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1 YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3

4 VOLUME III

5

6 Tuntutuliak, Alaska

7 March 7, 2002

8 9:00 o'clock a.m.

9

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

11

12 Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chairman

13 Nick Andrew, Sr.

14 James A. Charles

15 Mary Gregory

16 John Hanson, Sr.

17 Billy McCann

18 Philip Moses

19 Robert Nick

20 Raymond Oney

21 Mike Savage

22 John B. Thompson, Sr.

23 Lester Wilde

24

25

26 Ron Sam, Western Interior Chairman

27 Peter Abraham, Bristol Bay Council Member

28

29 Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nick

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2

3 (Tuntutuliak, Alaska 3/7/2002)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. This
8 morning good weather at Tuntutuliak, and I feel better
9 than yesterday, so watch out. This morning our first
10 announcement I have for Regional Council, Tom Boyd
11 approved our request so we are going to attend the AVCP
12 special convention. We want to thank Tom Boyd and their
13 staff.

14

15 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair, just a
16 couple of things you talked about late yesterday about
17 whether this meeting should be adjourned or recessed, and
18 it will be a separate meeting and we'll need to make a
19 public announcement, so you should adjourn this meeting
20 at the end of your time here. Our office will announce
21 this as a public meeting, as we need to do that process
22 and it wasn't -- this meeting was never announced, as
23 part of it was going to be held in Bethel as well, so we
24 just need to make it a separate meeting. And just some
25 other administrative details. Because it's such a short
26 turn around time, we usually need three weeks to be able
27 to get you paychecks. So you will need to do this on
28 your own. We probably won't be able to provide you with
29 some per diem check, but you'll get reimbursed
30 afterwards. But, we'll work out those details with
31 everybody through Alex, Just so you know.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me ask something
34 here. Is there any way that we could continue and finish
35 what we're doing on this uganda. We could leave it
36 unfinished customary trade and continuation after AVCP
37 Convention.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, certainly you can
40 continue your uganda here and finish those items. What
41 our office will do, we'll announce another special
42 meeting of this Council to take up customary trade in
43 Bethel.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I understand.
46 This morning we're going to start off on your agenda item
47 10 - Substance Fish and Wildlife Issues. You could find
48 it under Tab E in your booklet.

49

50 E. Fishery Pre-Season Update.

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- 1 1. Streamlining Federal Fisheries
- 2 In-season - Special Actions
- 3 2. Yukon River
- 4 3. Kuskokwim River

5

6 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you Mr. Chair. My
7 name is Rod Simmons, I'm with Fish and Wildlife Services
8 and I serve on the inner agency staff committee to the
9 Federal Subsistence Board. I'm here today to provide you
10 a briefing on a modified approach that the Federal
11 Subsistence Board is considering on streamlining special
12 actions and also provide you a very short update on the
13 status of the Yukon Protocol. While I'm discussing the
14 points of streamlining special actions, I'll ask Vince
15 Matthews to pass out copies to the Council of the latest
16 version of the Yukon Protocol. Two years of on the
17 ground management experience in the Yukon and Kuskokwim
18 rivers has provided the Federal subsistence program an
19 opportunity to evaluate its process and administration
20 associated with issuing special actions. Special actions
21 are temporary regulations to open, close, restrict
22 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife when resource
23 abundance levels effect harvest opportunities.

24

25 The Federal special actions are very much
26 equivalent to the State's emergency order regulations and
27 have been initiated for each and every adjustment to
28 subsistence fisheries. As example, this past season in
29 the Yukon river, 27 special actions were issued. Twenty-
30 six of these were the same as the State's emergency
31 orders. Issuance of special actions has a considerable
32 amount of administrative paperwork associated with it,
33 including legal notification in newspapers and
34 publication in the Federal register. Sometimes
35 management actions out pace the publication process and
36 new regulations are actually in effect by the time the
37 previous actions are in the newspapers. This can lead to
38 a considerable amount of confusion to the public on what
39 regulations are actually in effect.

40

41 The Federal Subsistence Board is
42 considering streamlining the special action process by
43 limiting them to only in situations where Federal actions
44 differ from State management actions. The Board will

45 make its decision on this change in May, 2002 meeting.
46 This will be a temporary action that will be in effect on
47 a trial basis in the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers this
48 season only. You're probably asking yourself how this
49 might effect the role of subsistence users and council
50 members in the process of communications with the Federal

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1 in season or State in season manager. I'll refer you to
2 the diagram that's on page two of your handout under Tab
3 E that has a diagram in it. So you can sort of look at a
4 very simplified diagram of the communication process used
5 on making in season management actions. What I'm talking
6 about here today is a modification under that box that
7 has the dotted lines around it. That's what we're
8 talking about removing in cases where the State and
9 Federal managers are in agreement, we would not issue a
10 Federal special action separate from the State emergency
11 orders.

12

13 In other words, a State emergency order
14 would apply in Federal waters as long as the State and
15 Federal managers are in agreement. I'd also note on that
16 diagram, that the primary communication vehicle to
17 subsistence users and fishers is the news release.
18 That's probably the document you're most familiar with,
19 if you see it off the fax machine or the information
20 that's read over the radio. So, we're not talking about
21 modifying what you're normally accustomed to. This is
22 primarily just an administrative document. It really is
23 never seen by the public. I'd also make the point that
24 if there is a divergence in State and Federal management,
25 then we revert back to issuing special actions, which is
26 sort of diagrammed out on the bottom half of that flow
27 chart. So, in no way are we relinquishing any Federal
28 management authority, it's just that when, in cases when
29 we're in agreement on a management action, we have sort
30 of redundant administrative processes occurring. We're
31 looking to try and streamline that and look for
32 efficiencies.

33

34 I'll remind the Council this is not
35 necessarily an action item for the Council, but the Board
36 asked me to come and talk to you and also to find out if
37 there's anyone in the public that would like to provide
38 any feedback on this proposed change during this meeting.
39 That will conclude my summary on Streamlining Special
40 Actions, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. NICK: I have a comment. Last summer
43 because of the low numbers, there was a special action
44 made to close sport fishing in Federal waters, but the

45 State managers did not close sport fishing in State
46 waters. So by aligning the Federal authority over the
47 State, I am just wondering if it will weaken the efforts
48 of the salmon coordinating committee if they seek to have
49 a closure of sports fishing. If the Federal manager on
50 the Kuskokwim is unable to make a special action, any

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1 special actions, I'm a little leery if you're going to
2 follow the State's emergency order.

3

4 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Nick, I can
5 appreciate your concern and this in no way effects the
6 Federal in season manager's ability to make an
7 independent decision. This is only in cases where State
8 and Federal managers are in agreement on an action. In
9 the case that you mentioned last year, or in cases that
10 would come into play this year, if there is a divergence
11 or a disagreement on a Federal action versus a State, the
12 Federal special action would apply. In my opinion, what
13 this process would do would, from the public's
14 perspective is, that in cases where we do issue special
15 actions, they will have very much a heightened
16 significance to them because as I mentioned, this past
17 year we issued 27 special actions in the Yukon. Twenty-
18 six of those were identical to the State's. In that one
19 case we would have issued a separate special action,
20 which in fact was the case of limiting fishing
21 opportunities only to Federally qualified users. So that
22 still remains intact.

23

24 MR. NICK: Following-up, as we recall,
25 there was a special action last summer that closed sports
26 fishing and with what you just presented of a divergence
27 to go with special action to allow only Federally
28 qualified subsistence users to be the harvesters. My
29 question is, would it be improper or proper for this rack
30 to request a special action to limit harvest of chinook
31 and chum on the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers only to
32 qualified subsistence users? That could be a divergent
33 special action that you could avert to in the event that
34 the State and Federal managers are unable to agree on an
35 emergency order. Would it be proper for me to request a
36 special action -- a standing special action to diverge
37 to?

38

39 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Nick, I'm
40 not sure whether you're referring to a request for
41 consideration of a special action for this coming season,
42 or whether you're talking about -- is that what you're
43 referring to?

44

45 MR. NICK: Yes.

46

47 MR. SIMMONS: My recommendation on that
48 would be, since this is pre-season, this only applies in
49 cases of in season management where the authority is
50 delegated to the in season managers. This time of year,

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1 this is certainly pre-season and if it was a Council
2 member's or the full Council's recommendation on a
3 special action of that nature, I would recommend that it
4 be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board. If that
5 answers your question.

6

7 MR. NICK:Federal Subsistence Board
8 and this advisory committee. Would it be in order?
9 Would it be proper?

10

11 MR. SIMMONS: I believe that probably
12 administratively the best approach would be to bring it
13 forth to the staff that's here and it would probably be
14 dealt with at the Board's May deliberations, as it was
15 last year.

16

17 MR. NICK: Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson.

20

21 MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman.
22 I got a concern here from last summer. Last March, in
23 Kotlik when we met with the rack here, we were all
24 concerned on the 2001 season because the fish and game
25 told us that it was going to be lower than last year.
26 Then this summer I started hearing that that the
27 department, the Federal and State both started reducing
28 the subsistence of the people up and down the Yukon and
29 then they say, why they reduced our subsistence? They're
30 supposed to close the sport fisheries first before they
31 start fiddling with the subsistence. Because I know
32 subsistence is the last one. Commercial goes out, sport
33 fisheries goes out, personal use goes out. Subsistence
34 is the last one. But, instead of doing that we didn't
35 have commercial because we didn't have enough stocks that
36 come into the Yukon to open a commercial, so we never had
37 commercial. But besides sports and personal use,
38 subsistence was the first one that they curtailed. They
39 cut it down and that really hurt me. I think the Federal
40 managers up and down the Yukon should be doing just the
41 way it is written. Commercial, sport, personal use and
42 then the last one would be the subsistence. But, they're
43 doing it the opposite. Subsistence comes before the
44 commercial. Now, why was that done like that I don't

45 know.

46

47 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Hanson, as a
48 reminder actually pre-season last year the Federal
49 subsistence board closed fishing to all other uses except
50 Federally qualified users only. So, in fact, in Federal

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1 waters, sport fishing and commercial was closed before
2 the season started. I'll defer to the State to answer
3 your question relative to actions in State waters. It
4 may be more appropriate and the next presenters will be
5 talking about this past season, as well as the upcoming
6 season. So, it may be more appropriate to get in that
7 discussion during this section of the presentations, but
8 the speakers following me will be getting into more
9 details on the management actions if that's okay.

10

11 MR. HANSON: Nod affirmatively.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other questions from
14 the Council? James.

15

16 MR. CHARLES: Thank you Mr. Chairman, on
17 the special action notices what helped the people around
18 here was the local paper, the newspaper Discovery and
19 Tundra Drums, that helped public to see when to go out
20 fishing because if they hear it on the radio -- if they
21 missed part of it they have questions when to go out
22 fishing, or when the river is closed for subsistence, but
23 when they see it in the paper, they can, like myself I
24 don't read very good, but I can pick up paper and try to
25 understand when the schedule is so, that helped out last
26 season. For these special actions, I think what was done
27 at the manager's decisions should be in there too. Even
28 we get fax or other notices that has helped so I'd like
29 to see that again for future.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Charles,
34 that will in fact remain the case. The printing of the
35 fishing schedule is actually more related to the joint
36 news release that we intend to keep intact. The point I
37 was making about what we're doing under special actions
38 specifically is that we have a Federal legal requirement
39 of publication of notice and that adds a level of
40 confusion relative to what we're talking about in news
41 releases and what the people need to have for an
42 efficient understanding of the fishing schedule. We have
43 this legal notice that we've also had to publish and
44 that's what we're recommending not having in the paper,

45 because it adds a level of confusion and in cases where
46 we are in agreement on management actions, then those
47 printed schedules will remain in the newspaper.

48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill McCann. Go ahead

50 Bill.

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1 MR. MCCANN: Every time we got the short
2 notice on the villages, you might expect us to spread the
3 work and after the meeting. But sometimes we don't have
4 no chance to spread it out. That's why I feel like to
5 have -- if you're going to set up some kind of rule
6 towards subsistence and become a year. That should be
7 printed out to the villages first before it's done.
8 That's why we sometimes got little problem with the
9 villages. They don't like sometimes what we've done
10 before they understand it. I think that's important.
11 Make it ahead of time what we're going to do. Maybe this
12 summer, we're going to do something, that should be --
13 now tell the people what's going to happen. I think that
14 would be better because even us, we got a little problem
15 sometimes just like you guys do. Just like you get
16 bawled out sometimes from me, especially sometimes. But
17 if I clearly understand ahead of time, that would be
18 better. That's how I feel on the villages side, too.
19 They completely understand because that's going to be the
20 one that's using it.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Carl Jack.

25

26 MR. JACK: Thank you. For the record, my
27 name is Carl Jack, I'm the Native liaison. (In Yup'ik)

28

29 INTERPRETER: When these agencies watch
30 over management of the resources, they watch closely when
31 the Federal subsistence part -- watch closely in season
32 activities and they work in Anchorage receive information
33 from the rural communities and work from there in this
34 office in making these decision so that's how these
35 special actions are being done with the information
36 they're doing it from the rural communities and when that
37 is done we try to publish the acts to the public and the
38 Federal Subsistence Board has to approve these decisions
39 and the inter agency subsistence committee reports to the
40 Federal Subsistence Board on these issues and when some
41 other issues come up that gets confusing to the people
42 that are users of these resources and the agencies and
43 managers think that Federal and State agencies are
44 aligned in making these decisions to announce the special

45 acts that are being placed to the public. That's how
46 this information is disbursed to the public. The Federal
47 Subsistence Board is the managing head for the agencies
48 that he just mentioned. I forgot which agencies. I
49 didn't catch that part, but anyway the Federal power
50 would use the annual claim to overpower the State

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1 authority, and that's how the State and Federal agencies
2 work together in dealing with these special actions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right now before we get
5 into other items on our agenda, we have Jerry who wants
6 to talk on Yukon Fisheries. He's a U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Law Enforcement. Maybe you could go over there
8 to one of those.

9

10 MR. CEGLESKE: Good morning Mr. Chair and
11 Council members. My name is Jerry Cegelske. I'm a
12 special agent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law
13 Enforcement. One of my jobs is to put together the
14 patrols for this year and what I wanted to do was tell
15 you about what we found last year so that you're aware of
16 what's happening on some of the river systems around here
17 and some of the concerns that we have. As far as this
18 year goes, we will be patrolling the Yukon and we should
19 have up-to-date information on fishery openings and
20 closing for you. So, if you see us on the river, wave us
21 over or we'll probably come over and talk with you and
22 tell you what's happening.

23

24 Last year on the river, on the Yukon, we
25 found that individuals were willing to sell salmon strips
26 for \$15 a pound. We also found that this was available
27 on the internet for sale all around the world. There
28 were some sales that were conducted that were -- there
29 were some people that were willing to sell fish to the
30 Lower 48 and we're not talking about 10 or 15 pounds.
31 We're talking hundreds of pounds of salmon strips that
32 would be sold Outside to the Lower 48. One of the
33 concerns that we have on the limits of fish that are
34 allowed per person is that, if people are allowed to sell
35 fish on the lower river, does this take precedence over
36 the upper river residents that have not met their
37 subsistence needs. Would those families go without fish
38 throughout the winter, while lower residents are selling
39 fish to purchase fuel and other necessities that they
40 have.

41

42 I find it interesting that in the
43 commercial sale of fish, you must have a permit and you
44 must keep records, and what is being proposed in

45 subsistence regulations is that for you to sell fish, you
46 must have a permit and you must keep records. In looking
47 at the State regulation under customary trade, they have
48 a different definition, which I believe is more in line
49 with what the subsistence lifestyle is, rather than the
50 Federal definition and I suggest that you look at that.

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1 I left it over there on my chair there, but it defines
2 the sale of fish as a minimal amount. If a family of
3 five sells \$1,000 worth of fish each, in many cases that
4 is more than what some of the upper river commercial
5 fisherman have sold in a year. That's a concern that we
6 have. With the eastern meeting they had the concern of
7 the sale of fish roe in the fact that people would be
8 willing to take fish that are of little value to take the
9 roe out because the roe is more valuable and throw the
10 fish back in the river where it would be wasted.
11 Biologically, that's a problem because those fish are not
12 allowed to go back in the streams when they spawn and die
13 those carcasses can fertilize that stream for the future
14 fish.

15

16 In my work with law enforcement, I have
17 seen in many communities, two different groups of people.
18 One group wants to continue on with traditional
19 lifestyles, traditions as they have for hundreds of
20 years. In Southeast I found that there are some people
21 that go out and they'll kill five or six sea otters,
22 maybe even 10. They'll take them to their grandparents
23 where their grandmother will make traditional Native
24 handicrafts and sell them to tourists or to share with
25 others in the community. Then I have also found where
26 another group is willing to take a large fishing boat
27 with numerous small boats along. They will go out and in
28 a short period of time kill 300 sea otters. But their
29 intent is to export these out of the country for
30 commercial enterprise.

31

32 If you look at other aspects of the
33 Marine Mammals Act, you can find violations of this type
34 or intent of this type, where the tradition is no longer
35 important, but the dollar is. That's one of the things
36 that I hope that you can consider in making your decision
37 on the amount of money that should go in customary trade.
38 There are people that are more concerned about making the
39 money off of that than they are about continuing a
40 lifestyle. Last night there were speakers that mentioned
41 that people could move into the community and they may
42 not have the same lifestyle or the same ideas on
43 tradition that you have. That is something to be very
44 concerned about.

45

46 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman, the first
49 part of the information that was given out because she
50 came in a little late and she's curious to exactly what

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1 transpired before she came in in the way of information.
2 The first segment of your information she's interested in
3 because she missed out on that portion probably wants you
4 to start all over again.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I thought -- we through
7 with the introduction of these and we had a chance to
8 give the people an opportunity to testify. He is talking
9 about the Yukon here and streamlining the Yukon River and
10 Kuskokwim, so I think we're on the right track. Go ahead
11 and you can continue.

12

13 MR. CEGELSKE: On the Yukon especially
14 the chance for the abuse within the subsistence system is
15 very great and I think that's one of the things that you
16 need to be concerned about in your decision on
17 subsistence trade, customary trade, those issues.
18 Hopefully we can keep in good communication. If you have
19 questions contact somebody from the subsistence office
20 that can contact us and we can give you a call and tell
21 you about some of our concerns in private if you care to
22 or I'll be at some of the other meetings. I'll be at
23 McGrath in two weeks for that meeting also. I'm
24 available for any questions that you may have at this
25 time.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think you had a
28 question from Bill McCann.

29

30 MR. MCCANN: You said something about
31 that the Yukon people are selling the fish up there
32 without, they're not supposed to. But, I hear something
33 about it too from your people. I hear something about --
34 there's people from your people someplace along the line
35 from coming down from Yukon trying to buy fish just to
36 make sure who's selling the fish secretly. I don't think
37 it's right. You might be catching the people that
38 they're selling -- maybe you'll find out that people are
39 selling that way. If it's true, I don't think it's
40 right. It shouldn't be somebody's secret about trying to
41 find out what the people do. If it's true. That's what
42 I hear. Because sometimes the word spread out through
43 the people. I hear something about it but I won't tell
44 you who tell me. But I'd like to find out if it's true

45 from you people. There's people coming down from Yukon,
46 your people, trying to buy some fish just to find out
47 who's selling the fish. Is that true?

48

49 MR. CEGELSKE: We have sent people out to
50 buy fish. There's no violation there. It's as if I went

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1 and bought fish. There's nothing wrong with that. What
2 we're trying to do is find out the extent of the
3 commercial sales so that we can tell you what's happening
4 on the river. You may know much about what's happening
5 in your immediate are, but what you need to know is
6 what's happening on the entire river system that there
7 are people that, instead of being concerned about a
8 subsistence lifestyle, they're more worried about
9 getting money for themselves and making a commercial
10 operation out of a subsistence operation. Is the use of
11 the internet a subsistence lifestyle that, or selling to
12 people in the Lower 48 when people upstream are doing
13 without subsistence fish throughout the year? Is that
14 what your culture stands for? I don't think so. But,
15 what we need to do is find out what's going on so that we
16 can tell you and come here and discuss it. I may make
17 you angry in saying that's what we do. That doesn't
18 bother me at all. But you need to know what's happening.
19 If you don't like it, you need to change it.

20

21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. The topic that
22 we're discussing now is related to customary trade and we
23 have called a special meeting in Bethel to discuss it
24 more. What I was thinking that was going to happen
25 today is pre-season update, what's going to happen
26 possibly this summer, so can maybe my expectations are
27 off.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yea, Robert, this
30 Council policy on any agenda comes up the public has the
31 right make a comment on any item on the agenda. We will
32 be continuing work, however, the people that speak have
33 to be on the agenda that we are talking about. That way,
34 also people introducing the on the agenda, if there needs
35 to be a question on that certain item on the agenda we
36 would like to see them right there. If anyone or Council
37 make a question, he would answer that question.

38

39 MR. L. WILDE: I believe that we are
40 working under an approved agenda and the agenda item at
41 the time that the law enforcement person came on was Pre-
42 Season Update and his discussion has absolutely -- might
43 have some sense to that, but streamlining Federal
44 fisheries in season, special actions, I don't think is a

45 part of the law enforcement, or does that have anything
46 to do with the in-season special action?

47

48 MR. CEGELSKE: Only in the fact that
49 we're going to be out there enforcing those special
50 actions and working with the communities along the river.

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1 We will have information available for them but we will
2 be out enforcing the closures as they take place with
3 those special actions.

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would also
6 like to ask that gentleman over there who was making the
7 presentation, were you done with your subject before.....

8

9 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Wilde, I'm
10 nearly done. I had two parts to it and I've completed
11 the part on the streamlining special actions but I did
12 have a very short update on the status of the Yukon
13 Protocol that I wanted to inform the Council of. It'll
14 just take a minute or two.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, go ahead and
17 continue.

18 MR. SIMMONS: Thank you Mr. Chair. I
19 believe Vince handed out to you a document that's
20 entitled "Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery
21 Management Protocol". This is a status update of that
22 protocol that was last provided to you at the last winter
23 meeting. This protocol was nearly ready for signature
24 last year, however, the State legislature became aware
25 of these protocols and requested some presentations be
26 made on them in briefings. That sort of slowed the
27 process down on getting these protocols enacted. During
28 that time of delay, the staff has continued to refine the
29 wording in the Yukon Protocol. Mainly the wording
30 associated with the in-season manager's working
31 relationship, and also the topic of joint news releases.
32 I want to stress that the steps outlined in the protocol
33 on communications and coordination with the Councils and
34 the coordinating fisheries committee members has not
35 changed since the last briefing before this Council. The
36 signatories of the State/Federal MOA will be meeting in
37 April and they are expected to sign this protocol as a
38 long-term agreement.

39

40 That concludes my short summary on this
41 update, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from
44 Council. Thank you. We do have -- before we go into

45 another item on the agenda, we have a Mike McDougall from
46 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

47

48 MR. MCDOUGALL: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm

49 Mike McDougall with Yukon River Drainage Fisheries

50 Association. We're for supports aligning State and

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1 Federal regulations where possible. We feel that
2 streamlining is positive, as it helps reduce the Federal
3 workload during the in-season fishery and it ensures that
4 timely and consistent information is getting out to the
5 fishery user. That's all I have at this time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. You're the
8 best one ever out here.

9

10 MR. MCDOUGALL: Yeah, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is
13 Kuskokwim. Kuskokwim River.

14

15 MR. SAMLEN: Mr. Chairman he just got
16 here about five minutes ago. He just got off the plane
17 (indiscernible - away from microphone)

18

19 MR. L. WILDE: Can you get on the mike
20 there please?

21

22 MR. SAMLEN: Mr. Chairman he just
23 arrived. Could we perhaps do the Yukon in front of the
24 Kuskokwim to give him a little chance to catch his
25 breath?

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can I ask
28 the presenter didn't you just cover streamlining
29 Kuskokwim and Yukon together or were you just talking
30 about the Yukon, because under the agenda item that we're
31 discussing it's fisheries pre-season update, according to
32 the agenda number one, Streamlining Federal Fisheries In-
33 season Special Actions, and I assume that the discussion
34 of the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River falls under
35 that item one. Does it or does it not?

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. I think it's very
38 important for the presenters to prepare before they come
39 and let us know what they're going to talk about.

40

41 MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Wilde, I
42 think there is a bit of confusion here relative to the
43 agenda because item number two under roman numeral 10
44 where it just says Yukon River might have confused the

45 Council by providing an update about the Yukon Protocol
46 with the assumption that that was the entire discussion
47 on Yukon. It's not. I believe that agenda item is
48 associated with a discussion associated with pre-season
49 outlooks for this year and a short summary of this past
50 season's management actions. It also addressed Mr.

00212

1 Hanson's question earlier relative to some of the
2 questions he had about in-season actions. My
3 understanding is that the discussions now on both the
4 Yukon and Kuskokwim will be focused on pre-season
5 management.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

8

9 MR. HANDER: Good morning Mr. Chair,
10 Council. I'm Ray Hander. I work at the Fairbanks
11 fishery office. I'm a fishery biologist with the U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service. I work on the in-season
13 subsistence fishery management. Management staff from
14 both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game have worked cooperatively to
16 develop this draft information sheet, which maybe we can
17 get some help handing that out please. Last year, if
18 you'll remember, this yellow sheet was the passed around
19 the entire Yukon river. It was mailed out to a very large
20 number of folks on the river. Based on the positive
21 comments we got last year, we decided to use this format
22 again.

23

24 My comments today are primarily to set
25 the stage for Fred Bue the Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game counterpart. He will review this handout with you,
27 page by page, or at least I think he's got a summary that
28 he'll go through. But before, I'd like to make a few
29 introductory comments about the 2001 season and the
30 upcoming 2002 season and some management items for you to
31 consider. First, we want you to know very much that we
32 appreciate your compliance and participation in helping
33 implement this 2001 schedule, the yellow sheet that you
34 got pre-season. It's very important to us that the
35 participation was given by your community members.

36

37 The outlook for 2001 was below average to
38 poor salmon returns for chinooks, summer chum, and fall
39 chum salmon. What happened? Well, chinook salmon
40 returned slightly better than expected, but the overall
41 return was still below average. The returns of both
42 summer chum and fall chum salmon returns were poor. No
43 commercial fishing occurred for any salmon on the Yukon
44 river in 2001. Chinook salmon escapement was encouraging

45 given the last previous couple of years, but both summer
46 and fall chum salmon escapements were quite disappoint.
47 Subsistence harvest of chinook salmon exceeded the recent
48 10 year average, while both summer and fall chum salmon
49 harvest were more than 80% below the recent 10 year
50 averages. Last year one of the more controversial

00213

1 actions was for the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt
2 the special action that closed the chinook and summer
3 chum subsistence salmon fishery on all Federal waters in
4 Yukon drainage for 60 days to all users except Federally
5 qualified subsistence users.

6

7 I believe that's what was in discussion
8 with Mr. Simmons earlier. The action was taken in large
9 part due to the assessment that the salmon returns in
10 2001 would not be sufficient to meet escapement goals and
11 subsistence harvest. The good news for 2002 is that we
12 anticipate chinook salmon returns to be similar to the
13 2001 returns, which means it should meet both escapement
14 and subsistence harvest needs. And, if a surplus can be
15 identified, a small commercial fishery may be possible.
16 On the other side, the bad news is that the 2002 summer
17 chum and fall chum runs are anticipated to be similar to
18 the 2001 returns, which means that escapement and
19 subsistence would likely not be met throughout the
20 drainage. Given current uncertainties associated with
21 salmon productivity and the declining production
22 experienced since 1998, salmon managers will continue to
23 be conservative.

24

25 In trying to anticipate some of your
26 questions, what is the subsistence fishing time going to
27 be for this coming year? This windowed regulatory
28 subsistence fishing schedule, which was in effect last
29 year, will be in effect again in 2002. If the schedule
30 needs to be reduced to improve escapements, news releases
31 will be published, announcing any changes to the
32 schedule. If schedule changes occurred, we would like
33 Council member input regarding days of the week or start
34 and stop times that would work better for you -- or that
35 would work better than the reduced schedule for last
36 year. So that's something that we would like for the
37 Council to consider.

38

39 As a manager, I'm hoping to provide
40 Coordinating Fishery Committee members more input into
41 the management decisions this coming year. As a first
42 step I'm requesting the committee -- the Coordinating
43 Fishery Committee members to consider meeting for one day
44 during the upcoming Yukon River Drainage Fisheries

45 Association meeting in Nenana. I think the proposed date
46 is going to be the 25th of March and Vince Matthews can
47 correct me if that's wrong. This would be an opportunity
48 for the committee members to develop a consensus point of
49 view to present to the Federal Subsistence Board on
50 fishery issues.

00214

1 A third item that the Council should be
2 aware of is that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
3 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are attempting to
4 initiate an in-season subsistence monitoring program this
5 year in villages of Emmonak and either Galena, Kaltag or
6 Nulato, I believe are the potential -- one of those three
7 would be chosen so there would be a total of two sites
8 that this pilot project would be initiated on. The
9 project would focus on the quality of the harvest, rather
10 than the number of fish harvested and we would be trying
11 to pattern this after the Kuskokwim in-season management
12 project, which started last year. I'll now turn the
13 table over to Fred Bue to continue with a review of last
14 season and the outlook for salmon activities in 2002 and
15 we'll both be here to answer questions after Mr. Bue is
16 done.

17

18 Thank you very much.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. BUE: For the record, my name is Fred
23 Bue. I'm the Alaska Department of Fish and Game fall
24 season area manager on the Yukon river.

25

26 In January 2001, the Alaska Board of Fish
27 recognized the Yukon river salmon stocks were in a
28 serious situation. They designated the chinook, summer
29 chum, fall chum salmon stocks as stocks of concern on the
30 Yukon River Drainage. They laid out management plans and
31 action plans to spread harvest to all users throughout
32 the Yukon River Drainage and improve the quality of
33 escapement. The result of that meeting was the new
34 subsistence windowed fishing schedule and the increased
35 State's authority to regulate gear so that abundant
36 species could be targeted while continuing to protect
37 weak stocks. Subject to ANILCA State and Federal
38 managers are working cooperatively to manage the Yukon
39 River salmon resource. This informational sheet that
40 I'll go over now reviews the 2001 season and describes
41 the anticipated management of the upcoming 2002 season.

42

43 Keep in mind, this is still only a draft.

44 Some concepts, numbers or fishing schedules may change so

45 we're trying not to distribute it too widely yet. We are
46 still open to suggestions on how to improve this piece of
47 paper, because it is important to us to get the word out
48 like Mr. Hanson said and various people say, it's
49 important prior to the season. Last year we did go into
50 a lot of villages on the Yukon river pre-season and

00215

1 talked about this specifically and we'll continue to
2 bring it up at the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
3 Association meeting later this month to go over it some
4 more.

5

6 The front page essentially summarizes
7 much of the information contained in the rest of the
8 handout. If you're going to post one page in the
9 villages this is the important one to post. Starting
10 with the run outlook, we anticipate the trend of poor
11 salmon since 1998 will continue into the 2002 season.
12 The 2002 chinook salmon run is expected to be similar to
13 2001. The chum salmon runs are difficult to project pre-
14 season but based on a continued trend we anticipate the
15 runs will come in poor to below average. Even if the
16 2002 chum run doubles last year, it would only provide
17 enough surplus to meet subsistence needs.

18

19 Harvest outlook: Given the uncertainties
20 associated with declines in productivity, this years
21 salmon fisheries will be managed conservatively. It is
22 anticipated that enough chinook salmon may be available
23 for escapement goals and subsistence harvest, a small
24 chinook salmon commercial fishery, commercial harvest may
25 be possible and subsistence harvest for summer and fall
26 chum salmon will likely be less than normal.

27

28 Our management strategies: Will manage
29 for escapement and to spread out subsistence harvest
30 opportunity along the entire Yukon river. The Alaska
31 Board of Fisheries subsistence fishing schedule used in
32 2001, will again be used this season. Given the poor
33 outlook, a pre-season emergency order is planned that
34 would reduce the sport fish daily bag limit to one
35 chinook or one chum salmon in the Yukon River Drainage.
36 Based on the evaluation of in-season indicators of run
37 strength, the Alaska Board of Fisheries subsistence
38 schedule may be reduced sometime after the quarter point
39 of each run. Other uses could be closed unless escapement
40 goal and a specific tributary was projected to be met and
41 the weak stock could be protected. There is a chance a
42 small commercial chinook salmon harvest could be allowed
43 near the mid-point of the run or later. Typically we
44 would look for a 10-14 day build up or run with pulses

45 that sustain themselves for several days. In the case of
46 fall chum, we plan to start the season on the same
47 schedule and restrictions where we left off with the
48 summer chum. We do this because summer chum appear to be
49 a good indicator of the fall chum run strength. In-
50 season we will present run assessment information and

00216

1 discuss management strategies during the weekly Yukon
2 River Drainage Fisheries Association sponsored
3 teleconferences.

4

5 The next page summarizes the 2001 Yukon
6 River salmon fisheries. The 2001 chinook salmon run was
7 below average but it did come in better than expected,
8 however the chum salmon runs were very poor.

9

10 The three boxes at the top of the page
11 show that there was no Alaska commercial salmon harvest
12 last year. They show the preliminary chinook subsistence
13 harvest was 12% above the 10 year average, while summer
14 chum subsistence harvest was 40% below average and the
15 fall chum subsistence harvest was 68% below average. The
16 harvest information dictates that most subsistence
17 families met their subsistence harvest needs for chinook
18 but did not meet their summer or fall chum salmon
19 subsistence needs.

20

21 The middle two charts show chinook salmon
22 harvest and escapement information. We can see that we
23 were successful at getting kings to most spawning areas
24 with the new schedule, however, total harvest was still
25 less than half of the average.

26

27 The bottom two charts show chum salmon
28 runs continue to be depressed from 2001.

29

30 The third page summarizes our 2002 Yukon
31 River salmon fisheries outlook. Declines in productivity
32 dictate that salmon fisheries will be managed
33 conservatively.

34

35 The top three boxes characterize our
36 expectations by species. A small commercial fishery may
37 be possible again for chinook salmon, but none are
38 expected for summer or fall chum. We anticipate enough
39 chinook salmon available for subsistence needs, however,
40 fishing opportunity may be restricted for chum fisheries.
41 Coho salmon is not listed here but we expect the run to
42 be near average again. Even though there will likely be
43 a surplus, we do not anticipate commercial harvest and
44 there may be some subsistence restrictions implemented in

45 order to conserve fall chum salmon that overlap in run
46 timing.

47

48 In managing chinook salmon, the U.S.

49 Canada Yukon River Panel is meeting this week in

50 Whitehorse to decide on spawning escapement targets into

00217

1 Canada are expecting to be somewhere between 28 and
2 43,000 chinook salmon. The Yukon River chinook returning
3 to spawn in Canada contributes to about 50% of the
4 harvest by Alaskan fisherman. The 2001 run of 82,000
5 Canadian origin chinook salmon was very poor, indicating
6 unusually low production from current year escapements
7 that were considered above average.

8

9 The next page lays out the Yukon
10 subsistence salmon fishing schedule by district. The
11 period length is the maximum allowed by regulation,
12 however, times and days of the week are still somewhat
13 flexible. We anticipate that the 2002 chinook run will
14 be similar to last year and the 2000 -- the summer and
15 fall chum runs will be managed using regulatory
16 management plans. These plans are laid out below and on
17 the next two pages.

18

19 Now if it is determined that salmon runs
20 are insufficient to provide for escapement and
21 subsistence, then subsistence fishing time will be
22 reduced from the Board of Fisheries schedule as
23 necessary. Subsistence salmon fishing opportunity may be
24 further restricted to Federally qualified users only,
25 which means only rural residents of the Yukon River
26 Drainage and also includes the community of Stebbins.
27 This restriction would be rescinded when the salmon run
28 was determined to be sufficient to meet escapement and
29 subsistence needs. Again, I'd like to stress that we are
30 -- we're looking ahead towards pre-season, but our actual
31 management is going to be based on what we do see come
32 back in-season.

33

34 That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman?

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Go ahead.

39

40 MS. GREGORY: I didn't mean to disrupt
41 you but I have an announcement to make that I am leaving
42 here shortly because my work -- my boss has authorized me
43 until today to be on leave, but I'd like to have for you
44 to maybe have a silence -- a time for Charlie Evans who

45 passed away. He used to work for Fish and Wildlife and
46 also for Nellie Andrew, she's the aunt of James Charlie.

47 This lady passed away this morning. (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: I would like a moment of
50 silence in remembrance of Charlie Evans. He used to work

00218

1 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and James Charles'
2 aunt who passed away last night, Nellie Andrew.

3

4 MS. GREGORY: Can I ask the Chair to
5 allow us to stand in a moment of silence.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah we'll do that.

8

9 MS. GREGORY: And I'm on my way home.
10 She's sorry for running out on you people, but it's her
11 job that's taking her out and thanking the people of
12 Tuntutuliak for making us feel welcome during these two
13 days.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you please
16 continue.

17

18 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman that concludes my
19 report. I did have one other -- I could give you a brief
20 update in the U.S. Canada Panel -- U.S. Canada Treaty
21 Agreement if you like, either now or later.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, before we go into
24 U.S. Canada negotiation I'd like to give an opportunity
25 for Vince Matthews to discuss on Coordinating Fishery
26 Committee. Vince. You have comments questions after you
27 -- you can stay right here and there will be some
28 questions. Go ahead Vince.

29

30 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
31 There are two things I need to bring up. Yes, in
32 response to Ray's presentation, the coordinating fishery
33 committee, for those that are new members, we have two
34 committees, one on the Kuskokwim and one on the Yukon.
35 It's made up of two representatives from the Councils
36 that serve on those Drainage. So for example, on the
37 Yukon River, there's two from Eastern Interior, two from
38 Western Interior and two from your region. On the
39 Kuskokwim, there's just Western Interior and your region
40 so there's four that serve on that committee and six on
41 the Yukon.

42

43 Ray is correct. We are trying to have a
44 pre-season meeting with the Yukon River Coordinating

45 Fishery Committee and we're coupling that with the Yukon
46 River Drainage Fishery Association annual meeting, which
47 is in Nenana on March 25th, 26th and 27th. So we're
48 looking at having the Coordinating Fishery Committee meet
49 the evening of Monday the 25th in Nenana because you'll
50 be there anyway. So, for that what we need to do is,

00219

1 I've talked to all the six members and John Hanson was
2 planning on going but another meeting has conflicted with
3 that, that requires him to be elsewhere. I need to ask
4 the Council to kind of appoint an alternate from the
5 Yukon Drainage to attend this very important meeting in
6 Nenana to meet with all the fishers from the whole
7 Drainage. So, I'll leave that up to you to see who could
8 be an alternate for the meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince, I think one of
11 our Council members will be there, is there somebody that
12 could represent us as a Council?

13

14 Go ahead Lester.

15

16 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like
17 to suggest Raymond Oney since he's right there at
18 Alakanuk. It's right close to Emmonak where the meetings
19 are going to be held and it's just a matter of a boat --
20 15-20 minute boat ride from there. If he would accept
21 that.

22

23 MR. ONEY: Mr. Chairman. I'm also on the
24 Yukon River Drainage Fishery Association board as an
25 alternate so I'll be going to that meeting in Nenana.
26 I've been asked already.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that will work
29 out fine.

30

31 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr Chairman on that --
32 what we're doing is we're working out -- working with,
33 excuse me, with, with Yukon River Drainage Fishery
34 Association to -- you'll be flying on that charter. So,
35 I'll be getting that information to you on that and
36 that's great that that will work out. At that time, or
37 before that time I'll try to talk to Ray as to what the
38 committee -- its functions and all that but you'll hear
39 it throughout the testimony here. So, in summary, you
40 will be meeting with the Yukon River Drainage Fishery
41 Association. They are graciously inviting you to
42 actively participate in their meeting and we have an
43 alternate and travel will be by charter and I think
44 that's all. Ray did I -- did you -- you brought that up.

45 So that's all I had, thank you. Could I take that as
46 being that would be the alternate for either of the Yukon
47 ones if there is a thing in the future. For those that
48 have served on the committees you know you get a lot of
49 faxes so it helps keep the tribal council offices fax
50 machines in good working order.

00220

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We do have a
4 question here from Robert Nick.

5

6 MR. NICK: I just wanted to make a short
7 comment. Having Ray there at the Yukon coordinating
8 committee meeting I think is a good idea. Especially if
9 he'll take a boat ride from Alakanuk to Emmonak in the
10 middle of March.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. NICK: Anyway, after listening to the
15 pre- season and then kind of the past summer report on
16 Yukon, I'd like to ask Vince and the coordinating
17 committee in the Yukon if they could consider -- I'll get
18 to you Vince later -- but listening to Fred, the State's
19 plan, strategy for the 2002 summer is to have a sports
20 fishery with one chum, one chinook. But anyway, earlier
21 we talked about streamlining the emergency -- special
22 actions to align the States emergency orders. My thought
23 goes to last summer when we -- I thank Mike for making
24 the special action to close sport fishing in Federal
25 waters and only allow subsistence -- Federally qualified
26 subsistence users to fish.

27

28 Am I correct Mike?

29

30 MR. REARSON: Mr. Chairman, the special
31 action was issued by the Federal Subsistence Board.

32

33 MR. NICK: Oh okay. Okay. Thank you.
34 Anyway, my -- I'll bring this up with the rack here too,
35 but if it is -- if the outlook is going to be about the
36 same or worse than last summer and on the schedule that
37 we just looked at, that potentially is going to be for
38 this summer, it looks like the Yukon is going to be
39 pretty much in the same situation. So, I'd like the
40 coordinating committee in the Yukon to see if they can
41 have a special action initiated by the Federal
42 Subsistence Board before salmon come up to restrict
43 harvest of chinook and chum in the Yukon to subsistence
44 users only.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Vince.

47

48 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I understand

49 what Robert is asking for. I just request that you wait

50 until you get the full presentation from the Fish and

00221

1 Game staff and all the information and then the
2 Coordinating Fishery Committee could do that, but I think
3 it would be better if the Council wants to go in that
4 direction. But, please listen to all the information
5 before you start considering a special action, because
6 we'll need to get quite a few more people up here to the
7 table to discuss that.

8

9 MR. NICK: Thank you Vince, I'll try to
10 do that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Where are we at. I'm
13 kind of lost here.

14

15 MR. HANSON: Questions and answers sir.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question and answer.
18 John Hanson.

19

20 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you
21 Mr. Chairman. I see the Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game and Federal guide looking at all of us wondering who
23 was going to be the first one. Getting back to the same
24 question that I had earlier on the outlook for 2001,
25 which I brought up to, now where is he -- oh, he's up
26 there concerning the sport fishery for 2001. I was told
27 that the sport fishery kept -- kept going while the
28 subsistence fishery were curtailed. During our
29 teleconference last -- the first part of June, if I
30 recall what we had -- what was said, we told the managers
31 to close sport fishery since they are curtailing the
32 subsistence fishery. I don't know - we got two waters.
33 We've got the Federal water and the State water. Maybe
34 one of -- maybe the State kept their fishery going or
35 maybe the Federal kept their sport fishery going on
36 Federally open land. I think when -- when we say to
37 close the sport fishery instead of subsistence, we mean
38 close sport fishery because commercial goes first, sport
39 fishing goes second, personal use goes third, the
40 subsistence keeps going. It could be curtailed until
41 such time that the stocks are so low that the subsistence
42 has to be closed.

43

44 I got pretty upset when I head last

45 summer that the sport fishery was still going. It's not
46 in the lower part. We don't have sport fishing in the
47 lower part. It's up further and I think this year that
48 should be watched real careful. According to the draft
49 that I got there for 2000, it says that it's -- it's
50 going to be the same as 2001, especially for chum salmon.

00222

1 That's going to be low and then they got for sport
2 fishery they reduce it to one king and one chum. Is that
3 -- reducing sport fishery to one chum and one king, does
4 that mean that subsistence up and down the Yukon is going
5 to be closed completely and the sport fishery still
6 going?

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan Bergstrom.

11

12 MR. BERGSTROM: Yeah. This is Dan
13 Bergstrom. I'm glad John Hanson doesn't have his club
14 today, which we have seen at other advisory committee
15 meetings when he's talked to me. But I wanted to
16 clarify, John, with last year how the -- we heard how the
17 Federal system had a special action pre-season. Under
18 the State system, as we've given this outlook, we don't
19 know if it's going to be similar for sure next year to
20 last year. How we do it is managing the run in-season,
21 see what happens. The chum runs could come in -- you
22 know, if there's any kind of productivity at all, they
23 could be enough -- plenty enough for subsistence and
24 escapements. So we like to see what actually happens in
25 the season. So last year with your question is, we
26 assessed the runs to be weak and as soon as we -- or
27 just prior to doing any subsistence restrictions, as we
28 reduced the schedule last year, that's when the sport
29 fishery was closed in the State waters. So it was in-
30 season and it's always done when there's those
31 restrictions on subsistence fishing. Sport closes,
32 commercials close. The other uses are closed down.
33

34 The only other thing that's a little
35 different. The Yukon is so complex with that Tanana
36 River Drainage way and off to the side and stocks there
37 can be different in abundance, that we wait there to do
38 any subsistence restrictions or even sport restrictions
39 until we see what actually happens in the Tanana so it's
40 a little different there. But along the main stem as soon
41 as we see -- as soon as there is going to be subsistence
42 restrictions, or reduction in fishing time or gear type
43 of things, then the sport fishery is affected and closed.
44 That's what I wanted to clarify too that these are

45 outlooks. How we want to do it is manage it in season,
46 see what comes back.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council do we have a
49 question to Dan Bergstrom? Mr. Andrews?

50

00223

1 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: I am glad for the panel to
4 wear your little radios. You have them on? We Yup'iks
5 who are becoming to be elders were born by our rivers and
6 I am going to stress the people from the Yukon who were
7 born on the banks of the rivers -- on the Yukon river and
8 that I thank the people who are trying to work to improve
9 the numbers of the fish. Like I said we Yup'iks who are
10 becoming elders who were born on the banks of the Yukon
11 river where the fish swim and as soon as we become aware,
12 grow up to start fishing and our elders know when the
13 runs are going to be good and when the runs are going to
14 be weak. Even the runs of the black fish. They know
15 that by the atmosphere and how the winter is and they
16 know by these signs and how the runs are going to be for
17 the next season. Today this spring, with the snow we
18 have now there's going to be lots of water on the
19 Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers. Elders have said that the
20 Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers in the year 2002, when there's
21 lots of water will swim earlier -- will come up the
22 rivers earlier and we will find these fish not like
23 before.

24

25 Like I saw in the paper, it States that
26 the outlook is going to be the same as the year 2001, but
27 looking at the weather patterns this winter predict that
28 the runs are going to be heavier than last year and if
29 you don't want to believe me you don't have to believe me
30 but I am saying that there will be better runs than 2001
31 with all the water that's been expected for this spring.
32 The fish are going to smell easily the fresh water that
33 are coming out of these two rivers from the Kuskokwim and
34 the Yukon Rivers. Us who are becoming elders don't have
35 papers as guides, but we watch the weather patterns of
36 the atmosphere and the land and our -- what our ancestors
37 has taught us is still in our heads as computers and as I
38 have watched this has come to be true and I have come to
39 believe it. If you see and if you fish the summer and
40 catch more fish remember what I have told you even these
41 people are saying that there will be -- our runs will be
42 same as 2001. Without calendars or the times, watch
43 these things closely as our ancestors taught us. I am
44 not looking down on these people who are giving these

45 reports, but I am thankful for what they are trying to
46 say.

47

48 Thank you for listening to me.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think from now on that

00224

1 we've got to meet the four o'clock flight to charter to
2 Bethel, we got to some way to speed. And when you
3 Council, I urge you when you speak try to stay on an item
4 on agenda.

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Every year when -- this
7 year from the outlooks of people up river and the ice
8 down river, it looks like we're going to be having high
9 water this year again. Every year whenever we have high
10 water within the villages or areas -- in the rivers, I'm
11 sorry -- we always -- the management always has problems
12 with methods of estimating in-season runs during high
13 water. That's always been the excuse from as far as I
14 can remember sitting on all the Boards that we've been
15 sitting on. And because of that high water, has there
16 been any methods or new means looked into by the
17 department to see if they can get away from the excuse of
18 we can't tell how many fish are coming in because we're
19 having high water? Is the department and the service
20 looking into the possibilities of getting management
21 tools so that excuse won't be prevalent from year to
22 year?

23

24 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this
25 is Dan Bergstrom. I don't see it so much as an excuse,
26 Lester. I think it's a big problem and the only thing we
27 can do is keep working at the test fishery to try and
28 keep them in the water when there's a lot of debris. We
29 have troubles at the sonar when there's high water
30 because it causes difficulty with the sonar operation
31 just with debris possibly knocking out the transducers
32 and plus with making it noisy in the water so it's harder
33 to see. So there's definitely -- there are problems when
34 there's high water. Last year we tried to address it by
35 when conditions improved we made an estimate for passage
36 prior to that time where there was one bank was out. So,
37 if we can plan on doing that in advance this season,
38 thinking about that, that we could react faster, because
39 this last year it did help, but it was late in June when
40 we got the information.

41

42 The other thing that we're to do this
43 year as Ray mentioned is to have this subsistence
44 monitoring somewhat in season so we can get kind of a

45 better quality of look at how subsistence fisheries are
46 going in some key villages so we can -- what we want to
47 get in that information is how is the run compare to what
48 they've seen in the past so they can kind of give us an
49 idea. Does it look okay, are they meeting their needs
50 and so that will be another help I think to have the

00225

1 subsistence information. So that's what we want to know
2 also. If people are having trouble catching fish that's
3 another important fact too. But, as you say if it's real
4 high water, lots of debris, there are problems in
5 assessing the run.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: But it seems that more and
8 more, we're getting high water on the river where it
9 makes it hard for counting escapement and all that. It
10 seems that there should be somebody within the department
11 or within the bureaucracy that is looking into
12 possibilities of getting equipment so that those things
13 don't happen.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom Kron.

16

17 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to
18 comment a little bit about the difference between the
19 outlook this year and the outlook last year. I think
20 there are some significant differences for you to
21 consider relative to the possibility of requesting a
22 special action. Last year at this time at the meeting at
23 Kitlik, at the meeting at St. Mary's that you called
24 Harry, at the other regional council meetings and at YRFA
25 the State and Federal staff both were expecting a very
26 poor king salmon run for example. You'll remember that
27 there were comments that you might be able to get only
28 half of your subsistence needs or less met. There were
29 concerns about making escapement.

30

31 As you just heard Mr. Bue and Mr. Hander
32 say, this year the expectation is that there will be
33 enough fish for subsistence and escapement and even
34 possibly a commercial fishery. They want to hold off
35 until the middle of the run or after the middle of the
36 run to make that assessment. But again, the outlook this
37 year for the run is better than it was last year. I just
38 wanted to bring that to your attention so that there are
39 some differences between this year and last year.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

44

45 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: We three of us are sitting
48 here on this Council and we have constant contact with
49 each other and I am very curious about what my children
50 just since last year. I think there were lots of fish

00226

1 last summer and I reported because I report all the time
2 to the Department of Fish and Game and the staff that was
3 working in the office didn't seem to believe what i was
4 saying and I talked with Harry again. Only once did I
5 say that our family fished only once and then we stopped
6 because of how much fish we caught during that one day
7 fish.

8

9 I am curious of how the departments are
10 setting this special acts and these sonars do not give
11 very accurate information. What the sonar says
12 underwater it is everything that fish that they believe
13 are drifting down river. They tell us the numbers of the
14 fish. If you guys want to see the true numbers you
15 should look at the subsistence fisherman and how much
16 they have caught. That way you'll have a better picture
17 of how the fish runs are doing as opposed to the
18 information from the sonar. One of my sons or the area
19 that I fished caught -- some commercial fisherman caught
20 42,000 fish. That site where I fish is a very good
21 fishing spot and I will be glad if the Department of Fish
22 and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services came to that
23 fishing spot and do their testing there because they can
24 give their catch to the subsistence fisherman to the
25 subsistence users and where you guys do your test fishing
26 it's not good. If you follow our suggestions you will
27 have a better chance of counting and have a truer count
28 of the fish.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, before I recognize
31 Council, we do have one Arthur Lake in-season (In Yup'ik)

32

33 MR. LAKE: (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
36 This topic that -- the pre-season before it opened last
37 year, before the numbers were specified, I would like to
38 make one comment because all of you need to know that and
39 all of the villages need to be informed of it as well.
40 Thinking of last year's activities and the estimates
41 usually or the forecast usually is lower than that
42 actually come about in these two rivers. And for those
43 of us in the AVCP, in looking at activities, so it has
44 been said that the forecast is going to be very low and

45 before the fish even arrives, the subsistence users are
46 usually cut down. But it's a good system how even
47 individual department worker turn to subsistence users be
48 considered as well for forecasting. A lot of them
49 usually don't even fish -- even the fish in swimming. At
50 times they lowered the limit as to how many fish can be

00227

1 utilized in some days.

2

3 So, after what you said and reported why
4 is it that way? The subsistence activities supposed to
5 be the priority for the region and sometimes when that --
6 after the users which one of the activities are going to
7 be launched for action. Subsistence should be number
8 one. Some days now and he's now hearing that he feels
9 that fish might be better than last for the subsistence
10 users according to the list. There are people -- at
11 times during the fishing season there are a lot of people
12 that are subsistence users that are sitting down waiting
13 for word when the season's going to be open for them. We
14 don't need to fish and then catch one and then look at
15 the fish and then release it. Those are uses of these
16 stocks are not -- we don't do that. It's just like
17 playing with a fish or toying with the stocks. It's so
18 hard to tell what damage is done to those fish that are
19 caught and how many of those salmon survive after they've
20 been released.

21

22 If that's going to be the case this year,
23 how the sport fishery is going to be structured and it is
24 going to hurt the people of the region that utilize these
25 fish for subsistence and we do believe that according to
26 the reports that some salmon stocks are going to be lower
27 than the years before. So, if you're going to be -- if
28 the sport fishery is going to be closed before the
29 subsistence users are curtailed if they do that then we
30 would coincide our activities with the sport fishery.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This time that I'm going
33 to recognize two Councilmen and after that we're going to
34 have a 10 minute break. First Ray Oney.

35

36 MR. ONEY: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
37 Getting back to your comments that John Hanson had
38 mentioned earlier on your management strategies for this
39 coming season, I just wanted to make sure that -- you
40 know, last year we were cut down from two 36-hour periods
41 down to, I believe two 24-hour periods. I just want to
42 make one point clear that if we're going to cut down
43 subsistence fisheries then you will need to consider
44 cutting off sport fishing first before you lower the

45 amount of hours that you're going to cut down the
46 subsistence users. That's one point that I wanted to
47 bring up.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00228

1 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, thanks Ray. This is
2 Dan Bergstrom. That is what we're trying to have. We're
3 showing in our strategy there that that is the strategy
4 is to close the sport fisheries if there's -- before we
5 take a reductions in subsistence fishing. One other
6 thing to understand as far as timing of fisheries is that
7 the sport fisheries occur later because they're fishing
8 in the tributaries. Our feeling is that as we're
9 assessing the run in-season, as we see fish like at
10 Mountain Village, St. Marys on the Yukon and as they're
11 coming up the Kuskokwim, at that point in the season
12 there is no sport fish harvest on salmon yet until later
13 on when the fish are up in the tributaries. Generally if
14 there were to be really poor and we watch it in-season
15 and we started t make a restriction and we close the
16 sport fishery, it should be before there is really any
17 harvest occurring in the sport fishery.

18

19 MR. ONEY: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick.

22

23 MR. NICK: No.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

26

27 MR. HANDER: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I
28 was just wanting to revisit this in-season subsistence
29 harvest survey one more time. We are initiating this in
30 a cooperative manner with the Alaska Department of Fish
31 and Game and we are doing this in a large part in
32 response to their request for us to do this, as well as
33 we heard you, Mr. Wilde, last year very loud and clearly
34 that we were maybe not getting subsistence fisher
35 information used like you would like to see it used. So,
36 we are trying our best in order to answer some of your
37 concerns, Mr. Thompson, that we are doing our best to
38 address that with this pilot study that we're going to
39 initiate this year in hopes of putting as much
40 information as you can give us to work. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick.

43

44 MR. NICK: I just had a comment after

45 all. As we recall for the 2001 season, on the fishing
46 schedules for both the Yukon and Kuskokwim River, the
47 fall back was -- that's what the board of fish game --
48 Board of Fish decided. We do what the Board of Fish
49 directed us, but for this 2002 season, there's no Board
50 of Fish direction from what I've heard so far but the

00229

1 strategy is to operate with the same schedule -- similar
2 schedule, so I thin this summer we have got to one season
3 of reduced fishery. In fact, total closures in the
4 Yukon. I don't know how many times it was but I think
5 this summer it may have more opposition to those, so you
6 don't have Board of Fish decision to fall back to this
7 time so I think you'll be hearing from us. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dan Bergstrom.

10

11 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes Mr. Chairman, Robert
12 the subsistence fishing schedule the Board implemented is
13 in regulation for the Yukon so that's the schedule now
14 until it's changed for the subsistence and the same in
15 the Kuskokwim it's part of that Kuskokwim River
16 rebuilding plan. So, that's what we have to operate with
17 now.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick says thank
20 you and we're going to have a 10 minute break.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you please quiet
27 down. We're going to start. Please quiet down. Fishery
28 Pre-Season Update, Kuskokwim River.

29

30 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman, may I have
31 another couple of seconds here?

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

34

35 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I think most
36 of the Council members did not hear my announcement
37 earlier during the break so I'd like to know who is going
38 to be going back to Bethel this afternoon?

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you say your name
41 for the record?

42

43 MR. A. NICK: Okay. My name is Alex
44 Nick. I'm coordinator for the Regional Council and I

45 understand that there are some Council members that are
46 going back to Bethel, or planning to go back to Bethel
47 today. I want to make sure that you understand we don't
48 have lodging arrangements for you in Bethel. If you pay
49 for your own lodging, you will get reimbursed for that.
50 Just wanted to let you know. Another thing is that make

00230

1 sure when you fill out your travel voucher you put down
2 all of your expenses and you will get reimbursed. Does
3 anyone have questions?

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

6

7 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 INTERPRETER: He's asking if all the
10 flights will be available?

11

12 MR. A. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: He's telling the flight
15 information.

16

17 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

18

19 MR. A. NICK: What I mentioned is John's
20 question was if passenger airlines will be available or
21 will come to town this afternoon. My explanation was
22 that I checked with a couple of airlines, Grant Aviation
23 -- rather three airlines, Hagland Aviation, ERA and Grant
24 Aviation. Most of those flights are arriving about 4:00
25 o'clock from Bethel. But for those of you who are
26 traveling on Hagland Aviation, Hagland does not have a
27 flight from Tok to Bethel this evening. It will be
28 coming down this evening from Bethel and will overnight
29 and will go back to Bethel tomorrow morning.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have a charter
32 coming in around 4:00 o'clock:

33

34 MR. A. NICK: I believe the staff has a
35 charter this afternoon at 4:00 o'clock from Kweth to
36 Bethel by ERA -- ERA Alaska.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: : Alex, if we get done
39 you say Grant comes here at 4:00 o'clock today?

40

41 MR. A. NICK: According to the agent,
42 Grant leaves Tuntutuliak about 4:00 o'clock to Bethel but
43 then it will depend on the availability of seats if you
44 don't have reservations. You'd have to call Grant

45 Aviation agent here to find out if they have room if you
46 want to go back to Bethel.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a charter
49 available for this afternoon?

50

00231

1 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair this is Don
2 Rivard. Yes, there is a charter at 4:30 o'clock --
3 leaving at 4:30 o'clock today and we're still -- we're
4 going to double check to see how much room, if any, is
5 available. Right now we've got -- we came here with 14
6 people and we've got 14 going back. But we may be able
7 to get one or two more people on that flight back. We're
8 going to check with the airlines first.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think some of our
11 concern is this bad weather they're not stuck.

12

13 MR. A. NICK; Mr. Chairman. Maybe one
14 option would be to check with Yukon Delta National
15 Wildlife Refuge. There may be room at the bunk house,
16 but I understand we need to check with Paul Egberg I
17 think to see if there's rooms available for you at the
18 bunk house.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. And
21 now we will continue on our agenda. Kuskokwim River.
22 You still on Yukon River?

23

24 MR. HANDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Ray
25 Hander for the record, I had some hand outs. Each
26 committee member should see there is three pages that I
27 put on your spot there during the break. These are just
28 informational pages. One deals with the U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife Services Yukon River Drainage Monitoring --
30 Fishery Monitoring Projects, weirs, things like that.
31 The other one is the Joint Technical Committee of the
32 Yukon Panel, the strategic planning process. The last
33 one was -- I was asked to bring this down for the U.S.
34 Geological Survey out of Anchorage. They are going to be
35 trying to do some ecology work on juvenile salmon in the
36 lower river.

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you -- going to item
39 B, 2002 or are you continuing still on Fishery Pre-Season
40 Update Kuskokwim?

41

42 MR. HANDER: I'm sorry Mr. Chairman, that
43 was just a continuation of the Yukon portion of the pre-
44 season and that concludes everything I have to present.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Okay.

47

48 MR. HANDER: Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Please continue.

00232

1 MR. SAVAGE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to be
2 excused in about maybe 10 minutes or so. I've got a
3 family emergency.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. You will be
6 excused. Mike Savage has a problem with his family that
7 is emergency so we will excuse from our meeting.

8
9 MR. SAVAGE: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Are you ready
12 now?

13
14 MR. BERGSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this
15 is Dan Bergstrom again. Jeff Estensen is a assistant
16 area biologist for Kuskokwim and he primarily works in
17 Kuskokwim Bay and with the herring fisheries and
18 Kuskokwim Bay salmon. Right now, as you know, Charlie
19 Berkey left last fall for a new position so the area
20 biologist position is still vacant and we've been trying
21 to hire for that and we don't have a lot of applicants
22 but we are hoping to be able to get somebody on within a
23 month or have some other plan for who will be either the
24 area biologist for the summer for the Kuskokwim or if
25 we'll have some kind of acting position. Then also, the
26 other assistant area biologist is Paul Solomon at the end
27 of the table and he went to the Yukon, so we're pretty
28 short with management staff for the Kuskokwim. But Jeff
29 will run through Kuskokwim area 2001 season summary and
30 then go through the outlook and management strategies for
31 2002.

32
33 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. Thanks a lot. I
34 want to just begin by saying that I think back over on
35 the table over there somewhere is a copy -- is more of a
36 formal summary for the 2001 season in the Kuskokwim area.
37 That includes both the river and the bay, so if you are
38 wanting to see that, it's back there for you. What you
39 guys got handed out here and what we're going to cover
40 here is only pages four through six or so, which is the
41 preliminary outlook and the management strategy plan for
42 the river.

43
44 The first thing I'm going to begin with

45 is covering what you kind of just a real quick summary of
46 the outlook and you guys don't have that in your hand out
47 so when I'm going along, don't feel like you're missing
48 something. You don't have it and I'll just breeze
49 through this real quick and then when we get to the
50 preliminary outlook and management strategy then we'll go

00233

1 ahead and follow along on this right here.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I excuse you, while
4 I think it's a very important hour of record, to know
5 what's going on. You know it seems to me that this is
6 kind of where we're at sometime because of recording is
7 very important. So, let her know what topic is and
8 where.

9

10 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay. My name is Jeff
11 Estensen, sorry about that Mr. Chairman. Go ahead and
12 get started then. The 2001 season summary for the
13 Kuskokwim River, recall if you will that -- well actually
14 I should just say that this was prepared jointly by the
15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Alaska Department
16 of Fish and Game and we do coordinate the management of
17 the Kuskokwim River between the two agencies there, we do
18 that jointly. Recall if you will that the U.S. Fish and
19 Wildlife Services and the Alaska Department of Fish and
20 Game implemented the Kuskokwim River salmon rebuilding
21 management plan last year, as it was adopted by the
22 Alaska Board of Fisheries at their 2001 meeting. Okay.

23

24

25 Essentially the 2001 season of the
26 Kuskokwim River started off river or the conservation
27 appeal, which basically asks subsistence and sport
28 fishers to voluntarily take additional measures that were
29 in addition to what was being called for through the
30 management plan to conserve chinook and chum salmon.
31 This was an appeal that was issued jointly by the various
32 Native corporations and what not on the Kuskokwim River
33 there. In the list right there -- at any rate -- the
34 2001 Kuskokwim River subsistence fishery, the Federal
35 Subsistence Board issued a pre-season special action that
36 limited chinook and chum salmon harvest in Federal waters
37 of the Kuskokwim River Drainage to Federally qualified
38 rural residents. This special action expired on the 31st
39 of July, 2001. If you recall that there was a fishing
40 schedule last year on the Kuskokwim River -- subsistence
41 fishing schedule and the schedule was in place through
42 June and July of last year.

43

44 The scheduled generally allowed four

45 consecutive days of fishing and last year's schedule was
46 Wednesday through Sunday -- or Wednesday through
47 Saturday, excuse me, followed by three consecutive days
48 of no fishing. The schedule began on the 3rd of June in
49 District 1, began June 10th in District 2, and June 17 in
50 the remainder of the Drainage upriver from District W2.

00234

1 The fishing schedule was reduced on July 13th to two days
2 of fishing per week in W1 and the -- on July 14th the W2
3 schedule was reduced to three days of fishing per week.
4 Subsistence fishing within the George River was closed
5 for chinook and chum salmon from July 14th through August
6 7th, due to low chinook and chum salmon escapements.
7 Information was collected in-season last year from the
8 subsistence fishers and at this point, that data has not
9 been thoroughly analyzed yet. However, preliminary
10 reports indicate that subsistence salmon harvest were
11 better in 2001 than they were in 2000.

12

13 Just to recap the commercial fishery on
14 the Kuskokwim River, there was no commercial salmon
15 fishing in the Kuskokwim River during June and July. The
16 August coho fishery was conservative and resulted in
17 below average harvest. Because of limited processor
18 capacity in August, this required some district
19 registration in W1A and W1B and alternating openings
20 between those districts. You don't have this table in
21 front of me here, but just -- essentially the coho made
22 up over 90% of the commercial harvest last year. One
23 hundred and ninety-two thousand fish were harvested --
24 coho and that was well below the average of 453,000 fish
25 that are normally harvested so if you look at that packet
26 there you can get some exact number on that. Bob did you
27 want to cover some of the sport fishing?

28

29 MR. LAFFERTY: Go ahead and introduce me.

30

31 MR. ESTENSEN: Okay, I want to introduce
32 Mr. Bob Lafferty, sport fish, Alaska Department of Fish
33 and Game.

34 MR. LAFFERTY: Good morning. My name is
35 Bob Lafferty. I'm with the Division of Sport Fish
36 located in Bethel and during the 2001 Kuskokwim sport
37 fishery, pre-season the bag limit for chinook and chum
38 salmon was reduced from three to one, to reduce the
39 harvest potential of the sport fishery, which is for
40 chinook salmon is about 700 fish in the whole Kuskokwim
41 Drainage. So, this action was to reduce that by a
42 significant amount. If any further restrictions were
43 needed in-season, they would have been based on abundance
44 from some of the weir projects or an assessment the

45 department has. I'll explain a couple of those as I go
46 on here. Additionally, at the last Board of Fisheries
47 meeting, the Aniak River Drainage, the bag limit of two
48 chinook salmon per year and no chum salmon retention or
49 harvest, remained in effect. So, a sport angler could
50 only harvest two chinook salmon for the whole year out of

00235

1 the Aniak Drainage. Almost half of the sport harvest in
2 the Kuskokwim Drainage occurs in Aniak. So this is an
3 additional reduction to the sport anglers in the
4 Kuskokwim.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: May I excuse you. Will
7 you hold your report until 1:00 o'clock, or 12:30
8 o'clock. We were asked to make this special because the
9 school children are coming and ready for lunch.

10

11 MR. LAFFERTY: Sure, Mr. Chairman. I'll
12 be happy to start when we commence again.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (On record)

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Able to wind up so
21 there's a charter coming in at 4:30 o'clock. Sixteen --
22 it will have a 16 passenger but some will be traveling
23 back around 6:00 o'clock. So, I want you to be aware
24 that we got a time limit for this afternoon meeting. We
25 got 3:45 o'clock to meet and also I'm going to let the
26 Council know if you want to talk, we're going to reduce
27 to three minutes if you want to ask a question so make
28 sure that three minutes will stand. Right now that we
29 could start Kuskokwim River, the one you start out. I'm
30 sorry to stop you but we had school children to eat. Go
31 ahead you can start.

32

33 MR. LAFFERTY: Okay. Thank you Mr.
34 Chairman. Once again my name is Bob Lafferty. I'm with
35 sport fish division and just before we got interrupted
36 there I was talking about the 2001 Kuskokwim sport
37 fishery changes in regulations and the strategy. I'll
38 basically go over them real quickly.

39

40 Pre-season the bag limit for chinook or
41 chum salmon was reduced from three to one. It's either
42 or. One chinook or chum salmon. Additional sport
43 fishing regulations would have been based on in-season
44 abundance and I'll talk a little bit about that as I go

45 through this a little bit. Within the Aniak River
46 Drainage the bag limit for chinook was two per year.
47 That's an annual bag limit. That was new. That was the
48 Board of Fisheries desire to restrict the harvest
49 potential in the Aniak River. Again, the Aniak is
50 probably the largest sport fishery in the Kuskokwim. The

00236

1 Kuskokwim harvest of chinook salmon sport fishery is
2 about 700 fish. So, approximately 300 or so -- or 300-
3 400 are harvested in the Aniak River. The Kuskokwim
4 Drainage sport chum fishery was closed on July 12th
5 because of pending restrictions to the subsistence
6 schedule, the chum run lagged a little bit and the
7 department wanted to take conservative action so the chum
8 fishery was closed for the Kuskokwim Drainage sport
9 fishery on the 12th of July and remained closed for the
10 rest of the year.

11

12 Additionally, one of the escapement
13 projects, the George River, indicated that there was a
14 low abundance of chinook and chum salmon also. That
15 sport fishery was closed on July 4th. The final thing as
16 far as chinook management in the Kuskokwim and the sport
17 fisheries is that the last spawning season closure for
18 the sport fishery of July 25th. So, the sport fishery for
19 chinook salmon was closed July 26th of last year. With
20 that I'll turn it back over to Jeff.

21

22 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this
23 is Jeff Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
24 we'll just continue here with 2001 Kuskokwim River
25 escapements. Chinook and chum salmon escapements
26 throughout most of the Kuskokwim River Drainage were 2-3
27 times the levels observed in 2000 and appeared adequate.
28 In your handout that I passed out here, we have some
29 tables in the back.

30

31 The first table, which is actually
32 labeled figure three is Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon
33 Escapements and all the different various escapement
34 projects we have and tributaries there. You see basically
35 the trend is in 2001 the levels of escapement were higher
36 than they were in 2000.

37

38 Also if you look in the next page, which
39 is labeled figure two, Kuskokwim River Chum Salmon
40 Escapements you can see that likewise it's the same with
41 them on the different various escapement projects we
42 have.

43

44 Okay and then overall -- just note then

45 that overall the 2001 chinook and chum salmon runs were
46 better than they were expected in the pre-season.

47

48 Don't know -- we're not going to spend a
49 whole lot of time talking about Kuskokwim Bay here but
50 I'm sure there's a few people who might be interested.

00237

1 The 2001 Kuskokwim Bay subsistence fishery -- again the
2 same with the river is that the -- all the surveys have
3 not been analyzed yet, the preliminary reports indicate
4 that subsistence harvest was adequate in the Kuskokwim
5 Bay.

6

7 Real quickly the synopsis for the Bay
8 fishery, both in Goodnews and in District W4 Quinhagak
9 was that we saw a decrease in the number of permits to
10 fish the district and we also saw limited processor
11 capacity, which limited the fishing schedule to pretty
12 much two periods a week for the whole entire season.
13 Because of that basically the 2001 harvest was well below
14 the 10 year averages for both districts. Again, being
15 because there was a decrease in number of permits to fish
16 and also because of the great reduction in fishing time
17 last year.

18

19 Real quickly, this last year was the
20 first year for the Kanektok River weir. Although it was
21 put in late we did get escapement for coho salmon. I can
22 just tell you it was 35,650 fish was the coho escapement
23 on the Kanektok. Just for the Goodnews, basically we
24 made escapement for sockeye -- or for chinook, chum and
25 coho. Well, actually just for chinook and chum. Sockeye
26 escapement was 11% below the escapement goal for sockeye.
27 In both the Kanektok and the north fork of the Goodnews
28 river, aerial survey escapement goals were met.

29

30 So what I'm going to move on to now is
31 the preliminary outlook and management strategy for 2002
32 and this is actually what you guys have in front of you
33 now. Okay? And you can follow along. We'll begin with
34 just the outlooks first of all for the Kuskokwim River.
35 The department expects the 2002 chinook salmon runs to be
36 similar in magnitude to 2001. Okay? And the runs in
37 2001 were adequate to provide for subsistence fishery and
38 were also adequate for escapement throughout most of the
39 Drainage. However, there was not an adequate surplus
40 for a directed commercial fishery for chum salmon. We
41 expect the same in 2002.

42

43 For coho salmon, the department
44 anticipates that a modest commercial salmon will be

45 prosecuted for coho salmon in 2002. That fishery could
46 begin in late July or early August depending on chum
47 salmon abundance. You can tell -- you can see right
48 there what our numbers are for what we expect the
49 commercial harvest for coho to be.

50

00238

1 Moving on to the 2002 Kuskokwim River
2 Management Strategy, as a reminder that State and Federal
3 fishery managers will continue to follow guidelines
4 provided by the Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding
5 Management Plan that was adopted by the Alaska Board of
6 Fisheries.

7

8 For 2002 the Kuskokwim River fishery, no
9 directed commercial fishery for chum salmon is expected.
10 Regulations do not allow for a directed chinook or
11 sockeye salmon commercial fishery. In the event that the
12 chum salmon run comes back much stronger than expected,
13 considerations will be given to providing for a
14 commercial harvest. But only if the chinook salmon
15 escapement and subsistence salmon harvest appear to be
16 adequate.

17

18 Directed fishery for coho salmon is
19 similar to what we saw in 2001 with the below average
20 harvest, limited processor capacity and continued sub-
21 district registration between W1A and 1B. The department
22 will work closely with buyers and fishermen to manage the
23 Kuskokwim River fisheries and so on.

24

25 Moving on to the 2002 Kuskokwim River
26 subsistence fishery. Again, it may -- will have the
27 fishing schedule for gill net and fish wheel gear. The
28 schedule will be for four consecutive days of fishing in
29 June and July unless modified by in-season run strength.
30 According to the River Salmon Management Rebuilding Plan,
31 the subsistence schedule can only be modified because of
32 conservation concerns.

33

34 Just a note, right now the schedule the
35 four days, we do not know that yet and will try to get
36 information on that based on what the public. The
37 schedule will begin the first week of June in District 1,
38 the second week of June in District 2 and the third week
39 of June upstream of District 2. And again, like I just
40 said, details identifying the weekends -- the week days
41 of fishing will be determined after a consultation with
42 the communities along the Kuskokwim River and with the
43 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group.
44 Subsistence fishing with hook and line for any species of

45 fish will be allowed for seven days a week. Subsistence
46 fishing schedule will be continued during the coho run.
47 Basically, whatever comes first. If we do open up for a
48 coho directed fishery before July 31st, the schedule will
49 be out of effect, or until July 31st, whichever one comes
50 first. Sport fishery.

00239

1 MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, Our approach
2 in the sport fishery is, once again, very similar to what
3 we saw in 2001 with a pre-season bag limit that would
4 reduce from three chinook to one, or one chum salmon.
5 Additional sport fishing regu -- restriction we based on
6 in-season abundance as we did last year in the George
7 River, where we saw a conservation need, we took action.
8 The spawning season closure for chinook salmon that
9 begins on July 26th will remain in effect and within the
10 Aniak River Drainage the bag limit for two chinook salmon
11 per year -- the annual bag limit and no retention of chum
12 salmon will remain in effect. I'll turn it back over to
13 Jeff.

14

15 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chairman, this is Jeff
16 Estensen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Moving on
17 here. The 2002 Kuskokwim River Conservation Appeal. No
18 special appeal will be initiated pre-season, however an
19 in-season appeal may be initiated if the chinook and chum
20 salmon runs come back weaker than expected.

21

22 2002 Kuskokwim River escapement
23 monitoring. The adequacy of the salmon escapement will
24 be assessed with the weir and sonar projects located or
25 operated on the Kwethluk, Tuluksak, so on. You still
26 have the listings right there in your hand out.

27

28 Real quickly moving to the Kuskokwim Bay.
29 Just for chinook it appears we're going to have an
30 average chinook harvest this year. For sockeye -- the
31 sockeye we expect to be below average in the run this
32 year. Chum looks to be below average as well. Coho has
33 been below average the past few years and expects to be
34 below average in 2002.

35

36 Moving on to the 2002 Kuskokwim Bay
37 Management Strategy, again, for the -- just real quick
38 for the managing strategy it will be following the
39 District W4 management plan for the Bay and also District
40 W5 will continue to be -- the opening will be delayed
41 until about the 29th of June or so to allow for the
42 chinook escapement at the Goodnews Drainage. That's
43 about all we have.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

46

47 MR. L. WILDE: Why are you depending on
48 chum salmon abundance when you are managing coho? Is
49 there a co-relation between the abundance of chum salmon
50 and managing coho?

00240

1 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilde,
2 this is Paul Salmon. It all depends on strength of the
3 chum run towards the end of the chum run. If we still
4 have concerns for chum salmon when we start to see coho
5 salmon, then we're going to have to hold off fishing on
6 the chum salmon for a little while to allow more to
7 escape -- have to hold off fishing on the coho salmon
8 for a little while to allow more to escape. Very similar
9 to what we've done in the past couple of years. The last
10 two years the coho run has been a little early and the
11 chum run has been still depressed so we want to conserve
12 as many fish as we can, so we'll hold off on the
13 commercial fishery if that situation arises.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

16

17 MR. NICK: Robert Nick. Three points
18 that I'd like to bring to mind. In your other report
19 last summer, you indicated that on the Kuskokwim that
20 subsistence harvest was adequate. You said that. And
21 then my question is the ANS we had -- I think in the Fish
22 and Game Rebuilding Plan, the ANS figured that they sited
23 was from 64-83,000 so by saying adequate you're within
24 that range or upper range or middle range. The reason I
25 raise that question is because of Tier II. In the event
26 of continued inability to meet the ANS like 4-5 years
27 that there's a possibility of a restricted or more
28 restricted harvest. So I guess how did we do as far as
29 daily ANS estimate?

30

31 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, this is
32 Michael Coffing with the subsistence division in Bethel.
33 The reports that we were getting last summer about how
34 fishing was going, I know many of you on the Kuskokwim
35 that fish there, we try to get some sense during June and
36 early July at how things are going for subsistence
37 fishers there. Both at the working group meetings we got
38 reports and then informally with phone calls to people
39 from your office and people calling us, and then also
40 formally through in-season subsistence monitoring
41 projects that we had going on out in Bethel with only ONC
42 out of Aniak and the Kuskokwim Native Association and
43 also out of McGrath area with McGrath and the Village
44 Council.

45

46 That information last summer, in-season,
47 many folks told us as they were harvesting fish that
48 harvest last summer for them in-season was better for
49 them than it was in 2000. The catches in 2001 were
50 better than 2000. We don't know that the harvest last

00241

1 year was adequate. We don't know whether most of the
2 people caught the fish they need for subsistence. We've
3 done the harvest surveys. That data is still being
4 processed and I don't know what the harvest numbers are
5 for last summer for any species on the Kuskokwim. So I
6 think some of the questions about what the harvest was
7 and how does that fit into the amount necessary for
8 subsistence the low and the high range of that, I think
9 we'll have to see where the harvest numbers -- what the
10 harvest numbers tell us. Because right now it's -- it's
11 just impossible for me to guess where those numbers might
12 go. I just don't know. Some of that we'll know here
13 probably the first part of April. As we move closer to
14 the fish we will begin to talk more about some of the
15 things this next summer and how the schedule effected
16 people last season. When we have those numbers in front
17 of us we can evaluate that a lithe bit better at that
18 time I think.

19

20 MR. NICK: Thank you Mike. The reason I
21 -- reason I question it is because those will be factors
22 -- potential factors in the future for restrictions --
23 further restrictions so they need to be known. My other
24 point is in the three day closure. As we recall last
25 spring, last year, we surveyed some villages that do a
26 lot of subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim and got that
27 window of fishing time. I would hope that the same thing
28 would happen. That they would surgery the villages as
29 you indicate here the strategy for the Kuskokwim is for
30 four days of subsistence fishing again. So, I think the
31 working group needs to be involved and then the villages
32 that do fishing during that regulated period. So, I'd
33 like to see that same thing occur again.

34

35 The third point I would like to note here
36 for -- and then I bring this up for future item that I'll
37 be bringing up is on the strategy that there is no plan
38 to have a directed chum season -- commercial chum season.
39 So I want to bring that point out that I heard.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

42

43 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Robert, thank
44 you. Last year we when we were looking at identifying

45 which days of the week to have the fishing open and which
46 days to have it closed, the process that you described is
47 exactly what we did. We asked for input from all of the
48 villages. We wanted to know what worked for the people
49 and sort of developed a consensus of what fit best for
50 most folks. That's how we ended up in that -- it was

00242

1 Wednesday through Saturday open and then Sunday through
2 Tuesday closed. We don't know what days of the week will
3 be this year. We know that we will have four days open
4 and three days closed. Which ones that is, consecutive
5 days, what we intend to do is to kind of poll the
6 communities the same way we did last year and get input,
7 try to work the schedule that fits best for most of the
8 folks on the Kuskokwim. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson:

11

12 MR. HANSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
13 This is for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In
14 your 2002 Kuskokwim River monitoring or escapement
15 monitoring, this new research projects -- are these in
16 effect or that's going to be started this year? It's on
17 your 2002 Kuskokwim River Escapement Monitoring down
18 about two and a half paragraphs it says, in addition new
19 research projects include tagging and radio telemetry.
20 Studies in Kagrunguluk, Holitna River, and the main stem
21 of the Kuskokwim. They're not in effect yet. They're
22 going to be in this year or.....

23

24 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hanson,
25 those projects were initiated last year. We're going to
26 expand them slightly this year to include all species for
27 the tagging -- the main stem tagging projects. The radio
28 telemetry project on the Holitna was in place last year.
29 The results aren't out yet but this will be the second
30 year of that study. The intent of that is to try to
31 relate the numbers that we see at the Kagrunguluk River
32 weir, which is a very long-term project, to the rest of
33 the Holitna River. We are trying to determine what that
34 weir project represents in relation to the rest of the
35 Holitna river. Okay. To get a handle on what the
36 population is like there and how well that weir does at
37 assessing it.

38

39 The other projects are designed -- they
40 are mark and recapture tagging projects. We put a piece
41 of plastic in the fish and they're designed to give us
42 population estimates for all the species that are
43 involved. This will be the second year for both of those
44 projects. Last year we did just coho salmon for the main

45 river population estimate. This year we're going to
46 expand that to all species to try to get an idea of how
47 big the population of each species is. The numbers
48 aren't out for that yet either. The recovery for that
49 will be at the weirs -- the upstream weir projects.
50 That's where we get the data back from those.

00243

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Schleusner.

2

3 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
4 There was some people -- where I got the information from
5 before, but I don't remember. Anyway, there was change
6 at Quinhagak last year for commercial fishery over there.
7 There was saying -- or somebody said that the Kuskokwim
8 bound salmon were intercepted there at Quinhagak. Has
9 there been anymore research on to that -- where the fish
10 are going from Quinhagak?

11

12 MR. ESTENSEN: Mr. Chairman, Jeff
13 Estensen from Fish and Game. What we have is a study
14 that occurred in 1969 that -- basically what that study
15 does is that there is a presence of Kuskokwim River
16 salmon chum and chinook that are in the W4 commercial
17 fishery. What that amount is, we don't know, What
18 percentage, we don't know. What I took part in this
19 year, was working with a couple of other people in the
20 department in trying to put together a radio telemetry
21 study that we would like to try to get into place. What
22 that would do is radio tag fish in the bay and then put
23 radio transceivers at the Goodnews, Kanektok, Kuskokwim
24 River and even up on the Yukon. What that would do is
25 give us an indication of how much and what percentage of
26 the W4 commercial catch is actually bound for the Yukon
27 and Kuskokwim River. This is a very expensive project.
28 We're looking about \$280,100 a year to do all the
29 tagging. That's just for the pilot year. That's just to
30 see if it will work or not and there will be
31 modification.

32

33 One of our main sources of funding,
34 Federal Office of Subsistence Management, did not give
35 really give us indication that there was money available
36 for new start up projects this year so we kind of
37 scrapped it for this year. As far as I know, myself and
38 other people will be working on trying to maybe get that
39 going next year. We'll have to wait and see but it is
40 something the department is looking at, something we
41 talked about and something that we'd like to get going.

42

43

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we're now to go

45 to the next item on the agenda. These are nothing but
46 reports. Next is 2002 Fishery Information Service Update
47 and Report.

48

49 MR. SALMEN: Mr. Chairman can I make a
50 quick comment. There's some things that haven't really

00244

1 been said that need to get in the record. This is Paul
2 Salmen for Fish and Game again. The first thing is we
3 just kind of glossed over the escapement that we attained
4 last year. I think it's important that we mention this.
5 The escapement that we did get up river last year was --
6 in the case of the chums, possibly the best we've seen
7 since 1997 and it's due to the combination of measures
8 which we instituted on the river and the community
9 participation in those measures. I think on behalf of
10 both agencies we need to acknowledge the folks who made
11 sacrifices and allowed that to happen. It's a very
12 important thing because this is the first step on the
13 road to the rebuilding of the stocks, is to get adequate
14 escapements. We think we got that last year. That's the
15 first thing I wanted to say. The second one is that we
16 talk about the 2001 run and the 2002 run and what we
17 really mean by looking at one run in compared to the
18 other is that the 2001 run has already happened and we
19 know how it progressed and what the results were. When
20 the 2002 run comes in, we're going to compare that to the
21 2001 run and use the 2001 run as a yardstick to measure
22 the 2002 run by and then take actions after the
23 comparison has been made. I don't think we've been very
24 clear about that up to this point. With that, I thank
25 you for your indulgence.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next 2000
28 Fishery Information Service and Update Report. Make sure
29 when you report, State your name for the record.

30

31 MR. SCHLEUSNER: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
32 My name is Cliff Schleusner and I work for the Fisheries
33 information Services in the office of subsistence
34 management. Basically we're going to be giving you some
35 briefings on the update of the Fisheries Resources
36 Monitoring Plans. I've passed out two handouts. One of
37 them is the Yukon River Project Updates and the other one
38 is an Overview of the Status and Future Direction for the
39 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, Yukon River, 2002.
40 There is also some background information included in
41 your Council books. Your Issues and Information Needs,
42 located under Tab E, page 3 and the 2003 Request for
43 Proposals, which again is under Tab E, page 9. With that
44 I'd like to begin briefly the Issues and Information

45 Needs has been developed by the three Yukon River
46 Regional Advisory Councils in 2000 and is annually
47 reviewed and updated. It's a list of regionally
48 important subsistence fisheries issues and needs that you
49 have identified.

50

00245

1 This document is included in the office
2 of subsistence management cal for fisheries resource
3 monitoring proposals. The other document I'd like to
4 draw your attention to is this overview. On the bottom
5 of the first page for this is a graph that gives the
6 history of the resource monitoring funding. The plan was
7 initiated in 2000 with a budget of \$2.5 million and
8 funded projects for up to three years. Second and third
9 year funding commitments are color coded on the graph.
10 In 2001, \$7.25 million was added to the program and is
11 the anticipated level for future funding. In 2002, two
12 things are happening. The partners program is beginning
13 with an annual funding commitment of \$1.05 million and
14 the funding agreements for projects started in 2000 will
15 expire. That basically explains the different boxes on
16 here. In 2003 approximately \$1.3 million will be
17 available to fund new subsistence fisheries projects
18 statewide.

19

20 The 2003 request for proposals, again
21 located in Tab E, page 9, because of this limited funding
22 available was focus don the -- the request for proposals
23 was focused on the continuation of projects initiated in
24 2000 and 2001 that are high priority with funding ending
25 in 2002. It is anticipated that approximately one
26 million State wide will be required to continue funding
27 these projects. Between 3 and 600,000 is anticipated to
28 be available for new project starts State wide in 2003.
29 Right now where we are in the request for proposal, our
30 deadline was February 15th. We have received 55 project
31 proposals State wide requesting over \$3.7 million.
32 Nineteen of those projects were from the Yukon, three of
33 them were harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
34 knowledge projects requesting over \$450,000 worth of
35 funding, and 16 stock status and trends, requesting over
36 \$800,000 in funding, for a total funding request for the
37 Yukon of \$1.3 million. Funding for the projects in 2003
38 will be for one year. This will free up the majority of
39 funds in 2004 to allow for a comprehensive analysis of
40 the continuing funding needs. We are beginning that
41 analysis by asking four questions of the Fisheries
42 Resource Monitoring Plan. This is -- those four
43 questions are located on page two of your handout, the
44 overview handout. The questions are, how well have the

45 projects selections address Council Issues and
46 Information Needs? Which Issues and Information needs
47 will require the annual collection of long-term data
48 sets? How effectively has the Fisheries Resource
49 Monitoring Plan coordinated with other fisheries resource
50 monitoring programs? What are the project results to

00246

1 date?

2

3 The fourth question addresses the handout
4 Yukon River Project Updates. This handout contains
5 information on all the fisheries resource monitoring plan
6 projects funded on the Yukon River since the year 2000,
7 since the inception of the program. A total of 25
8 projects are scheduled to operate in 2002. Eighteen of
9 the projects were initiated in 2000 and 2001, along with
10 seven new projects recently approved by the Federal
11 Subsistence Board. The total funding commitment for the
12 2002 Yukon River Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan is
13 approximately \$1.4 million. At the end of this document
14 is a list of 16 projects that have been completed or are
15 finalizing their reporting requirements. One project was
16 cancelled through mutual agreement between the
17 investigators and OSM staff. Project 01-025 the
18 Atulingat River Subsistence Fishery Study. A more
19 complete analysis of project results will be provided at
20 the Fall, 2002 Regional Advisory Council Meetings.

21

22 Again, I'd like to remind the Council
23 members that investigators can be called to present to
24 the Council if there are specific projects of interest
25 that the Council requires additional information on.
26 Also the completed projects, the project final reports
27 can be provided to the Councils at your request for
28 specific projects of interest.

29

30 Now for question number one: How well
31 have the project selections addressed the Councils Issues
32 and Information Needs? The Issues and Information Needs
33 were identified under eight broad categories. On page
34 three of your handout -- again back to this, is the
35 beginning of the list of identified issues and the
36 fisheries projects funded to address those issues to
37 date. The projects listed in bold type are preliminary
38 list of potential projects that have funding needs for
39 data collection that extend beyond their current three-
40 year funding agreements with the Office of Subsistence
41 Management. As you can see from this list that the
42 project selections to date address the vast majority of
43 Issues and Information Needs identified by the Councils
44 that are within the jurisdiction of the Subsistence

45 Management Program, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.
46 Limited funding available has and will continue to force
47 the prioritization of funding requests. The marine
48 issues identified were outside the jurisdiction of the
49 Office of Subsistence Management and the Fisheries
50 Resource Monitoring Plan.

00247

1 The Plan is designed to address priority
2 subsistence issues within or adjacent to Federal
3 conservation units. The Federal Subsistence Board
4 recognizes the importance of the Bering Sea in the life
5 and ecology of the Yukon River salmon but has decided not
6 to fund studies outside the Board's jurisdiction. The
7 contaminants and water quality issues identified were
8 outside the scope of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
9 Plan and the Office of Subsistence Management. The
10 Federal Subsistence Board has decided not to fund
11 projects involving hatchery propagation, restoration or
12 enhancement, habitat restoration, protection or
13 enhancement or contaminants assessment, evaluation or
14 monitoring. Agencies mandated to address these issues
15 have the lead in project development and implementation.
16

17 For question number two: Which Issues
18 and Information Needs likely require the annual
19 collection of long-term dataset? Again, these projects
20 were listed in bold. Ten existing projects have initially
21 been identified as potentially fitting the criteria for
22 continued funding. Again, this is just an initial
23 assessment of projects that meet the criteria for
24 requiring long-term collection of data. Under
25 subsistence harvest monitoring -- or subsistence harvest
26 assessment one of the existing projects would be
27 considered with an annual cost of \$31,500,000.
28

29 Under Distribution Abundance and Life
30 History of Fish Species, another project was identified
31 for approximate annual cost of approximately \$88,400,000.
32

33 Under Salmon Stock Assessment, providing
34 data to managers of this subsistence salmon fisheries has
35 been the single largest commitment of the Yukon Fisheries
36 Resource Monitoring Plan. The most critical pieces of
37 information are credible estimates of annual return, both
38 harvest and escapement and development of escapement
39 goals for stocks of chinook, summer and fall chum, or and
40 summer and fall chum. The value of datasets are only
41 fully realized when they span multiple life cycles.
42 Eight of the existing stock assessment projects would be
43 considered for long-term funding at an annual cost of
44 \$583,000.

45

46 The third question of how effectively the
47 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan has been coordinated
48 with other fisheries monitoring and studies program to
49 optimize the use of funds and address issues and data
50 needs. Given the limited availability for Yukon

00248

1 Fisheries Monitoring funding, there is a high priority
2 need for strategic planning. This will encourage
3 financial partnering and coordination with other
4 fisheries monitoring studies program to achieve the
5 greatest benefit for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Plan. Two planning processes are being developed that
7 will help coordinate research efforts and identify data
8 needs in the Yukon River.

9

10 The Yukon River Panel, Yukon River
11 Restoration Enhancement Fund. In 2002, the joint
12 technical committee is initiating a strategic planning
13 process addressing research and monitoring needs basin
14 wide for salmon stocks on the Yukon River.

15

16 Also, the AYK Coalition Strategic
17 Planning and Science Plan. This effort will design and
18 implement a Bering Sea salmon research program. The
19 strategic planning process will include all life stages
20 and will ink fresh water, eserine and marine ecology of
21 Bering Sea salmon. It is estimated that the annual
22 continuation of just the existing projects, which should
23 be considered for long-term funding would be over
24 \$700,000, leaving little additional funds to address the
25 anticipated new issues and data needs. It is critical
26 that the strategic framework for the 2004 Request for
27 Proposals going out this November, include the highest
28 priority issues and information needs identified by the
29 three Councils. Also involve the coordination with the
30 existing monitoring programs and data needs identified in
31 the ongoing strategic planning processes. Information
32 from the strategic planning processes may be available as
33 soon as as 2004. In the interim, we propose to work with
34 the Councils and in-season managers through the
35 Coordinating Fisheries Committee to identify the highest
36 priority issues and information needs. That concludes my
37 presentation. I'll turn it over now to Rich Cannon.

38

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead Rich.

40

41 MR. CANNON: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
42 Council members, I'm going to refer you to a couple of
43 reports that I've handed out previously. These are
44 mainly for your information. I won't be going into any

45 detail on these. These are for your reference and the
46 concern the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Monitoring
47 Program. The one document is salmon colored. The
48 report, which a final report for years 2000 through 2002.
49 What I hope this does for you is -- I know it's kind of a
50 thick report and I apologize for that. It's an attempt

00249

1 to put all of the information about projects that have
2 been funded into one document. There's a little
3 introduction kind of an executive summary that talks
4 about many of the things that Cliff mentioned on funding
5 and how the funding has changed over time. In the back
6 of it there is a little summary of each project, who is
7 doing the project, the cost, and what they're doing. I
8 know if you get questions from your communities or you
9 have questions that would be on the Kuskokwim program,
10 you can refer to this document.

11

12 The other report that I want to refer you
13 to is going to look a lot like the report that Cliff just
14 discussed with you concerning the Yukon but you should
15 look for Kuskokwim Region on it and if you find that just
16 kind of everybody look -- if you find that document. I
17 will be referring to that one. It should be in front of
18 you. Did you get it? Okay. I'm not going to -- Cliff
19 covered a lot of the aspects of the budget and why
20 because of prior year commitments we have less money to
21 spend in 2003. That means we're still spending quite a
22 bit of money this year but we can't have new things
23 because we've already made commitments on past projects.
24 So, we'll still be spending, you know, what is it -- it's
25 about.....

26

27 MR. SCHLEUSNER: \$1.4 for the Yukon,
28 2002.

29

30 MR. CANNON:yeah it's about --
31 it'll be about \$1,000,000 for the Kuskokwim as well.
32 Now, so I won't cover that part of it but I will let you
33 know for the Kuskokwim that over the three years we've
34 spent about \$5.6 million dollars and we've funded 32
35 projects -- new projects for the Kuskokwim and it's --
36 we're -- some cases we're adding our money to other funds
37 to keep projects going and in some cases they are new
38 projects.

39

40 I also want to mention that on the
41 Kuskokwim we're looking very closely with the working
42 group who -- and also with the Kuskokwim Fisheries
43 Resource Coalition, which is made up of local fish and
44 wildlife service, refuge staff, the fisheries resources

45 offices staff, Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff
46 and in addition staff from the AVCP, KNA and ONC. This
47 is a very good effort to bring both tribal, State and
48 Federal salmon resource people together to work on the
49 fisheries for your region. That grass roots kind of work
50 really provides, I think, the best kind of insight into

00250

1 what's needed for your fisheries. The coalition,
2 beginning in 2001 has provided recommendations for
3 projects. They've worked out a lot of the partnerships, a
4 lot of the coordination before they every come to us.
5 That works very well. The coalition is -- Cliff
6 mentioned the need for strategic planning. We're hoping
7 and encouraging that coalition to initiate a strategic
8 plan for the Kuskokwim her beginning this year and trying
9 to finish it up -- try to finish it up over the next two
10 years. You need that long-term look to look holistically
11 at your river and fisheries and begin to identify what
12 you're going to need to do over the next five to 10
13 years.

14
15 So you use the money well land you get
16 the best projects. We'll be working with the coalition
17 reporting back to your Council, also the working group
18 about the progress of this work. And we're really
19 encouraging this. We think that's the way it needs to
20 work, from the local level up through the system.

21
22 Now I can stop there and ask if you have
23 any questions about that much of the report? Lester.

24
25 MR. L. WILDE: I'm wondering if this an
26 area share I should be asking this question or not, but
27 since this is a new project anyway, it probably falls
28 right under your -- your guidance. On the Kishunak
29 River, chum salmon -- the program, this pilot study --
30 what is -- where is that going to be accomplished and
31 where are your collection -- collection -- data
32 collection sites are going to be along the -- are they
33 going to be within the Kishunak River or are you going to
34 have radio telemetry -- the project -- are the radio
35 sites going to be outside the Kishunak or do -- or is
36 that something all together different than what you're
37 discussing?

38
39 MR. CANNON: Is there another name for
40 that river Lester because that's not ringing a bell with
41 me.

42
43 MR. L. WILDE: Pardon?

44

45 MR. CANNON: Which project are you
46 talking about?

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: Oh I'm sorry, projects
49 2002 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services maybe.....

50

00251

1 MR. CANNON: Oh okay. I know what you
2 mean. Okay. I didn't understand.

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: If you would Richard, if
5 that's -- I'd just like to get the program in written
6 form. I know I'm going to have a lot of questions on
7 this and I need to have the answers when I get back. If
8 you have the written material I'd like that.

9

10 MR. CANNON: Can I get with you after we
11 break here and I'll get you what i have.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: That will be fine.

14

15 MR. CANNON: The next part of what I want
16 to talk about -- you can go to page three of that report,
17 that we had - I just mentioned. It's the Overview of the
18 Status and Future Direction for Fisheries Resource
19 Monitoring Program, the Kuskokwim Region. On page three.
20 Is everybody at that point? At that page?

21

22 MR. NICK: Is that Yukon or Kuskokwim.

23

24 MR. CANNON: That's Kuskokwim.

25

26 MR. NICK: Kuskokwim.

27

28 MR. CANNON: Yes.

29

30 MR. NICK: Last page then.

31

32 MR. CANNON: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead Rich.

35

36 MR. CANNON: Okay. What I'm going to do is
37 just very briefly walk you through what Cliff did. Just
38 an initial assessment of how we're doing with regard to
39 projects and the information the data needs that you have
40 given us. So if you'll look at under the Kuskokwim
41 Region, you're going to see in bold with underlined
42 Traditional Ecological Knowledge. There are three
43 projects listed. Okay? And then it will be Harvest
44 Monitoring and there will be eight projects. Okay? Now

45 this you can -- you can read and I think understand that
46 we're just trying to organize the number of projects that
47 we're trying to fund under each of these information
48 types that you've asked us to look at. As you go through
49 this, there will be a few that I'll just mention very
50 briefly about some changes that have occurred that you

00252

1 should probably know about.

2

3 So under, for example, the Harvest
4 Monitoring, there are eight projects and some of these
5 involve Traditional Ecological Knowledge and I've put a
6 little star in front of those -- a little asterisk. So
7 even within the Harvest Monitoring program, some of those
8 involve both Traditional Knowledge, as well as a normal
9 harvest survey. So we are trying to address Harvest
10 Monitoring with eight projects. Five of these, and
11 they're the ones that are in the dark type, we feel have
12 a long-term application. That means that we would want
13 to fund those -- we would consider funding those for more
14 than just the three years. That would allow them to be
15 most useful for management. Under -- I'll also mention
16 that project 02-014, that's under Harvest Monitoring,
17 Changes in Subsistence Fishing Patterns in the Lower
18 Kuskokwim, 1962-2002, that project has been withdrawn but
19 he investigator. They -- they simply didn't have the
20 time and the resources to do that at this time, so that
21 one has been withdrawn. It was a good project, they were
22 simply not able to do it.

23

24 Under Salmon Assessment and Escapement.
25 We're funding nine projects and seven of those, the ones
26 that are in the dark bold type, we feel have some long-
27 term application. That's something we want to consider
28 funding for more than just 2-3 years. The cost of those
29 -- if we kept funding those over a longer period of time,
30 the cost would be about \$800,000. I should also mention
31 under the Harvest Monitoring are those five projects, if
32 we funded those long-term, they would cost us about
33 \$160,000. Okay?

34

35 Turn to page four. Under -- we funded
36 one project under Regulation Review. I won't mention
37 anything more about it. If you're interested in that
38 there's a report on it in this document and there's an
39 update attached to the back of the document that you have
40 in your hand. There's an update on the performance of
41 that project. I won't say anything more either about the
42 non-salmon -- we've got one non-salmon fisheries project
43 on White Fish.

44

45 However, on Capacity Building, I will
46 mention that we have six projects. We see three of those,
47 those three that are in dark bold, as possibly being
48 funded longer term. These are important projects. They
49 really build the capability of the trial organizations to
50 really participate in a fisheries program. The cost

00253

1 would be about \$100,000 for keeping those projects going
2 over a longer period of time. That's \$100,000 a year.

3

4 The total cost, if you added up all of
5 the longer term commitments that we might make, would be
6 about \$1,000,000 and for that reason we need to really
7 look at what are the most important projects because that
8 will use up all of the money we probably will have
9 available to us for future funding. That would leave
10 really nothing more for new projects, so that's why we
11 really need to look very carefully at what are the most
12 important things that we need to do.

13

14 The next thing that's underlined is
15 Marine Life History and Survival. I know that your
16 Council is very interested in not just what's happening
17 in the fresh water, but also in the a marine system. The
18 salmon, of course, need both environments to be
19 productive. We don't, as Cliff said, we don't fund that
20 type of project, but there are other projects that -- or
21 other programs that do and I'm going to hand out -- there
22 are other programs that we're trying to coordinate with
23 that do fund this kind of marine research that you should
24 be aware of.

25

26 In addition, I know the Council has
27 identified interest in contaminants in fish and there are
28 programs that are being funded that -- in the State of
29 Alaska that I think you should also be aware of. Maybe
30 in some cases you are but we'll -- we'll just briefly go
31 over this so that at least you're aware. You'll know
32 where to get more information if you would like to.

33

34 First of all, the North Pacific Fisheries
35 Management Council has passed a resolution. They did
36 this in February regarding salmon bycatch in the Gulf of
37 Alaska. In this resolution that will -- but this
38 resolution they will initiate an analysis for
39 alternatives for management to control salmon bycatch in
40 the Gulf. This would potentially establish bycatch
41 limits based on past years bycatch limits based on past
42 years bycatch amounts in the ground fisheries. When this
43 is developed eventually if they take action on this it
44 would -- could establish essentially bycatch ceilings

45 whereby the fishery would be stopped if those levels of
46 bycatch were met. They are also interested in beginning
47 a study on the origin of salmon that are caught in these
48 fisheries using genetic studies.

49

50 The second report -- second type of

00254

1 information I think would be of interest to the Council
2 is that Natural Marine Fisheries Service is -- will
3 initiate an overview of salmon bycatch in Alaskan ground
4 fish fisheries. They will be developing a report that
5 will -- a report on chinook and chum bycatch in the Gulf
6 of Alaska, as well as the Bering Sea. As you read down
7 through that little snapshot sort of a summary of what
8 they're trying to do, you'll notice that for the Bering
9 Sea, troll -- fishery bycatch that they're looking at
10 looks like about 50% of the chinook -- adult chinook that
11 are harvested there, they're estimating probably are from
12 Western Alaska. With chums it's about 25%. Okay. And
13 if -- I believe these reports were, as they come -- some
14 of these reports have been sent to the Council members
15 through your coordinator and as these are updated we will
16 get these reports to the Council members. Okay. With
17 regard -- any questions on anything to do with the salmon
18 bycatch?

19

20 (No audible responses)

21

22 MR. CANNON: Other studies - Cliff
23 mentioned one effort I think a real important new
24 development with regard to trying to bring together
25 marine and fresh water studies and that's with the AYK
26 Coalition Strategic Planning and Science Plan. This is a
27 \$5,000,000 project, a five-year program that will bring
28 together the State of Alaska, Federal agencies including
29 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Natural Marine
30 Fisheries Service, Bering Sea Fisherman's Association,
31 AVCP, Kawarek and the Tanana Chief Conference to work
32 together to coordinate research on salmon, both in the
33 marine environment and in fresh water. This is something
34 that I think will be very valuable to strengthening our
35 salmon program and perhaps getting us some answers about
36 what's happening to our salmon populations. This is a
37 long-term commitment to coordinated research on salmon.

38

39 Second development is a proposal to do a
40 Bering Aleutian salmon international survey. This is a
41 marine survey program. This effort is being sponsored by
42 the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. It will
43 establish marine surveys in the Bering Sea to determine
44 what the distribution of juvenile salmon and looking at

45 oceanographic information and trying to understand where
46 the fish are going, what they're eating and what's
47 happening to them in the marine environment. This is
48 being -- the participation is this is with Canada, Japan,
49 Russia and the United States.

50

00255

1 There is another program that, I think
2 you're probably familiar with. It's the North Pacific
3 Marine Research Program. The goal of course of this
4 program is to do research in the Bering Sea and Gulf of
5 Alaska to understand, not only salmon but the ecology of
6 the marine environment in these areas. They will be also
7 focusing to some degree on salmon. Their funding level
8 for FY2002 will be approximately, I think about
9 \$1,000,000 to sort of complete some studies that they had
10 started there, but by 2003, they are trying to take a new
11 look at what kind of funds -- what kind of projects they
12 want to fund. It's sort of starting on a new track.
13 They've got a new director and they're looking at about
14 \$10-\$12,000,000 for research in that particular program.
15

16 With regard to contaminants in fish,
17 there's an Alaska Wild Foods Safety Program. This is a
18 cooperative effort by the Alaska Native Science
19 Commission, as well as Federal and State agencies. They
20 actually have a proposal before congress for about \$3.9
21 million dollars to begin an education, outreach and
22 research monitoring program for Alaska to study the
23 effects of contaminants in wild foods.
24

25 There's an effort also by the State of
26 Alaska under the Fisheries Contaminants Monitoring
27 Program. They will be beginning in 2001 sampling salmon
28 primarily in fisheries from Kotzebue to Ketchikan. They
29 will be sampling fish and trying to send them to various
30 laboratories and develop a baseline of contaminant levels
31 in these fish. Those areas where there are hot spots,
32 where they find higher levels of contaminants then they
33 will begin more detailed studies in those areas.
34

35 I have just one last thing I'll hand out.
36 This is simply an update on the contaminants work that
37 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has done in the
38 Yukon and Kuskokwim. Actually, the sampling was done this
39 last summer and this little handout just gives you an
40 update on that work. There are no results at this point.
41 They'll be coming out I guess later this year. This
42 report will tell you where they got the samples and how
43 many they got. This is a very expensive process. Doing
44 the contaminant laboratory analysis costs over \$1,000 a

45 fish. It's very detailed. They look at many different
46 types of contaminants. Heavy metal, as well as some of
47 the pesticides that may be in these fish.

48

49 That's what I have to share with you and

50 I'll just close with that and invite your questions.

00256

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert. Three minutes.

2

3 MR. NICK: Thank you. In review of the
4 projects there is one for Nunapitchuk a project, non
5 salmon study. At the last tribal meeting when we were
6 going over the Call for Proposals we discussed funding,
7 which is what you just went through. The question was
8 asked where the other project was. AVCP and Fish and
9 Game were partners in that proposal? I told the Council
10 it would be -- Tribal Council that we would be meeting
11 soon, that I'll ask the question and maybe have an
12 answer.

13

14 MR. CANNON: Yes, Robert, you're right
15 about the investigators and there's -- I know that
16 project got delayed last year a bit because of getting
17 the funding out but I believe there should be some -- a
18 little bit of a progress report there in the back of the
19 handout. Do you have a specific question about that
20 project?

21

22 MR. NICK: Oh I can just probably read
23 and then get a status. Okay. My other comment just to
24 try to find -- the other gentleman in strategic planning
25 -- the two year strategic planning. You call, you ask
26 for some input from us or from the tribes. Okay,
27 somewhere - it's a coalition, the YK Coalition,
28 strategic plan and science plan. What is a science plan?

29

30 MR. CANNON: A science plan would
31 basically be the projects that are needed in order to
32 answer the questions that people have in this region
33 about their salmon resources. What does it take to get
34 the answers. That's what a science plan is.

35

36 MR. JACK: Earlier before break we had a
37 comment from an elder member, one of our elder members,
38 Nick Andrew and how our elders knew the abundance -- of
39 how the abundance of salmon are going to be for the
40 coming season by observing natural factors. To us, to me
41 I have value to their the elders comments. They look at
42 things like mice -- the summer time we look at swallows.
43 When you see them go to the ground and tip their nose in
44 the water, they say there's a lot of fish in the river.

45 So, all those little things that our elders bring out.
46 To me, those are real science plans, though scientific
47 knowledge, the technical knowledge should be weighted in.
48 And I say this because of the sonar, depends on the sonar
49 and the subsistence catches which, which don't always
50 come when we need them. Like last summer subsistence

00257

1 catches we don't have the figures yet so I think more
2 weight should be taken to the elders as we have said so
3 for many years. They at least be part of the science
4 plan. When we were talking about the sonar earlier.
5 When we see a tv program and the -- when the camera
6 focuses on somebody, we usually see somebody wave and say
7 hi mom and then we see it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Stick to the agenda
10 pleas.

11

12 MR. MCCANN: Turn you speaker on.

13

14 MR. JACK: Oh okay. Thank you. When a
15 sonar goes by -- when a chinook or a chum goes by a sonar
16 do you know which is a chinook and which is a chum. They
17 don't flip their little flippers and say hey, I'm chum.
18 End of comment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you Richard. Next
21 on our agenda is C: Resolve the Federal Subsistence
22 Board Meeting (805 letter).

23

24 MR. BERG: Mr. Chairman we have just one
25 small other matter to talk to you about with regard to
26 the fisheries monitoring and that concerns the
27 partnership programs. Carl Jack will give you that
28 presentation.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, go ahead but make
31 it short.

32

33 MR. JACK: (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: He wants new monitors.
36 This is just to update information. That's the reason
37 why this program started because of a request of the
38 people. This is the way it's going to be, but it's going
39 to be like this. These rural (Yup'ik) when they will be
40 starting to work is when he will begin to hire biologists
41 and also scientists as well. There are 10 positions.
42 There will be plenty available for those in the near
43 future. There was a proposal requesting and all the
44 applications have been received. The plan would have to

45 be establish to monitor or review some of those
46 proposals. The panel members were advised be sure your
47 work is concrete and be shown to the varied directed
48 people, not just any old people or else you will go the
49 wrong direction. So the announcement will be made from
50 the U.S. These applications have been received and

00258

1 funded. They have at least \$150,000. So in utilizing
2 those funds the tribal organizations will be used and
3 through the agreement biologists and social scientists
4 will be hired. The 31st is the date in which the
5 cooperative agreement will be, and those selected will be
6 able to hire from that day on. Those agreements will
7 continue to the limit of five years at least \$60,000,000
8 will be appropriated for those projects. Annually the
9 amounts of money to be used for those projects will be
10 monitored annually. These applications will be selected
11 accordingly.

12

13 That's the end of my presentation.

14

15 MR. MCCANN: (In Yup'ik)

16

17 INTERPRETER: The biologist -- whoever is
18 titled the biologist should be the that knows the
19 particular the field, whether it be a fish or other. The
20 money that's appropriated is already getting targeted for
21 the use of those example. Example, he didn't say that
22 Tuntutuliak was going to be funded and others. If he had
23 an application the organization will be able to hire
24 accordingly as directed for someone to work on the
25 issues at Tuntutuliak. That biologist will have to work
26 with the tribes. They may be able to hire and bring them
27 out here instead of having someone from nowhere.
28 Something that they will use in the future.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Alex. Next
31 on the agenda is item D; Call for Fishery Proposals for
32 2002 - 2003 Regulatory Year.

33

34 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, are you
35 taking up item C: Results of Federal Subsistence Board
36 Meeting (805 letter)?

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, right now that I
39 thought they go over it but I understand that Results of
40 Federal Subsistence Board Meeting. Go ahead.

41

42 MR. A. NICK: I'll just go very quickly
43 on this because of the time that we need to consider if
44 everybody is going to be leaving by 3:45 o'clock this

45 afternoon. The 805 letter was sent to Harry Wilde and
46 it's in your packet under Tab E, page 13. I think the
47 only thing that you need to look at and consider is the
48 recommendations by the Federal Board for you to revisit
49 Proposal 44 in your next meeting, which is this meeting.
50 I know that Proposal 44 is on your agenda. It's just the

00259

1 highlight of recommendations by Federal Board. Also
2 Federal Board included the village of Kotlik under C&P
3 for the Proposal 44 when they adopted the Proposal. In
4 general, that's where we are.

5

6 MR. BERG: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: He's saying when it comes
9 time on the agenda Harry will talk about it in brief.

10

11 MR. A. NICK: Okay. We'll wait on that
12 805.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next number D Call for
15 Fishery Proposal for 2002-2003 Regulatory Year.

16

17 MR. REARDON: Yes Mr. Chairman I'll be
18 covering that subject and I promise to be brief. I know
19 a lot of you are familiar with the regulatory process
20 that we have in place but this is a reminder that the
21 proposal period to change Federal subsistence fishing
22 regulations, the period to submit proposals is open right
23 now. It opened January 7th. I'm on page 17, under Tab E.
24 Anyway, the period opened on January 7th and as you know
25 all the other Councils around the State are meeting
26 similar to yourselves here today. The proposal period
27 will close on March 29th, so the end of this month. This
28 is just an opportunity for you to submit a proposal as a
29 Council if you wish or if you turn the page, there's a
30 proposal form there and you may wish to take this back to
31 your communities and you can submit a proposal from your
32 community or also just individuals can submit proposals
33 to change subsistence fishing regulations on Federal
34 lands. It's just a reminder. Under that topic I guess I
35 will -- we have one topic that did come up last summer
36 and that was when the Federal board took the special
37 action to restrict uses on Federal waters on the Yukon
38 and Kuskokwim and in effect what that did was it did not
39 allow people who go from the Yukon and fish on the
40 Kuskokwim to do so because it restricted the users within
41 the drainage. So people on the Kuskokwim do not have a
42 C&T use for salmon on the Yukon and similarly people who
43 are from the Yukon who go to the Kuskokwim to fish do not
44 have C&T in that area. So that's the type of issue if

45 you want to address that now we can or if you want to
46 take it back toy or communities and discuss it.

47

48 Anyway, the proposal period is open and
49 our staff are willing to help you write proposals and
50 submit them. If you need assistance we can help you here

00260

1 or you can call us up at our office anytime. Thank you
2 Mr. Chairman.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll go to our next
5 letter on our agenda. Agency's Reports. Council you
6 will find it under Tab F. Office of Subsistence
7 Management, one, two, three.

8

9 MR. L. WILDE: We did that one, two,
10 three, the first day we were here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Yukon Delta
13 National Wildlife Refuge. Mike Reardon.

14

15 MR. REARDON: Mr. Chairman, I'll be
16 brief. There's a few subjects I wanted to bring up.
17 Quickly my name is Mike Reardon. I'm the manager of the
18 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. One thing I
19 promised I'd report to you back on a couple of years ago
20 was when we talk about wanton waste issues. We all
21 agreed that we would go back in our commonties and talk
22 about it and see what we could do about it without making
23 a big public display of a situation with a lot of wanton
24 waste occurring in the region. I'm happy to say that in
25 that last couple of years the number of wanton waste
26 cases, people wasting moose and caribou and things like
27 that has gone down significantly. Hopefully it's because
28 we were so effective in getting the nosegay out, but it
29 has not been an issue the last couple of years.

30

31 Another issue that has come up though
32 that you should be aware of is that there's a pretty high
33 incidence of people spot lighting for moose along both
34 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim River now. We look at it as a
35 fairly important concern to look at because when people
36 spotlight or use lights to spot animals at night and
37 shoot them that the amount of waste is significant. Some
38 settings have indicated that anywhere from 60-80% of the
39 animals that are shot that way are lost. So, we're going
40 to be doing some law enforcement efforts to try to
41 minimize that and we're also developing a poster to try
42 to get people aware that they should not be spot lighting
43 animals at night with spotlights on these rivers.

44

45 Just a real quick report on the caribou
46 population. The Mulchatna Herd is continuing to be
47 healthy and currently within 100 miles of Bethel we
48 probably have 30-40,000 animals at this time. They'll
49 begin their easterly migration here through the next
50 three week probably and the population is still holding

00261

1 at somewhere around 160-180,000 animals.

2

3 We've still got issues with moose on the
4 Kuskokwim, although we're working on them. Roger Savoy
5 has been working actively with the fish and game advisory
6 committees and he and I both have been dealing with the
7 villages and individuals on establishing a moose
8 conservation plan on the Kuskokwim River. The advisory
9 committee discussed the possibility of a moratorium like
10 was used on the lower Yukon to try to build the moose
11 populations on the Kuskokwim and we believe that if we
12 could get people to do that for about five years that we
13 could probably have a population of 1,000 animals on the
14 Kuskokwim River between Lower Kalskag and Bethel.
15 Hopefully next year I can report that we've made progress
16 on that.

17

18 Just one other thing. Currently we're
19 conducting new surveys on the Yukon River. With this
20 good weather we've had, and the snow conditions we've had
21 this is the best situation we've had in several years in
22 order to count moose. I believe that by late tomorrow we
23 will have successfully done a good count of moose all the
24 way down Pimute down to Emmonak. The lower Yukon River
25 and so hopefully sometime later this spring we can report
26 to you what the results of that survey are.

27

28 I also wanted to pass along, Roger Savoy,
29 the fish and game biologist apologies for not being here.
30 He did want to be here and planned on being here but he
31 is one of the integral people involved in doing this
32 moose survey. He felt that because of weather and snow
33 conditions that his time was better spent trying to get
34 that information working out in the field and doing that.
35 That's why he and his assistant were not here at this
36 meeting.

37

38 Mr. Chairman those are all the subjects
39 that I had and I'll answer questions if you have any.

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy McCann.

42

43 MR. MCCANN: I know that most of the
44 plan, we worked on it. But after we worked on it I think

45 it's going to be a little confusing for some people. We
46 sent some of them out from Tuluksak on down the mouth of
47 the river here. The south side's going to be closed.
48 Everything that the river's run into the Kuskokwim River
49 Sloughs, but we're not talking about north side or
50 (indiscernible) River all the way up because that's 18

00262

1 there. Unit 18 you know. There's also that north of the
2 Kuskokwim is unit 18 up to Yukon I believe it was. I
3 think that's going to be confusing for the people. That
4 should be somehow stressed to the people it's only on the
5 south side, Kalskag on down towards Goodnews stuff like
6 that. The Goodnews area will be included?

7

8 MR. REARDON: I think you bring up a good
9 point. We need to be real clear on exactly where we're
10 talking about. My understand was that we were talking
11 just the drainage go into the Kuskokwim, so it would be
12 both north and south of the Kuskokwim all the way up to
13 Lower Kalskag and down to the mouth of the river. Is
14 that correct James? Is that what you understood also?

15

16 MR. CHARLES: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 MR. McCANN: That's what -- I'm talking
19 about north side. I don't know about south side. It's
20 going to be closed. But the north side from Kuskokwim all
21 the way up to Yukon, it's 18 you know. I was thinking
22 about people going to be a little confused if we see the
23 18 is open. It might -- plus that 18 on that side might
24 be a little confusing some place. That's what I'm
25 thinking.

26

27 MR. REARDON: Maybe the first thing we
28 ought to do is come up with a good map and make it
29 available to everybody to show them exactly what area
30 we're talking about. We'll work on that. It's a good
31 point though.

32

33 MR. McCANN: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll let Robert Nick.

36

37 MR. NICK: Mike I'm just wondering if
38 Billy's comments you know. In the past we've considered
39 it as Kuskokwim corridor. Are we talking about that
40 advisory group talk about the corridor or including the
41 Johnson River?

42

43 MR. REARDON: I think what we said
44 earlier on was the Kuskokwim drainage, so we're talking

45 about -- like the line between the Kuskokwim and the
46 Yukon, anything that would drain into the Kuskokwim would
47 be closed so like the Galek and the Johnson, and anything
48 that flows into the Yukon would remain open and the
49 current unit 18 season. I believe that's what we
50 discussed.

00263

1 MR. CHARLES: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. McCANN: The reason why I brought it
4 up, also Johnson River drains to Kuskokwim river here.
5 And the Galek also drains to here. That's what -- like we
6 said, everything that drains into Kuskokwim River is
7 going to be closed. How about the rivers on this side?

8

9 MR. REARDON: I think that's what we
10 talked about. The ones on this side also the Galek and
11 this rive and the Johnson River, all of those would also
12 be closed. The ones that are in unit 18, which all of
13 those are of course, would also be closed. That was my
14 understanding.

15

16 MR. McCANN: I'm confusing myself then.
17 Because the interpreter I asked him. Tell me which
18 rivers are closed and the guy that shows me the map all
19 on the south side of the river, everything that drains
20 out. I'm thinking about Johnson River also drain into
21 that river. That's going to be little community, see. So
22 we've got to include that I think.

23

24 MR. REARDON: I think so too. We need a
25 map. We'll work on a map.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

28

29 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you for your
30 presentation Mike. As far as wanton waste, any kind of
31 waste is too much waste, so I hope that you guys keep on
32 going to the villages -- whenever you go into the
33 villages, keep on -- continue with the work on wanton
34 waste.

35

36 MR. REARDON: That's been one of the
37 issues that the Refuge Information Technicians have been
38 taking to the villages after we talked to you guys. I
39 believe between you folks talking to people and our IT's
40 out there, it seems to have curbed it, so hopefully it
41 won't come back, but yeah, we're continuing to do that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

44

45 MR. THOMPSON: I think it might be better
46 if any proposal or if the Federal make decisions on
47 closures. If you mention south side of the Kuskokwim and
48 north of Kuskokwim both would be closed. If that
49 language is there, then nobody will be confused.
50

00264

1 MR. REARDON: Thank you and I agree. I
2 think that's where we need a map.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Make it very brief,
5 John.

6

7 MR. HANSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
8 Mike, this is for that closed area for moose on the
9 Kuskokwim. If you take the north side you could just use
10 the Kalskag mountains because they string off quite a
11 ways over this way and that way they wouldn't be
12 wondering if the Yukon is closed also.

13

14 MR. REARDON: Yeah, I think for the
15 furthest north and actually I think what we were talking
16 about partly is the west because, like Billy said it's
17 confusing to know when you get on the upper portions of
18 the Johnson River and the Pikmiktalik and the Galek and
19 those things. I think the intent was to close those also
20 but it -- it is a little confusing. That's why we need
21 to get a map.

22

23 MR. HANSON: Yeah, you guys can do it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you Mike.

26

27 MR. REARDON: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda
30 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Very brief, please.

31

32 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman. Andrew
33 Aderman from Togiak Refuge was planning to come to this
34 meeting but unfortunately he could not make it. I have
35 only two handouts that he wanted me to make sure that the
36 Council members get a copy of. Those handouts are
37 bullets on fishery issues and also wildlife survey I
38 believe. So, they are available here for you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is D:
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Will you please very
42 brief one through five. Alaska Department of Fish and
43 Game

44

45 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman there's a
46 stampede for all of us to try to come down here. I don't
47 think anyone else from the department has a report unless
48 commercial fisheries and sport fish might have. Board
49 Support section on your agenda is not here. Roger Savoy,
50 as Mike Reardon explained is doing moose surveys. I'm

00265

1 the Subsistence Division and I don't have any additional
2 report to pass on so, Jeff do you have anything? You or
3 sport fish have anything additional? Okay. We have
4 nothing else from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 unless you have questions.

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Short and sweet.

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead. Thank you
10 Mike. Agenda number 12. Review of the Alaska Advisory
11 Council Charter.

12

13 MR. A. NICK: Mr Chairman. I'm going to
14 do this in Yup'ik in order to speed up things. Those of
15 you who has Council booklets it's on Tab G. This Council
16 Charter was deferred to this meeting because of the time
17 frame in Anchorage during the break out session last
18 October. I'm going to go through the changes of the
19 Council Charter for Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional
20 Advisory Council in Yup'ik and I'm sure that people like
21 Lester Wilde and several other Council members had an
22 opportunity to look over the changes that are highlighted
23 in this document. What I'm going to do is I am going to
24 -- in order to speed up things I am going to explain the
25 changes in Yup'ik that are in bold italic letters. Bold
26 italic letters are bold letters that are narrow I see is
27 the best way I could tell. I tell you narrower bold
28 letters. So with this information Mr. Chairman I'll go
29 right into the explanation of the changes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

32

33 MR. A. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

34

35 INTERPRETER: He's explaining the changes
36 to the Council Charter. The Council Charter if you are
37 new members. This is the charter of the Regional
38 Advisory Council. It was written under the direction of
39 the Federal Subsistence Board in Tab G. As I told you
40 before we have vote on the or we were going to present
41 the changes in October but due to the time frame we
42 didn't bring this up and postponed to this meeting. Now
43 these are the changes. We would like to change this 2001
44 -- March 2001. We were going to change -- there was a

45 proposal made to change the name of the Advisory Regional
46 Council to the United States Department of the Interior
47 Yukon Kuskokwim Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
48 Council or the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council was the former name. Since this is a
50 Federal council they wanted to place the name Federal

00266

1 within the name of the council. The changes will be
2 shown in italic and bold letters and the words that are
3 striked [sic] out will be striked [sic] out of the
4 charter.

5

6 Number one: Official Designation -
7 strike out the word Delta and replace with Federal.

8

9 Number two: Left the same.

10

11 Number three: Left the same.

12

13 Number four: Left the same.

14

15 Number five: Left the same.

16

17 Number six: Left the same.

18

19 Number seven: Left the same.

20

21 Number eight: Left the same.

22

23 Number nine: Going down to the under the
24 terms where the language reads in the italic bold
25 letters..officers of the Federal Subsistence Regional
26 Advisory Council. There was a motion to change, Officers
27 of the Regional Advisory Council shall consist of a
28 Chair, Vice-Chair and a Secretary. It was written and
29 this in the second paragraph there was a word Chair, but
30 strike out Chair. It was worded as this Chair council
31 members will elect the Chair for a one-year term. It was
32 left like that but we have changed to be worded like the
33 election of Council officers. Original Council officers
34 should the Council Chair become vacant the Vice-Chair
35 will assume Chairmanship until the election of a new
36 Chair. In the event that the Vice-Chair or the
37 Secretary's position becomes vacant and the Council shall
38 elect a new member to serve the remainder of the term at
39 its next meeting.

40

41 Removal of members. These are the
42 additions or changes. Before the words in italics were
43 added on. If a council member under paragraph nine
44 misses two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings,

45 unexcused regularly scheduled meetings, the Chair of the
46 Federal Subsistence Board may recommend that the
47 Secretary of the Interior remove that individual from
48 his/her seat with the concurrence with Secretary of
49 Agriculture. This was in the language to remove that
50 individual and remove that individual or strike out of

00267

1 paragraph.

2

3 Confrontation left as is.

4

5 Number 11: Left as is.

6

7 Those were the proposed changes brought
8 before the council. Now we'll recommend that these
9 changes -- after looking at the regulations, we put these
10 proposals to place.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

13

14 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman I'd like to
15 move that the Council adopt the revised Council Charter.

16

17 MR. HANSON: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
20 second. Discussion. John Hanson.

21

22 MR. HANSON: I seconded.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh you seconded. I
25 thought that somebody second over here.

26

27 MR. CHARLES: Call for question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Call for question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roll call. There will
32 be a roll call vote and Johnny Thompson can vote at this
33 point. Secretary if you could make a roll call.

34

35 SECRETARY: Harry Wilde.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

38

39 SECRETARY: John Hanson

40

41 MR. HANSON: Yes.

42

43 SECRETARY: Mary Gregory.

44

45
46
47
48
49
50

MS. GREGORY: Yes.

SECRETARY: Nick Andrew.

MR. ANDREW: Abstain

00268

1 SECRETARY: Raymond Oney.

2

3 MR. ONEY: Yes.

4

5 SECRETARY: Robert Nick.

6

7 MR. NICK; Yes.

8

9 SECRETARY: Ray McCann.

10

11 MR. McCANN: Yes.

12

13 SECRETARY: James Charles.

14

15 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

16

17 SECRETARY: Mike Savage.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Excused.

20

21 SECRETARY: Philip Moses.

22

23 MR. MOSES: Yes.

24

25 SECRETARY: Lester Wilde

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

28

29 SECRETARY: John Thompson.

30

31 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

32

33 SECRETARY: Nine yes, one abstain.

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What did Mr. Andrew
36 say?

37

38 SECRETARY: He abstained because he
39 wasn't at the October meeting.

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay, thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The next item on our
44 agenda number 13: FY2000 Annual Report Review and

45 Approve.

46

47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: He's saying he will present

50 this in Yup'ik. The 2000 Annual Report. You need to get

00269

1 this done at this time. But you will need to approve
2 this at this meeting because this will hold up any other
3 proposals that will be made in the future from the
4 Federal Board. We will need to consider this very
5 importantly because we will need this to consider any
6 issues that come up in the later and the 2000 annual
7 report was already done and they were done even also the
8 problems with the beavers. The questions or problems
9 with the beavers were answered through the 2000 annual
10 report. You will need to approve this report at this
11 meeting or at the May meeting. Otherwise the Board will
12 work on this at the May meeting and we need to -- we are
13 looking for topics on how to present this annual report
14 to the subsistence board. I will recommend that we place
15 this to a special meeting.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John can you respond to
18 that. What they ask is whether or not it would be
19 possible to deal with this during their special meeting
20 in Bethel? When it is next week?

21

22 MR. RIVARD: Just so that I'm clear on
23 your question. Mr. Chair you were asking if you can come
24 up with the topics on your annual report in your special
25 meeting in two weeks?

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If it's not to be
28 detailed right away. It would be done if we could put it
29 on a special meeting.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman you have
32 that option. I think your members here could think about
33 some topics and come up with that and that could be on
34 your agenda for your special meeting in Bethel.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

37

38 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chair?

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, James.

41

42 MR. ANDREW: Is it for FY2001 or it's
43 written for FY2002? Which year is the annual report for
44 that we need to discuss.

45

46 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman we've already
47 taken care of the annual report for 2000. This will be
48 for 2001.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

00270

1 MR. A. NICK: (in Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: He is saying that we will
4 work on our special meeting carefully, not in a hurry.
5 It will be good to work on it carefully with a careful
6 ordeal at the special meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is
9 Customary Traditional Use Determination of the
10 Pikmiktalik River Group, the Federal Board Decision on
11 the Fisheries, Proposal 44.

12

13 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if
14 Don or Pete or myself want to explain what the Board's
15 direction was regarding Proposal 44. It's in the
16 response to -- what is it in response to? It was in the
17 805 letter on Tab E, page 15. Tab E, page 15. What I'm
18 going to do is I'm going to read that Mr. Chairman with
19 your permission in Yup'ik and it's in your packet if you
20 want to follow. Is that okay?

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's okay. I think it
23 will go faster.

24

25 MR. NICK: Okay. (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: He's reading the 805
28 letter.

29

30 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

33

34 MR. L. WILDER: I think we've seen enough
35 evidence to show that the village of Kotlik also uses the
36 resources that Stebbins and St. Michael uses and since I
37 made the motion at the time of the Tri-Council meeting
38 that customary and traditional uses be exclusive to
39 Stebbins and Se. Michael, I would like to entertain a
40 motion that the filing of the Board be adopted for
41 Proposal FP0244.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This will include
44 Kotlik?

45

46 MR. L. WILDE: Yes sir.

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Lester, the Board
49 has already acted upon it so it's already in regulation.

50 Just to let you know.

00271

1 MR. L. WILDE: Just for the sake of the
2 record, I'd like to show that this Council also approves
3 of that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

6

7 MR. NICK: Cliff and maybe Don, when our
8 tribe reviewed the agenda of this meeting two weeks ago,
9 we were not sure about this Pikmiktalik River Group so I
10 think we know now, that's way up north became Pikmiktalik
11 is between Johnson River and the Kuskokwim. So, if maybe
12 I'll explain to them that it's Pikmiktalik is way up
13 north somewhere.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me clear up. I think
16 there's a proposal right now, but never a second yet.

17

18 MR. NICK: I second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a proposal --
21 I mean a motion by Lester and now is second by Robert
22 Nick.

23

24 MR. NICK: What do I tell my people? We
25 were wondering about what to do about the Pikmiktalik
26 that we didn't know about. Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let's do it right away.
29 There was a motion and there was a second. Discussion.

30

31 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

32

33 INTERPRETER: He's saying just a brief
34 explanation is that the rivers being talked about is
35 north of the Kotlik river.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion?

38 John

39 Hanson.

40

41 MR. HANSON: Thank you Mr. Chairman. (In
42 Yup'ik)

43

44 INTERPRETER: He's saying that the

45 particular wording on the Pikmiktalik.

46

47 MR. HANSON: Kotlik was supposed to be
48 here. Their traditional Council. That's who put that in
49 the agenda. I don't know why they didn't come. Joseph
50 Mark was supposed to send me a fax concerning what

00272

1 traditional Council did, so maybe they decided to wait
2 for our next meeting, the Regional Council Meeting, so I
3 don't know. But they told me that they're having
4 problems. Last year in Kotlik that's where we voted this
5 proposal to move the line where Stebbins and St. Michaels
6 wanted but Kotlik is having problems with St. Michaels
7 and Kotlik or St. Michaels and Stebbins. They say that
8 they go berry pick around Pikmiktalik where they usually
9 go and they're charged for picking berries. Maybe that's
10 why they didn't come. Maybe they wanted to wait for our
11 next Council meeting.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, the Board has already
18 said that they were part of it. I just wanted to let the
19 Board know that we revisited this proposal and it was all
20 right with us. That's just the reason why I wanted it in
21 the record.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been called
24 for those of you that support Kotlik include the way the
25 Board approved all in favor say aye.

26

27 ALL: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no. Motion
30 carried.

31

32 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. For the record
33 when we were -- when the staff worked on the proposal
34 analysis, the staff were made aware that there is at
35 least three drainage with the same name. There's one,
36 like Robert mentioned, up near (indiscernible) area.
37 There's one in Tokitatlik area and there's also one north
38 of Kotlik. Those are the three Pikmiktalik drainage that
39 I know of. Maybe some of you know of others Pikmiktalik
40 areas too.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Resolutions you'll find
43 it in Tab H. Who is talking on resolutions? Go ahead.
44 You could start with resolutions.

45

46 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'd be
47 willing to surrender a minute and a half to my time to
48 Mike McDougall to speak for Yukon River Fishery Drainage
49 Association. My item should be pretty short and he's
50 been patient if that's okay with the Council for him to

00273

1 speak before me.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. I'll give him
4 three minutes. Three minutes.

5

6 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm
7 Mike McDougall with Yukon River Drainage Fishery
8 Association. Very briefly we would like to invite the YK
9 Regional Council to the YR DFA Annual meeting, March 24-27
10 in Nenana. The Coordinating Fisheries Committee is
11 already scheduled to attend, however, we encourage others
12 involved with fisheries issues to attend as well. YR DFA
13 will be discussing issues of concern such as customary
14 trade. That's all I had. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. It's your
17 turn.

18

19 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Say your name for the
22 record.

23

24 MR. MATTHEWS: Sorry. Yes Mr. Chairman.
25 I'm Vince Matthews, coordinator for western interior. At
26 your Tri-Council meeting last October you had the guests
27 and the presentations from the National Marine Fishery
28 Service, which was requested starting from eastern
29 interior and they were present. The Chair of eastern
30 interior requested that I draft a resolution, which
31 you'll find under Tab H. If you'll take a look at that.
32 You should have received it in the mail already. The
33 resolution was presented after your Tri-Council meeting
34 so you didn't have a chance to see it or the idea of it.
35 It was shared between all three Chairs, Mr. Wilde, Mr.
36 Sam and Mr. Nicholi and they requested that it be sent
37 out. It's been sent out I think to about 400 different
38 entities and it is in front of you now in draft from
39 under Tab H. Eastern interior has adopted it. So let me
40 explain what the resolution does and we have received
41 some comments on it from the mail out.

42

43 I'm not going to go through all the
44 whereas that are in the resolution since you have it in

45 front of you. It's basically asking for the North Pacific
46 Fishery Management Council to work with Alaskan villages,
47 tribes and subsistence groups on the high sea salmon
48 bycatch concern. In particular they are asking that the
49 Yukon Kuskokwim Western Interior and Eastern Interior
50 Regional Advisory Councils request the North Pacific

00274

1 Fishery Management Council to schedule as soon as
2 possible to work in partnership with the above entities.
3 The above entities are listed above which would be Alaska
4 Marine Conservation Council, The Alaska Oceans Network,
5 and there's others listed up there, the Federal Regional
6 Advisory Councils. They request that the management
7 council work in partnership with these entities to reduce
8 and/or eliminate Alaskan salmon bycatch on the high seas
9 for the benefit of all Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainage
10 residents, and their uses, especially in order to
11 preserve the traditional lifestyle which is heavily
12 dependent on the returning salmon for this generations
13 nutritional and cultural needs, as well as the same for
14 generations to come. Further be it resolved, those
15 three Councils, all the ones on the Yukon, are willing to
16 be the platform or conduit to assist the management
17 council to develop partnerships with rural subsistence
18 users and their organizations to address the bycatch ways
19 of Alaskan salmon. So Mr. Chairman, Yukon Kuskokwim
20 Delta, this is a resolution before you for adoption.
21 Eastern interior has already adopted this resolution. I
22 did receive a letter from the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game but I don't know if they want to address it. I
24 think they've had to leave already. I'm not sure if I
25 mailed it out to all of you.

26

27 But, basically it's a letter from Larry
28 Boyle, Federal Subsistence Coordinator for the Sport Fish
29 Division. He's asking that in the resolution it does not
30 include the community development quota program groups.
31 Basically he's requesting their inclusion seems relevant
32 in addressing the salmon bycatch concerns and educating
33 Regional Advisory Council members from inland communities
34 that are eligible to participate in the CDQ program. So
35 that concludes that I have on the resolution. You have
36 one Council that's adopted it, extensive mail out, a
37 letter of response, Loudon Traditional Council for Galena
38 left a voice message on my phone saying they are looking
39 at a letter of support for this resolution. I haven't
40 checked my voice mail to see if anything else has come
41 in. If there are any question I'll try to answer the
42 questions concerning the resolution.

43

44 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

47

48 MR. L. WILDE: I'd like to recognize our
49 guests first and then I'll go in after. Go ahead Ron.

50

00275

1 MR. SAM: Okay. Thank you Mr. Chairman
2 and Mr. Wilde. For your information we did bring this
3 resolution before the Chairs at our, either our December
4 meeting or somewhere around there. Since we hadn't met
5 on this resolution they just went through it briefly and
6 all the Chairs of all the 10 Regional Councils were in
7 support of this resolution because they figure that this
8 was a good tool to work with and the closer we get -- we
9 start working with the National Marine Fisheries and
10 North Pacific Fisheries they figure that would be -- we'd
11 have better communications to say the least. Thank you.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: I move to adopt the
18 resolution 0202.

19

20 MR. MATTHEWS: Yes it would be because
21 Eastern interior has adopted. I always get those numbers
22 reversed, but yes it would be 0202.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there any second to
25 the motion?

26

27 MR. NICK: Second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick second it.
30 Discussion. Discussion. Question has been called for.
31 All in favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no. Motion
36 carried.

37

38 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you Mr. Chairman and
39 we'll work out with the three Chairs signatures for this,
40 so I'll be in touch with you. Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Arthur Lake,
43 AVCP.

44

45 MR. LAKE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My
46 name is Arthur Lake. I'm the President of AVCP in
47 Bethel. You were talking on the resolution on bycatch.
48 (In Yup'ik)

49

50 INTERPRETER: He's talking about the

00276

1 meeting that the AVCP had at the 2000 annual convention.
2 They asked us to work on the issue of bycatch. We all
3 know that the fish that are headed up to the Kuskokwim
4 and the Yukon River are caught in the high seas and also
5 the Bering Sea ground fisheries. (Indiscernible) and on
6 the environmental impact statement. We asked the Federal
7 government to work with the North Pacific Fisheries
8 Management Council on the important issue of the bycatch
9 and we are working on this issue. We would like to be
10 part of that because we're working on this issue. We are
11 working on the subsistence users of the bycatch salmon in
12 the high seas. We are asking that we be a part of the
13 meeting that discuss these issues.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Last on our agenda date
18 and place of next meeting. We usually do Kuskokwim,
19 Yukon, Kuskokwim, Yukon. Right now that three villages
20 we never meet at in Yukon -- lower Yukon area is Russian
21 Mission, Marshall and Chevak.

22

23 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

26

27 MR. L. WILDE: I think the next meeting
28 has already been set for the 19th in Bethel, 19, 20 and
29 21. That's when we're going to be meeting. I think at
30 that time we can make the time and place for the next
31 fall meeting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Next meeting will
34 be -- next meeting in Bethel is a special meeting,
35 however, if it's okay with Council..... (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: He's saying one Council
38 member would like to approve Chevak and ask if she would
39 accept this selected at the place of meeting in Bethel
40 and he would like to ask if Chevak is willing to host the
41 next regular meeting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We could put it on a
44 special meeting. I think Lester wants to ask Chevak if

45 they could be a host for the next meeting.

46

47 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, actually I
48 did ask him and I just remembered they said that they
49 would host it but I just want to reconfirm that. We did
50 have an invitation from St. Marys. Was there a meeting

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1 held in St. Marys prior to this?

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We did have a meeting in
4 St. Marys already.

5

6 MR. L. WILDE: Okay Mr. Chairman I'll
7 find out prior to the next meeting if Chevak will host
8 us. I'm sure there will be no problem there.

9

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So you will give us a
11 notice on our special meeting then.

12

13 MR. L. WILDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So, if they want to be a
16 host we could vote on it and approve during special
17 meeting in Bethel. Ray go ahead.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: Thank you Mr. Chairman.
20 Would it be proper to ask for an alternate village in
21 case Chevak -- we never know until we hear back from
22 Chevak if it would be proper to have an alternate village
23 just in case.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because Lester is going
26 to ask Chevak, we will request for the alternate at that
27 time during the special meeting if it's okay with the
28 Council.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (In Yup'ik)

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

33

34 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, James.

37

38 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman (In Yup'ik)

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think some time ago
41 that we approve that to be the alternate. Already that
42 has been approved. Don, go ahead.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I'd just like to

45 take this opportunity to thank Pam Verner. She's just
46 helped us out tremendously, making arrangements. She's
47 the principal at the school. She's just a wonderful job,
48 her and her staff, so I'd just like to take this
49 opportunity to thank her.

50

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1 (Applause)

2

3 MS. VERNER: I have a pretty loud voice.
4 We really have enjoyed having you here and thank you for
5 being such good guests. I'm sorry that we were all
6 involved in testing at the same time. I probably wouldn't
7 plan it that way next time. But we appreciate your
8 efforts to coordinate with our schedules. Thank you very
9 much.

10

11 (Applause)

12

13 MR. SAM: I just want to make one quick
14 comment. I want to thank you because I'm on the Lower
15 Kuskokwim School District Board of Directors also. And I
16 want to thank you for having us be here and all your
17 students are taking that benchmark test. I know that
18 those tests are very important for the children and we
19 wish them all luck.

20

21 MS. VERNER: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we adjourn, I'd
24 like to urge staff to send appreciation to Tuntutliak.
25 Also appreciate to teachers here in Tuntutliak. Go ahead
26 Sam.

27

28 MR. SAM: Thank you Mr. Chairman, all the
29 YK Delta, the YKF Council for having me here as a guest.
30 I'd really like to express my heartfelt thanks -- I mean
31 thanks and everything else for having me here. This has
32 really prepared -- given me more preparation for our
33 meeting in McGrath, especially when you address the
34 customary trades issue. I got on the phone this morning
35 and asked my Tribal Administrator to get customary trade
36 issue on the agenda. Because after I was talking with
37 Carl Jack. Both he and Mitch Demientieff will be hitting
38 Tanana Chief's conference. But yet I would like to thank
39 all of your for all of your deliberations and prepping me
40 for our meeting. I really enjoyed myself here. Met a
41 lot of new friends and I'd really like to express deep
42 thanks to James Charles for having me over for dinner
43 last night. I really enjoyed myself. I think I overate
44 though. But when it was all said and done, I enjoyed

45 myself here. I enjoyed meeting with you and meeting new
46 friends.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

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1 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I would also
2 like to thank James Charles for having us and making sure
3 that we had a good -- also his wife, I'll do that in
4 person but publicly I want to thank James for having the
5 five of us over there and making sure that all the
6 amenities of home and comfort were there. Thanks a lot
7 James.

8

9 MR. CHARLES: You're welcome.

10

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Also that we want to
12 thank people have the time to come over, translators and
13 also our court reporter. We thank you for your time and
14 your effort. This time we're going to close our meeting,
15 but I'm going to ask one of our Council to close it with
16 a prayer. (In Yup'ik)

17

18 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

21

22 MR. NICK: Before we do that I'd like to
23 explain something for the record. The meeting window
24 has changed. In your calendar the window has changed.
25 The new window according to what i was told a couple of
26 minutes ago, the meeting window for fall meeting begins
27 on September 9th and closes on October 11th. It was from
28 September 16th to 19th I believe, but it has been changed
29 and so before you start considering where your fall
30 meeting, you need to review your calendar before we go so
31 that you know that the meeting in Bethel and decide what
32 dates you want to meet this fall. These dates are already
33 taken as I was told by one of our staff, October 8th and
34 9th, eastern interior will be meeting on October 8th and
35 9th this fall.

36

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Thank you we were
38 planning to work with that when we choose a place for the
39 meeting. That's set during our special meeting. Now we
40 all stand and.....

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Reciting The Lord's
43 Prayer.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. We are
46 adjourned.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4)ss.

5 State OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for

8 the State of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix

9 Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 199 through 279

12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME

13 III, YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL

14 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena

15 Hile on the 7th day of March 2001, beginning at the hour

16 of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Tuntutuliak, Alaska;

17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct

19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter

20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to

21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party

24 interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of

27 March 2001.

28

29

30

31

32 _____
Joseph P. Kolasinski

33 Notary Public in and for Alaska

34 My Commission Expires: 04/17/04