being met, there's just not the justification to take

this level of action at this time.

And the point is well brought forward by the high seas intercept and the seven and eight year olds are out there and they're susceptible for six to seven years prior to returning and would suffer that much higher rate of interception versus three, four, five year olds coming back rather than being hit on by those fleets as they're passing through whatever areas the trawl fleets happen to be fishing at any given time.

So I don't see the lower river fishery being the major contributors yet, maybe we'll see something different later on but I -- I don't think that the amount of evidence is there to support it at this time.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I think lower Yukon, they go through very hard time because a lot of people say that why you guys don't fight back with up river, no, we are -- you guys noticed that they've been targeting us everything so many years and we lost some things that -- like fishwheel and all that and -- and our nets from 60 mesh down to 50 to 45, we do everything, I think we supposed to do and -- but we never really fight back up river with the proposals, even though that young people start talking that we are -- have to do something. Because we are looked at targeting all the time and very up river, talking about how about those people -- roe fishermen's up in Dawson, somewhere around Dawson, king salmon roe, they selling, and some place above it they had chum salmon roe selling. Those people are, seem to me, nobody complain about them.

So I'm just kind of tired myself but we have to listen to our elders down lower Yukon area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I'm going to use my mother tongue.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: This one here, she can't support it because there's too many oppositions and she can't -- she's heard enough facts that were presented to her during this meeting. And this fishery is very important and it's protecting everyone.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Philip Moses.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay. It is very, very hard to be impartial at times. I keep reminding myself.

Boy, all the years I've lived in the Kuskokwim River, it seems like it's only been in the last 20 years I started seeing what they call jack salmon, you know.

(Council nods affirmatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Growing up in the middle Kuskokwim we never saw small king salmon, it's only been in the last few years, 20 years or more maybe, 30 years at the most, and looking at the -- at number of seven, eight year olds on that chart from 1980 something to today, you know, it seems like to me that ever since the ground fishery or the bottom fishery has been in existence that's when our salmon, our big salmon started disappearing. So, you know, I can really feel that, you know, it's not the method that we harvest the size of our gear and the depth of our gear that is impacting the numbers of fish going down, it has to be totally something else.

And I remember growing up where the men made their own nets and they made them anywhere from eight to 10 inch stretch mesh because we used to have 80, 90, 100 pound king salmon on the Kuskokwim River, too. Now days 40 pounds maybe tops. I don't know what it's like around here, you know, even though I was born on the Yukon River I was raised on the Kuskokwim and I hear all the stories about, well, everything is bigger on the Yukon and I believe it, and I know it and I've seen it.

So, I -- on one hand I have to be very partial to the people who have been here for tens of thousands of years. And science is finally catching up

to us, our knowledge and wisdom about what conditions are that makes our salmon the way they are. There's so much interference outside of the river, that is the greatest -- that is having the greatest impacts on our salmon.

Nobody knows for sure what the bycatch is, everybody's always guessing. It's like John White always said, when we had meetings in Anchorage, when we used to have a Kuskokwim River Salmon Co-Op, he's -- you know all those biologists from the Area M were always talking about WAGs, and I always remember that, WAGs, it's just a wild ass guess. They had no science to back them up they always had WAGs, and that's the same way I look at the pollock fishery out there and the bycatch of the king salmon.

I'm going to stop right there.

And I cannot support this reduction in gear and depth sizes.

Thank you.

Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: Yeah.

(In Yup'ik)

MR. BROWN: I used to have instrument, sonar.

(Drawing)

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Sometimes in the Kuskokwim River 60 or 70 feet deep, sometimes if you setnet or drift net in that area why is that -- those fish are at the bottom. When the net is -- if the net's got -- or the meshes are less than what's required or depth of the river it doesn't catch as many as it should, close to the float line there's very few of them that are caught. Sometimes they are caught at the bottom of the net. Some of those fish swim in the river, they don't travel in a strong current area but they like to go through the eddies. He knows that because he's been fishing for a long time.

Sometimes he knows what he's talking about because he's been fishing year after year and sometimes the wind picks up and sometimes it's -- if it's foggy, it seems like more fish swim in the -- in the eddies, where the eddies are, but then other times when the water's different some of those fish cannot be caught.

MR. BROWN: Quyana, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Mr. Brown. We never did make a motion.....

MR. ROCZICKA: We had one yesterday.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No, we didn't.....

MR. ROCZICKA: You didn't recognize it.....

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: .....we started right in with him. We never made a motion to -- do you remember if we ever started out with a motion to adopt, I don't think we did.

REPORTER: I don't.....

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr.....

REPORTER: .....show one.

MR. ROCZICKA: .....Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yesterday when we first started with Proposal 13/14 there was a motion made by Mary Gregory and seconded by Ray to adopt this, you did not recognize the motion at this time, you could recognize it at this time or call for a new motion.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I'm just trying to remember, it seemed like we just got Don to come up here and start talking about 13 and 14. But if there was a motion.....

MR. ROCZICKA: You denied it.

MR. HOELSCHER: Question, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: .....we already had discussion, the question's been called for, roll call.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. On the motion to support or adopt Proposal 08-13, that in the Yukon River drainage all gillnets with greater than six inch stretch mesh may not be more than 35 meshes in depth in Federal public waters and FP08-14, that in the Yukon River drainage the maximum gillnet mesh size is 7.5 inch stretch mesh for subsistence and commercial salmon fishing in Federal public waters with three years phase in period for subsistence fishers and a one year phase in for commercial fisheries.

Who's next in line as first, is William Brown.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)

MR. BROWN: I just want to have a clarification first on what yes or no means.

MR. ROCZICKA: Voting yes would be to support limiting the mesh size to 35 mesh in depths and also for a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inch mesh for subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Yukon drainage. So the depth size and the mesh restrictions would be put into place.

MR. BROWN: Maybe I abstain.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I can't hear.

MR. ROCZICKA: Do you pass at the moment?

MR. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. ROCZICKA: Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Edgar Hoelscher.

MR. HOELSCHER: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Phillip Moses.

MR MOSES: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Joe Mike.

MR. MIKE: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Roczicka, no. Bob Aloysius.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: No.

MR. ROCZICKA: Ray Oney.

MR. ONEY: Oppose.

MR. ROCZICKA: Charlie Brown, you still abstain?

MR. BROWN: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, we have nine opposed and one abstained, none in favor.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: The motion fails -- or the adoption of Proposal 13/14 fails. At this time I would like to have a 14 minute break and we'll come back here at 10:45.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair, before we go on break I want -- I need to know who -- who on the Council will be traveling today, Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. D. MIKE: Bob Aloysius.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. D. MIKE: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: (Nods affirmatively)

MR. D. MIKE: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Break time.

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Can we get back to order here. The agenda Item No. 9 is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program with the draft 2008 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan with Don. After lunch we're going to come back to proposition -- I mean Proposal FP08-17 because it was tabled yesterday to be addressed again today so -- but Greg said that he won't be ready to bring that out until after lunch. So we'll have -- we'll go as far as we can until noon and continue on after -- if we complete any of the agenda items before noon, we'll -- we'll go back to Proposal 17 after lunch.

Don, you're on.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Don Rivard, I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm a fish biologist there.

Since the last time your Council met the Office of Subsistence Management was reorganized. There's a few of us that are in different positions than we previously were in and I'm one of those people from the office. I used to be one of the Division Chiefs, but I'm now a fisheries biologist with the Fish Division. And I'm taking over the duties that Cliff Schleusner used to do and used to address your Council regarding the Fisheries Monitoring Program, so I'm going to be doing that today.

We're on Page 19 of your Council books.

Section .812 of ANILCA directs the Department of Interior and Agriculture cooperating with the State of Alaska and other Federal agencies to research fish and wildlife and subsistence uses on Federal public lands. To increase the quantity and quality information for available for management of subsistence fisheries the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and I'll refer to it from here on out as the monitoring program, was created within the Office of Subsistence Management. The monitoring program was

envisioned as a collaborative interagency, interdisciplinary approach to enhance existing fisheries research and effectively communicate information needed for subsistence fisheries management on Federal public lands. The mission of the monitoring program is to identify and provide information needed to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands for rural Alaskans through a multi-disciplinary collaborative program

Now, the reason why we're here today for this is that we're going to -- I'm giving you the results that were presented to the Technical Review Committee for funding recommendations for the 2008 Monitoring Plan. There's some background information in your books on Page 20 and 21, but I think we'll just go right to the projects that are recommended for funding this year and this is an action item for your Council to vote on as well, both for the Yukon and for the Kuskokwim Rivers.

So the monitoring program was first implemented in 2000 with an initial investment of $5 million. Since 2001 a total of $6.25 million is annually allocated for the monitoring program. The Department of Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service annually provides $4.25 million of that, the Department of Agriculture through the U.S. Forest Service annually provides $1.8 million. On an annual basis this budget funds both continuation of existing studies, that's, in other words, year two, three, four of multi-year projects and new study starts.

Beginning next year in 2008 the Office of Subsistence Management will issue future requests for proposals on a biannual or every other year basis instead of every year as we've been doing in the past. Therefore, the next call for proposals will be issued in November 2008 for the 2010 through 2013 Monitoring Plan. Budget guidelines are established by geographic region and data type, and for 2008 $2.1 million is available for new starts.

Again, proposals are solicited according to the following two data types. One is stock, status and trends. These projects address abundance, composition, timing, behavior or status of fish populations that sustain subsistence fisheries with a connection to Federal public lands. The budget

guideline for this category is two-thirds of available funding.

The other type of projects are harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge. These type of projects address assessment of subsistence fisheries including quantification of harvest and effort and description and assessment of fishing and use patterns. The budget guideline for this category is one-third of available funding.

So two-thirds for stock, status and trends, one-third for harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge.

For 2008 a total of 30 investigation plans are under consideration for funding and you can find that on Table 1 on Page 22. This is statewide.

Of these, 21 are stock, status and trends projects and nine are harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects.

The Technical Review Committee recommends funding 23 of these 30 investigation plans.

As you can see for the Yukon on Table 1, a total of six investigation plans were presented and the Technical Review Committee recommends funding all six of them. There were also six investigation plans submitted for the Kuskokwim area and the Technical Review Committee recommends funding five of those.

Total funding available for new projects in 2008 is 2.1 million, while the proposed cost of funding all 30 projects submitted would be $2.6 million.

The 23 projects recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee would have a total cost of $2 million. The proposed modifications to four projects recommended for 2008 will utilize -- fully utilize the available funding.

The draft 2008 Monitoring Plan recommended by the Technical Review Committee would provide 34 percent of the funding to Alaska Native organizations, 34 percent to Federal agencies, 27

percent to State agencies, and five percent to other non-government organizations.

Now, for the Yukon. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils have identified many issues and information needs for the region with review and update on an annual basis. The three Councils generally identified chinook and chum salmon as the highest priority species and non-salmon species and collection and analysis of traditional knowledge have also been identified as important information needs.

The 2008 request for proposals for the Yukon region identified five priorities. You can see them on Page 24.

For the salmon it was to maintain reliable estimates of chinook and chum salmon escapement over time such as being done with the Henshaw Creek Weir and the Anvik Weir Sonar.

Assessment of trends in chinook salmon, age, sex and length, which goes hand and hand with the proposal you just considered.

Genetic stock assessment and run timing for chinook salmon in the lower Yukon River and validation of sex identification for chinook salmon at escapement projects.

And for the priority information need for non-salmon species is a development of a strategic plan for coregonids for the -- or whitefish for the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages focused on information needs for Federal Subsistence Management.

Since the inception of the Monitoring Program in 2000 80 projects have been funded in the Yukon region and 14 of these will still be in operation in 2008, which you can see in Tables 1 and 2 on Pages 25, 26 and 27.

Many of the projects are continuation projects but since projects are only funded up to three years each, each project is treated as a distinct entity and is evaluated on its merits after three years. 64 of the projects have been directed at salmon and 16 projects have addressed resident fish species

such as whitefish and Northern Pike. Of the 14 ongoing projects 12 address salmon and two focus on non-salmon species of fish.

14 Yukon region proposals were submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management in response to the 2008 request for proposals. In March 2007 the Technical Review Committee reviewed these proposals and recommended nine for investigation plan development including five stock, status and trends projects and four harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects. Subsequent to that March meeting two projects were withdrawn by the investigators and two of the harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects were combined into one investigation plan resulting in six investigation plans total. Investigators responded to the Technical Review Committee proposal review comments in developing their investigation plans and detailed budgets submitted with each investigation plan allowed identification of funds requested by Alaska Native, State, Federal and other organizations. Funds that would be used to hire local residents and matching funds from investigating agencies and organizations.

The Federal Subsistence Board guidelines direct initial distribution of funds among regions and data types. While regional budget guidelines provide an initial target for planning, they are not rigid allocations. Upon review and evaluation the Technical Review Committee, the Regional Advisory Councils, the InterAgency Staff Committee and the Federal Subsistence Board have the opportunity to address the highest priority projects across the regions.

For 2008 approximately $515,000 is available for funding new projects in the Yukon region.

So the projects that are recommended for funding this year for 2008 and beyond is on -- they're on Page 27 at the bottom. And I can give you a brief summary of each of them if you'd like and then your Council will have the opportunity to make your own recommendations on whether these should go forward. So I'll give you a quick view on all of these.

Project 08-206, the Yukon and Kuskokwim Coregonid Strategic Plan. This project will develop a strategic plan for whitefish in the Yukon and Kuskokwim

River drainages. Investigators will review available whitefish research and fisheries for the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages and provide direction for research. Identifying gaps in biological and life history data. Identifying the major whitefish fisheries issues within the two drainages. And defining appropriate methods and approaches for research. This effort will be collaborative including both biological and social science technical experts. It will also include knowledgeable subsistence users who live in these drainages to provide local and traditional knowledge.

Project 08-202 is the Anvik River Chum Salmon Sonar Evaluation. This project has been -- was first initiated in 1979 and is the longest running summer chum salmon escapement project in the Yukon River. Because of its long funding history by the State of 28 years and the importance of the information to both State and Federal managed fisheries, the State provides a 50 percent match for the operation of this project.

The next project is 08-253, the Yukon River Teleconferences and In-Season Monitoring. In its review of both Projects 08-253 and 08-254, the Technical Review Committee recommended that investigators consider combining the two projects into one hence this investigation plan includes Option A and B. The teleconference component, which is Option A entails facilitation of weekly, in-season, riverwide YRDFA teleconference calls between managers and users. So in other words, the Office of Subsistence Management funds at least partially the teleconferences that YRDFA has weekly during the fishing season. These weekly calls have become one of the major lines of communication between fishery managers and the fishing public during the salmon fishing season since their inception in 1994. YRDFA teleconferences have been funded through the Monitoring Program since 2000.

The in-season subsistence monitoring component entails reporting by a cadre of trained research assistants to ensure regular and consistent reporting of subsistence harvest activity from 10 villages. These research assistants will gain information on village subsistence harvest efforts and present their reports at the weekly teleconferences.

The two components together constitute Option B.

The next project recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee is 08-250, the use of subsistence salmon to feed dogs. This project will update an important piece of work that was conducted in 1992 on the use and feeding of dog teams along the Yukon River. At the time of the original study approximately 5,000 dog teams in 32 villages were being fed roughly 250,000 fish, primarily salmon. Since then salmon runs and harvests have declined and cost associated with mechanized alternatives to sled dogs have increased dramatically. Investigators propose to utilize the same methodology, short surveys and key informant interviews as in the original 1992 study and to work in the same seven communities of Russian Mission, St. Mary's, Kaltag, Huslia, Tanana, Manley/Hot Springs and Ft. Yukon so that project data are comparable. Given the potential impact of dogs on subsistence fish harvest it is timely to understand and evaluate the effects of these changes on subsistence fish harvest and to understand potential implications for subsistence fisheries management.

And the last project being recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee is 08-200. Kaltag Chinook Salmon Sampling. This four year continuation project will collect 250 age, sex, length samples from subsistence caught chinook salmon from the subsistence harvest down stream from Kaltag in Subdistrict 4-A. This project has been funded through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program since 2001. This data set provides age, sex, length composition information for an important chinook salmon subsistence fishery in the middle Yukon River.

Excuse me, I have one more here too. It's 08-201, the Henshaw Creek Salmon Weir. The Henshaw Creek Weir was initiated in the Upper Koyukuk drainage in 2000 after unsuccessful attempts to monitor salmon stocks in the Southfork Koyukuk River. The project will provide and continue to provide run timing and age, sex, length information for chinook and summer chum salmon, identify resident fish and serve as an outreach platform for a science camp. The data collected provides in-season and post-season information for Federal subsistence management of fisheries in the Yukon River. The science camp, funded through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service challenge cost share grant will provide educational opportunities for rural students from local villages.

The mission of the Monitoring Program is to identify and provide information needed to sustain subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands for rural Alaskans through a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort and program. It is the responsibility of the Technical Review Committee to develop the strongest possible monitoring plan for each region and across the state. The Technical Review Committee recommends funding all six projects as shown on Table 5 and also again at the bottom of Page 27. They all address information of direct relevance and importance to subsistence fisheries under Federal jurisdiction, are technically sound, include capacity building components and the investigators are qualified to conduct the work.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes the projects for the Yukon area. I would suggest that your Council take those up and then I'll go on to the Kuskokwim projects.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Don. The wish of the Council.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I have a couple of questions. On Page 25, the very first one, the Ichthyophonus disease on salmon, how that is coming along.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. Those are projects that have already been completed.

MS. GREGORY: Well, what did you find out?

MR. RIVARD: I don't have all that information directly in front of me. I could get that for you and find out. They're also -- these are also available on line and you can access them from our website and actually read them on line so -- but if you would like I'll make sure you get a copy of that.

MS. GREGORY: Okay. Because for several years back we were experiencing that when we

were cutting fish and a lot of our king salmon were affected but this summer and last year I haven't noticed that much.

Another thing is the 08-250, you said that 250,000 fish were fed to the dogs in how many villages? That was a 1992 study and are you going to repeat that study?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. In the 1992 study.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

MR. RIVARD: They found that there were approximately 5,000 dog teams in 32 villages were being fed roughly 250,000 fish, is that what you were asking about?

MS. GREGORY: Yeah. Are you going to restudy that, you already did one?

MR. RIVARD: That's the proposal. The project is to do a -- the same type of study that was done in 1992 to update that information and to see what changes have occurred, if any.

MS. GREGORY: And one more is on Page 26, Yukon River non-salmon projects 2006, that technical ecological knowledge on beaver and whitefish interactions. Can you enlighten me?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. That's another project that's been completed and I can get you a copy of that report and send it to you if you'd like. I don't know the particular results of all those.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Just to make sure that we don't run out of time and start going or wandering all over, I would suggest that we keep in mind that we are addressing these recommendations for funding for the year 2002 [sic] and those numbers are 206, 202, 253, 250, 200 and 201. Anything else is beyond. So keep in mind that I want to make sure that you keep on track because we're running out of time and we're wandering around too much like yesterday.

Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would move that we adopt or approve the recommendations of the Technical Review Committee regarding the funding for the '08 Yukon River projects and approve them as a block and then in discussion ask if -- if someone wants to pull a specific project for more discussion or review that they could do so at that time.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor is there a second.

MS. GREGORY: Second.

MR. CHARLES: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Second by Mary. Discussion.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: As far as discussion goes, I think we heard all the reasons behind the -- the proposals and the answers that were given by the Technical Review Committee and they recommended these to the Council.

Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to pull it but I did have a question about one of the specific proposals, which was 08-200 in the salmon sampling for the ASL, and I'm just noting that they're only looking to get 250 fish and all my encounters with ASL for a biologically viable sampling number, we were looking more in the range of seven to 800 to a thousand or more and where did the 250 -- if you have any answer to that, I don't know.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Greg. My understanding of the -- it's based more on the amount of fish that is taken at Kaltag by subsistence user and so they felt that 250 -- I don't remember the total amount that's harvested there, the average amount, but that 250 would be enough to be representative and they've -- talking with the principal investigator, sometimes they have difficulty getting that many so that's their goal is to get 250.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you. Mr. Chair,

if I could, Mr. DuBois knows -- is very well versed, could I get a response to that, just for my own knowledge and future understanding.

MR. DUBOIS: Mr. Chairman. Larry DuBois. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I can provide some more information because I've been analyzing those samples. What those samples are used for is they are combined with the rest of the District 4 subsistence harvest and they are used from -- for all of the District 4 harvest is divided up, you know, 4-A, 4-B, and 4-C and we are using the stock information which is collected from the genetic clips, we're using that to apportion the origin of harvest, such as Canadian harvest versus U.S. harvest, and then we're using the age composition with the other age composition from other projects such as Galena and Bishop Rock and Nulato to characterize the subsistence harvest by age and sex.

MR. ROCZICKA: Okay, that clarifies it well for me. I mean I recognize that the genetic information, 250 is more than adequate but I was wondering about the ASL.

Thank you, that answered it.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I got a question on the funding request for 08-202. I don't know if it's related or not but do they still have a roe fishery in the Anvik River?

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody.

MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. There hasn't been a.....

MR. RIVARD: State your name.

MR. HAYES: I'm sorry, Steve Hayes again with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Since '96 there has not been a roe fishery in the Anvik River. This year there was renewed interest in a roe fishery in Subdistrict 4-A but it was in the main stem of the river.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: And the other question is on the whitefish plan for Yukon and the

Kuskokwim, are they looking at all the species of whitefish including the sheefish?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. I don't know all the details of this particular plan but I believe it's a strategic plan. I think they're going to be looking at all species and what research needs are still out there and so I think they're going to be looking at all the different species of whitefish.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Any more discussion on the motion.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Was there a second to the motion?

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes. James and Mary both seconded.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MS. GREGORY: Question.

MR. HOELSCHER: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Flip a coin and see who was the winner.

Question's been called. Roll call.

MR. ROCZICKA: Roll call.

MS. GREGORY: Voice vote.

MR. ROCZICKA: Voice.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those in favor of the motion to approve the recommendations for funding in this package say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion carries.

Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With your permission I'll move on to the Kuskokwim region.

This is on Page -- well, it starts on a different page, but the -- where we want to go is Page 47.

After reviewing -- well, Federal -- there's a -- for 2008 there's approximately $515,000 available for funding new projects in the Kuskokwim region. And after reviewing the six investigation plans that were submitted the Technical Review Committee recommends funding five of the projects that are listed there in the middle of Page 47, and they're prioritized in order. The one project below the line is not recommended for funding.

The five projects recommended for funding will provide escapement estimates in the middle and upper Kuskokwim River drainage.

Characterization of the age, size and length of chinook salmon harvested in the lower Kuskokwim subsistence fishery.

Compare the sex and age composition of chinook salmon in the Tuluksak River subsistence harvest with the escapement.

Document the distribution of rainbow trout stocks in the Aniak River.

In addition, a two year, $295,000 Yukon and Kuskokwim Coregonid science plan will be wholly funded out of the Yukon River region which you already passed or recommended for funding. And I can give you a description as well again.

Project 08-303, the George River Salmon Weir. This project would continue operation of the George River Weir. The weir is an established and successful cooperative project operated by the Kuskokwim Native Association and ADF&G. Chinook, chum and coho salmon escapements to the George River Weir have been monitored successfully since 1996. The project provides valuable escapement and biological sampling data for salmon stocks in an important sub-

basin of the Kuskokwim River. Promotes local involvement and develops the capacity of KNA to monitor fish populations. KNA field technicians would assist in running the project. In addition the project serves as a training and outreach platform for local high school students who, after training, are given crew assignments to perform through the KNA Natural Resources Internship Program. From 15 to 20 interns would participate in all aspects of the weir operation.

Project 08-302, the Lower Kuskokwim Subsistence Chinook Sample -- Age, Sex, Length Sampling -- Salmon Age, Sex and Length Sampling. This study would provide estimates of the age, sex and length composition of the subsistence harvest of chinook salmon in the lower Kuskokwim River. Subsistence fisheries from Bethel and lower river villages would collect the age, sex, length data from their subsistence catches and information would be applied to the total subsistence chinook salmon harvest in the lower river. The study is a continuation project that provides data for assessing the majority of the subsistence chinook salmon harvest occurring in the Kuskokwim River. Collecting this data provides fisheries managers with important data to assess the age and sex composition of the chinook salmon runs, reconstruct the total run and assess the impact of size, selectivity of gillnet mesh sizes. The project has been jointly -- run jointly by ONC and ADF&G. ONC collects ASL samples from subsistence fishermen in the Bethel area while ADF&G focuses on collections in the remainder of the lower river.

The next project recommended for funding is 08-304, the Takotna River Salmon Weir. This project would continue operations at the Taktona River Weir to count escapements of chinook, sockeye, chum and coho salmon. Takotna River salmon stocks are harvested by a large lower river subsistence fishery and pass through a commercial fishing district between the Kuskokwim and the Takotna River mouths. Salmon escapements to Takotna River Weir have been monitored successfully since 2000. Information from this project is used by State and Federal managers to evaluate escapement and stock specific run timing of upper river spawning stocks through the fishery. The Takotna River weir has been operated as a partnership between ADF&G and the Takotna Tribal Council.

The next project recommended for

funding is 08-351, the Tuluksak Subsistence Chinook Salmon Age, Sex and Length project. Tulukak River chinook salmon escapement typically has a low percentage of females which has ranged between 14 and 37 percent and has averaged about 26 percent during the period of 1991 to 2006. The lowest female percentages recorded correspond with the greatest total subsistence and commercial fishing harvest. This project would allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to estimate the age, sex and length, composition of the chinook salmon subsistence harvest in each of three zones near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Tuluksak Rivers. This data would be used to evaluate the affect of subsistence fishing on the age, sex, length composition of the Tuluksak River chinook salmon escapement. Local hires from the village of Tuluksak would assist with data collection.

The fifth project recommended for funding is 08-300, the Aniak River Rainbow Trout Seasonal Distribution. The rainbow trout in the Aniak River contribute significantly to the local subsistence harvest of freshwater fish and also supports an increasingly popular sportfishery. Currently there is a strong local concern about an apparent large decline of the rainbow trout population in the Aniak River since the mid-1980s. ADF&G Sportfish Division and KNA would cooperatively conduct the project. The goal of this study is to collect information on the seasonal movements of rainbow trout in the Aniak River to determine if discreet stocks exist within the drainage and which stocks are harvested by the subsistence and sportfisheries. The information obtained from this study would be used to design a mark/recapture experiment to estimate population size to address important management questions.

And the one project that was submitted but is not recommended for funding is 08-350. It's lower Kuskokwim whitefish winter harvest. Communities along the lower Kuskokwim River are highly dependent upon harvesting whitefish species throughout the year. Little information on harvest amounts, locations and fishing methods is currently available. Local subsistence fisheries have expressed concerns regarding a decrease in the size and number of some whitefish species. This pilot study would collect information to describe the winter fishery in the lower river and evaluate methods to estimate total winter harvest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working with local

communities would identify major areas fished during the winter ice fishery, determine how frequently nets are checked and relocated and collect data on the species, composition and harvest levels in the winter fishery.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions for Don.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I have one.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Page 45, Kwethluk River salmon weir completed in 2000, this summer there's another camp up there and I didn't see that in your proposal -- proposed recommended funding for.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. If you look on Page 46, Table 2, summary of ongoing 2008 projects that have been previously funded and are ongoing, the Kwethluk Weir is one of those projects.

MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

MR. RIVARD: It's 07-306. So it was funded last year to start this year, so it's a continuation project.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I didn't that, thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any more questions.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What does coregonids means?

MR. RIVARD: Coregonids are -- well, they're part of the scientific name for whitefish. It's the family of whitefish, so you could say whitefish or coregonids.

MR. ONEY: (Nods affirmatively

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I have one more on Page 45, NPT, what does that stand for, 05-353, investigators?

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary, we're talking about '08 funding.

MS. GREGORY: And I have one on that.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This 08-350 conclusive with 06-303, that's why it was not funded or why was it not funded?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Edgar. I believe the reason why this last one 350 is not being recommended for funding is because they want to do the strategic plan on whitefish first and I believe that's why they're doing it. They're holding off on a specific project until they get the strategic plan finished.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment to say these projects, keep continue funded because it helps us a lot. Four of us here at the table are working with State and Federal in-season managers and that helps us a lot, these projects help us a lot over there, so I believe Yukon is the same way so I'd like to see these projects keep funded so that's my comment.

Thank you.

MR. RIVARD: Just for the sake of time I didn't go over the list of all the ongoing projects like I pointed out on Page 46. There are several that are still going on in both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim

drainage, and we just focused in today on the funding starts for next year.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. I got just one question. 08-300, it says rainbow trout in the Aniak River contributes significantly to the local subsistence harvest, where did that information come from, anybody at KNA know for sure, because, you know, all the years I lived up there the only time that the -- that there was a target for subsistence caught rainbow trout was in the winter time when we were out of fresh red meat, fish, and the summer time the only people I see up there are the guys who play with their food, what you call sportsfishermen.

MR. ORABUTT: Mr. Chairman. My name is David Orabutt from the Kuskokwim Native Association. The information on harvest, subsistence harvest for the rainbow trout come from some subsistence surveys done by Mike Coffing in conjunction with KNA in Aniak and Chuathbaluk, the villages of Aniak and Chuathbaluk. And you're right the harvest comes from winter time when the village people from Aniak and Chuathbaluk go up the Aniak River into Lower Aniak River jig fish for the rainbow trout there. And possible conflict is just what you said, the sportsfish fishermen who go up in the upper tributaries and do the float trips, they catch the rainbow trout in the upper river.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Anybody else.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: So.....

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I would move to support the recommendations of the Technical Review Committee on Kuskokwim proposals 08-303, 302, 304, 351 and 300.

MS. GREGORY: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a

motion and a second. Discussion.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody.

MR. HOELSCHER: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Question's been called. All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those opposed say nay.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion carries. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're now on Item 9B, the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

This program Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program was initiated in 2002 to strengthen alaska Native and rural involvement in subsistence fisheries management and research. $1 million annually has gone to the Alaska Native organizations, including the Association of Village Council Presidents, the Bristol Bay Native Association, the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, the Kuskokwim Native Association, the Native Village of Eyak, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Approximately eight fishery biologists or anthropologists have been hired and there have been approximately 45 student internships on a seasonal basis. This program has encompassed six Native organizations that represent 146 villages. And got another fun fact here is that a land mass that's about greater than 50 percent of Alaska is covered -- more than 50 percent of Alaska is covered under these 146 villages.

The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program conducts fisheries research projects and rural internship programs.

REPORTER: Don, what page are you on for the interpreters?

MR. RIVARD: It's not on a page, I don't believe it's on a page here, I don't think it's in the book.

REPORTER: Okay.

MR. RIVARD: This is not in your book, this is the talking points that I have.

The project results help to guide fisheries management decisions. Over 100 new partnerships established that build community support. There have been 20 high school and 25 college students mentored annually. And there's been matching funds from the National Science Foundation for the Intern Program. Interns that participate in the program receive credit through the University of Alaska and the State of Alaska Rural High School Program.

Right now all current agreements with the Partners Program and the Native organizations that the partners are with, all those agreements will close by December 31st, 2007. We're still awaiting the President's budget to determine if there'll be available funding for the continuation of this program in 2008.

The organizations themselves are well aware that there's not assured funding yet and we've received letters of support -- we've received 164 letters of support from tribal and Native organizations, University, schools, government agencies and private organizations. The letters of support have been sent to all the -- the two Alaska U.S. Senators and the U.S. Representative and the -- AFN has submitted a request for a Congressional Oversight Hearing that includes support for the continuation of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

So that's the status. Again, there's funding through the end of the year and then we're not sure yet where this program will be after the first of the year, hopefully there'll be funding to continue it.

I'd like to now introduce you to David Orabutt, who was just up here. He's going to give a presentation from the Kuskokwim Native Association on

what they've been doing with the Partner's Program and then that will be the end of this presentation.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Before you sit down David, Greg has a question for Don.

MR. ROCZICKA: Just curious. Do you have a more current date or anticipated time that the budget -- the President's budget will come down where you'll be able to make the determination on whether the program's going to have -- I mean it's not going to be until December, I hope, I would presume that's October some time, isn't it?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Greg. Hopefully we'll know -- we're supposed to have our new budget figures by the 1st of October. That doesn't always happen. We've ended up operating under continuing resolutions and when those occur, they usually say you can continue to operate under the same level as your former year budget but I don't know what that would mean for the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

We do have it covered through the end of the year so that we've got about a three month period where we're waiting for the 2008 budget to come through. but I don't have any specific dates on when we're going to know for sure.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Don, I want to thank you for bringing that up and it doesn't require a motion but I'd like to voice my support for that project because it helps our young people who are going to college and it exposes them to the area that they grew up in.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mary. This is a valuable project and we'd like to see it continue too and we're waiting to hear about it. We've seen remarkable results. I was just -- every year they bring all the partners in to Anchorage to give presentations on what they've been doing and David was part of that last month and they have some of the interns come in and the students and give presentations

and it's just incredible. And there's been several people who have been inspired now to go on to college and to continue in fisheries management so that they can go back to their villages at some point and be working as well with getting that educational background.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I have to echo that too. Because I've seen a lot of our young people involved in the partnership programs, you know, KNA is one of the major ones on the Kuskokwim River and they don't have only students from KNA region, they have students from the other areas that participate in there and it's really -- it's really amazing. You know the young people really need that motivation to go on to school and come back and be part of the process that we're working on right now.

Dave Oraback -- Orabutt.

MR. ORABUTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you said my name is David Orabutt from the Kuskokwim Native Association. How's that?

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Yeah.

MR. ORABUTT: Can you see it or should we turn the lights down too.

MS. GREGORY: I can see it.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: It's fine.

MR. ORABUTT: There we go.

(Laughter)

MS. GREGORY: We can see. We can see.

MR. ORABUTT: Okay. The title of my presentation is Kuskokwim Native Association Fisheries Department, the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and Cooperative Fisheries Management in Monitoring in the Kuskokwim Region. The reason why I put that big title up there is because it's all really connected.

The Partners Program that Don just

talked about, our program at KNA and the whole system of management in the Kuskokwim, it's all connected.

And what I have here is just a report, really, that I'm going to go out and give to our villages this winter. It's not quite updated because most of our project results haven't come in so I'm not going to focus a lot on our projects but more so just what our program's all about and our internships and our employees.

So the Kuskokwim Native Association is a regional non-profit Native organization. We represent 11 villages in the middle Kuskokwim River and on the Yukon we have Russian Mission. So our villages go from Kalskag all the way up river to Stony River and Lime Village. And we have lots of different departments, education and training, realty services, social services, housing improvement program, the elder's program and the natural resources program, which in recent years has turned into the fisheries program because of reduced funding for wildlife and other natural resources issues. So right now we just have a fisheries program, we have a fisheries department. And Calvin Simeon is our Executive Director.

So what we're trying to do is to actively participate in managing and conserving Kuskokwim area fisheries resources to ensure long-term sustainability of the subsistence way of life for our members, that's what we're trying to do at KNA.

And we have several funding sources. Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program which Don just talked about. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, again, part of OSM. The Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative. Coastal Villages Region Fund. And then some -- a small amount comes from the BIA through contracts with our member villages.

But I just want to emphasize the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program because that's really the core funding and core of our program. It allows us to participate in all these projects and internships.

So right now we have two full-time staff, myself and then Derek Rader, our fishery partner

biologist. And then we have a seasonal biologist Michael Thalhauser, he serves as a salmon river weir crew leader. We have six to 12 seasonal technicians. Four college interns. And about six high school interns.

So our long-term goal is to -- is for cooperative management in the Kuskokwim Region. We want to be an official part of a cooperative management process in the Kuskokwim region. We're not there yet but that's where we're heading and that's what we would like to see happen. We're at the earlier stages of that. Right now we're in the building stage. We're building respect for ourselves and for the management agencies with the people that we represent. We're building working relationships with the management agencies and with our communities while they work together on these projects and internships. They get to know each other and get to understand each other.

We're building our own fisheries expertise with biologists on staff and we work with our board and our executive director, Calvin Simeon. And then we're building our capacity to do things, to do fisheries research and management and we're also building our partner agency capacity, building Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife's capacity to be able to work with their communities that they serve.

So this is what we actually do. We partner on fisheries monitoring projects. Those projects that Don just talked to you about and more.

We represent members and provide technical assistance in meetings like the RAC meetings and the AC meetings and other community meetings.

We do outreach, education and communication. We go to our villages and talk about our projects, teach people about fisheries, resources in general and we listen to them and communicate with the people of our villages.

And then we build a professional local work force, and I'll talk to you a little bit more about each of these.

So these are the Fisheries Monitoring Projects that we're involved in. Like I said, I'm not going to go into detail, but if you want to talk more

about that just go ahead and ask me and I'll let you know what you want to know.

The George and Tatlawiksuk River weirs. They're escapement monitoring projects, salmon escapement projects in the middle Kuskokwim and they're partnerships with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries and they've been around since 1996 and 1998 and they're kind of a core of our program, they're very important as James pointed out. They provide very good information for in-season management and post-season management.

The next project up there is post-season salmon subsistence harvest monitoring. We work with the Division of Subsistence to do this project as does ONC and this is another one of our core projects that provide the necessary information to manage salmon on the Kuskokwim.

We operate the whitefish radiotelemetry and migrational study with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and this has ben an ongoing project for about six years now and we're getting some valuable data about the whitefish population in the Kuskokwim region.

For the last couple of years we've operated the chinook salmon radiotelemetry and run reconstruction project. And what this is, is a radiotelemetry project on king salmon and ultimately we're getting population estimates, total numbers of fish in the river and we hope this will improve management in the future and that's funded by AYKSSI and done in conjunction with Fish and Game, Divisions of Commercial Fishing, Sportfish and then AVCP and DeBeuke Consultants.

The sockeye salmon radiotelemetry, again, another AYKSSI project done in conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries, AVCP and the National Park Service. And this is another radiotelemetry project where we're trying to get distribution and relative abundance of sockeye in our tributaries in the Kuskokwim.

And there's also various past projects that I'm not going to talk about today.

So our proposed projects for the

upcoming years, you've heard Don talk about the Aniak River Rainbow Trout project and then the George River Weir. We also are proposing a coho salmon radiotelemetry project, this is a Fish and Game project that we're partners on and it's proposed to the AYKSSI and it's going to be similar to the sockeye project where we're trying to get distribution of coho and run timing of coho in the Kuskokwim River.

So the other area that I talked about was representation and providing technical assistance to our members and our RAC members and our AC members. We need to expand our role in this area. We're giving some information and some representation but we just don't have the staff available to help out more in this area and so that's an area we've identified to work on.

I just threw up some of the things that we have done. We've worked on the Board of Fish proposals with the directed chinook fishery in the Kuskokwim. The Holitna hunting, trapping and fishing reserve Board of Fish proposal. And then every year in the Holitna and Aniak River there's numerous guide camps that get permitted and our local members are always concerned about this so we give them fisheries data to help them with their letters of either opposition or support. Then we work with the Salmon Working Group. And then also more recently we've worked with the proposed Donlin Creek Mine. A lot of our members are concerned with this development and we give them fisheries data and help them out with the technical details.

Okay, so outreach, education and communication.

We're expanding our role in the outreach arena. One thing that KNA, it's been pounded into me and everybody else there, that we're not experts that go into the villages and tell people how to do stuff, we go in there and communicate with our members. It's a process. It's not even a give and take process, it's a communication process.

We go to regional meetings such as this one and the Salmon Working Group meeting and others. We go to community meetings in each of our villages. We do school visits. We participate in the Kuspuk School District raft trip where we teach the kids on that trip. And then we have a proposal to do in-class

education through the Partners Program and I'll tell you more about that. So with our community meetings they can either be special meetings or every year we try to get to each of our villages with an annual report to give a presentation like I'm giving today and then with some details about our projects. Last year we did Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Crooked Creek and Aniak. It's our goal to go to each of our villages each year but so far we haven't quite reached that goal but that's what our plan is.

For school visits when we go to our villages we stop at the school and talk to the children, the K-12 all the way -- kindergarten through 12th grade, and we talk about internship opportunities, career opportunities and then tell them and talk to them about what fisheries monitoring is, what fisheries biology is and what fisheries ecology is. This year we went to Lime Village, Stony River, Crooked Creek, Aniak and Kalskag.

The Kuspuk raft trip is done by the Kuspuk School District and we participate in this. They take 20 high school students up to the Salmon River and they float down the Salmon River and then float down the Aniak River and along the way they learn about natural resources, and we go there to teach stream ecology and here's some pictures of some of the things we do.

Up to the right there is a picture of a print, a bear track. We take the kids along the shore and look at prints, the tracks and discover what type of animals are using the river.

In the lower right there there is a picture of some kids seining. We catch juvenile salmon and other species and we teach the kids how to identify the fish.

And then there's just a group of a camping trip.

Each place we stop we do a stream reach survey and we teach the kids how to sample and about stream ecology.

So in 2008 we have a proposal in to the Partners Program to extend our internship program and to have in-class natural resource education. As many

of you know, our villages don't have science teachers, the children receive limited science education and what this proposal will do is put a college or graduate intern into each of our village schools for one to two weeks to teach about natural resources using the local projects and internships as examples.

Okay, for building a professional work force, our goal is to have more local Native people working in the Kuskokwim River fisheries management. And we have several things we're doing to try to achieve this goal. The high school internship program that many of you are aware of. I know Bob talks about it a lot. This has been going since 1998, it's about 20 high school interns each year for one week at a time. The interns are 14 to 19 years old, and so far we've had 126 internships and nine of these interns later have been hired as technicians by Fish and Game or KNA. And, again, this is funded by the Office of Subsistence Management. And what these interns do is they go and work for us out at the weirs, they learn about fisheries biology and then they complete a curriculum and get science credit for it at school.

In 2006 we identified interns that wanted to do more than just the one week program so we created the Level II internship and what this is is just the high school kids go out and work as technicians on our projects. In 2006 we had two of these positions and there was so much interest that we expanded and in 2007 we had six interns. This year we had Lynn Marie Church from Quinhagak; Charles Vanborg from Takotna; Fred Vaska from Aniak; Gena Ward from Aniak, Phillip Morgan from Aniak, Mark VanFleteren from Crooked Creek and these students participated in training and presentations at KNA.

Okay, so for our college internship program we had four college interns this year. You can see Glen Lindsey kind of in the left, he's from Bethel, he was our research intern. He's going to college at UAA. At the right there is Amanda Goods from Takotna, she was our education intern and she's going to college at UAF. And both of them are interested in fisheries and want to become fisheries biologists.

Our other college interns are Jonathan Samuelson, to the left there, he's originally from everywhere in the Kuskokwim but he calls Georgetown and McGrath his home, and he was our office intern. And

then to the right, someone a little closer to home here, Lisa Kangas from Ruby was our fisheries genetics intern. And Lisa is going into fisheries as well.

Our fisheries technicians, they range up and down the river from Kogilinok (ph) all the way up to Sleetmute, even a couple -- one from St. Mary's, Harry George from St. Mary's.

Okay, that concludes my presentation.

I guess I just would like to say, again, our mission is to actively participate in fisheries monitoring and management to ensure the sustainability of subsistence way of life for our members and our long-term goal is to participate in a cooperative management system in the Kuskokwim River. And I think we, meaning KNA, and the Kuskokwim, in general, are making big progress in this area. I think as time goes on and we'll go to our villages we'll learn more about what we should be doing and that's our plan, is to listen to our members and develop our program in response to what they have to say.

We are concerned about the potential cuts to the Partners budget and basically if the Partners Program was cut you'd see most of our program disappear. Calvin Simeon, our executive director, has been working with Ralph Andersen from the Bristol Bay Native Association, I know they're working with AFN and AFN is requested an oversight hearing and they may go and testify in that hearing if they are awarded that hearing. So we'll just have to wait and see.

Thank you.

And, again, I appreciate being here and respect all the work that you do.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, David. Before you go, I'd just like to share some information on the KNA. Calvin Simeon is born and raised in Aniak, educated on paper Aniak and University of Alaska, where, I'm not sure where -- Fairbanks, yeah, but educated in mind, heart and spirit in and around the village. So he knows, you know, what it's like and he's, to me, he's a really positive role model for our young people. Somebody that can go out and

come back and do something for the region.

And these young people who are involved in that KNA monitoring partnership program are really -- you know I'm really proud of them because I'm from there, you know, that's my home area, born on the Yukon River and raised between Aniak, Kalskag, Whitefish Lake, all the way up the drainage of the Aniak River. So my education was mostly in what the unknowing people call wilderness, and all of my professors were elders, and so it's very heartwarming for me to see our young people taking advantage of the two education systems we have. The one of the mind, heart and spirit from our Native people and the physical education on paper from the Western society. It proves to me that the two work hand in hand for the betterment of all the people, especially, again, like I always say, for our relatives, our relations, that fly, roost, climb, walk, hop, crawl, slither, burrow, swim and grow on Mother Earth.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: I would like to ask you, I wish we had some kind of a teaching like that like in Kuskokwim, what you guys are doing for young people. We just not very long ago in Mountain Village Corporation, tribal and the city get together, they contribute some money to our young people and corporation themself, they're going to give them the land to put up the buildings for the summer. Right now that we try to work with Russian Mission and try to learn some things, how we could take care of young people.

The young people are willing to, we meet with them, but if we have some organization -- something to do instead of just go there and swim (ph) and do something, I think it would be better, we would like to see if we could learn something like what you guys doing in the Kuskokwim.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I'd like to give you a very good -- commend you on your job well done and you gave a very good presentation that was informative and it shows that you are doing your job well and I'm glad to be associated with you.

MR. ORABUTT: Well, thank you very much.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any more kudos for KNA.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Dave. And when you get back home tell everybody up there thank you from us, from here.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I now present the lunch hour. We shall recess for runch -- lunch -- be back here at 1:00 o'clock please. We have a long ways to go and only four hours to do it. We'll come back to Proposal 17 as soon as we come back from lunch.

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Man, that was the most delicious lunch I've had in a long, long time. Really makes you appreciate what subsistence is all about.

Okay, we are back to Proposal FP08-17. There was a motion to table so we'll have to bring it back up again and work on it.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I'd move to bring Proposal FP08-17 back on the table.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor.

MR. HOELSCHER: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a second. Discussion.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Prior to lunch I passed out revised -- or modified proposal for FP-17. I spoke to several Council members and also listening to the public comments and tried to incorporate as much of that into changes as I could. It doesn't have everything that everybody wanted.

But one of the main things that I heard and the criticism was that it was becoming overly complicated and muddied and was essentially applying additional restrictions where the whole intent is to try to reduce the amount of regulation; that we're looking to recognize the elders. And so what I've essentially done is I added in the customary and traditional use criteria reference into this proposal so that the proposal would now read:

Elders who are age 60 or older and are participating in customary and traditional fishing activities themselves are not subject to the window fishing schedule and followed with the reference in the Alaska Administrative Code.

And struck the section of the proposal that said:

One individual less than age 60 may assist one or more elders age 60 or older with their fishing activities, and referenced the Code 36 -- Code of Federal Regulations 242.16(b) and 50 Code of Federal Regulations 100.16(b), which refer to the eight criteria of subsistence.

And included in those is the passing on of the knowledge and the long-term activities of use and all are incorporated in there.

And in that sense, I also have not included in this what was brought up in some of the discussions about allowing the proxy to occur. That really muddies the water here and it makes a major, major change to the initial intent of the proposal and

essentially if we were to go forward with something like that it would be a proposal to just remove the window restrictions altogether, which brings in a whole new level of debate and I can't recall which individual it was up here, for which agency but I understand that that's actually under consideration at present anyway, possible in the future for having those windows removed on the Yukon as they were on the Kuskokwim, and I don't to know what level Hamashan's (ph) analysis of the Kuskokwim comes into play here but as we found out on the Kuskokwim there was windows -- windows were removed there was not a huge extra effort and actually it relaxed the effort. The people who were out there, they were not out fishing intensively as they were before and I would not be surprised if it actually reduced the amount of harvest and it spread it out over the run, it spread it out over all the stocks.

I really believe that it -- the windows as they were, they maybe served their purpose at first but in the long-run, for some of the stock specific concerns, perhaps they really didn't do that. And Hamashan, I can't recall his last name at the time, but he works with the Department and then gave us the presentation both at the Board of Fisheries last winter and at the AYKSSI, laid them out at length there.

But, anyway, for the purposes of this proposal, what we have essentially now is any elder who wishes to fish would have to be physically present and actively participating in setting the nets, it's for all gillnets, drift and setnet, the way we have it worded here. I did leave in as well that this exemption could be temporarily discontinued by the Federal in-season manager if it was warranted by in-season run conditions.

And in the justification, I've tried to incorporate in here, is that one of the greatest concerns that we get expressed over and over to the subsistence Council is the loss of the cultural integrity that's brought on by this increasing level of rules and regulations being put into place for people to engage in their customary and traditional subsistence activities and it's become almost a deterrent or inhibiting to the younger generation to continue being involved with this increasing level of regulation and not to mention the -- or it's exacerbated by the fact that we have the dual set of regulations between State and Federal. However, the

Federal Subsistence Program and their regulations, I believe, should work towards conserving and encouraging inter-generational interaction and providing for subsistence activities and use rather than promote what someone -- or what I see as a higher level of cultural assimilation where it's not necessary or helpful.

And providing this exemption would give elders a level of respect and recognition that I think all of us feel is deserved, it's recognized both in State regulation and it's certainly given plenty of lip service, if you will, in many others, and we attempt to put it in to accommodate it through our actions at all levels, but I see that by having the elder present and having the customary and traditional use criteria in place it would work more towards encouraging the younger and older folks to get together and to have that knowledge passed on.

And it doesn't matter, and not to limit it to one person, like you have over here, let him bring his whole family along, my goodness, and supervise the activities, if you will.

But, anyway, that's in that whole vein of we can get a lot further trying to work together and work -- bring things into what's better for all. This is my shot at trying to do that with this proposal and I guess I would say, too, that I have -- I did speak with the AVCP representative and the Federal in-season manager as well, they both said they could support this one. I couldn't ask the State people because I understand the fellows here, they're -- what's down on paper is what they're bound to place on the record, they can't state their own opinions one way or the other. But I would reflect back on what is in the State's comments, that there's the opportunity to do this under State regulations to create elder fisheries and create them specifically and I would see this, if we get the blessing and approval of the Board on the Federal side, that it would go forward to the State side as well. It certainly falls under the criteria for both the Board of Fish and the Board of Game for a subsistence petition, emergency subsistence proposal, it's a new proposal that hasn't -- a new issue that hasn't been discussed, to my knowledge anywhere for the Board of Fisheries level for this area, and as far as the amount of fish harvested under here, that's not a major concern.

So all that is there and it's just a matter of which board gets it first in the process and in this case it's the Federal Board and the State Board has their processes to deal with it in the interim before their next cycle comes up for the AYK area.

Anyway it's a step forward, and that's what I got.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: My response to you is very short, thank you. Department of Fish and Game had something to say about that.

MR. HAYES: Mr. Chairman. Once again, Steve Hayes, ADF&G. I just wanted to clarify one thing in the subsistence windows. You are correct we are looking at the data at this time to determine if the windows are doing what it was intended to do as was done on the Kuskokwim, and we should have that information available for the next Board of Fish cycle.

The one thing -- the discussion that we are looking at though is not whether to totally eliminate the windows but still leave it as a management tool in years of low runs. And if the runs are projected to be average and above then it's at the manager's discretion whether or not to implement that regulation.

Thanks.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: And I guess just a note to that, I did specifically leave it in there for the Federal in-season manager, if, in-season conditions warrant, that that same criteria would apply.

MR. HAYES: Well, typically the Department by EO implements the windows, so it would be a discussion between the State and Federal in-season managers on whether to implement the windows. And usually pre-season or based on our projection is when we would determine whether or not to start the windows.

Now, it could be that if you have a run that starts out like we did this year, it looked very strong the first pulse but then it tapered off after that you may implement the windows after that, so, it would be used as an in-season management tool also.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any feedback from other Council members regarding this new write up on 17. Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. CHARLES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe for Don. If we do go forward with this amendment to the proposal, would that be included in the -- I mean when it goes to Eastern or Western Interior RAC committee would it go in this form?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Don Rivard, with OSM. Ray, what this is would be your Council's recommendation so it would be a support with modification and then whatever the modifications are. The proposal itself will remain unchanged and will go forward to the other Councils just as it is. They will also have the benefit of knowing what your Council recommended, and that will give them a chance to consider that as well.

But the proposal itself will not change, what you're dealing with now is your Council's recommendation and you can support this proposal with the modifications Greg is suggesting.

Thank you.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, a follow up. How about the one that the OSM, the modifications that OSM had put in in this proposal. Would that stay in also or would you include the one if we were to adopt it?

MR. RIVARD: The proposal that you have before you with the OSM preliminary Staff conclusion, that will be seen by the other Councils that take up this proposal as well, so nothing's going to change. They'll get the exact same thing as your Council did. And shows what the proposed language is and what the OSM Staff is recommending with their modifications, all that will remain the same. And, again, these other Councils, after your meeting, they'll be able to see what your Council did and so that will give them some

other ideas to ponder as well when they're deliberating on the proposal.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, one more question, when does the Western Interior and Eastern Interior, when are they scheduled for?

MR. RIVARD: The Eastern Interior Council is meeting the 15th of 16th October in Ft. Yukon. And the Western Interior is meeting October 30th and 31st in Galena.

MR. ONEY: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Before you -- Mary, would you please come back to our meeting. Go ahead Ray.

MR. ONEY: That's it, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe Mike.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I'm in support of this regulation, is it a modification to the regulation, is that what it is?

MR. ROCZICKA: Amendment.

MS. GREGORY: Because I still feel for my elders welfare and I want them to live the rest of their lives to the fullest as they know how, okay.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I support the justification for 17.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, all.

As for myself, I think it's one step in the right direction so we'll start with one step.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Don, getting back with Ray's question, you mean this proposed regulation that was, you know, reworked by Greg there cannot be provided as an addendum to the proposal?

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Edgar. This -- again, the proposal will go forward to the other Councils as is with the Staff recommendation as is. And they'll have the benefit of seeing your recommendations, we're going to share that information with the other Councils because it's pertinent information now. You've come up with some other ideas that we didn't come up with and so we try to provide as much information to the other Councils as possible. So, yes, they will see what your Council has recommended.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, if I could just for clarification here, too, and on the justification the language could still be a little bit -- Donald, I really appreciate him writing it up but he didn't get it all -- he didn't get all my scribbles and he was working off of this right here, so there's a few editing comments that could be made to address those, but the justification will be included along with our proposed modification for the other Councils to see as well, that's correct?

MR. RIVARD: That is correct.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MR. HOELSCHER: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Question's been called for. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No opposition, motion carries. We'll move forward the information to whoever gets it from here and let them take it from there.

Thank you, very much.

Are we.....

MR. ROCZICKA: Done with proposals.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay. Item 10 on Page 2, Draft Customary and Traditional Use Policy for Council Recommendation. Liz Williams.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and the Council. I think everybody got yesterday this copy of the Draft Customary and Traditional Use Policy, it's not in the book. And I'm not going to read it so you don't have to find it but I just want to make sure everybody has a copy.

(Pause)

MS. WILLIAMS: Is everybody ready.

(Council nods affirmatively)

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. First of all, I know Greg brought up some concerns yesterday about the fact that the draft wasn't in your book and we apologize for that. This started a couple of years ago and we've been working on this along with lots of these proposals and things and we've just been working really hard. You're probably relieved to see that it's very short compared to most of the documents we give you. It's not 600 double-sided pages. And the author of this policy is Dr. Polly Wheeler, who some of you may know, she's the lead anthropologist at Office of Subsistence Management.

And I'll go ahead and just read some of the talking points she made for me to give to you and then we can discuss just a summary of this as well.

The Draft Customary and Traditional Use Policy has been in the works for several years now. Work on this policy draft began in January 2005 with a letter from former Governor Frank Murkowski to the Secretary of the Interior, who was then Gale Norton. And the State, specifically the Murkowski Administration, had specific concerns over what the State considered inconsistencies and lack of clear criteria on C&T determinations made by the Board and the Councils. The State asked that C&T determinations be rigorously evaluated and only made where substantial evidence is present.

Now, what happened, when the Federal Program was created, we adopted many of the State's policies and procedures because we thought that the Federal Subsistence Program would be a temporary program. And when we did that the State, at that time, had eight, what they call, criteria, for customary and traditional use and the Federal Program adopted those but they called them factor. But as we'll get into later that is something that's a holdover from the State, that's not mandated by ANILCA at all.

In responding to the State's complaint, the Deputy Secretary of Interior requested that the Federal Subsistence Board review and clarify its approach to making C&T determinations. While Staff worked on developing this draft policy, the State filed a lawsuit in Federal Court against the Federal Board challenging one of its C&T determinations, and that was one you may have heard of, it's the May 2005 Decision to expand a customary and traditional use finding for moose for the community of Chistochina to include all of Unit 12, not just one little part. And this is a very important case and very important court decision, and I've brought with me a summary of the decision as well as the actual Court's final decision about this. Because that Court decision affects how C&T is done by the Federal Board and the Court actually confirmed the way that the State process has been working.

So in spite of the State's complaints about our way of doing C&T, the Court has said you are doing the right thing.

And part of the problem is, is the State -- sometimes how the State interprets C&T determinations can be affected by who is the Governor at the time. And under the Murkowski Administration

there was a look for sort of a check off box approach. But ANILCA, as you know, was written to acknowledge cultural dynamics of ever changing culture. The fact that if you hunted moose here in 1803 you might have to go all the way over here, I mean I'm not telling you anything you don't know. But that's some aspect of part of what the State's complaint has been, and they would express it differently I'm sure. But the Federal Program just has a totally different view on C&T determinations.

So the Alaska Federation of Natives, however, has also expressed concern about the State's efforts to influence the way customary and traditional use determinations are made by the Federal Subsistence Program. These concerns were expressed in AFN's 2006 resolutions and in a recent letter to the Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. And any of you that were at AFN the year before last, in Anchorage, you might have been to the subsistence summit where many of these concerns were expressed.

This summer, June 28th, 2007, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne instructed the Board and the Federal Subsistence Program to continue to work on developing the customary and traditional use determination policy as quickly as possible. On June 27th the U.S. District Court denied the State's challenge to the Board's decision to expand the C&T finding for moose for Chistochina, as I already mentioned. And, again, as I already mentioned, this Court decision was an affirmation of the way the Board does C&T determinations.

The decision underscored the role of customary and traditional determinations in the Federal Subsistence Management Program, namely to identify uses needing protection under ANILCA, subsistence uses needing protection under ANILCA. It clarified that the role of C&T determinations is not to limit the pool of users to the smallest possible group but, rather, to identify which uses of subsistence resources need protection under ANILCA. The Federal Program's procedures for addressing C&T determinations, which have been used since the beginning of the program are outlined in the policy draft that you have.

The draft is nothing that you haven't seen before. All we've done is sort of write out our policy formally but it's nothing different from what's

been happening. We look at the eight factors holistically but there's not a check next to each factor. The Court, as well as the interpretation of the Court of ANILCA is that uses need to be protected, geographic areas do not have to have fossilized footprints where people have been before because animals move, uses change.

The Chistochina decision, again, underscores the importance of addressing the eight factors in a holistic way, not a checklist. And the specific language from that court decision is, quote:

> In making a customary and traditional use determination for a specific community the Board must first consider whether the community generally exhibits the factors which show that resources have been customarily and traditionally used.

So like I said there's nothing new, there's no new definitions, there's no threshold, there's no benchmark, there's no certain amount.

If there are going to be something like that, it would have to go through Congress, essentially, and become a law. And it's important to remember that what you have in your hand is a draft, it hasn't really been released to the public until now because the RACs are the first, sort of to see it in this process and it's completely and totally a draft. We strongly request comments from you but also for you to talk to your communities about this, just to look at bits and pieces that might need to be tweaked, things that you might like to add or take out but the point is that we do have a holistic process, that we look at lots of things, not just dotted I's and crossed T's.

The comment period goes from now until December 1st, 2007. Once public comment comes in the Board will meet to discuss the comments and revise the draft, and the goal is to have the policy completed by June 2008.

Some of the background for the way this policy was put together on this paper is that, like I said, the temporary program -- the program was expected to just be temporary and that's why we had the State's criteria, what we call factors but they're not

something we absolutely have to use. And the reason that was done was to make sure that when Federal Subsistence Management took over there wouldn't be a big disruption for subsistence users.

Since the Federal Program took over on Federal lands and waters there have been 30 proposals addressing C&T use and the consideration of these proposals have all been with the basic eight factors with certain ones of them stressed but, again, you don't have to have each one for each possible thing. So the important thing to remember is basically there's nothing new, we've just kind of put our policy on paper in response to the request from former Governor Murkowski.

It's open for public comment and we strongly encourage comments. In the back of the policy there are -- there's an email address, there's a toll free number, there's a fax. Polly Wheeler said if you want to call her and talk about it or, you know, complain to her about it, her number is 786-3380. However people feel comfortable getting their comments in, please use that way.

Thanks. That's the end of that presentation.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. The only comment I have is on the last page under definitions and I don't know why the Western world is always defining natural resources as wild because there's no such word for wild or wilderness in the Alaska Native languages.

So, you know, I would much prefer as defined in ANILCA, whatever that symbol is, 803 subsistence means -- subsistence uses means:

> The customary and traditional uses by rural subsistence uses by rural Alaska residents of natural renewable resources for direct, personal or family consumption, food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation.

Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. That's all I have.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: He just translated as in, you know, when we say -- we don't actually say wildlife, but the thing that we see that, you know, the lands resources or the lands, plants and wildlife resources, actually, so it's not wildlife verbatim.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else. Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: No comments.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: No comment at this time.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: No comment, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joseph Peter Mike.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: I reserve comment that as we absorb this a little bit more and perhaps see places where it could be strengthened or that we may want to call a teleconference for formal action and recommendation from this Council prior to December 1 deadline.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Phillip Moses.

(In Yup'ik)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I have a timeframe question on where to send it and you just said Holly somebody if I want to complain.

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMS: Polly Wheeler. She's at 786-3380. She's looking for constructive criticism.

MS. GREGORY: 33 what?

MS. WILLIAMS: 3380.

MS. GREGORY: What is she?

MS. WILLIAMS: She's the head of the anthropologists at OSM, and she put the policy together but she really wants feedback. She did what she could but she knows it's not finished.

MS. GREGORY: Well, she'll get one for me.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: I don't have any comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All right. My understanding is this is just information you're giving us and we don't need to act on it.

MS. WILLIAMS: (Nods affirmatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, very much. Okay, No. 11.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Call for subsistence wildlife -- there we go again, wildlife -- I think all these are related to Harry and Lester. Call for subsistence wildlife proposals, A, proposals on amounts needed for subsistence on moose in lower -- oh, in Unit 18, Lester Wilde's supposed to take care of that but -- you -- you were raising your hand to address that, Don. Don Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Prior to the next agenda item, Member Roczicka stated that he would like to teleconference and further comment and make

final recommendations on the draft policy on customary trade. Did the Council want to go forward with that and if they do, we need to identify a date and time.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I said I'd reserve the comments until such time as I absorbed and saw if there were some additions that could be made. I don't have any at this time to actually do that. Once I get -- I'd like people to have different level and other avenues and knowledge above and beyond what I have to be able to take a look at it and see if there's places where it could be worked to better reflect protection for subsistence in the future. And I find that in several other areas as well but I don't have anything at present to say I definitely want to call a teleconference for later.

But as I understand the way the FACA system is set up anyway that any two Council members at any point in time can request a meeting and the meeting needs to be scheduled, I believe that there's a 10 day period, advance notice, something of that nature, is pretty much a standard, so I was merely reflecting on that. I wasn't saying right now let's.....

MR. D. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Go ahead, Don.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. As far as the proposals on amounts needed for subsistence for moose in Unit 18, I didn't get any briefing on that particular subject so the best person would be to ask for advice on that would be Alex Nick or Lester Wilde himself.

But as far as proposals, we can work with our wildlife Staff and submit a proposal on behalf of the Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: If my recollection serves me right this proposal was to address something that has been very controversial because on paper the amount of moose that is needed by families is about this much when in actuality it's like this. And that was the reason that this was brought

up. And I'm sorry that Lester isn't here to address that or Alex Nick because they were both familiar with what the surveys were and if anybody has anything to enlighten us on about this, I'd really appreciate it at this time.

Mr. Tim Andrew from AVCP, Natural Resources.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tim Andrew with AVCP.

I believe it was in the Emmonak meeting that the Council had learned about what the amounts needed for subsistence was on paper in Unit 18 for moose and it was based on numbers that were generated in 1983 by the Division of Subsistence when there was hardly any moose in Unit 18. And that number currently is at 80 to 100 moose for the entirety of Unit 18 and we did some initial work on it but we're having some numbers -- we're having problems with some of the numbers, I think it will probably take somebody with a little bit more expertise in developing these amounts needed for subsistence for moose in the future.

There's some incredible challenges that some of my staff faced in trying to develop the ANS numbers for moose because people's consumption of moose is pretty variable. You know like along the coastal areas there might not be a huge consumption of moose, maybe one or two percent of the local population might harvest moose while in the interior sections like Russian Mission, Kalskag, and some of those areas where there's more abundance of moose and -- and communities along the Yukon River, that consumption rate might be, you know, like up to 50 percent with the absence of caribou and muskox. There might be some bear that are also -- that are harvested that may vary the ANS amounts for moose.

So there needs to be a lot of work put into it and I don't know if the Department of -- or Division of Subsistence is making any progress as far as -- as far as developing the amounts needed for subsistence that would clearly reflect the true need. We have some preliminary numbers but those numbers are pretty impossible to work with at this point.

Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Anybody else.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. As I understand it it's ongoing right now between the State and Federal to try to come up with some kind of a reconciliation, the Federal system as I understand it doesn't really have any amounts necessary anywhere on the books and that's part of where this has all been generated and both the State and Federal representatives have been getting together over -- it's been well over a year now, I believe, that they've been trying to sit down and come to some reconciliation on what might be workable as far as numbers go but they haven't gotten anywhere near being there yet. And I think a lot of it reflects just what Tim just said.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, both. Shall we move on -- oh, Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, I just wanted to comment, you know, the Native population, you know, is growing. Just about every village is growing at a steady pace. I even heard that from Senator Ted Stevens about the Native population growing, you know, rapidly, and we need to think about our, you know, future generation that we'd like to provide moose for them. If this ANS is for, you know, like I said, you know, the Native population is growing at a steady pace and so we need to think about our future generation, at least have moose for them, you know, when their time comes.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. If you're done with the ANS part, I got something else I wanted to bring out.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Related to this?

MR. ROCZICKA: Related to wildlife proposals and I'm not really sure how to -- if it would

even be appropriate here and I wish there was -- Don was still around or maybe if we had someone else, perhaps Tom could help us on this, where -- how it might fit in.

But one of the main difficulties I'm seeing with the Federal system is when -- or the Federal Board, I should say, when you have reduced population such as has occurred in 19A and other places where there is a Federal subsistence Tier II hunt, or a population is down to levels where they say it can't sustain any subsistence hunt whatsoever, and the Federal Board says they have no ability and no authority to manage the populations, that's the job of each individual, the -- the member agencies of the Federal Board, Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, BIA doesn't have any lands anymore but Park Service and the rest.

But what I would like to see and I don't know if it would go in as a wildlife proposal or not, or just as a recommendation, request from the Council, but that the Federal Board request its member agencies to submit some kind of plan or process in detail that when a population such as moose falls to a level where subsistence is restricted into a Tier II or the hunt is eliminated because of low numbers, that management agency, that they have a process in place on how to rebuild those numbers especially if you have years and years and generations of use on that population that was ongoing with no detrimental effect. And when management activities such as, may as well say it straight forward, but predator/prey ratio balances were discontinued, moose populations drop into the toilet.

And I thought about bringing it up under the -- whether it would be appropriate here or somewhere later down the line or under the closure policy, I'd like to see that in there but Kempthorne's already signed that into law and maybe we could recommend that the Council adjust that or something.

But anyway how do -- that the Federal Board needs to start becoming a bit more assertive and not just managing only the human harvest, they are not managing for subsistence if they're not pursuing all the avenues that are there to maintain populations to sustain that subsistence use.

I thought about asking about it under this customary and traditional use criteria policy that's coming forward, how do you sustain customary and traditional use, the use, which is the focus of this, or protection of this, you're not protecting a use if you're not protecting the population that that use depends on. And there were methods and means done from -- I've been told from people from across the state, from the Canadian border and across the Canadian border throughout the region and around this area and up Seward Peninsula way as well that there were things done that were to keep predator populations that people saw were in direct competition for them for the same animals that they both like to eat that were done -- that were done away with in the name of ethics and sport value systems, which, you know, under Western society and, of course, the technology that Western civilization has bought in, in some places you need to do and -- and just how you carry out your activities you got to be careful with having a snowmachine to where nothing can hide its nose in a piece of brush all winter long. And so you need to go careful along those lines.

But, anyway, there should still be a recognition of that, that that was -- those are things that were done and how do you protect that use, you are not protecting subsistence use in the long run if you're not protecting the populations to provide for that use and the Board needs to come forward with that. And since they say they don't have the authority, if they would recommend -- I don't think they can require their management agencies to come forward with that but if you're in a -- if you're going into Tier II or shutting down subsistence the management agencies should be coming forward with some way to rebuild and retain and maintain these populations for future subsistence harvest.

And I don't know whether that's a wildlife proposal we can do or not.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Sounds like it is.

MR. ROCZICKA: It's more of a policy matter than an actual regulatory proposal.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Donald Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. To answer some of the questions of Member Greg, the Board submitted a letter to the Board of Game regarding the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the Federal Subsistence Board requested that the non-resident hunting be closed and just leave it open for subsistence -- Alaska residents only, but the Board of Game, I believe, denied that request so maybe our Staff -- are you familiar with that Larry, that the Board issued -- the issue to the Board of Game, it was like a couple months ago. The Board of Game -- the Federal Subsistence Board issued a letter to the Board of Game requesting that the Mulchatna Herd be closed to sporthunting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall at Emmonak, Bethel and Hooper Bay meeting Alex Nick usually ask for from the public if there's any such proposals to consider at our next meeting, such as fisheries or wildlife proposals.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talking about wildlife proposals, when there is changes in like the caribou that Donald mentioned, when there's changes, we as RAC members or AC members should know what changes there has been without proposals or like when population's down we learn that bag -- bag limit has changed for caribou in 18 and we, sometimes are surprised to hear about those changes and when we don't see them in proposals. And I just heard about the sportshunting -- sporthunting down in lower Yukon area, too, being planned for -- I don't know when it's going to be effective but since we are on Refuge land in Unit 18 we should know about those things.

Since Steve left Bethel we are not informed that close over there in Bethel area as AC and RAC members, we should know about changes to and we -- a lot of people ask me about the population -- moose population in Unit 18 in the moratorium area, I tell them that I have not heard reports of how many moose there is because we were -- when we passed that moratorium we were promised to open the Game Management

Unit 18 or that moratorium area in five years or thousand moose. So we have not heard the numbers of moose in that Unit 18 where the moratorium is.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Yes.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Tom Kron with OSM. Mr. Roczicka. Mr. Charles. This agenda item, you know, is an opportunity for the Council to submit wildlife proposals. And I think the intent was to let you know that Lester Wilde has -- is in the process of developing a wildlife proposal on the ANS issue. I know he's been working with Pete DeMatteo on it. And my understanding is that there will be a proposal on this issue submitted to the State, you know, the ANS number is a number. So they're looking to increase it, I think, but Tim spoke to the basic issue a little bit as well.

But, again, I think Lester's intent was to ask the State Board to reconsider the possibility of modifying the ANS number for Unit 18 moose.

Relative to Mr. Roczicka's question and issue about management when the populations are low, it sounds like maybe the kind of issue you'd want to bring up in your annual report that I think Donald's going to be talking about here shortly. Unless you can frame it in regulatory language that would fit in the regs, what I heard sounded more like an issue that you wanted to bring to the Board's attention and to get them thinking about and try to focus on changes in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. It goes back to the same old thing about the subsistence consumer is the one who sacrifices and sacrifices and sacrifices, and, yet, the people who play with their food have no restrictions.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Donald Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: In response to Mr. Hoelscher's comments. This is an item, it's a call for subsistence wildlife proposals so if there's any public

sitting in the audience today, they can bring their call for subsistence wildlife proposals at this time.

But any time -- they can either provide it in the public or they can submit their wildlife proposals to our office and the proposal forms are published in our wildlife regulations books, so they are available. The deadline for submitting wildlife proposals is October 19th, 2007.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else on this issue.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I am not going to talk very much.

MR. H. WILDE: And I think what I wrote down I'm going to try to repeat it, I can hardly read anyway myself.

(Laughter)

MR. H. WILDE: The moose harvest by the hunters in Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, a pattern of use and which is shared. The first moose harvest by young hunters and traditionally moose -- moose -- moose meat are given away to elders and to their relatives in communities -- communities often which the first few moose are harvest. At the beginning of the season the meat is shared widely in some villages to have opportunity, elders, to taste the fresh moose meat. This is an important element of daily (ph) meal and it is also widely share meat, fish in potluck and the holidays such as Christmas and also as memorial feast.

There is about 40 communities in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta hunt in Unit 18. The hunt for subsistence, like below Mountain Village, right now down and below and all over they've been targeting everything -- from Mountain Village to St. Michael, now, in 1995 State study was made by ADF&G, the communities hunt in Unit 18 Mountain Village the

population was at that time 1995 674; Hooper Bay population was 848; in Mountain Village the household was 148; Hooper Bay household was 190; Chevak population was 59 -- 98 and the household was 147; Scammon Bay they had 343 population and 85 household; Nunam'Iqua it had 109 population and 27 household; Alakanuk has 544 121 households; Emmonak has 642 population and 161 household; Kotlik has 461 population and 101 households; so therefore if you look at that time in that time in 1995, population was 4,450 in the lower Yukon, that's back in 1995 and the household was 1,304.

Today there are more people, people and more houses in the nine villages below Mountain Village and also that if you look at the population in Kuskokwim, there, we've been working and hunting and sharing together there are more than -- right now more than 40 communities.

So therefore that you look at I think this Unit 18 moose hunters just for subsistence, to me 80 or 100 is not enough.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Are we going to submit something as a Council or can we do it like the other item that we just concluded with on the -- anybody have any ideas, direction or something.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you. Don, can you define to the Board Item 11. I think there's some little misunderstanding going on that needs to be kind of straightened out with the Board.

My understanding is at our Emmonak, Bethel and Hooper Bay meetings that, you know, a call for subsistence wildlife proposals or, you know, drafts that will be presented for proposing at our next wildlife meeting, if -- that's my understanding.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Edgar. This call for subsistence wildlife proposals is any wildlife proposal that you, as an individual, or the Council may want to put in right now. This is an opportunity. The time now is to submit wildlife proposals, any changes you want to see made to hunting regulations, harvest regulations, harvest limits, those kind of things.

I think the reason why A is on there is it was just an information item to let the Council know -- this was something that was discussed at your last meeting. Lester Wilde brought it up then. And it's a proposal that needs to go before the Board of Game so that's -- they're the ones that handle amounts necessary for subsistence, so there's no need to put in a parallel proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board at this time because it's really a State matter.

And my -- what I heard from Harry was his comments basically regarding that, in support of what Lester was doing.

Lester worked closely with Pete DeMatteo, our wildlife biologist in the office, to develop a proposal and that's now been submitted to the Board of Game. I think their deadline was like August 18th -- what was it?

MR. ROCZICKA: 17th.

MR. RIVARD: 17th, okay, I knew I was close. So that's been done and so the State will be looking into the amounts necessary for subsistence for moose for Unit 18 is my understanding.

Your Council has commented in the past that the present number is way to low and so that's the nature of the proposal that Lester put into the -- to the Board of Game, and he had to do it, I think, as an individual because the wording wasn't set and you have to have it in front of you and vote on it as a Council in order for it to be coming directly from your Council so I think he basically kind of did it on behalf of the people of Unit 18.

So that's -- if there's any other proposals, you don't have to submit a proposal now but as Donald Mike mentioned, that the deadline to submit wildlife proposals is October 19th [sic], so just a reminder to your Council, there are proposal forms in

the book and I think you can also get them on line and if, for some reason you didn't have them, you could just write up your intent and submit it to our office and we'll work with you then and get it into the right form and all that.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I was going to ask that earlier if the proposal had actually been submitted because Tom said that they were working on it but I didn't realize it had actually -- that's what I was wondering if you were going to be doing one for the -- for both Boards and, again, I know the Federal Board doesn't have what they call -- what, subsistence use amounts is the label they have that they're trying to develop but they haven't gotten there yet. But, yeah, the proposal books actually should be coming out here for the AYK region.

The Board of Game is actually going to be meeting in Bethel this year. They cycle between Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow and so we get them about once every eight years and since it's on a two year cycle, but the AYK regional proposals will be in Bethel. And there, again, if it's something that the Board wants to weigh in on and the difficulty with being on this Council is that we don't meet timely to always be able to go on record for some of these things. But, here, again, is a place where we might want to consider a teleconference if we want to officially weigh in on it or if before -- what is it, the October 27 deadline for Federal proposals if members had something brought to them or something came forward in their mind that they wanted to sponsor a proposal, that we could do that in between here, yet, and, again, that's something that we can do with a 10 day advance notice and at the request of at least two Council members, I believe.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Don. You have any idea what the proposal is about, I'm not -- I didn't understand everybody talking?

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mary. I apologize. We should have brought copies of that proposal from Lester, that was an oversight on our part. But basically from my understanding, is, the State recognizes the amounts necessary for moose for Unit 18, I think it's all of Unit 18 and Harry mentioned it, it's 80 to 100 moose, I think -- I think it's 80. And that number has been disputed by your Council for several years now and so to prompt the State to look more into that and to come up with better numbers, Lester Wilde put in a proposal to the Board of Game that's going to have them look at the amounts necessary for subsistence.

I don't know if Lester put in a number specifically of what he thinks it should be but I will look at that and we will get copies of that sent to all of you. You should have all had a copy of that in front of you at this meeting, and I apologize for us not bringing that.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Thank you. I'd like to support our Council members who is preparing this proposal and because we sacrifice a lot of our foods so that they can -- the resources can grow, but at the same time if people are not giving us the right kind of information, they need to be held accountable for that because we are here trying to help our resources to be available, not only for us but for our descendants.

MR. RIVARD: And once again, Mr. Chair and Mary, the proposal has been submitted to the Board of Game and they'll be taking it up in what month, Greg, it's.....

MR. ROCZICKA: I believe the meeting's scheduled for November 9 through 12.

And just as another little informational add in here, too, for people to carry along with you, if you care to remember those type of things, but the amounts necessary for subsistence, or actually the current ones that are there for the most part were established in 1992 following the McDowell Decision where the State was required to come up with those numbers across -- across all our game management

units and the information that was used to come up with those numbers was the harvest ticket reporting primarily so that's prob -- so that's where GMU 18 ended up with 80 to 100. We all know the level of harvest reporting that the, you know, since people did not report for the most part, it was anywhere from maybe 10 to 40 percent, perhaps 50 at best, I would think for most communities, certainly back in those years.

And I think GMU 19 was like 150 moose or 150 to 200 moose for all of 19, 19A, B, C and D was 150 to 200 moose as amounts necessary.

So that's those numbers, the current ones we got were generated from. And there have been some changes over the years but in a lot of places they still remain the same.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I think we've belabored this long enough.

Thank you for the information and let's hope for the best for Lester's proposal.

Okay.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Don Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: Before we go on any further, call for subsistence wildlife proposals, there was a letter that was drafted by your coordinator, Alex Nick, and in preparation for the Chair's signature, Lester Wilde, this letter was for -- from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council endorsing the Association of Village Council Presidents plan to establish a Mulchatna Caribou Herd Working Group and that addresses the situation of the Mulchatna Caribou population. The Council heard briefly and reviewed AVCP's plan to establish the working group during its March 16th, 17th 2007 public meeting that was held in Hooper Bay and by unanimous consent has agreed to endorse the establishment of the working group.

So I do have the letter here if the Council wishes to endorse it or go forward with it. This letter was just produced a couple months ago.

Mr. Chair.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, I don't see any reason for any further action. That letter, we endorsed that back at our last meeting, the letter could have been sent to the Chairman when it was drafted a couple of months ago and sent along, I guess, is.....

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I'll forward that on to your coordinator and he'll get it further reviewed and moved forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay. Item 12. Develop FY 2007 annual report. Donald Mike. Refer to guidance to Council on Annual Report, information item, Page 64.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. This annual report has been occurring every year. I mean it's a process that the Regional Councils statewide use, this is just an information item, it's on Page 64.

ANILCA established annual reports as a way to bring regional subsistence uses and needs to the attention of the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. So as you can see on Page 64 it outlines what the report should contain and the report format.

And I'll take any questions, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: When is the annual report due, do we have one for fisheries and one for game or do we have one for the year?

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. You can bring your annual report items together -- subjects together at this meeting cycle and then Alex can draft the annual report and bring it to you again at your winter meeting and get it approved.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: My question was when are these annual reports due?

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. I don't recall seeing an exact due date but since I've been on the Council, in the fall it's kind of like an ongoing agenda item and the coordinator brings it forward and it's requesting Council members to -- if you have issues right now that you want to -- problems that you see in the system that you'd like the Board to address and it's not in the regulatory cycle as Mr. Kron indicated, we can do it here or you can contact the coordinator individually at any time in between. He will be drafting up that report generally toward the end of the year and have something before us at our winter meeting in February or March and then it's finalized and sent in. Maybe it's April 1 or whether they go on a fiscal year, I'm not sure.

But generally it's a housekeeping item coming forward, something that's a required report every year that the Council needs to put forward.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Okay. Anybody have any burning items they want put on the annual report at this moment, if not.....

MS. GREGORY: I have one.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: .....I -- let me finish. If you have -- if you don't have anything burning that needs to be presented right now, follow the advice of the coordinator and write to Alex Nick in Bethel with your concern on -- I mean something to be included in the annual report.

You know mine is always abandoned beaver dam, I'm going to keep on doing it until they're all gone.

Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, under Subsection 3, on this guideline for writing annual reports, the Unit 18, the problem we're having there, without adequate information, feedback.

And also I'd like to maybe include our partnership program with that Mr. Up There, if that would be -- I think that would show us that we are trying to -- one of the strategies for management of fish and wildlife, I think that would fit in there.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mary. On your last topic, because of the timeliness issue, I would suggest that maybe your Council write a letter directly to the Federal Subsistence Board endorsing the Partner's Program because otherwise this is -- if this becomes just an issue for your annual report it's not going to get to the Federal Subsistence Board until next spring, and you want to make sure they hear what you have to say before the end of this year.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair, that is noted. And your next agenda item is a review of the 2006 report and reply, and you'll find that on Page 65. And if you have any questions you may refer them to me or Alex Nick or his former supervisor, Don Rivard.

Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody have any comments on the annual report submitted March 16th, 2007 to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board written by Alex Nick and signed off by Lester Wilde, the Chair.

MR. ROCZICKA: And the Federal Board's response.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: And the Federal Board's response on Page 69, 70, 71, 72 and 73.

(Pause)

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: It's pretty hard for me to comment on these because I got this packet the day before I came here so I'm still going through the whole book.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any comments

from the Council, remember we are a Council, we're not a Board.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair, I can't comment yet.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: No.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joseph.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Phillip.

MR. MOSES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: No comment, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me.

(Laughter)

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I'd like to further address your agenda if I could please.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: On what issue?

MR. D. MIKE: On the remaining agenda items, No. 13, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River Salmon Post-Season report.

We have a petition that was submitted from AVCP seeking comments from this Council. We received two petitions from AVCP and they're seeking recommendation or comment from this Council, and we have representatives from AVCP to present their petition.

The other item that the Council make recommendation on, we have a letter to the Chair, Mr. Lester Wilde from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Office in Bethel, and they'd like to send their letter to the Council for comment. And this letter is on Alaska Board of Game Proposal 9 submitted by the Native Village of Hooper Bay to propose ban the use of lead shot for small game and furbearers in Unit 18.

So if we could get to those two items before we get into agency and organization reports that will take care of the business this Council needs to address.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I'm not comfortable with changing the agenda at this time because we already made our motion and approved the agenda as it was presented to us yesterday at the beginning of the meeting. So I'm just going to -- if those two items come up when they're supposed to come up then we'll address them, but right now I'm more concerned about following the agenda items that we approved. So from here on we're going to go on with the Item 13, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Yukon River Salmon Post-Season Report.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, I didn't know my mic was on, go ahead.

MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Council members. My name is Gerald Maschmann and I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks. And I

specifically work for Russ Holder who is the Yukon River Federal fisheries manager. I've handed this out earlier, the 2007 Yukon River salmon season overview. And for the sake of time I'm just going to read the summary and subsistence portion of that report. And Steve Hayes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, he'll elaborate more on the escapement and commercial fishery for this year.

The summer season was difficult to manage due to chinook salmon run size returning significantly less than expected and the above average abundance of summer chum salmon. The fall chum salmon run was late and not as strong as projected, while the coho salmon run was early and above average in run strength. Managers have heard that subsistence fishers had to work harder than usual to achieve subsistence harvest goals for chinook salmon and in some cases may not have achieved their goals. Overall 2007 was a challenging fishing season in terms of managing for escapement objectives, providing preferential subsistence opportunities and for ADF&G to provide commercial and other harvest opportunities.

Pre-season the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff worked with ADF&G Staff to develop the pre-season and management approaches were distributed in May as the golden colored information sheet 2007 Yukon River Salmon Fisheries. This sheet was mailed by ADF&G to all Yukon River subsistence households and commercial fishing permit holders. Managers entered the season anticipating that the four primary Yukon River salmon runs would return with sufficient abundance to meet escapement objectives, provide for normal subsistence harvest and provide for additional harvest opportunities. The chinook salmon run was anticipated to be average to below average and similar to the 2006 run. The summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon runs were anticipated to be average to above average.

Most subsistence salmon fishermen delayed their fishing effort due to high gas prices and low fish numbers early in the season. The windowed salmon fishing scheduled was initiated on May 28th in District 1 and was implemented chronologically up river as the run progressed up stream. Subsistence salmon in-season harvest information collected by both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G indicated that most fishermen were able to obtain their subsistence harvest

goals except for some fishers in the Koyukuk River drainage if they started fishing prior to or during the first pulse of fish. However the below average chinook salmon run and atypical decrease in abundance during the middle of the run made catch rates poorer than average and increased the amount of time needed to catch fish. Many fishermen reported fishing one to two weeks more than average. The high water temperatures in the upper portion of the drainage made checking nets and wheels more often an important factor and fishermen commented this increased the effort and time spent fishing. Combined with high gas prices, subsistence fishing for chinook salmon was challenging this year with many fishermen commenting that they anticipated making their immediate family subsistence salmon harvest goals, however many families commented that their harvests were not enough to share with extended family like they normally would.

The subsistence salmon fishing schedule was liberalized in the lower river districts to 7 days per week, 24 hours per day fishing beginning in District 1 on June 18th when 33 percent of the run had passed. Subsistence fishing time was liberalized up river with similar chronological timing. Additional liberalizations to the subsistence salmon fishing schedule were provided in District 4 to address difficulties local fishermen described harvesting their subsistence chinook salmon including the Federal drift gillnet fishery in Subdistricts 4-B and C.

For the fall season. The 2007 fall season had an unusually late entry of fall chum salmon and a run size well below the preseason projection of one million fish. Based on sonar cumulative passage estimates historical average run timing, preliminary genetic information and Mountain Village test fishery catches, the 2007 fall chum salmon run was estimated to be between 600 to 700,000 fish as of September 1st. The fish entered in three significant pulses on August 6th, August 12th and August 24th. Although the 2007 fall chum run was well below the preseason projection, the run was of sufficient size to meet drainage-wide escapement goals, subsistence opportunities, border passage commitments to canada and allow for a conservative commercial harvest. The coho salmon run began early and it appears that the run size was above average for the season.

The outlook for 2008 will be prepared

by ADF&G after escapement information and age composition analysis are completed over the next several months.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Any questions, comments from the Council.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, hearing none, the ADF&G part.

MR. HAYES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Council Members. Once again my name is Steve Hayes with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm the summer season area manager for chinook and summer chum salmon on the Yukon River. And the information I'll be covering can be found in the preliminary Yukon River summer season summary that I handed out to you.

And as Gerald said in his presentation the 2007 run was expected to be average to below average and similar in abundance to the 2006 run. We anticipated the run would provide for escapements, support a normal subsistence harvest and a below average commercial harvest. The 2007 preseason outlook projected a commercial harvest of 30 to 60,000 chinook salmon and this range of commercial catch is below the 10 year average of approximately 48,300 chinook salmon. And the summer chum salmon runs have shown steady improvements since 2001 with harvestable surpluses in each of the last five years, 2002 through 2006. The 2007 run outlook was for an average to above average run which would provide for escapement, support a normal subsistence harvest and a surplus for commercial harvest. The commercial harvest in Alaska was projected to be from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon, depending on salmon market conditions. And this year's chinook run was estimated to be slightly later than average and not as strong overall as anticipated. The summer chum run was near average in both strength and run timing. The lower Yukon test fishery finished on July 15th with a cumulative CPUE of 19.16 for chinook salmon. The average season total CPUE from 1989 through 2006 for chinook salmon is 22.99.

The first quarter point, mid-point and

third-quarter point were on June 16th, June 22nd and June 28th respectfully.

The Pilot Station sonar project cumulative passage estimate from May 31st to August 8th was approximately 125,300 chinook salmon and 19 percent below the average of 154,000.

The first quarter point, mid-point and third-quarter point were on June 19th, June 24th and July 31st respectively.

Similar to the management strategy utilized in 2006 the Department scheduled a short early commercial period based on the pre-season projection. The opening was intended to foster early commercial interest. The first commercial period -- fishing period in the lower river occurred in District Y2 on Friday June 15th for three hours with unrestricted mesh size gillnets. And just to clarify, again, when I refer to unrestricted mesh size gillnets I am referring that fishermen can use any mesh size during those openings, but typically use larger mesh gear. Now, the commercial harvest in that period was approximately 2,100 chinook and 150 chum salmon.

The Department's test nets observed the first and largest pulse of chinook salmon from June 14th to June 17th. The Department delayed opening the next commercial period targeting chinook salmon until June 18th in District Y1. During the second pulse from June 20th through June 24th it appeared that chinook salmon were entering the river at a slow, steady rate rather than a typical pulse pattern and the run was not as strong overall as anticipated.

A strong first pulse followed by a weaker pulse is unusual. During the poor runs in 1998 and 2000, test fishing CPUE and Pilot Station sonar estimates were lower than average throughout the run. Due to the uncertainty about the chinook salmon run strength after the second pulse was observed, management of the chinook commercial fishery was conservative in order to meet escapement and subsistence needs and Canadian border passage obligations. After June 25th no additional unrestricted commercial periods targeting chinook salmon were allowed in the lower river districts.

A total of 23,000 chinook were taken

during unrestricted mesh size openings in Districts 1 through 3. Three commercial periods directed at chinook were allowed in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C with a total harvest of 1,241 chinook salmon.

In 2007 there was a market interest for summer chum salmon. Based on the projected near average run estimate for summer chum the Department initiated short commercial periods restricted to 6 inch maximum mesh size in the lower river districts directed at chum salmon beginning in District 2 with a two hour commercial period on June 19th. Because of the uncertainty about the chinook salmon run strength only restricted mesh openings were allowed after June 25th. Additionally the Department attempted to schedule chum directed commercial periods when chinook abundance was low. Approximately 9,000 chinook were incidentally harvested in these restricted periods which were approximately 70 percent males. Additionally three commercial periods were established in Subdistrict 4-A and seven periods were established in District 6 all of which were directed summer chum salmon.

The preliminary season harvest total for all districts combined is 33,600 chinook and 198,200 summer chum salmon.

All spawning escapement goals were met in Alaska. The Chena River tower finished counting on August 4th with the cumulative estimate of approximately 3,600 chinook salmon. The Chena River exceeded the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 2,800 on July 22nd.

The Salcha River tower estimated a minimum of approximately 5,700 chinook salmon through August 6th and exceeded the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 3,300 chinook salmon on July 22nd.

Additionally the Department conducted aerial surveys of the Andreafsky, Anvik, Nulato and Gisasa Rivers from July 22nd through July 24th. All of these index rivers met or exceeded their sustainable escapement goals for chinook salmon.

The Eagle sonar cumulative estimated passage was approximately 41,200 chinook salmon.

It appears the 2007 Yukon River chinook salmon run was approximately 60 to 70,000 fish less

than projected preseason. It is noteworthy that the chinook runs in the Kuskokwim and Nushagak Rivers were approximately 100,000 fish less than projected preseason in 2007 in each system.

And in all three of these large river systems preliminary information indicates that more than one age class was expected preseason, and, of course, the cause of this discrepancy is unknown.

Preliminary post-season analysis indicates summer chum escapements were generally good in the East Fort Andreafsky and Anvik Rivers and in the Koyukuk River drainage. And, of course, escapement goals have been established for the Andreafsky and Anvik Rivers. And, additionally, there is also a drainage-wide optimum escapement objective for the Yukon River based on the Pilot Station sonar project of 600,000 summer chum salmon.

The Anvik River sonar based escapement count of 460,000 summer chum was within the biological escapement goal range of 350,000 to 700,000. The estimated escapement of approximately 70,000 summer chum for the East Fork Andreafsky River was within the biological escapement goal range of 65,000 to 135,000.

In 2007 based on the projected total U.S. catch of Canadian origin chinook salmon and the harvest sharing arrangements and the Canada/U.S./Yukon River Salmon Agreement, it was expected that the total border escapement would be at least 45,500 chinook salmon as measured by the mark/recapture program and the Canadian allowable chinook harvest would be approximately 12,500 chinook. However, there was a shortfall in the run into Canada. The final mark/recapture estimate is 23,000 chinook salmon. Because of the low run strength, the Canadian commercial and domestic fisheries were not allowed in 2007 for chinook salmon. The daily catch limit in the recreational fishery was reduced and subsequently closed. No restrictions were placed on the First Nation's fishery and as of September 4th an estimated 4,000 chinook salmon had been harvested.

In summary the chinook run was below average and not as strong as 2006 run. Despite lower than anticipated run strength the 2007 chinook salmon run appeared to provide adequate subsistence harvest although fishers had to work harder to meet their

needs. Biological and sustainable escapement goals have been met in the U.S., however, the chinook salmon run fell short of the Canadian border passage obligation.

Summer chum run timing was near average with a season total run estimate of 1.7 million fish passed Pilot Station sonar. The summer chum run provided for escapement and subsistence uses and a moderate commercial harvest.

And that concludes my presentation, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions, comments from the Council.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: At this time I'd -- oh, we have something else from our -- let's take a break to five minutes to 3:00.

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: We'll come back to order. James.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James Charles. Edgar. Mary. Phillip Moses.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: We have a little something that has to be taken care of right away.

(Pause)

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Given that people are going to be catching planes we've had the request for a couple more action items. I'd move at this point to

suspend the rules to take up the petitions that AVCP has before the Council along with the request from the YK-Delta Refuge.

MR. HOELSCHER: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion and a second to suspend the rules. All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those opposed say no.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion carries. The first would be Yukon-Delta, or what order do you want?

MR. ROCZICKA: He's up there.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Oh, okay, we'll go with the AC Organization report No. E, Capital Letter E down at the bottom of Page 2, AVCP update presented by Mr. Tim Andrew of Marshall.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tim Andrew with AVCP. We have before you two petitions that were submitted August 20th, 2007 to the Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne. One is asking that the Secretary utilizes Title 5, Section 553(e) 7 CFR 1.28 and 43 CFR 14 to exert extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure that subsistence needs are met on Alaska Native Corporation lands.

This was in response to several testimonies that we have heard in various places, one in the Western Interior -- well, actually they were both in Western Interior and some of the concerns that we have been hearing from people around the area. And also what is on record when Title VIII of ANILCA was in the process of being adopted.

During this August 10th Federally-sanctioned moose hunt that occurred within the Lower Yukon area, we have heard that a number of people have also experienced the same problem as an individual did in the upper part of the Kuskokwim River when he got a

Federal draw permit. People are needing to hunt for Federal land in order to participate in the fall hunt and it also occurs the same way on caribou hunts and various other hunts, more than likely all across the state of Alaska.

As you know many of the Alaska Native Corporation lands are deemed as -- as private property and are within State jurisdiction and they are exempt from the Federal hunting and trapping and fishing regulations. But the Native Corporations all up and down the Yukon River from Russian Mission on down to the mouth have all claimed areas that are important to them for subsistence purposes and not necessarily for resource development or any other purpose. But most of the ANCSA Corporations have utilized or laid claim to these lands as a result of ANCSA, primarily to fulfill their subsistence needs.

We ask for your support -- or just for the interest of time we ask for your support and hopefully this will be a good utilization of time to -- to kind of make this as brief and short as possible so that you may have the time to consider supporting us in these two proposals -- or these two petitions that we have sent to the Secretary.

Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Questions, comments from the Council.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. A couple points. You mentioned it in your brief oral statement here but that's one thing that jumped out at me when I just kind of read through this is how come you don't have it specifically stated in there about the ANCSA selections were primarily made for hunting and fishing and the selections were the ones that the Corporations, back in the ANCSA days -- but you don't mention that in your petition anywhere and that's an oversight I see. I think you should include that, although I understand it's already submitted.

But the other point is, though, since the ANCSA Corporations are in control of these

properties, have you approached any of them? I looked at your CC list, I didn't see any of them on there, have you talked to any of the ANCSA Corporations to see how they might feel about this any down side they may see as far as -- you know, what activities they might want to conduct or how it may.....

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, we have.....

MR. ROCZICKA: .....affect them, negative, good or bad.

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, thank -- Mr. Chair. Greg. We have sent this to our village corporations. We received support from one of the corporations, I can't quite remember who that corporation was but that corporation was -- was talking to Art, and I didn't get it solidly in my mind which corporation it was. But we had sent this out in a pretty busy time of the year when people are picking berries and kind of wrapping up for the fall, participating in the fall hunt and what not, so we weren't able to get the feedback necessary to -- to further assert this but this issue will likely come up during our October Convention -- AVCP Convention. And we continue to further solicit support from the ANCSA Corporations because all the -- or most of the ANCSA shareholders are tribal members of their respective home communities.

And, yes, I did -- there was an oversight to include that assertion that the ANCSA Corporations were primarily selected for subsistence purposes rather than for resource development and what not.

MR. ROCZICKA: If I could follow up Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Have you identified any down side that may result from this to the corporations and the other is that the response I see coming out of this is that the corporations already have, and many of them already exercised the ability to preclude any other access to their lands and that should be able to alleviate it although that doesn't speak to the State versus Federal hunting and fishing regulations applying, but that's an argument that's going to be in there.

MR. ANDREW: Yeah. One -- there is some pro's and con's, but the -- we believe that the pro's outweigh the con's as far as how it affects the village corporations.

No. 1 being the difference between the Alaska State statute on subsistence being open to everybody in the state of Alaska regardless of where you live, it doesn't necessarily have to be rural areas, but subsistence hunters can come from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and what not and other places.

But we have something that's really close and doesn't necessarily satisfy all of our needs but we have something pretty close to a Native priority which is the rural preference, or rural priority under Federal statute and feel that the Federal Management System is more conducive to meet the needs -- or the subsistence needs of people that are residing in our 56 villages in the area.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, that's all I had, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Thank you for allowing him to come before us. And (In Yup'ik) Executive Order or is that something different?

MR. ANDREW: The Executive Order is something that we were going to bring up later on in our report but if I understood the motion that was stated, it was stated that they were going to deal with these two action items and then we'll go on with our report at a later time.

MS. GREGORY: And it says that the RACs were sent out a copy of these letters, I never received none of these so if you could check that out or my mail is very slow.

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, we have sent this out and it might have been a little bit too late to really include it into your RAC packets and might not have even made it through the system being -- since it

was being -- I mean since it was sent out so late.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tim, we know that Native Corporations are State chartered and has copies of this letter been forwarded to the State also and are you expecting any frictions, they oversee the management of the land, especially what -- State Fish and Game?

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, we anticipate quite a bit of opposition from the State, Governor's office and also Alaska Department of Fish and Game and from the Board of Game as well, Board of Fisheries, and that's -- it's a position that we put forward rather than -- I mean we know that -- we know that the -- we know that we were going to get opposition when we put this forward.

And, you know, some of the opposition may come from village corporations themselves, or from the State of Alaska or from any of the Outdoor Councils or perhaps maybe some other privately operated businesses and what not.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, as Greg stated earlier, you know, there was no CC's to the corporation and you mentioned that you had only one response from the corporation regarding this petition.

MR. ANDREW: Yeah, we've since passed it out to the village corporations and only one of the village corporations were able to get this on their agenda and get it back to us.

We've had feedback for proposals for a petition of this nature from one of the Native Regional Corporations, they indicated that our position was too tribal. That -- and that was about the extent of their comment, that it was too tribal.

But we see -- we see situations that are occurring on actions from the Board of Game, Board of Fisheries, from the Federal Subsistence Board that really endangers our way of life but -- you know with the least amount of impact on the Native community in our villages we feel that the Federal Management System was more conducive and be able to carry out the needs of the people in the villages in a more effective manner.

In the -- I believe it was in the community of Bethel to really participate in a Federal subsistence hunt for caribou people would have to travel -- I can't remember, it might have been 30 miles outside the community in order to participate in a Federally-sanctioned caribou hunt. And with the price of gasoline in the community of Bethel being 4.75 or so a gallon and the neighboring villages it's either that or close to $5 a gallon, that presents an incredible challenge for people to participate in a Federal hunt. So we felt that the village corporations should be included in the Federal Management System rather than State jurisdiction.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, just a comment, you know, in my area down on the lower Yukon, too, we have to travel, you know, great distances to get to Federal lands, too, and there's very few people, you know, that took that opportunity when the moose season was opened to Federally-qualified users on, I believe, August 10th, and, you know, people are still trying to get their moose down in that area and I guess they're reluctant to, you know, go out and do that moose hunt during that subsistence opening and now that the season is officially open, you know, they're taking advantage of that because, you know, like you mentioned the high price of gas to travel to get their moose.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe Mike.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I will support -- I will support the letter and the intent of the AVCP because they are our non-profit organization even though regional corporations were established I -- I am not a cash economy user, I am a subsistence user and I should be able to hunt in my own land that is entrusted to me.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Just to let you know corporation land has been approved to, what you call (In Yup'ik) corporation three or four months ago and now that you see in the newspaper (In Yup'ik) Corporation land is not -- sporthunters not welcome, only the ones they're qualified subsistence users, they could hunt in our area.

I am a member of corporation in Mountain Village, that's why I give you this information.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Anybody else.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No. Okay. The other.....

MR. ROCZICKA: There's no motion.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: What are you asking, Tim?

MR. ANDREW: We are asking the -- we are asking for the Regional Advisory Council's support on this petition. If -- if the Council does support it it would be nice to have a supporting letter that we can -- or perhaps your organization can submit to Secretary Kempthorne.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: You heard the

request, is there a motion to honor that request?

MS. GREGORY: I so move Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Second, somewhere.

MR. H. WILDE: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion and a second. Discussion. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Just a point of clarification, Mr. Chair. Your Council can send some kind of support letter or whatever, it would go to Chairman Fleagle, I don't think you're supposed to go directly to the Secretary. You're part of the Federal Subsistence Program and you're supposed to answer directly to the Federal Subsistence Board. So that's where this letter of support would go, would be to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: You have a problem with that?

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. And this --you know I was kind of holding back on this one here until I do my organization presentation but he just clearly showed the point of contention that we have with the Federal Management System, and I don't want to say it right now, I'll say it when my report comes up.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Discussion on the motion from the Council.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion -- I mean a question.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make another comment. The procedures that are put out by the Federal government, management people were not made with our participation and a lot of times we -- doors are shut on -- slammed on us all the time, just like that, what Mr. Rivard had just told us, knock and it shall be opened onto you, we could send it directly to this guy.

What is he a new Secretary of Interior, now, did he replace Gale Norton, or what, we could send that, we can do that. We can be daring.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: That's not my understanding from Don.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any more discussion on the motion.

(No comments)

MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Question's been called. All those in favor of the motion to support the petition signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those opposed.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion carries. And we'll make sure it goes through the proper procedure and I still -- ah, forget it.

MR. ANDREW: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair, Council members for your support.

The second petition that we had submitted is regarding your positions, it's regarding the selection of the Regional Advisory Councils.

One of the areas that we have a problem with is the -- there is a total lack of tribal consultation in the process, where the Regional Advisory Council members when they're selected. And we have been running into a block continuously from different people as we present this issue indicating that ANILCA is not Native Legislation.

We run into -- we ran into this situation with the Federal regulatory authorities, we run into it with -- with the solicitor's office, we run into it with the Assistant Secretary of Interior, we've

run into it with -- even some of our own people, they're indicating that ANILCA is not Native Legislation, and, therefore, they do not have to consult with the tribes in whatever processes that they take to -- to appoint Regional Advisory Council members.

What we'd like for them to do is -- is to be able to either consult with the Alaska Native Organizations or with the 56 regional tribes or their designee in determining who the RAC members are going to be because it affects our way of life in all the villages, all the people that you serve, it affects their way of life.

Now, with this 70/30 split that is going to be forced upon you, we are more than likely going to get some transporters or guiding operations that are going to come and try and serve on the Regional Advisory Council and they're going to be sitting right amongst -- amongst this -- amongst you and the Federal Subsistence Board had acted that 30 percent of the -- the composition of the Regional Advisory Councils got to be from the sport or commercial interest. And we -- since we hold a big stake in this as tribal members and consumers, true subsistence users, that we feel that the tribal councils, at the minimum, and if not AVCP or whichever tribal orga -- or Alaska Native organization they designate have a say in the selection of Regional Advisory Council members.

You know we feel that the process is totally undermines the authority of the tribes, the authority of people that truly depend on the resource, we feel that they need to be involved in the process.

And with the -- with a petition that we had submitted prior to this one here regarding the tribal consultation process our executive board fully supported that initiative and I'm sorry I didn't include it into this petition. But, you know, it is -- this -- you know, subsistence management is very important to our tribes, to our tribal members, to people in the villages, of which Title VIII of ANILCA was enacted for.

Although, you know, it says rural priority, which means everybody that resides in the rural areas or designated rural areas can participate

in the hunt, it was the Alaska Native community that -- that this intent was directed towards. You know when ANCSA was being adopted they charged the Secretary of Interior to watch the management systems to make sure that they fulfilled the subsistence needs of the Alaska Natives and since it was not happening the Title VIII of ANILCA was put into the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act to ensure that Alaska Native's subsistence way of life was protected and we're able to continue to harvest the resources that we needed off this land. So it's -- it's in that spirit that we would like to develop a process that involves tribes to participate in the selection of Regional Advisory Council members.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions or comments to Mr. Andrew.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: When I filled out for an application to a -- to be considered for the position of a RAC member it stated you'd have to be a rural resident and a resident and, you know, there's -- I know there is
56 tribes in the villages and there's also rural residents and so that, you know, that section, I guess, needs to be visited also.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: No.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joseph.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg. I almost

passed you up again.

MR. ROCZICKA: Well, I've got some questions worked in here. I'm wondering -- I can agree with some of the body of what's in here but when I start to look into the specifics and I'm wondering on your last four criteria there, that the tribal regional non-profits will assume the responsibilities currently held and you say by the Federal Subsistence Board, I presume you mean actually the Office of Subsistence Management and the administration of this Council, taking care of all the travel and per diems and all of the other organization aspects, our annual reports, organization of the whole shebang, is -- and is that's what's being asked here, that's item number 1.

First off, clarify you say the Federal Subsistence Board versus, is that just a typo or misprint?

MR. ANDREW: I would have to consult with the author of this one here and his intent. But what -- I don't really want to -- I don't feel comfortable making an assumption so I don't want to make an assumption on record, but I do apologize for that.

MR. ROCZICKA: Well, I don't feel comfortable making a decision without knowing that.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Tim, you were not finished.

MR. ANDREW: I believe the tribal regional non-profit organizations already knows -- would take the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board in confirming the Regional Advisory Councils. That's what I would suspect that it would be. It's not -- it's not a contracting of the -- or this right here is not the actual contracting of the Regional Advisory Council process, it is seeking tribal consultation and confirmation of Regional Advisory Council members.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Oh, I went

through there already. Greg. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. Greg, in that subsection 100.11 he's quoting what the Council -- make up of how the procedure for that and also I have no problem with that. Because we, as Native people, need to stick together and band together in everything we do for our own people and not have an animosity between us.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mr. Harry Wilde.

MR. H. WILDE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: At this time I think it's better for me to just keep my mouth shut.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: You're asking for support for this petition again?

MR. ANDREW: Yes, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Is there a motion to support.

MS. GREGORY: I will make the motion to support this petition calling for the change in appointment process of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council members.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor.

MR. HOELSCHER: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a second. Discussion.

(No comments)

MR. HOELSCHER: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any discussion.

(No comments)

MR. HOELSCHER: I already called for

the question, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I'm sorry but I -- the maker of the motion and the seconder of the motion cannot call for the question, it has to be.....

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Question's been called.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Those opposed say nay.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No opposition. Motion carries to support the petition.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council for your -- for your support.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: You're welcome. Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge update, Mr. Sundown.

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board. For the record my name is Robert Sundown. I work for the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge. I'm a subsistence resource specialist there.

As Board member Roczicka mentioned, the Alaska Board of Game is meeting in Bethel, Alaska on November 9 through 12th and they're going to discuss AYK proposals for game issues, and game issues that affect the unit most of live in, which is Unit 18. And the Native Village of Hooper Bay, this spring, submitted a proposal, it's Proposal 9, there's not a copy available quite yet, the copies become circulated on October 6th by the Board of Game, and it's Proposal

9, and Proposal 9 seeks to ban lead shot for use in game animals and furbearers in Unit 18.

And just a little bit of history behind this. The use of lead shot has been banned for quite some time in waterfowl hunting since, boy, the early '90s I believe it was. And the reason the Native Village of Hooper Bay made this proposal was the logic that game animals and furbearers share the same habitat that waterfowl share. So, you know, for those people who are hunting rabbits, ptarmigans, grouse, furbearers such as fox and other animals, when lead shot is used in shotguns to hunt these animals, the lead deposited now becomes available for waterfowl to ingest. So that's the short and sweet history behind the proposal in speaking with Henry Napoleon and several members of the Native Village of Hooper Bay.

The Board of Game takes comments through the 26th of October and the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge supports this proposal and asks this Council for your support through a vote of resolution.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Questions, comments from the Council.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I used to be against lead shot on waterfowl because when I was young I had some boils on me and some elder told me take some led pellets and I got -- I took some -- I took some -- I took a shell -- a shotgun shell and swallowed the lead pellets and they're still in my stomach and I'm still alive.

(Laughter)

MR. CHARLES: So they put me on that, what you call that, the X-rays of the body and the doctor told me you got lead -- lead pellets in your stomach, they're still there, I guess.

But I used to be against that but since I want to go by regulations and I let my kids go with -- go along with everybody who was using steel shots so the -- I know the steel shots cost more than lead shots now days and I'm not really against that but too go along with the regulations say I tell my kids do whatever is in the regulations. So that may be hard for some people to buy -- or to change the lead shots to steel but that's my comment.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Sundown, do you know of any areas that might have used this regulation other than the lead shots for waterfowl?

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member Oney. Yeah, the North Slope Borough submitted a similar proposal the last cycle for the North Slope Borough, and it was less inclusive but because the proposal -- it was for small game and this proposal specifically includes furbearers as well so if you wanted to hunt fox and other things like that, you would have to use lead shot as well, but the North Slope pas -- proposed it and the Board of Game passed it and it's in effect in the North Slope as well.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. ONEY: I still got a follow up.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Oh.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, I think, you know, living in a rural village is hard enough as it is, you know, the high price of gas, now we're going to be facing even higher price to buy shells to hunt for our food for ourselves and I'm kind of hesitant to support it until we see, you know, the results from -- from the Barrow area, you know, to see how it's been, you know, as far as the price of the shots for the small game. So like I mentioned, you know, we're having a hard time right now just trying to buy gas just to go out and do our subsistence needs and now we're going to have to, you know, create even a harder hardship to buy steel shots to, you know, go out and get our game.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question about is it illegal to carry those ammo's for jack rabbits and ptarmigans?

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Member Brown. No, currently it is not illegal to carry lead shot when you are hunting ptarmigan or rabbits. But to address another member's question earlier about the health issues, you know, the members here, you know, we -- we certainly support the proposal for more than one reason and one of them is health hazards. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the Medical Director, his name slips me for a moment, wrote an article and published a letter, it's not quite published in their newsletter quite yet but it was written in March of 2006 outlining the health hazards of lead for children in the YK-Delta and why it would be a bad thing.

And, you know, I'm certainly not a health expert so I can outline some of the things he talked about and I can make that available to all of you in the next week and send it to each and every one of you.

But the gist of the article, you know, covers several studies that were done in Greenland where lead is a toxin, a neuro-toxin that affects your brain and your lead -- not necessarily for adults but for growing children and that's who is most affected by lead. And the article from Greenland talked about the transition from the lead shot use to harvest -- traditionally harvest subsistence waterfowl in birds in Greenland and from birds to human beings and that was the concern that was raised in that study. So the indigenous people there in Greenland were, you know, at risk because of lead shot used to harvest birds. So I will make that letter from the Medical Director of YKHC available to you guys.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: no comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: No comment. Surprise.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. I think it has been quite a while now that in my village there I don't know if they have any selling lead shot or not but one thing that I now they have been advertising in the store, too, not to use lead shot.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I have a concern right here when you're talking lead shot, you talking about the shot that's from BB's on down or does that include .00 buck, double buck, No. 4 buck, .22 short, long -- long rifle, .22 Magnum, these all contain lead and even the high power center fire .22 rifles bullets contain lead. Is this the first step in banning all bullets that contain any kind of lead?

You know that -- I know lead is bad, I mean it's bad for everything, except James.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: But, you know, I'm a little bit concerned about, you know, supporting this if it's not going to have the sizes limited in the -- in the shotgun shells.

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your concern. The proposal -- the draft proposal I've seen and I've certainly not seen the final proposal as it will come out on the 6th of October, but it does not include center fire or rim fire rifle ammunition. I know at the very minimum it will affect shotgun ammunition, whether or not it includes buck shot, I don't know but there is no intention to ever include center fire rifles or rim fire rifles in that category just because of the low volume of lead that's distributed. Most of the lead that's distributed is -- is with shotgun shells, as you know there's an ounce and a quarter, you know, 25 boxes at a time that are -- that are used to hunt animals.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Any other questions, comments.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman. I will move to support Proposal No. 9 with an addendum of the wording, lead shotgun shells in there.

MS. GREGORY: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion and a second. Discussion.

Part of the discussion I would include is, you know, let's put it, you know, what T-shot, BB, or whatever the size limit you want because, you know, that.....

MR. HOELSCHER: We should ask the shotgun expert who's been leading steel shot trainings in the villages.

MR. SUNDOWN: I guess that would be me.

(Laughter)

MR. SUNDOWN: Yeah, certainly buckshot is not allowed for waterfowl, you know, anything smaller than buckshot I believe -- anything smaller than T would be acceptable but I believe buckshot may be included in this proposal. Like I said I have not seen the proposal, it is not a proposal that belongs to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, it's a proposal that belongs to one of your member villages.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Any more discussion on the motion.

Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. Just as a note I anticipate the possible outcome I think I'm going to support the motion. And you notice Mr. Rivard didn't jump up and run to the table this time and that's because that correspondence policy that the Federal Subsistence Board put into place, without any consultation of any of the Regional Councils telling us who we can and can't make official comments too, did say that we can comment on the Board of Game proposals.

And as a note of that, just on the side, we are on official record for these actions we've taken whether we are condoned to write to anyone, and AVCP can certainly reference that specifically, that this is a public record and state directly that we are in support of their efforts.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Robert.

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My memory's come back to me, it's Dr. Joe Klaca (ph) from the YKHC who's written that article.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MR. ROCZICKA: Question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Question's been called. All those in favor of the motion to support this Proposal 9 originating from the village of Hooper Bay -- all those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those in opposition say nay.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: No, nay's, the motion passes.

MR. SUNDOWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, can we get back to our agenda. OSM, Status of Closure Policy, Tom Kron; what are you going to close now?

(Laughter)

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Given the press of the agenda I will be as brief as possible. Agenda Item 14A1, status of the closure policy. I believe Mr. Donald Mike passed out a copy of the letter from Secretary Kempthorne dated August 29th, along with the closure policy.

This was requested originally by the

Secretary two years ago. All 10 Councils reviewed a draft of this in the winter of 2006 and, again, we just got it back last week so it's basically an update on the agenda item that's included on Page 75.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions.

MS. GREGORY: No questions from me.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. Everybody but me has a copy of the letter -- any comments, questions on the letter to -- dated August 29th, 2007 and in there -- oh, the policy's on the back, any questions, comments.

MR. ROCZICKA: Question. Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Sorry, I thought you were pointing at somebody over there. Go ahead, Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: What's the process for amending policies of the Federal Subsistence Board, any idea? They missed a major area in -- on Page 4 under conditions for establishing and retaining closures that ought to be addressed. I mean I recognize the Secretary just signed this into effective policy but what's the next step here for amending these policies or for the Federal Board to take any action to fix it or make them more current?

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. I guess my recommendation would be if you see things that are not included in here that should be, that you let the Federal Board know, let the Chairman know that there's an issue that you believe should be included.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Anybody else. Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Peter -- I mean Phillip.

MR. MOSES: No.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me, no. Thank you for the information.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Is that all we have on the status of the closure policy?

MR. KRON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

(Pause)

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I move that we support the (In Yup'ik).

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary, it's just information we're getting. The policy has already been made and approved as of the date on the letter so we

don't have to take any action on it.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Go ahead.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Roczicka, earlier, had commented about the need to have various policies posted on the website and, again, I've seen a compilation of various Federal Subsistence Board policies and when I go back I'll ask that all that information be posted so it's available and, you know, per your comment, you know, any policy needs to be reviewed and updated as -- as things change, we're human, we miss things. So if the Council sees things that need to be addressed, you know, that will provide more opportunity for that in the future. But I'll request that we establish those on the website.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Quyana.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: (In Yup'ik)

REPORTER: Bob, your microphone.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I'm just balling out this button here, every time I want it on, it's not on, and when I want it off it's on.

(In Yup'ik)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: That means it's bothersome.

Okay, Item No. 14A2. Council composition recommendation, Tom Kron, Page 76.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, we have a status sheet on Page 76 and I'm not -- in the interest of being brief I'm not going to read it but it's there.

Basically the process we have gone through is outlined, the step we're at right now is to essentially show the administrative record to the Court and if that is found to be adequate to provide it in

the form of a recommendation to the Secretary.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. No. 14A3, Rural/Non-Rural Determinations, Final Rule and RFRs, Liz Williams. What are RFRs, RFRS?

MS. WILLIAMS: This is another piece of information that's kind of just for your information. Have all of you received in the mail a little booklet with RFRs it's blue and it has a kid's drawing on the front.

MS. GREGORY: Yes, I did.

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. It was supposed to have been mailed out to all the Council members.

Okay. We wanted to let you know that every 10 years when the census is done the Federal Subsistence Program has to review which places are still rural and which may no longer be rural because of population changes and all of this happened last spring. And the final rule about who's rural and who's not was published in the Federal Register on May 7th, 2007 and within 60 days parties who don't like the decision, who want to argue the decision have a 60 day time period to submit a request for reconsideration. And we've received six requests for reconsideration.

One from the State of Alaska.

One from the Alaska Outdoor Council.

One from the Kenai River Sportfishing Association.

One from Alaska Flyfishers.

One from Ketchikan Indian Community.

And one from Organized Village of Saxman.

And what we're doing with those requests for reconsideration, it's part of sort of the administrative legal process we go through is we go claim by claim and look at the information that the requesters for reconsideration sent us to see if

there's any new information provided or not. And so we're going through that process right now and we'll be going through it through the fall because there were so many requests for reconsideration so this is sort of a status report.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, can I ask her a question.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I'm always concerned about my village of Bethel. I'd like to keep it as a rural community and I've brought this several times in the past and I'd like to -- I'd like to stay there.

Quyana.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Questions, comments from the Council to Liz.

Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, that came along with our meeting packet, it wasn't included in the book, but as a separate booklet. But I'd encourage you to look very thoroughly at -- I did read through those requests for reconsideration and the village of Saxman made a very, very compelling one in my mind, what's contained in there and also the circumstances surrounding the final vote and how that occurred and there's some legal issues, I think, to consider there. Some of the points that they bring forward, specifically on ANILCA being directed associated with ANCSA and, therefore, it is Indian Legislation or Tribal Legislation, if you will, a lot of those issues were very strongly put there and I thought well worth taking into consideration.

Very compelling.

Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any other questions, comments.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: No.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry Wilde, any questions or comments for Liz.

MR. H. WILDE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me, none. Thank you, very much.

Boy, we're going fast.

MR. ROCZICKA: Speed control.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Speed control, okay. OSM Budget, Reorganization and Two Year Cycle, Tom Kron, Page 78, flip the page. It's like when you were reading to your children a long time ago and you listened to the -- and you said turn the page.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. You just touched on what happened. Chairman Mike Fleagle described the Board's decision to go to a two year cycle in a June 6th, 2007 letter that went out to all Advisory Council members and I trust that you all

received that. This is just a follow up, more clarification, that, again, beginning this fall we're going to be moving to a two year cycle.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any questions, comments to Tom on the two year cycle and OSM Budget and OSM Reorganization.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe -- I mean James.

MR. CHARLES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: That is good.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: No comment, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me, none. Thank you.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Put the button

on. 14A5, Secretary Kempthorne letter to Board, information item, Page 80, is somebody going to read that or just mention it or what?

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. It's just there for your information. We wanted to share information that came into the program similar to the next item on the agenda.

Basically, you know, what the letter talks about is the fact that the Federal Subsistence Program is important and he wants the actual Board members to be present during meetings when they're taking action on policies and regulatory issues rather than their designees. But, again, it's there for your information and we wanted to share it with you, similar to the next item, we just wanted to share because there have been questions from this Council and some of the other Councils in the past.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any comments, questions for Tom on the letter.

Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James.

MR. CHARLES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me, no. Item 14A6, Regional Advisory Council compensation, information item, Page 81, here we go again.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Again, an informational item. We've provided a brief summary, Carl Jack took the lead in drafting that for us as well as a letter from 2001. We tried earlier to get this addressed and you can see the response there. So -- but it's an issue that gets discussed fairly often.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any comments, questions on this Council stipend, travel advance limits.

Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Or, I mean Edgar. I'm getting tired, Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have tried and we have gotten nowhere. I'm glad our meetings are at the villages where we are welcomed and the hospitality is good, and so I'm satisfied, I'm still willing to, you know, serve my time.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: James, serve your time.

Ray.

MR. ONEY: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Charlie.

MR. BROWN: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I concur with Mr. Hoelscher.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: What?

MR. ROCZICKA: She concurred with Mr. Hoelscher.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Oh. Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: No comment.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: The only comment I have is I think it's very unfair to the person who lives in the village who is a RAC member who is unable to receive per diem. I'll say that again. I don't think it's fair.

Thank you.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Tom. Moving right along here. This button is driving me nuts. 14B1. We need to hear the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge update, and here comes Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, can I speak.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mike.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Yes.

MR. D. MIKE: I just wanted to inform the Council of an opportunity that was lost just a few minutes ago. We had a bright young man that wanted to do a presentation to the Council and he was a fisheries

tech, he's a high school and he was ready to prepare a PowerPoint presentation to the Council but unfortunately he had a music practice session at 4:00 o'clock and I was just informed of his presentation just about 15, 20 minutes ago otherwise I would try to fit this young man's PowerPoint into this Council agenda but it's -- I'd like to apologize to the Marshall Traditional Council for an oversight that was lost for this opportunity for this young man to present his work experience that he has put forth during the summer working for AVCP doing fisheries technician studies.

So, again, I'd like to apologize to the Marshall Traditional Council.

But I was not informed of his presentation to this Council until a few minutes ago otherwise we would fit him into our agenda and I feel very strongly that we should give every opportunity for our younger kids to present their work experience on fisheries technician type jobs.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Is he here in the building?

MR. D. MIKE: He had music practice at 4:00 o'clock so he had to leave, Mr. Chair.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: What?

MR. ROCZICKA: He had another meeting at 4:00.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Oh, okay. Mr. Andrew, Tim Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. He was part of our Partners Program intern this past summer and if the Council would permit we can likely bring him to the spring meeting wherever that's going to be held and then he can do his presentation at that time, if that would be okay.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: That sounds great to me, I don't know about anybody else.

(Council nods affirmatively)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: But Robert has spoken.

Go for it, Mike.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Committee. I appreciate the time. I'll just take a few minutes of your time and go over a few items that there are updates on Refuge issues.

The first one is Mulchatna Caribou, just to let you know the status, currently about 40,000 animals in the Mulchatna Herd and declining. At one time it was approximately 210 to 220,000. All indications are that there are still very few calves, very few bulls and the population will decline for some time and we hope that it will level out at some point. We're going to continue to count them and let you know.

On Kuskokwim moose, this last spring we collared a bunch more of the moose around Bethel. We got letters of permission from some of the land holders around the Bethel area and then we also collared on Refuge lands. Currently we have -- while we have about 50 moose collared, we've lost a couple of them, one to, apparently wolves and one to a bear, but every cow that we tested was pregnant this spring and every -- every cow had either twins or -- in fact two sets of cows had triplets this spring, so the moose on the Kuskokwim right now are very productive and that's a result of having very, very good habitat. People are doing a very good job of leaving them alone. We haven't had an incident of people taking a moose for two or three years now and it's very clear that the population is growing rapidly.

It's very important that we try to get a count this winter. We tried to do it last spring and we couldn't do it because we didn't have adequate snow. We've got to have enough snow so we can see the animals, so everybody pray for lots of snow this winter and we'll try to get the moose counted and give you a report during the spring meeting, if we can, to tell you how many moose are in that population now.

Just to let you -- a little update on the Yukon moose, you've already gone over some of it. It appears, again, to be a healthy growing population.

I worked with Fish and Game and conducted a calf survey this spring. It was clear that there were lots of twins, lots of calves out in the country and generally just lots of moose. And residents of the Yukon right now have 82 days out of the year that they can hunt moose so it seems like there ought to be adequate opportunity for people to get their animals, especially the month long winter hunt on Federal lands that allows people to take any moose. So if people cannot find a bull during this season then they have the opportunity to take a cow or calf or a bull during the winter season.

One of the other things we discussed at the meeting was, as you know, the season is open to all people now in this region. There are transporters, commercial operators, I've met with all of them and they have to get a permit from us to operate. There are no guides, but there are transporters, people who fly people out. They're restricted on the permits to only haul people to areas where people with boats cannot get. So if people see these guys hunting in areas where they've taken their boat then I'd like to hear about it because it's very clear in their permit that they're supposed to stay clear of subsistence hunters. And they've all willingly done that and so I'm hoping that we can minimize any interactions between sporthunters and subsistence hunters by these regulations.

And I have one last thing. This will be the last time that I'll be talking to you as the Refuge Manager of the Yukon-Delta Refuge. I'm going to be leaving in late October and taking a job with the -- I'll still be working for Fish and Wildlife but working for the University of Alaska at the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. And the goal is to try to get more Alaska Native people into careers like mine and Robert's. We've got to improve that. I was sitting here thinking, as we were listening to the fisheries reports, all of these guys are very competent and capable people, but not one fishery manager for the Yukon or the Kuskokwim lives in the region, we've got to change that, we've got to get people who are willing to live out here be professionals and take the jobs. And so for the next two years, until I retire, that's going to be my focus is working with the University of Alaska and getting students into that program.

So maybe I'll be back to speak to you

but it will be about employment opportunities for students from this region instead.

So thank you for your time.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Congratulations on upward mobility.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, that's the way I look at it, too.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Any comments, questions for Mike.....

MS. GREGORY: I have one.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: .....on his report. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I'd like to congratulate you and thank you for being a very good Refuge Manager, for allowing us to take part, we'll miss you but we want you to succeed as well.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Mary, I'll still be around.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: Mike, I been know you for long time, just like come to be my brother because I know you for long time. I think that we work with you and all that, I feel like you're a person that understands what's good for the people of Yukon-Delta.

Thank you.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Harry.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, even though I got to know you these last few years, I -- you know I enjoyed working with you. And thanks for giving us an update on the hotly, hotly, hot item of sporthunters coming into our area.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Just a follow up, what are these guys required to do with the moose meat?

MR. REARDON: Sporthunters or any hunters are required to retrieve the entire moose, the meat from the field, just like anybody else. Wanton waste is not allowed to any extent. And, you know, I can't answer for everybody but for most of the -- a lot of the animals that are taken by sporthunters in the current hunts for caribou, a large portion of the meat remains in the community. In fact, every year several tons of meat are donated to the Senior Center there in Bethel. So the meat is utilized. And the current transporters that are operating there now, we check on them regularly and I think they do a very good job of making sure that their hunters are bringing meat out of the field and that it's in good shape.

It's not like I've seen in other places. When I was in Kotzebue I saw a lot of waste of meat because people wouldn't take care of it, sporthunters. I haven't seen that in Bethel.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, when was the last moose count in moratorium area and what was the number?

MR. REARDON: We were just trying to figure -- I think it was four years ago and we were supposed to do it again last year but because of snow we couldn't. And the total count between Bethel and Kalskag along the Kuskokwim was 85 moose. And we've -- Robert and I have both flown surveys on the Kwethluk alone and I think there are over a 100 moose just on the Kwethluk alone, now, at this time.

That's everything.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Is that bulls and cows or just bulls?

MR. REARDON: Everything, yeah.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Reardon, I'd like to thank you for serving the people on the Yukon-Kuskokwim area, you've done a tremendous job for us in both the Yukon and Kuskokwim and we wish you well with your new position there, with the University.

The only question that I have is that I haven't heard no wolf control report. As you know a lot of the wolves hunt the caribou and the moose so I don't know if you do any kind of surveys on the wolf control in this area.

MR. REARDON: The only established wolf control program right now is adjacent to the Refuge, 19A, B -- Greg, how far up does it go there, especially along the river, it's 19, and currently they aren't permitted to do the wolf control on the Refuge. Frankly, they haven't asked -- Fish and Game hasn't asked to do wolf control on the Refuge so we haven't even considered it officially.

If anything, around in the Kuskokwim area the wolf population is declining. I suspect on the Yukon you're going to see an increasing wolf population especially with the numbers of moose. Already I noticed during the surveys that there are a lot more bears than I'd ever seen, black bears and brown bears, both. So, you know, you get a good big prey population like moose you're going to have a lot of predators.

MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Even the two-legged ones. Charlie.

MR. BROWN: I have a concern about the collars, do you guys count them only by collars? I heard -- someone told me before I come here to make sure I ask whether they put -- I don't know, it might be a rumor, are you guys put -- some kind of a secret (indiscernible) in the meat or bloodstream, they don't want to have contaminated radiated mate.

MR. REARDON: No, no, we're not doing that kind of thing, Charlie. We put collars on the moose, we use a drug to knock the animals out with a helicopter, most of the drug from that -- putting the animal down is gone within about 24 hours and we're doing it during a time when people hunt aren't hunting

anyway but the meat is entirely safe to eat, at this point. And all we're putting on is a collar that goes around the neck of the animal. Some of them have a GPS on board so that when we retrieve them we know exactly where that moose has gone every day for the last year, and then a lot of the collars just have a little radio that's transmitting so when we fly we can find them and we -- we've been trying to fly -- in the spring we try to fly every few days to find out where they're having their calves. And typically this time of the year we're flying about once a month to find where the moose are and find where they're moving. It give us an idea of how that population is growing and where they're moving to and how much we think they're going to expand. And, now we're not just counting the collared moose, you know, there's a lot more moose out there than just what we've collared.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Joe.

MR. MIKE: No.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd have to say certainly it's a huge loss for us and I understand why you're moving along and we all do that.

I've been through probably five Refuge managers and you, by far and away exceed every one of them to the nth degree as far as being someone you can work with and we don't -- certainly don't always agree and even knock heads on occasion, very painfully even sometimes, but, anyway, you're going to leave some very difficult shoes to fill and I express my appreciation for the work you did while you were here.

Thank you.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Greg.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, already.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Harry, already.

MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, already.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Me, too, already.

MR. REARDON: One last comment I'd like to make, is I have known Harry since I was 19 years old when I first came to the Yukon and he was one of the first people that I kind of watched and saw what he did and I'll tell you this, if you go to a moose camp where Harry has killed a moose you'll never see meat that's better taken care of than what Harry does.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Wow.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Good example to follow.

Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you. Has the Department named a replacement?

MR. REARDON: No. They haven't advertised it yet and they did say that they'd let me help them select somebody so I'll work on it.

Thank you, it's been a pleasure.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, Mike. Bon Voyage and all that.

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge update. And the correct name of that place is (In Yup'ik)

MR. LUNDERSTADT: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Council Members. My name is Carl Lunderstadt, and I'm the deputy manager for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And I'm just here today to inform you that the draft CCP, or Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Togiak Refuge will be coming out later this fall and be available for public comment.

The major issue in there or controversy is our proposal to limit unguided sportfishermen on the Kanektok and the Goodnews River during the peak of the king and coho runs.

The State does not agree with our proposal to limit the sport use for unguided fishermen

on those rivers but they have agreed to let us proceed with releasing the draft and soliciting public comment.

And we just wanted to let the Council know so that when you get a copy of the draft, if anybody feels like commenting, that we'd welcome your comments.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you. So it's information, no comments or questions.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: At this time I'd like to call a six minute recess.

(Off record)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: I don't have my rock anymore so let's come back to order, please.

MR. D. MIKE: Please find your seat, we're starting.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: For your information, for the guys who are leaving this afternoon, the Bethel plane is scheduled to leave Bethel at 4:30, that means it'll be here between 5:00 and 5:10 so as soon as the plane departs from Bethel the agent will call here and make us aware of that and he'll also swing by and load two people up and the others, I guess, are going with the school transportation.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. It's time, again, to take care of final business before we lose -- while most all our members are still here, move to suspend the rules to take up the confirmation of the next meeting, times and places, under Item 15B and C.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor to suspend the rules. Is there a second.

MR. ONEY: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Second. Discussion, none.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Thank you, very much. Okay, we'll jump over to Item 15A -- I mean 15B and 15C. Other business. Confirm next meeting on March 20 to 21, 2008 in Lower Kalskag, our coordinator will address that.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair, thank you. Your next meeting is scheduled for March 20 and 21, that's the dates you selected last fall so you just need to confirm those dates for March 20, 21, 2008 in Lower Kalskag.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: It's confirmed, so everything's okay.

MR. D. MIKE: You're confirmed, right.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay.

MR. D. MIKE: And then next, you still need to select a fall 2008 fisheries meeting, the window opens August 25 and closes on the 17th so you'll need to pick a date during that meeting window.

Mr. Chair, thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, if you'll go to Page 97 you'll find the dates open, I am sure, for that fall 2008 fisheries meeting.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. When you're considering your fall 2008 meeting window, we encourage you to meet in a regional hub. The reason for that is our budget in our office is getting pretty tight but that's the only reason that we encourage you to meet in regional hubs like Bethel.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Greg. Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Perhaps we can -- the location again, we still don't know what the -- I understand there are budget cutbacks and so forth but if possible I'd still like to work it in if we could get to other places, but as far as the dates go I'd like to recommend that we go for October 2 and 3 so we don't conflict with the AVCP Convention as last time and we don't have to have it as early as we did this year.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor to consider August -- October 2 and 3, 2008, is that in Bethel, it's a regional -- I'm modifying your motion and trying to work fast at the same time.

MR. ONEY: Second the motion.

MR. ROCZICKA: And I'll include that in my motion for Bethel then.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: There's a motion on the floor, is there a second.

MR. ONEY: Second.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Second by Ray. All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those opposed, no.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion -- motion.....

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Can we put those dates as tentatively in case we might, you know, we might have housing problems, et cetera, if AVCP does have their convention within those days.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. If I could respond to that, as the maker of that, I chose those two days because the AVCP Convention is traditionally held the first full week of October so I assume we're going to be looking at October, you know, 7 to 9 or 8 to 10 for AVCP Convention.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Okay, no more discussion, anything else, right away.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: All those in favor of the motion say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Opposed, same sign.

(No opposing votes)

ACTING CHAIR ALOYSIUS: Motion carries, we will have our winter meeting Bethel October 2 and 3, 2008 in Bethel, Alaska.

At this time I bid you farewell. It has been my pleasure, really, to chair this meeting, it makes me feel really good, and it -- but if feels a lot different than sitting over here on the side because I only think about me when I'm over there but when I'm here I think about everybody and it's just.....

Doi.

At this time I turn the conducting of the meeting over to our Secretary Greg.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay, enjoy

your trip home -- everybody else is going to be leaving here, too, soon, I guess.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, before we close the meeting, the -- next to me here is Phillip Moses. Phillip Moses says this is the last meeting that he's going to have so my (In Yup'ik) here is, I think he do a wonderful job all these years, but he get to where that he can't -- unable to be with us because of his health condition. But he got one person from his village he know that he's willing to take his place.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Thank you, Harry.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: He hasn't been feeling too good so this may be his last time with this group because of his health. But then he's really enjoyed his time with this group and he wants to thank everyone.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Charlie.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Charlie.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I just want to have my comment to Togiak Refuge. I just want to ask to the spring time most of our caribou's, they migrate to the Togiak area, is that true, you know, in the winter time, like in the fall time, like in mid-winter, they're in our area and then like in late February or March they start moving toward your area.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Sir, did you catch that, he was directing the question to the Togiak Refuge.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, that's the time those local personal, are they going to call them like in

February and March after they move down to your area, that's my understanding.

MR. LUNDERSTADT: I'm not quite sure I caught the first part of your question, what was your concern.

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I usually have communication between Togiak friends, those local friends they told me that like in towards spring time they mostly land at Togiak area from -- from our area they mostly stay like in mid -- late December until maybe last part of February, they migrate toward your area, Togiak.

MR. LUNDERSTADT: Are you referring to caribou?

MR. BROWN: Yeah, I'm talking about caribou herd.

MR. LUNDERSTADT: Yeah, the Mulchatna Herd has had a pretty erratic migration pattern. The -- the subsistence season and the State season are what they are, the Refuge doesn't have any restrictions on caribou other than those.

MR. BROWN: And then some of the people, they think they're declining after they move down to your area, that's what they think, the local people from my area.

MR. LUNDERSTADT: The caribou herd, the Mulchatna Herd has been declining throughout its range so I don't have any information that says it's all happening on the Togiak Refuge.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: One more and then we'll move along.

MR. BROWN: This will be my last one. One time I was traveling from -- from my village to Togiak, I see some good numbers of caribous in Togiak area when I was traveling with snowmachine after they migrate from my area.

MR. LUNDERSTADT: There's been a small band of caribou just north of Togiak around the Litua (ph) for the past several years that they've been there every winter and some folks in the Togiak area believe

they came from the herd that we transplanted onto the Nushagak Peninsula, some folks think they're an off shoot of the Mulchatna Herd, but they're -- they're practically a resident herd of about two to 300 animals right there just north of Togiak.

MR. BROWN: Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Thank you, sir. At this point I wonder if there's anyone else here to address the agenda items. If there's representatives of Bureau of Land Management.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: I don't see -- I know that the State Division of Wildlife Conservation's not here, Phil Perry.

Anybody here from BLM.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: None. Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: And the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council update.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: None. No tribal representatives for any further.....

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay. Municipal government representatives.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: ANCSA Village Corporation representatives.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: No other organizations.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay.

MR. H. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Go ahead, Harry.

MR. H. WILDE: Earlier, I gave regional -- our village -- the area that I serve on corporation, so when we have a meeting there we -- earlier I said that we're going to put the -- our position in the newspaper, make sure that any qualified subsistence hunter could able to hunt in our land. But we're not supporting sporthunters to be in our corporation land. We just approve four or five days ago, a month ago our land, we were the first one that we approve, so that's the reason Mountain Village elders and members, they supporting and willing to help qualified subsistence hunters in our land.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Okay, I appreciate being able to pass that along and just to confirm for people that might ask me to use the -- you said Federally-qualified subsistence users would still be allowed or people with customary and traditional use recognition, that's what you've used.

MR. H. WILDE: (Nods affirmatively)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay, thank you.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Edgar.

MR. HOELSCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have lost our quorum so I guess the rest of the meeting will be an informal meeting.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Actually I had addressed that question earlier to our coordinator and that once we've achieved our -- so long as we still have our majority we're six of us still here, so we can still do action and what I was asking him for was

specifically if it came to a vote, if it would require the majority of the full Council and we'd have to be looking for a unanimous vote for anything to pass and I was informed that, no, it's a majority of those Board members left -- or Council members left present.

MR. HOELSCHER: Well, as you know Robert's Rules states that, you know, majority rules and once you lose your quorum, you know, that's it.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Go ahead.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We started with a quorum, I think we'll be okay. The rest of the items are just informational items and those action items that were needed, we had a majority here present to vote on those items.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Correct. But appreciate the clarification for the record.

So the last we've got is other business and .805c letter.

MR. D. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The .805c letter is on Page 83, and the .805 is a letter -- it's just a letter to the Councils -- that addresses the 10 Regional Councils in the state and it addresses the Federal Subsistence Board action on the proposals that they acted on last January so it's just informational items.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Thank you. Okay, so we've moved to other -- other business -- closing comments from those that are left to close it out.

Edgar, we'll start with that end.

MR. HOELSCHER: No comments. You know, I'll take that back. You know we committed ourselves, we filled out applications to be RAC members, you know, and I feel we shouldn't be rushing because we're doing it for the benefit of our people and we're working for our people and I feel, you know, once we start losing committee or board members, you know, it -- it gets to be a sad story.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Ray.

MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to thank Mr. Phillip Moses for serving on the Board while I'm on. I've learned a lot from him. He has a lot of wisdom that the Federal people, the Department of Fish and Game needs to consider, mainly the traditional ecological knowledge that we'll be dealing with and have been dealing with for a number of years now and like I said, thank you for being on the Board while I'm serving.

The knowledge that you carry will be here forever. And hopefully the wisdom that you share with us will be considered by the people, the Federal and State agencies, it's very important that we know these and carry it on to our younger generation and I'm sad to hear that you'll be not coming back to this Board and I thank you for your service to this Board.

And, again, I'd like to thank the Marshall -- the community of Marshall for their hospitality, for allowing us to be here to conduct the meeting. And the host families that have been taking us as guests into this village, even though I was born and raised here.

And I thank you, you know, for all your comments regarding the issues that come before us, and thank you and I wish you all, you know, a safe flight back to your village.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Thank you. Joe, you had anything.

MR. MIKE: No.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: No closing comments. Phillip, anything more.

MR. MOSES: (Shakes head negatively)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Harry. Any final closing comments.

MR. H. WILDE: Yeah, I'd like to make a comment and thankful that I could able to make it here

because you guys, you know that I had twice heart attack a couple months ago but help of the Lord I'm still here but I have to watch myself, not working too hard and habit of working, you know, my wife always tell me that you working too hard, well, that's the way I grew up even when I was small 14 years old, I work hard all the time so I appreciate the people that supporting me while I was in the hospital last month.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Well, thanks for coming this time, we miss you when you're not around.

And just as final comments, I'd reiterate those who've said and for all the Council members, even that left already, I know they felt the same way and I appreciate the input we had on the proposals and discussions that have been there. And to the folks from Marshall.

In fact I think we're ready to close, everybody have a safe good fall and winter and see you in March.

And since we don't need a motion to adjourn I'll just call it so at 4:55 p.m.

Ray.

MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that we adjourn -- before we adjourn, maybe or after we adjourn I'd like to end with a closing prayer also by Mr. Phillip Moses. We started with the invocation and I'd like to close with a closing prayer.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Very well.

(In Yup'ik)

So he'll know.

Harry, would you request Phillip Moses to do our closing prayer. Yes, please it's been requested.

MR. H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MR. MOSES: (Closing Prayer - In

Yup'ik)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Quyana, Phillip. We've had our motion to adjourn.

MR. ONEY: Yes.

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay, so no objections.

(No objections)

ACTING CHAIR ROCZICKA: Okay, we're done.

Quyana everybody.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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 124 through 275 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 6th day of September 2007, in Marshall, 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 18th day of September 2007.

_____
Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08